

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## November Newsletter 2012

### PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala

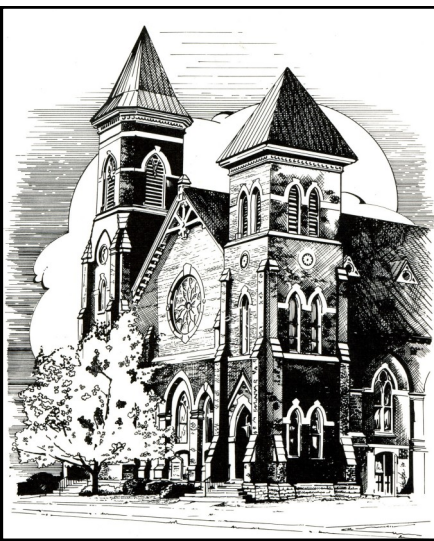
We have entered another new season in our church year Stewardship. Very shortly you will be hearing about the proposed budget and getting a pledge card. Please, also during this season keep in mind that being a good steward involves more than a financial pledge to the church. Being a good steward involves giving of our time and our talents as well .

This year we have seen very successful fundraising because the people in this congregation gave so generously of their time and talents by numerous bake sales and BBQ, through a rummage sale and wine raffle. In the 3rd quarter we remain in the black in our budget because of your amazing generosity and efforts. We still have some fundraising to do to ensure we stay in the black like the on-going TOPS Cards which are available in the office. Also, we will have another wine raffle and coffee and hot cocoa stand during the It's A Wonderful Life Festival. With all these beverages and emphasis on hospitality we should change our church name to The 3 Cups of Tea Church. (kidding)

People in this congregation have also given generously of their time and talents in helping to grow our Wednesday Worship service from 12 to 40. Through opening our doors to our neighbors we have developed new relationships and identified new gifts and talents. Some of our friends on Wednesday have joined us for Sunday's worship as well. We invite all Sunday worshippers to check out a Wednesday Service if you haven't had a chance or have not visited in awhile. Lots of thanks to Darrell Preston (Elaine Ritter's brother) who has become one of our new Wednesday Chefs. These services and the meal following remind me of the Early Christians Agape Feast. It was a time that all people (rich and poor) came to the table and shared a meal and celebrated together all the blessings they receive for God and the Agape Love God blesses us with in our lives. Agape Love refers to the covenant love of God for humans, as well as the human reciprocal love for God. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agape>)

May we continue to be good Stewards, not only in this season but all year. Thank you for modeling Stewardship to me, to one another and in our community. It makes a difference. You make a difference.

Peace, Pastor Leah



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## SESSION BRIEFS

Christian Education is having Pumpkin Sunday this Sunday 28th, so if you desire you can wear your costume to church. Bring your change for UNICEF donations.

Parish Life is trying to put together a Turkey Dinner. There will be Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 9th. Contact Susan if you want to be part of this.

The County has allowed the Drop In center next door to have a table for their smokers on the other side of that property, so less smoke crossing our parking lot now.

Elaine Ritter is taking over the Nominating Committee to try and find four people who would like to be on Session starting in January 2013. If you would like to be on Session and serve Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month please let me know.

Our Director of Music and Organist, Carl, drives from Rochester and likes to get here early. With winter approaching he would like to have a local place to stay on Saturday nights which would be a great relief for him and choir members. So, please let the office know if you have a guest bedroom and would not mind the company once in awhile.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Nov. 18th immediately following Worship Service in the Sanctuary in order to elect new ruling Elders for Session.

Respectively submitted by Clerk of Session---Elaine G. Ritter



## All Saint's Day Service of Remembrance

On Nov. 4th we will be having an All Saint's Day Service of Remembrance. This year we will be asking people to either bring a stone or use one we will provide and write the name(s) of the loved ones you have lost and would like to remember. They do not need to have passed away this year. You will be invited to bring the stones forward during the service.



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lindsey Gee-11/15

Betty Batty-11/16

Muriel Horle-11/18

Dave Kain-11/25

Phebe Wright-11/27

Stephen Beals-11/30

Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, December Newsletter articles are due on **Wednesday November 21st**

The newsletter will be sent out on Thursday, November 29th.

