

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

September Newsletter 2011

Pastor's Corner-Rev. Leah Ntuala



As I think about the goals that Session has set for the year, which is to strengthen our foundation. We will be focusing on deepening our relationships with one another and the larger community of Seneca Falls.

To put it another way, Session has asked that our focus be on these 3 things:

1. Community-congregation and Seneca Falls
2. Spirituality-Learning about our relationships with God.
3. Mission-Doing work together as a congregation, not only as individuals.

As preparation for putting these goals into action, I have been reading and studying a lot recently, always a dangerous activity. I wish to share some quotes from one man named Neo from the book, *A New Kind of Christian* by Brian MacLaren.

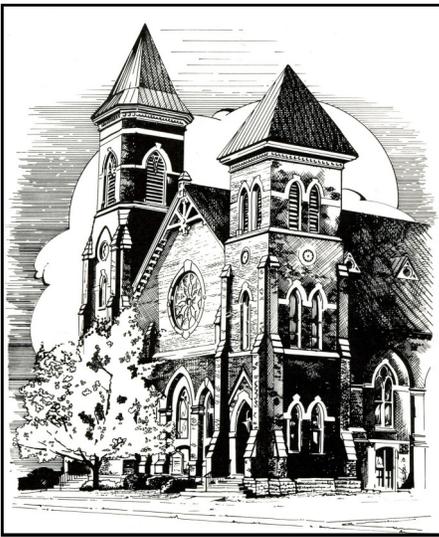
First Neo stressed that, "Christianity doesn't own God." You state this same sentiment clearly in the Mission Statement which says: The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, a member congregation of the Covenant Network, acknowledges one community of people under God. Therefore, our mission is to serve this community guided by the example of Jesus Christ and led by the Spirit of God. We actively seek to minister to all. We value Presbyterian tradition, the education of all seekers, outreach to those in need and tolerance for those who have found different answers to God's call. For each of us, our Christian journey requires faith, hope and love.

In recognizing that we have an answer which works for us, but not the answer we show that we are ready to have a conversation. Our goal isn't to convert. Our goal isn't to add members. Our goal is to form relationships. Neo says, "Conversation implies a real relationship, and if we make our goal to establish relationships and engage in authentic conversation."

In our openness to dialogue with one another and our community we see our perspective. We recognize that we speak from a context, just as others do and the Bible does. "Everything is contextual. No meanings can exist without context."- Neo. If we understand that everything, including our own thoughts, have a context then we can listen better to one another as we engage each other, not with the Truth, but with a context.

Our hope is that we can help one another build a bridge, a relationship with God, with one another and with the community. Neo says, "The hard thing about being a bridge is that you get walked on from both ends." I grew up in Zanesville OH, the land of the Y-Bridge, so it is possible to be a bridge connecting 3 different areas: God, Us and the Community.

Let us Talk, Pastor Leah



Inside this issue:

<i>Session Briefs</i>	2
<i>New this Fall</i>	2
<i>Women's Circle</i>	3
<i>Christian Education</i>	3
<i>News from the Presbytery</i>	4
<i>Choir</i>	4
<i>Bell Choir</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Ushers, Greeters, Nursery and Coffee</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>insert</i>

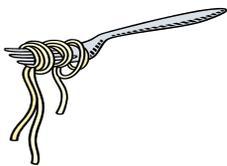
Session Briefs– Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter
Meeting of Mon., Aug. 22, 2011

- **Received thank-you notes** from: Lindsey Gee and Sam Rescorl, for graduation reception and gifts. Muriel Horle and Dick Damaske, for flowers, fruit, prayers following their hospital stays and during recovery; House of Concern for our donations and continued support of its programs
- **Approved leave** Oct. 8-10th for Pastor Leah to attend out of town wedding
- **Set date** of Congregational Meeting for Sun., Nov. 13, 2011 and Jan. 22, 2012 for Annual Meeting & brunch
- Learned of **dedication ceremony** scheduled for Oct. 2, 2011 for Alice Paul pulpit and plaque, immediately following worship with communion by intinction. Reception to follow
- Looked at new brochures of church schedule for fall—spring. Congregation is urged to take home and to share with friends
- Most committees did not meet over the summer. Our thanks to **Stephen Beals of Outreach, who** prepared colorful maps to assist visitors
- **Property & Maintenance** reported the floor-sanding took place in Aug., under the direction of Don Ritter, who was helped by Jack LaValley, Kyle Bruzda, Dan Altimari, Gary Hooper, Barb Van Kirk, Susan Derr, and Dick Damaske. Floors have been re-varnished and light bulbs replaced w/brighter ones; floor holes fixed and two floors remain to be completed: pastor's and music director's offices, scheduled for Sept. 12

Next meeting of the Session is Mon., Sept. 26 at 7 PM



New this Fall



Pasta and Pastor– Please sign up in the Narthex for a night to come over to the manse and have dinner with The Ntuala Family.

