

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

October Newsletter 2012

PASTOR'S CORNER

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.”

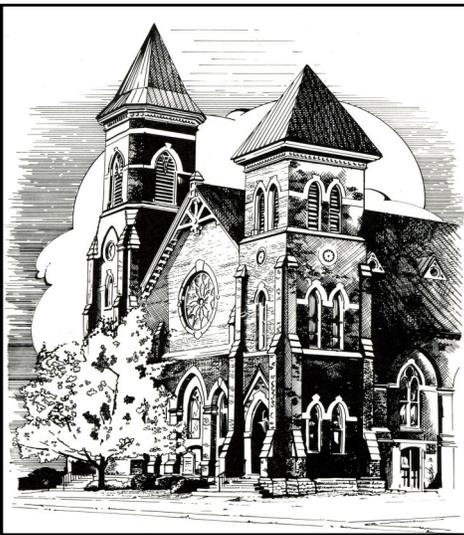
-George Burns

I never know how long sermon writing is going to take. Sometimes it feels as though it writes itself and rewrites itself on Sunday morning and rewrites again in the pulpit. At other times the sermon seems to take a lifetime to write, mostly because I am struggling with the text.

Some have asked my process of sermon writing and I have to say it is always a little different, but there are always similarities. The first thing I do is read the scripture lessons several times. As I read, I write down a word or phrase or theme that jumps out at me while I read. It doesn't happen all the time, so I have to take a break from the text and reread it later. After I have read the text many times I look over what I have written and begin to research. If it is a word, I look it up in one of my text books to see how many times this word is used and if it is used in this form anywhere else in the Bible. I look to see if this word had the same meaning in Greek or Hebrew as it does in English now. For instance, in English we have the word love and we all have a definition for what this word means and when we read the Bible the word is always translated to love, but in Greek there are 3 main types of love and they all mean something different, which isn't present in our translations. So you can see how easy it is for a person to get wrapped up in research. Most of the research doesn't make it into my sermons-sometimes, but not always.

After the research in the books comes sitting with the items that have caught my attention and seeing what direction I am pulled in as I meditate on the words, phrases or items. Often I am shaped by the music I may be listening to at the time, the news, books or articles I have been reading or what I have most recently been watching on tv. At some point it develops into a sermon. I visit the sermon all week long and edit. Chris mails the sermon to our church friends every week and often there are things I preach that I never write. I do believe sermons are to be preached and not read. For me they are very different. I hope this gave you some insight into my process.

Peace, Pastor Leah



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SESSION BRIEFS

Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter

Session Meeting of September 24, 2012

Good news! Between the Sunday worship service and the Wed. night service there are between 90 and 100 folks per week hearing the preaching of Pastor Leah. Also good news... The Bargain Basement, Bake and BBQ sales were a good profitable day for our church. A big hearty **Thank You** to all that helped put this together and also cleaned up afterwards. The furniture has been listed on Craig's list and there is some interest in some of the items. Thanks to Chris Sweet for some warnings when using Craig's list.

Fund Raising wants to start collecting Wine again so we can plan the next Wine Raffle that will be held during "It's a Wonderful Life" weekend in December. So please start bringing in the wine donations and Thank you in advance for your support and help getting our budget back into the black.

The Communion that is usually the first Sunday of the month has been cancelled for the first Sunday in Oct. due to Pastor Leah being away that Sunday. Communion will be on the second Sunday of October which is the 14th.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

RUTH FERREL-10/1
 PHIL PLUMMER-10/2
 KRIS [LOHR] WITHERSPOON-10/2
 SAMUEL DICKIESON-10/8
 ZACHARY RESCORL-10/10
 BENNET BECKER-10/11
 FRANCES WEBB-10/11
 LUANNA DAY-10/12
 DIANA BECKER-10/16
 PETER CREGO-10/18
 BOB SEEM-10/22
 DON RITTER-10/27
 SUE ELLEN CREGO-10/28
 ALBERTA STUCK-10/29
 BARBARA GRAY-10/30
 WENDY PROCTOR-10/31

SAVE THE DATE!!
February 1-3, 2013.
Vanderkamp Weekend Retreat.
More information coming in
November's newsletter!

November Newsletter
 articles are due on
 October 18th.
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 Newsletter will be  
 sent out on  
 October 25th.