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE



The Women's Circle met on October 1st with 5 members present. A report was given on the Fall Gathering at Camp Whitman and also on a meeting with Geneva and Western New York Presbytery Women concerning the meeting here on Sept 28, 2013. Genesee Valley Presbytery will also be involved. The women were enthused about our Church and village. They plan to take advantage of the Women's Rights Historical Park and Museum.

Several knitting/crochet patterns were available from Church World Service. Anyone interested see me.

Several thank you notes were read for donations made by the circle.

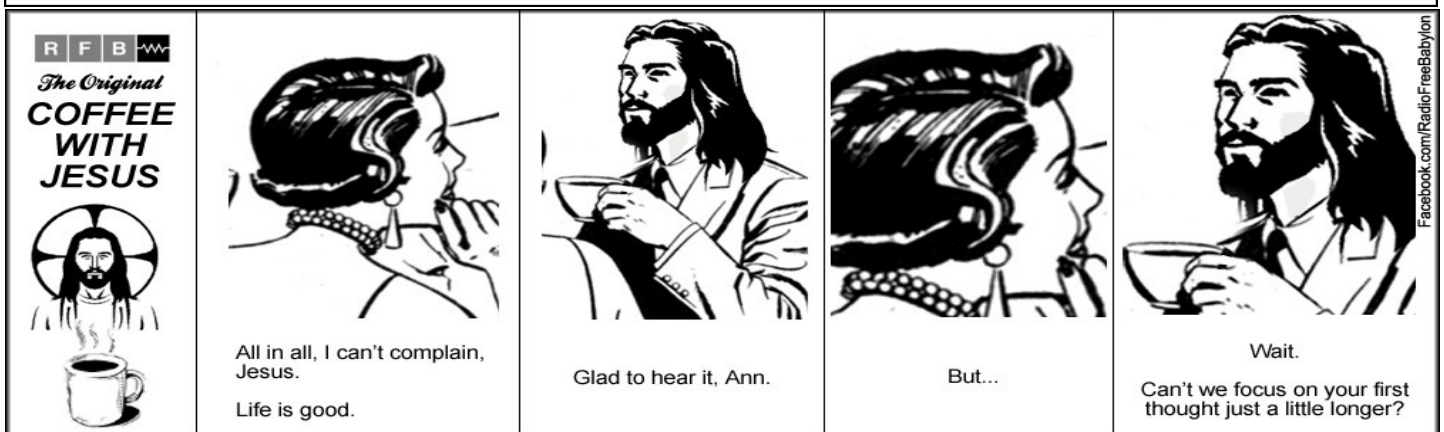
10 personal care kits were completed and sent through Family Counseling Service. 7 knit hats, a crocheted blanket and 6 tubes of toothpaste were taken by Pastor Leah to the mission program in Washington, DC.

We continued our study of the General Epistles, the lesson entitled "Fatherhood" showed that as a parent God both defines and defies the character of earthly parenthood.

**3rd Sunday House of Concern item is:**  
~Soup~

The next meeting is at 12:30 on November 5th. Come join us and bring a sandwich.

Jean Morris



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The time of Advent is fast approaching. This year our Sunday School will have a small Christmas Pageant on December 23rd during the Children's Time in our worship service. If you would like to help please see Marion Crull and ask how you can help! It will be so much fun to see our youth give us a Christmas message.

In addition they will also be preparing for the Christmas Season by making an advent calendar, 25 Days of Christmas Scripture Chain and an Acts of Kindness Countdown to Christmas. It will certainly be an exciting season of Advent in our church community. Again, if you would like to be involved or find out more about these events please speak with Marion Crull.

This is going to be a fun and exciting time for our youth and we hope they will all be able to participate in these activities. If these activities sound interesting to you and you would like to share them with your grandchildren please let us know and we will get you the information.





## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

### Learning and Mission Experience in Washington, DC

Over Columbus Day weekend, 28 participants of all ages went to Washington, DC for our Presbytery of Geneva learning and mission experience. We have heard wonderful feedback from all who attended. We worked in two different food ministries projects, a clothing closet, and a homeless ministries project. We had two different seminars while there: one from our Office of Public Witness and one from our friends at the Church of the Pilgrims on outreach. We were also able to fit in some free time to explore the city and enjoy some evenings together as a group!

