

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

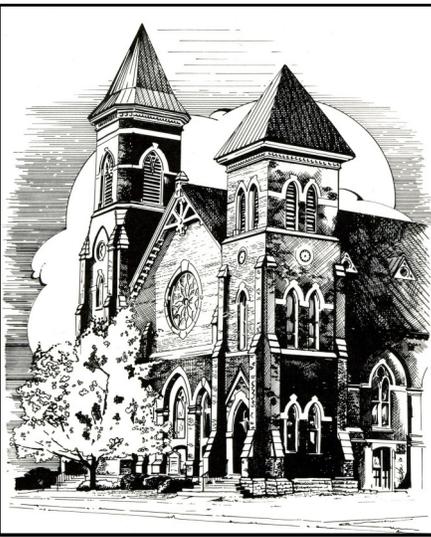
December Newsletter 2012

PASTOR'S CORNER

Well, Advent is upon us, which means Christmas is fast approaching. While we will continue some of our previous traditions of an Advent Wreath, Christmas Tree, decorations and 3 gifts for Mason (one to open, one a donation and one is an ornament). This year in the Ntuala Family we will be starting a few new traditions, like an Advent Calendar. Our Advent Calendar will be random acts of kindness. We will do one random act every day until Christmas. If you want to join us you can set up your own. Here are some ideas for random acts:

- December 1: Make a card and send it to a friend for no reason.
- December 2: Drop off books and magazines to a hospital, nursing home or doctor's office.
- December 3: Give a compliment to the manager of someone who helps you today.
- December 4: Check in on someone you know is alone.
- December 5: Send someone a small gift anonymously.
- December 6: Hold the door open for someone today.
- December 7: Make eye contact and smile at those you encounter today.
- December 8: Run an errand for someone.
- December 9: Send a thank you note to someone who has helped you in the past.
- December 10: Forgive someone in a bad mood or who is negative today and say something genuinely nice to them.
- December 11: Help someone at the grocery store retrieve something out of their reach or difficult for them.
- December 12: Purchase a couple extra bags of dog food and bring to a local animal shelter.
- December 13: Leave your change in the soda machine, vending machine, parking meter, etc. today for the next person.
- December 14: Offer someone behind you at the grocery store to go ahead of you.
- December 15: Say hello to everyone you come in contact with today.
- December 16: Renew a relationship with someone you've lost touch with.
- December 17: Listen to (don't just hear them) everyone you speak with today.
- December 18: Offer to help someone do a task they don't want to do.
- December 19: Ask a friend or family member about something important to them and genuinely show interest in what they have to say.
- December 20: Return a shopping cart for a stranger in the parking lot.
- December 21: Pick up litter you see lying around by the road or in a parking lot.
- December 22: Offer to help someone who looks like they need assistance.
- December 23: Acknowledge someone who has helped you today, no matter how small the task.
- December 24: Say an encouraging word today.
- December 25: Tell all your family members how much you appreciate them.

Continuing on with traditions, The Ntuala Family would like to invite everyone to the church manse on **Sunday, Dec 23rd, at 11am** (following church) for refreshments. We hope all of you can come! Peace, Leah



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SESSION BRIEFS

Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter

Session met on Nov. 26, 2012 for our Nov. meeting. We are going to invite our New Session members to join our Dec. meeting as observers. The Dec. meeting will be on the 17th due to the Christmas Eve Service and the fact that Christmas Eve is the 24th.

There will be new flooring for the Manse kitchen area, to be installed before the Open House so all can admire and see. Also the Church Office is getting updated, like the rest of the lower floor got, with new paint and rid of old wall paper between Dec. 21st and Jan. 1st, while Chris will be on vacation. So after the new year stop in and see Chris and the newer looking office.

The Fund Raising task force will be having a "Hot Beverage Bar", in a heated tent in the Generations parking lot during the "It's A Wonderful Life" on Sat. Dec. 8th from 9 till 2. If you can help serve for an hour, please let us know. If you can donate a gallon of milk or other items: peppermint, marshmallows, creamer, sprinkles, whip cream, sugar, cinnamon, honey, sweetener, tea or coffee Wednesday Dec. 5th it would be greatly appreciated. The Wine Raffle tickets will be for sale during that time and the drawing will be around 2 p.m. that day. Looks like we will definitely have two winners, at this time, each will receive a case of wine plus! Not sure how much the plus will be.

Due to Mike Day moving to Vermont I was short one person on the Fund Raising Task Force, mind you I said was! After the Session meeting Jeb Becker volunteered to be on the Task Force and I accepted his offer and we are ready with ideas heading into a New Year.