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE



The Women's Circle met Sept. 10th to start a new year. Our study promises to be very interesting covering the General Epistles. We learned what kind of books these were, to whom they were written, who wrote them, who received them and where, what was going on when they were written and why they were written— a great overview.

Leah was the worship leader at the Day of Inspiration/Fall Gathering of Geneva Presbytery Women at Camp Whitman Sept. 19th. Some of us attended.

Seven personal care kits were completed and sent to the Geneva shelter. Several extra tubes of toothpaste were given to The House of Concern. We plan to do eight more kits in October.

### **3rd Sunday House of Concern items are:**

**Oct: mac/cheese**

**Nov: soup**

**Dec: diapers**

**Jan: peanut butter/jelly**

We would like to see you at our October 1st meeting. Bring a sandwich and meet at 12:30pm.

Jean Morris

## Wednesday Worship



Wednesday Worship is growing! We need your help to make it a continued, successful ministry and outreach. There are many ways to help. Jim has created a 9 week meal plan (see back of calendar). We would like to have at least 2 crews of helpers each week in order that people don't burn out; 2 people to set up and 4 people to serve and clean up. If you are in choir, you can sign up to set up the tables. If you are busy until 6pm, you can sign up to serve and clean up meals. Please contact the office or Jim Clark to sign up. We will train everyone, so don't worry! Thank you in advance!!

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY



### **Mission: Washington DC**

There are 28 participants for our Mission Trip to Washington, DC over Columbus Day weekend.

Everyone is getting excited about this mission and learning experience. Would there be any volunteers that would like to serve as prayer partners for our Washington trip? We did this last year for our Mission Trip to NYC and we were very grateful! If so, feel free to talk to any staff at the Presbytery meeting or email Joelle@presbyteryofgeneva.org. We will have lots to share while we are there and when we return over Columbus Day weekend.

### **We Are On The Radio At A New Time Slot**

Just a reminder to not miss our weekly radio show! We have a new time slot—Thursday afternoons at 430pm, 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>! More information to follow about this opportunity!

Request: please email or Facebook us what you think!

## HANDCHIMES/HANDBELLS REPORT



We are very fortunate to have a 5-octave set of handchimes made by Malmark and are considered the best of the handchimes manufactured. When I began my job here in 1996 we had a 3-octave set of Schulmerich handbells but I did not want to work with the bells and children, as bells can be easily damaged, so I suggested to the church that we buy a 2-octave set of handchimes to be used by the children. At that time the set was not expensive. As the Youth group grew to 10 it was decided that we needed to add on a 3rd octave of handchimes.

Handchimes are a great instrument for children to use, as they are light in weight and made of aluminum. They are not easily damaged. When I felt comfortable that the children had the needed respect and experience playing chimes, I moved them to bells and they have performed very well. At the same point in time composers began writing music for handbells that included parts for the handchimes within the music. There are also composers writing music for just chimes because of their unique and beautiful tone so the handchimes began to be used by the adult choir.

As the bell choir grew we wanted to add on a 4th octave of bells, and an anonymous donor decided to extend the chimes to include the 4th octave. Since then we have been in the process of adding a few bass bells, one at a time because of the cost. Thanks to Phil Plummer, in memory of Bobbi who loved the sound of the bells, we have been given the 5th octave of chimes and the last 3 bass bells we still needed to complete the 5th octave. The next job was to find ringers for all this equipment. For example: a 2-octave set of bells or chimes require 7 ringers, 3 octaves need 8 or 9 ringers depending on the difficulty of the music, 4 octaves needs 10 or 11 ringers, and 5 octaves needs 12 or 13 ringers with 2 or 3 of the 13 ringing the bass bells, again depending on the difficulty of the music.

The history of handchimes is quite different from the history of handbells. The first chime instrument can be traced back to Southeast Asia and some parts of China thousands of years ago. Workers cutting bamboo and throwing the cut pieces in a pile heard the sound of the hollow pipes of various sizes hitting stones. The sounds of these tubes were incorporated in their music. Later the tubes were stationary and struck with a stick. In the late 1800's John Deagan, who was well known at the time for his contribution to malleted percussion instruments, visited Southeast Asia, heard the sounds of the bamboo instruments, took the idea with him and in the early 1900's patented the first metal tube.