This trip continued to strengthen our relationship with the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and several Presbyterian and ecumenical partners on a national level, built relationships with Geneva Presbytery neighbors who were participants on the trip, and allowed us to be thinking of our work and faith on local, national, and international levels.

Thank you all again so much for the donations that we were able to bring with us for the homeless ministries program! It was greatly appreciated by all who are a part of that work! Stayed tuned for more information and guest blogs from our participants! Also, save the date for our Learning and Mission Experience for 2013: New York City -- Friday October 11 – Monday October 14, 2013.

### Camp Whitman Requests

Camp Whitman seeks a **Program Coordinator** for the 2013 camp season. If you are interested in this position, a copy of the job description is on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Please note the person must be at least 25 years old.

Camp Whitman needs a **CPR and First Aid Trainer**. Camp Whitman is looking for any volunteers that are certified to train our summer staff for their CPR and First Aid certification. This will be for the staff's training week in the beginning of our 2013 camp season. If you are interested or need more details, please contact Idelle Dillon, Camp Director at [idillon@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:idillon@presbyteryofgeneva.org).



## HANDBELL REPORT

This is an exciting year for the Handbell Choir as we are officially a 5-octave handbell choir with a 5-octave set of handchimes!!!! The big bells add a depth to a piece of music and the little bells add the sparkle. Most music written for bells is for 3 to 5 octaves of music and several composers have written music with the combination of handchimes and handbells. We will be playing a march on November 11 to honor Veterans and it will use all 5 octaves of bells.

*Marge*

## FUNDRAISING TASKFORCE

Fund Raising wants to have another Wine Raffle with the drawing during "Its A Wonderful Life" weekend. It is hard if not impossible to have a Wine Raffle without Wine! Please donate a bottle (or more) to help the church keep our budget in the Black and out of the Red. That is our goal and we cannot do it without your help!! So PLEASE bring a bottle of wine to church on Sunday.



## Vanderkamp Winter Retreat

Feb. 1 – Feb. 3, 2013

It's that time again! Time to start thinking about Vanderkamp 2013! At the moment, we have Robert lodge and the smaller Resurrection lodge reserved, which are the two that we have been in for the past couple of years. However, if we can interest some new people into giving it a try, we could possibly exchange Resurrection for one of the bigger lodges. But that decision would have to be made fairly soon, so please start thinking about it and talking it up among your family and friends. We pay a set fee for the lodges, which means that the price per person will depend on the number of people who attend. We are estimating the cost will be approximately \$100 per person, which includes 2 nights stay and 3 meals. Children from age 6 to 12 only need to pay for their meals (\$12.25). Children under 6 are totally free. In order for us to calculate the price per person in a reasonable time frame, we are asking for commitments by Jan. 13, 2013.

In case you are new to the church and are wondering what Vanderkamp is, Vanderkamp is an ecumenical, year-round retreat center located outside Cleveland, NY on the north side of Oneida Lake (about a one hour fifteen minute drive from Seneca Falls). It is situated on 850 acres of woods with cross-country skiing/hiking trails, a 45-acre lake and lots of peace and quiet. We stay in fully furnished lodges and every family is assigned their own bedroom (with beds). There is a bathroom (with hot showers) for about every 2 bedrooms. It is a wonderful place to spend a weekend if you enjoy outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, skating, sledding and hiking. But it is also a wonderful place to spend a weekend if you just enjoy sitting by a warm fire, playing games and good fellowship. Check out the website at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org)

A sign-up sheet will be available in the church basement in early November. Please, please, please start giving this serious thought now. If you are a regular attendee and know that you cannot make it this year, please let us know. If you are a potential first-timer, please let us know that you are thinking about it. We really need to have firm commitments by early January, though we will not need payment until the end of January.

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is an excellent fellowship opportunity for all ages. Friends and family are very welcome. If you have any questions or comments, please call Claire at 568-6383 or Wendy at 568-0112 (eve.).

-Claire Damaske & Wendy Kain

\*Note: Vanderkamp is hoping to replace all of the mattresses in all of the lodges with a "Stamp Out Backaches" campaign. They have received a matching funds gift, so a donation of \$83 will be doubled to purchase a new mattress. However, any amount will be welcomed and doubled. Checks can be made out and sent to: Vanderkamp Center, 337 Martin Road, Cleveland, NY 13042. Indicate that it is for the mattress fund.