Respectfully submitted by your Clerk of Session, Elaine G. Ritter

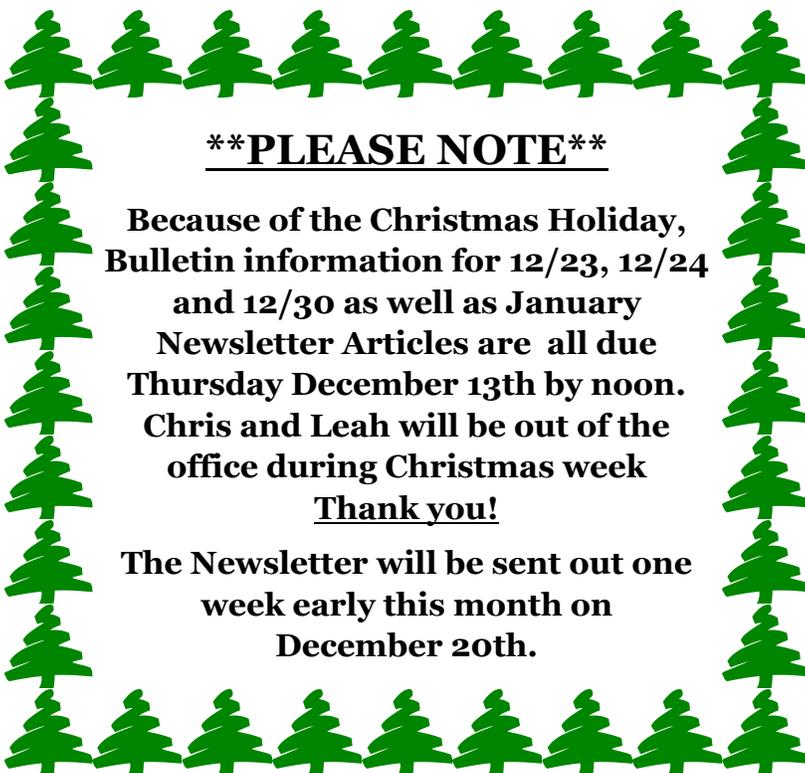
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Bea Jones-12/2
- Jean Morris-12/8
- Joanne Elyseev-12/11
- Al Ferrel-12/13
- Kathy Gee-12/15
- Karen Thomson-12/15
- Peter Seem-12/17
- Connie Richardson-12/22
- Mary Beth Day-12/22
- Bob Stenlake-12/23
- Megan Derr-12/27
- Heather Walker-12/28

PLEASE NOTE

Because of the Christmas Holiday,
Bulletin information for 12/23, 12/24
and 12/30 as well as January
Newsletter Articles are all due
Thursday December 13th by noon.
Chris and Leah will be out of the
office during Christmas week
Thank you!

The Newsletter will be sent out one
week early this month on
December 20th.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE



The Women's Circle met November 5th. Our lesson from The General Epistle: 1Peter and 3 John was titled "A Spiritual House and Household Of Matters". When God's children extend genuine hospitality to others, they set God's household apart from all other earthly structures.

Much of the discussion centered on hospitality. To extend hospitality unbegrudgingly was considered a supreme virtue among all cultures in the Roman Empire in the 1st century. The practice of hospitality was pivotal to survival in the desert and was important in the early church.

The members voted to send \$50.00 to the House of Concern. The need has greatly increased.

The December 3rd meeting will be our annual luncheon— a dish to pass and a package of diapers for the House of Concern. The meeting is at 12:30. Everyone is welcome

3rd Sunday House of Concern items are: Diapers

Jean Morris

VANDERCAMP WINTER RETREAT

Feb. 1 – Feb. 3, 2013

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is only 2 months away. The sign-up sheet is in the church basement, so please sign-up if you are planning on going or even just thinking about it. Remember, family and friends are always welcome. The more, the merrier! We will need to have commitments by the beginning of January so that we can calculate the price per person. We are estimating that the price for the weekend, which includes 2 nights and 3 meals, will be approximately \$100 per adult. Children ages 6-12 only have to pay for their meals (\$12.25) and children under 6 are free. We will not need payment until the end of January. Regarding the meals, we heard that VK has a new cook and that the summer campers raved about the delicious and nutritious meals! Let's hope she/he is still there in February!

This retreat weekend is a wonderful 2 days of fellowship, fun and food. You do not have to be an outdoor enthusiast, as there are always plenty of activities going on in the lodges. However, the scenery and tranquility there are spectacular! Please contact us if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns. Claire can be reached at 568-6383 or Wendy at 568-0112 (eve). Also, check out the Vanderkamp web site at www.vk.org

Claire Damaske and Wendy Kain

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

Regional Meetings Ideas?