In 1910 the first clapper mechanism was added to the tube. In 1939 Earl Sanders patented the idea of a tube slatted at both ends but it was not a success. The significance of this idea, however, was to change the tube from round to square. In 1977 Toby Heriz-Smith from England developed a spring metal ringer. He trademarked the name of handchime. But David Ward, a therapist in England, used the handchime as therapy in his music classes of children living with cerebral palsy and contacted Dr. Paul Rosene in the US, to suggest that the design could be improved and would be useful in therapy sessions. Dr. Rosene contacted Jacob Malta at Malmark. In 1981 they experimented with several designs using round and square tubes, different combinations of aluminum and tin and a way of attaching the clapper mechanism similar to ones in their handbells. They found the right combination that produced a mellow as they said, "heavenly, sound". With some slight modifications, the Malmark handchimes are the original design developed in 1982.

As I said at the beginning of this report – we are very fortunate to have 5-octaves of handchimes AND 5-octaves of handbells!

*MARGE*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School has an exciting year planned beginning with Pumpkin Sunday on October 28th. Come and decorate a pumpkin! We will have snacks, activities and crafts. Youth, please dress in costume and remember to bring some change to raise money for UNICEF!

The children will be having a Halloween Party this year. It will be on the 20th of October in the evening, time TBA. The children will be bringing friends and we will be making marshmallows. This year we will be doing a Christmas program. This will be done on the 23rd in place of the children's time. It will involve the congregation, so please come to find out what you will be doing.

|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                    |                                  |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>The Original<br/>COFFEE<br/>WITH<br/>JESUS</b></p> | <p>I want to have that attitude that so many people who've had a brush with death have. They say they appreciate every single moment of every day.</p> | <p>That's a great way to live, Ann. And you can actually achieve it without having to have a brush with death.</p> | <p>Oh, good! How do I start?</p> | <p>It's not that hard. We'll start with this moment, right here.<br/>Appreciate it.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- ◆ A Memorial Service for Alice Robinson (Claire Damaske's Mother) will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 13th at the Norton Chapel at Keuka College. All are welcome to come help celebrate her life. There will also be a reception and buffet dinner following the service at The Boatyard Grill at 301 East Lake Street, Penn Yan. **\*Please note the time change\*.**
- ◆ A big **THANK YOU** to Joanne Elyseev for her tireless attention to the church flower beds and urns. they provide an on-going, pretty site to the parking lot and to Cayuga St., especially during all the road work!
- ◆ Bargains in the Basement and BBQ netted a welcome \$1700 plus, to the church treasury! Big THANKS to Membership/Parish Life and the Fundraising Task Force - and to everyone in the congregation who donated household items, food, and/or baked goods, and for their cheerful help before, during, and after the sale. Pastor Leah put the remaining furniture on-line on "Craigslist", where we hope to reap more profits!
- ◆ **Congratulations** to Don and Elaine Ritter on the birth of their Great Grandson who was born on Sept 25th. Mom and baby are doing great!!
- ◆ 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, 3101 N Hurstbourne Parkway<br>Louisville, KY 40241 |

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

At coffee hour on Sept. 9, twenty-five of us joined for refreshments and to share news of our summer activities.

**Sam & Dorothy** have a new car, which Dottie drives and Sam insists is "supposed to be My Car!" They look forward to their granddaughter's October wedding taking place here in the Finger Lakes.

**Marv & Iva** reported on their grandchildren. August Loolam is now at Alfred University studying digital gaming. Zachary is working at a family-owned candle company. Sam is in Morgantown at W.V.A.U., majoring in geography.

**George** announced that this past August marked his & Joanne's 36th year in Seneca Falls and their 34th year at First Pres. They were at Ocean Grove NJ visiting son Paul & Julie & grandson, Desmond 9 mos. Joanne actually marched with a kazoo band in the July 4th parade! In Aug., they visited college friends on Lake Winnepesaukee NH.

**Susan** said she "went to graduation parties" and was able to reunite with many of her family. She also worked on Vacation Bible School, the Wed. night suppers and singly took on the task of advertising for our Bargains sale!

**Bernie & Muriel** enjoyed "a quiet, uneventful summer", In Bernie's words. They did get to Eastview Mall and the NY State Fair and were recently surprised and pleased to be visited by two of their nephews. "We also celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary on July 4th!"[and were forced to search for a place open for dinner, that day!]