Java & Justice– Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Zuzu Café for a study on Christian responses to current hot topics.



Move Group– Meets at the manse on the 1st Thursday of every month to watch and discuss a movie.

Pub-crawling with Jesus– Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm to share a drink and discuss a current news story.



Book Club– Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm to discuss a new book.

Game Night– Meets the 1st Friday of the month at 5pm. Bring a game and dish to share.





WOMEN'S CIRCLE ...Sept. 12...12:30 PM

The Women's Circle will meet on the second Monday in September, because of the Labor Day holiday the week before. We will begin study of The Beatitudes, led by Joy Novack. Booklets will be available at the meeting. "Greatly Honored are the Poor" from Matthew, chap. 5 and Luke chap. 6 is the first lesson. All women of the church are invited to bring a sandwich or salad lunch. Beverages will be provided. Please bring the personal care items you've collected over the summer for the Women's Shelter in Geneva.

The Fall Gathering of Geneva Presbytery Women will take place at Camp Whitman on Wed., Sept. 21. Women who are interested in attending this annual get-together, please mention at our Circle meeting on the 12th .

Hope to see as many of you as can make it to the meeting on Sept. 12th**Jean Morris**

The **3rd Sunday** item for the House of Concern: **SOUPS**

Women's Retreat at First United Methodist Church of Seneca Falls on Sept. 24

All women are invited to "Renew You – A Women's Fall Spiritual Retreat" at First United Methodist Church of Seneca Falls on Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., to be led by Charlotte Lind, the church's lay leader. The retreat will begin with a brief time of worship in the sanctuary, led by Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth. Information will be shared on the essentials of spirituality and spiritual growth and how to create or enhance a daily devotional plan. Copies of various devotional resources will be available at no cost (but donations are welcomed). After a delicious light brunch and break, participants are invited to experience a prayer labyrinth and/or complete a craft/service project. This event is offered free of charge, and childcare will be available. Pre-registration is greatly appreciated. Please call the Church Office at 568-6306 to register and indicate if you need childcare.

Christian Education



Sunday School begins again on September 4th. We will be using the One Room School House curriculum for this year. One Room School House allows us to have all our students K-6th grade learning together through story, music, games and crafts.

Children are excused following the children's message, around 10:15am to go downstairs to their classroom until 11am.

Nursery care is available from 10am-11am in the Nursery located downstairs in the Social Halls.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Choir members have been asked to assemble in the sanctuary on Wed. evening, Aug. 31 at 7 PM to meet a candidate for the organist/choir director position.



It is anticipated that regular Wed. night choir rehearsals will resume in early to mid-September. Hopefully, all present and former choir members will return to help us “make a joyful noise unto the Lord!”

* * *

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY



A counselor at Camp Whitman, a Presbyterian church camp on the west shore of Seneca Lake, drowned in a scuba diving incident near the property. Graham Andrus, 23, of Bath a certified scuba diver and avid water sport participant had joined other staff members in using the lake front facilities for recreation after the grounds had closed.

Presbytery Communications Director Rhonda J Everdyke said in a letter to pastors, “Our condolences go out to the parents and extended family of this remarkable young man. He was an outstanding leader and a great counselor to all of our campers this summer. We recognize this is a tremendous loss for his family and for our camp family.”

She also said grief experts would be on site Sunday morning to help current staff and Andrus’s peers as they start the last week of camp for the season. His fellow counselors felt that he would have wanted them to finish out the camp season.

This SUNY Fredonia student self described himself on Facebook as “Just your Average Guy, who through the Twist of Fate, was given some of the Greatest Friends and Family anyone could ask for.”

Everdyke said, “We all feel blessed to have known this extraordinary man and he will indeed be missed by our community.”

Services have not been scheduled at this time. Camp Whitman officials are not aware of any further open investigations into this tragedy.

Donations for the Andrus family are being accepted by the Presbytery of Geneva via cash or check at 2472 State Route 54A Penn Yan, NY 14527. Everdyke said a memorial at Camp Whitman will be placed by the end of the summer and that the Camp is working on a campership program offered in the upcoming years in his memory.

WRITTEN BY SENECA DAILY



Hand Bell Choir

Our 4-octaves of handbells are presently in Pennsylvania at the Schulmerich company to be cleaned, polished, adjusted and worn parts replaced. They should be sent back to us in September, hopefully by the time we are ready to begin rehearsals. The last time the bells were refurbished was in 1998. It is quite costly to have work done on the bells but it is necessary as our bells are used weekly and parts become brittle and worn. One of the most important part of the bell is the clapper that actually strikes the bell. Clappers are made of a rubber material and become very brittle with age and use and are expensive to replace. As they harden the sound that is produced changes and becomes harsh. Several ringers had complained about the sound of their bells. We have what is called quick-adjust clappers – we can turn the clapper to different sides for different effects, but if that clapper is hardened it doesn't help to adjust the clapper. When our bells come back they will be just like a brand new set of bells. We can't wait!