As mentioned at the Presbytery meeting, this coming year there will be two stated meetings of the presbytery for 2013. In addition, we want to work with all of our members to develop many different presbytery leadership events throughout the year in different locations and our office. These may include Healthy Congregations, Peacemaking Discernment, Leadership Days, and Book Studies. Please email Rhonda Everdyke with any ideas you may have for topics or if you would like to get involved: Rhonda@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

Camp Whitman This Winter?

We are hoping to have a few events happening this winter where Camp Whitman could come to you! Members and Alumni of our Camp Whitman staff would love to have a Camp event at your church. We are hoping to have a gathering of youth groups and/or after school programs where Whitman staff leads a program for 1-2 hours. If this is something you are interested in or would like to help coordinate for your community, please email Rhonda Everdyke at Rhonda@presbyteryofgeneva.org.



Don't Forget, We Are (Still) On The Radio

Just a reminder to not miss our weekly radio show! We have a new timeslot: Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm, you can listen to the Spirit of Jazz with host Jeff Kellem! We have partnered with Geneva Community Radio for the past year for Sunday nights, now log onto this website on Thursday afternoons at [http://genevaradio.blogspot.com!](http://genevaradio.blogspot.com) More information to follow about this opportunity! Request: please email or Facebook us what you think!

A THANK YOU FROM THE DAY'S

We want to thank everyone so much for the going away reception held in our honor. What a delightful surprise and here we hoped to depart quietly. It's been a journey getting ready to move and we found so many church connections along the way: treasurer's reports, so many bulletins where our girls were involved growing up and to the many photos George took of us over the years.

Coming to Seneca Falls as a young bride, this church became my family away from home. There weren't many young folks here at the time but many welcoming "parents" and "grandparents". It was here Mike learned what a church family is all about.

Thank you all for the many kind words and well wishes. It is never easy to say goodbye so till we meet again our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Our Best Regards for the coming Advent Season.

Jan and Mike Day
1631 Hidden Valley Road
Shaftsbury, VT. 05262
Home Phone: 802-442-9299.



Email mday2837@comcast.net . Mike's cell is the same (315-283-4547) but cell phone reception can be spotty at their house and in general. Mike will also keep his yahoo email as well: mwd2837@yahoo.com .

HANDBELL REPORT

When the handbells played “*An American March*” as the Prelude for Veteran’s Day it was the first time all of the 5-octaves of handbells were used. For me personally it was a very exciting tribute to all of our Veterans and a thank you to everyone who worked to make this possible. I would like to thank all of our bell ringers for their performance and their continued commitment.

The bell tree	Karen Beals	B4C5	Carol Millis
GAB6C7	Carolyn Seem	EFGA4	Dick Damaske
EF6	Claire Damaske	B3CD4	Phil Plummer
CD6	Bob Seem	EGA3	Walt Holly
AB5	Joanne Elyseev	CDF3	Neil Walsh
FG5	Nancy Shuster		
DE5	Sarah Walsh		

As we all have very busy lives it is not always possible to be able to ring the bells according to our schedule. Hedra Harrison and Connie Richardson are also bell ringers but were not able to participate in November.

We have a busy schedule for the Sundays in December as well as Christmas Eve:

- Dec. 9 We will be ringing “*Let All Mortal Flesh Be Silent*”
- Dec. 16 Some of the bell ringers will be part of a concert at Steve Kane’s Trinity Episcopal Church. It will be at 4pm. It includes the Trombones from the Rochester Philharmonic and Steve Kane is the organist. This is a free concert open to the public but will have a free will offering at the door. They will be having a raffle for a creche from Germany. Tickets for that are \$1 for one ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. The proceeds will be given to the organ repair fund at Trinity Church. They will have a reception immediately following the concert in the Lillian Franklyn Room in the church with an international creche display as well.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service

Marge



Christian Education



We are going to be having a play on Dec. 23rd during children's time. Please be sure to attend and get a surprise at the end. We raised \$30.00 for UNICEF. We need old Christmas cards for a project. Please bring in any that you might have. Thank you, Marion