**Barb Van Kirk** said she & **Howard** saw 3 grandsons off to college this fall. In July, their children surprised her with a [birthday] luncheon at the Sherwood Inn and a dinner 'out', all on the same day! [Barb's bd is in January] Their large family stayed mostly at their house and all the cousins had fun together, Barb said. "We talked with one granddaughter, now in China, on Skype. In Aug., Barb & Howard enjoyed a visit to Atlantic City [and caught colds!]

**Betty** said she "didn't really go anywhere" but daughter Maureen, of Virginia Beach stayed with her for awhile and they visited several area places, including the Seward Mansion, Willard Chapel and the Wizard of Clay.

**Joyce & Wayne** had "a lake cottage all to ourselves for one week" in August. Earlier in the summer they were visited by Marya & her Colorado family, including grandsons Andre & Luc, who entertained everyone with numerous constructions, including a snail apartment complex!

**Jan & Mike** travelled to the Cayman Islands for the wedding of the son of former members, Jeff & Mary Ann Leeper. They also stopped in Cozumel, Mexico, as well as spending time in Vermont when their daughters were in town. They "tried to be out of town during most of the road-work [on Cayuga St]", Jan added. Jan Owen told us she & Jack "are both natives of northern NY state", so they re-visited places from their youth by taking some Uncle Sam Boat Tours to Boldt Castle and the Thousand Islands. Daughter, Erin visited with their grandchildren.

**Marion** visited cousins in Pennsylvania, one of whom lives in a log cabin and made trips to see places where Marion's grandmother previously lived. **Matthew**, Marion's son, has joined the SF Fire Dep't as a volunteer and is training for safe ways to enter burning buildings.

**Jannette** celebrated several birthdays in her and her sister's family in June. Later she met her grandchildren in Watkins Glen NY and "got to see my second great grandson!"

**Claire & Dick** helped son John & family move from Malden to Winchester MA. They welcomed the birth in July, of son Paul's & Sarah's daughter, Charlotte Lucille in State College PA.

Jean said she "tried to keep cool". She has fond memories of the years [1950's & '60's] when her family was visited by Europeans taking part in the Int'l. Living Project, sponsored in part by Kiwanis. A total of 8 visitors were guests in the Morris home over the years, some from Spain and Italy.

**Carolyn & Bob** now travel to Massachusetts as often as they can, to visit daughter Jessica in the Worcester area and son, Peter in Andover. They also stay in a newly-acquired second home in N.Carolina. Bob announced he's 'phasing into' retirement, as of Aug. 15 from the NYS Experiment Station at Geneva.

**Pastor Leah** said her family took several day trips. Because **Simon** became a U.S. citizen on July 4, they celebrated by going to Niagara Falls. On other trips they visited Sea Breeze, N. Carolina and Ohio. Son Mason had his third birthday in August and proved to his proud parents that he was fully capable of winning the right to sleep in a twin-sized bed on special spacecraft sheets!

## **GREETERS, USHERS AND NURSERY**

### **October 7th– Communion**



Greeters: Jack LaValley and Jan Owen  
 Ushers: Matt Crull and Marion Crull  
 Nursery: Barb Van Kirk and Carolyn Seem  
 Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh

### **October 14th**

Greeters: Howard and Barb Van Kirk  
 Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Lohr  
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

### **October 21st**

Greeters: Andrew and Betty Batty  
 Ushers: Mike and Jan Day  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Van Kirk  
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

### **October 28th– Reformation Sunday**

Greeters: Susan Derr and Barb Lohr  
 Ushers: Neil and Sarah Walsh  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Cherie Clark  
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

### **November 4th– Communion**



Greeters: Paul and Connie Richardson  
 Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Matt Crull  
 Candle Lighter: Erica Walsh

## **COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST**

**Oct. 7th:** Topic TBA- Hosts: Andy and Betty Batty  
**Oct. 14th:** Topic TBA- Hosts: George and Joanne Elyseev  
**Oct. 21st:** Topic TBA- Hosts: Howard and Barb Van Kirk  
**Oct. 28th:** Pumpkin Sunday- Social Hall– Coffee Hosts: Dick and Claire Damaske



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Barb Van Kirk– 568-9908

**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.

Church Office: 315-568-6636  
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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  
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session  
Karen Beals-Treasurer  
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Handbell Choir Director  
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton  
Chris Sweet- Office Manager

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

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

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**October Newsletter 2012**