Before the bells were sent out on August 1, several bell ringers rehearsed 2 bell pieces to play on July 31. Not all bell ringers were able to practice and perform during the summer but I would like to thank the ones who were: Connie Richardson, Lisa VanDelinder, Karen Beals, Phil Plummer, Joanne Elyseev and Sarah Walsh. After the bells were gone several ringers had suggested we play something using just hand chimes which was done on August 21. Choosing a piece for just chimes was not difficult. I chose "Prayer" that we played using handbells for Pastor Leah's installation but it is also a great piece for chimes. I would like to thank the bell ringers who were available to play in August: Karen Beals, Carolyn and Bob Seem, Joanne Elyseev, Sarah Walsh, Connie Richardson, and Phil Plummer.

Now that summer is almost over, it is time to think about setting up rehearsal times and dates to play. The first rehearsal will be on September 7 and we will play for church service on September 18. I will be contacting the bell choir members to check their calendars.

Marge

Church Family News

- ◆ Thank you to all who helped to make Vacation Bible School a success: **Marion Crull, Joyce Lohr, Carolyn Seem, Jan Day, Wayne Lohr, Claire Damaske, Marge Fahrenholz, Susan Derr, Joanne Elyseev, Matt Crull.** [Can't wait until next year! July 16th-20th, 2012]
- ◆ Thank you to all who worked on the church floors this August: **Don Ritter, Jack LaValley, Dick Damaske, Kyle Bruzda and Dick Burtless.** They look amazing!
- ◆ Have you noticed the pretty ring of flowers circling the welcome sign in front of the church? **Joanne Elyseev** put them in , along with those in the back-door urns. She also kept all the flower beds weeded and watered over the hot summer days. Thanks, Joanne!
- ◆ It's nice to see some familiar faces returning from summer trips. We hope you'll share some of your travel stories with us at an upcoming coffee hour. [hint. Hint.]
- ◆ **Jerry & Barb Gray** and several members of their family flew to Florida in June as a celebration of granddaughter Kaitlyn's graduation from Monroe Community College. Kaitlyn earned a degree in dental hygienics. She is the daughter of Steven & Beth Gray of Seneca Falls. Congratulations! to Kaitlyn and all the Gray family.
- ◆ **Nancy Shuster** is recovering at home from bruises and fractures she suffered in a fall on Aug. 11. If you have a moment, please give Nancy a call or send her an e-mail or note. It will be awhile before She 's allowed to resume her very active life. 568-2505 or nlshuster1@verizon.net



September Birthdays

Donald Proctor-9/02
 Bobbi Chase-9/04
 Joy Novack-9/05
 Jessica Seem-Walsh-9/07
 Mike Day-9/10
 Georgeanne [Elyseev] Hauf-9/11
 David Gee-9/12
 Barry Porsch-9/12
 John Becker II-9/30



Oct Newsletter
 articles due the 4th
 Thursday of the
 month, **Sept 22nd**
 It will be mailed
 On **Sept 29th.**

USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY

September 4th – Communion

Ushers: Kathy Gee & Lindsey Gee
Greeters: Jannette Monterville & Jean Loar
Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Barb Van Kirk



September 11th

Ushers: Don & Elaine Ritter
Greeters: Jean Morris & Liza Merriam
Nursery: Susan Derr & Carolyn Seem

September 18th

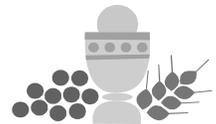
Ushers: Mike & Jan Day
Greeters: Barb Van Kirk & Doreen Christopher
Nursery: Barb & Doreen

September 25th

Ushers: Marvin & Iva Lay
Greeters: Barb Lohr & Jean Loar
Nursery: Jan Day & Barb Lohr

October 2 World Communion & Peacemaking

Ushers:
Greeters: TBA



Coffee Hour



Sept 4th: Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall
Sept 11th:
September 18th:
September 25th: Ntuala Family's Trip to Kenya

Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: **Sue Ellen Crego 568-4181**

To Keep in our prayers: Liz Brown, Nancy Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Mike Contant, Carl & Norine Crull, Paul Foote, Mary Headley, Laura Hoatland, Crystal Jones, Doug Kraus, Margaret Marsh, Bill Nothstein, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Tom Sage, Bill Shears, Christopher Simpson, Alberta Stuck, Ian Trettle, Cathy Van Vechten, Ruby Vogel, Margaret Yells and Fran Webb ...*please call the church office to add or remove name[s] from this list*

Church Office: 315.568.6636
Hours: Tuesday–Friday 8:30-2:30
Manse: 257.0028

**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available. Sunday School 10:15am.
Coffee Hour in Eastman Hall follows worship.**

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session
Karen Beals-Treasurer
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand bell Choir Director
Kyle Bruzda– Sexton
Joyce Lohr-Secretary

Session meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.
Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Richard Burtless, Richard Damaske Susan Derr, Kathy Gee,
Scott Jessop, Marvin Lay, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville, Paul Richardson,
Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, moderator.

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