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- ◆ **Volunteer needed to ring church bells-** We are looking for a volunteer to ring the church bells on Sunday, December 9th at 4:00pm at the conclusion of “It’s a Wonderful Life” weekend. If you would be willing to do that, please contact Pastor Leah and let her know.
- ◆ **Hot Beverage Bar/Wine Raffle–** this year the “It’s a Wonderful Life weekend is Thursday through Sunday, December 6th-9th. We are going to be hosting a hot beverage bar during the celebration. It will be on Saturday, December 8th from 9am-2pm. We will be serving coffee, tea and hot cocoa. Our booth will be in the Generations Bank parking lot in a heated tent. Volunteers are needed. If you can help out, please contact Jim, Carolyn or Elaine. During this time we will also continue to sell the wine raffle tickets. The wine raffle will be held at 2pm.
- ◆ **Office Closed-** Pastor Leah and Chris will both be out of the office beginning December 25th and returning on Wednesday January 2nd. Leah will be in town so if you have an *EMERGENCY* you can contact her at the Manse. Bulletin information for 12/23, 12/24 and 12/30 as well as January Newsletter Articles are all due Thursday December 13th by noon. We wish all of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. We hope you enjoy time with your loved ones.
- ◆ **Annual Reports-** For those responsible for Annual Reports (Committee Chairs) your annual reports are **due by January 10th** for the **Annual meeting**, which will be held on **Sunday, Jan 27th**.
- ◆ **Coffee Hour-** We are in need of someone to take over the Coffee Hour. Dottie will continue to do it through December. It can be one or more people doing it full time or taking a month at a time to find people to speak at the coffee hour. If you have ideas or are interested in taking it over, please speak to Leah as soon as possible. Thank you.
- ◆ **Lessons and Carols–** There will be a **Christmas Eve service** on December 24th at 7pm. This will also be our Christmas Joy offering.
- ◆ **New Ruling Elders–** At the Congregational meeting on Nov. 18th, 4 people were voted in as new ruling members to serve on Session. They are Marion Crull, Don Ritter, Nancy Shuster and Neil Walsh. They will be inducted on January 20th.
- ◆ Just a reminder to bring in hats, gloves and scarves for the giving tree in the Narthex. These items will be donated.
- ◆ **Thank you** to Don Ritter for repairing the sticky drawers in the church kitchen and to Wayne Lohr for taking food to the House of Concern.

Members and Friends who are shut-in or in special need:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Luanna Day	2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Al and Ruth Ferrel	c/o Stephen Ferrel, 62 Valley View Drive, Brockport NY 14420
Dr. Paul Foote	40 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Duane Snyder	c/o Seneca Lake Terrace 3670 Pre Emption Rd, Geneva, NY 14456
Robert and Jean Stenlake	18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Alberta Stuck	2999 Williamson Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Tuthill	1901 Gravel Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Fran Webb	c/o Parr’s Springhurst Pines Box 215B, 3001 N Hurstbourne Parkway Louisville, KY 40241 (Please note address change in bold)

GREETERS, USHERS, NURSERY & CANDLE LIGHTERS

December 2nd– Communion/ 1st Sunday in Advent

Greeters: Andy and Betty Batty
 Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh



December 9th– 2nd Sunday in Advent

Greeters: Elaine Ritter and Susan Derr
 Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Lohr
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

December 16th– 3rd Sunday in Advent

Greeters: Diana and Jeb Becker
 Ushers: Iva and Marvin Lay
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Susan Derr
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

December 23rd– 4th Sunday in Advent

Greeters: Joyce and Wayne Lohr
 Ushers: Gerry Gray and Neil Walsh
 Nursery: Joanne Mason and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh

December 24th– Christmas Eve

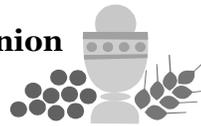
Greeters: Jannette Monterville and Betty Geraghty
 Ushers: Marion Crull and Matthew Crull
 Candle Lighter: Matthew Crull

December 30th

Greeters: Jack LaValley and Jan Owen
 Ushers: George and Joanne Elyseev
 Nursery: JoAnn Mason and Barb Van Kirk
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

January 6th– Communion

Greeters: Jean Morris and Barb Van Kirk
 Ushers: Bea Jones and George Elyséev
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Lohr
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop



COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST

Dec. 2nd: Fellowship Hour in Eastman Hall

Dec. 9th: Views of Yellowstone: Ginny Konz; Hosts: Bob and Carolyn Seem

Dec. 16th: Pastor Leah; Hosts: Wayne and Joyce Lohr

Dec. 23rd: Coffee Hour at the Manse, hosted by The Ntuala Family

Dec. 30th: No Coffee Hour today. Happy New Year!



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Susan Derr– 568-1918

To Keep in our prayers: Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Carl Crull, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Liza Merriam, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Joyce Sinicropi, Duane Snyder, Peter Snyder, Alberta Stuck, Susan Tuck, Dorothy Tuttle, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington, and Margaret Yells.

Please contact Chris with any changes to this list.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30
Manse: 315-257-0028
Fax: 315-568-6616
E-mail: fpressf@verizon.net
Website: www.fpressf.com



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

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
J. Carl Vollbracht- Director of Music & Organist
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session
Karen Beals-Treasurer
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Handbell Choir Director
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton
Chris Sweet- Office Manager



Session meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.

Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Jim Clark, Richard Damaske, Susan Derr, Scott Jessop, Karen Kelley, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville, Paul Richardson, Bob Seem, Carolyn Seem, Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383
23 Cayuga St
Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Merry Christmas to



December Newsletter 2012