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



- ◆ **Mike and Jan Day** are moving to their home in Vermont this month. We will still see them from time to time, but they will be missed. Please make sure to tell them, “See you later.”
- ◆ **The Ntuala Family** is expecting a new member of their family in April. We are beyond happy. Thank you all for your continued thoughts and prayer.
- ◆ **Funding Factory fundraiser:** I just wanted to give you all an update on this fundraiser. We had many ink cartridges, old cell phones, etc. placed in the donation box in the social hall. I shipped out our first , very large box to funding factory. So far, we have accumulated 98.75 points which equals \$39.50. Every little bit helps and so I want to thank all of you who have been donating your old ink cartridges, cell phones, and small electronics to this fundraiser.
- ◆ **Tops Gift Cards fundraiser:** So far I have placed 5 Tops Markets gift card orders and with that has been a fundraiser of \$198.75 for the Church. The Church receives 5% of each card sold. Don't forget to stop in the office to buy a card. I have them in 25's, 50's and 100's. See Chris in the office during office hours or any fundraising task force member on Sundays.
- ◆ **Members and Friends who are shut-in or in special need:**

### Name

Luanna Day  
Al and Ruth Ferrel  
Dr. Paul Foote  
Duane Snyder  
Robert and Jean Stenlake  
Alberta Stuck  
Dorothy Tuthill  
Fran Webb

### Address

2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
c/o Stephen Ferrel, 62 Valley View Drive, Brockport NY 14420  
40 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
c/o Seneca Lake Terrace 3670 Pre Emption Rd, Geneva, NY 14456  
18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
2999 Williamson Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
1901 Gravel Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
c/o Parr's Springhurst Pines Box 215B, 3101 N Hurstbourne Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40241

## BEAUTIFUL HAND MADE CARDS FOR SALE!

Love the thought of sending your friends and family hand-made cards this holiday season but no time to make them? Let me help! I have a selection of hand-made greeting cards (holiday, birthday, illness, etc.) available to order - **All proceeds go to the church.**

Interested in making your own cards? Please don't say you're not crafty - no experience necessary! “Stampin’ Up” Classes are held regularly in the church basement and we'd love to have you join.

Please contact Debbie Sowards at 730-8078 or dsowards@rochester.rr.com for more information.

Some examples of the cards are shown below.



## **GREETERS, USHERS, NURSERY & CANDLE LIGHTERS**

### **November 4th– Communion**

Greeters: Jean Morris and Barb Van Kirk  
 Ushers: Marvin and Iva Lay  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull  
 Candle Lighter: Erica Walsh



### **November 11th**

Greeters: Andrew and Betty Batty  
 Ushers: Susan Derr and Doreen Christopher  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Lohr  
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

### **November 18th**

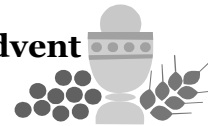
Greeters: Marion Crull and Jannette Monterville  
 Ushers: Jerry Gray and Neil Walsh  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Becky Jessop  
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

### **November 25th– Christ the King Sunday**

Greeters: Betty Geraghty and Marion Crull  
 Ushers: Cherie and Jim Clark  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Scott Jessop  
 Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh

### **December 2nd– Communion/ 1st Sunday in Advent**

Greeters: Kathy Gee and Lauren Gee  
 Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull  
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh



## **COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST**

- Nov. 4th:** Coffee and Conversation Hour in the Social Hall– Hosts needed.  
**Nov. 11th:** Behind the Scenes at House of Concern: Steven Beals  
 Hosts: Wayne and Joyce Lohr  
**Nov. 18th:** The history of the NYS Troopers: Josh Olschewske  
 Hosts needed  
**Nov. 25th:** No coffee hour: Thanksgiving Weekend.



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Joanne Elyseev: 568-9993

**To Keep in our prayers:** Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Carl Crull, 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 8:30-2:30  
Manse: 315.257.0028  
Phone: 315.568.6636  
E-mail: [fpresf@verizon.net](mailto:fpresf@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.fpresf.com](http://www.fpresf.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- Hand Bell 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



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