

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## February Newsletter 2012

### PASTOR'S CORNER

One thought I have been having this past month is community. I have been trying to think about ways to strengthen our community, while at the same time expanding our community. As I looked into what makes a good community I found this quote from Vince Lombardi, "Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

(<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/individual.html#ixzz1jpCl51Vw>)

To be a community, one has to be committed to being a community. What does that involve? Well according to an article written by Kevin Rains, being a community involves 4 things.

**Community means availability.** It means time spent together. Real time. Time for conversation, interaction, and a deepening of communion, of intimacy between 2 or more people.

**Community means vulnerability.** If we aren't willing to open up our lives to others we will never experience true community. This is why mutual confession builds community. We come to the table with our strengths and our weaknesses and we lay ourselves bare, exposed to the scrutiny and more importantly the love, acceptance and forgiveness of others.

**Community means a shared life.** This ties back in to availability but goes beyond it. Our life in one regard is made up of time. So if we want a shared life we must spend time together. Resources also need to be shared. Basically our checkbooks and our schedules can be a good gauge of community.

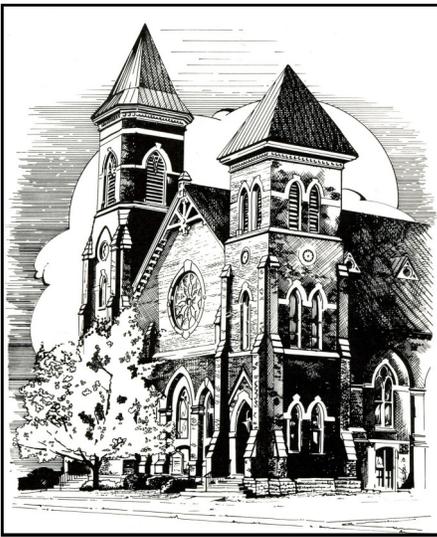
**Community means stability.** If we want to experience community we need to be rooted somewhere among some people.

([http://www.simplechurchjournal.com/2005/06/what\\_does\\_commu.html](http://www.simplechurchjournal.com/2005/06/what_does_commu.html))

In worshipping together on Sunday, being a part of a Ministry Team and donating food and other items to The House of Concern and other organizations you build up this community. How do we do it even more in 2012? How do we make it even more intentional? How do we make ourselves more available, vulnerable, stable and share in one another's lives in 2012?

I make a promise to work on deepening my commitment to our community and I hope you will join me in these efforts. I am beginning this journey by going to Vanderkamp with my family. Vanderkamp offers a unique community building opportunity by providing a space to share our lives through conversation, music, games, meals, rest and worship. I look forward to this journey; I hope you are excited too!

Peace, Pastor Leah



#### Inside this issue:

<i>Session Briefs</i>	2
<i>Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Christian Education</i>	2
<i>Women's Circle</i>	3
<i>Vanderkamp Retreat</i>	3
<i>News from the Presbytery</i>	4
<i>Bell Choir</i>	5
<i>Community Event</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>Ushers, Greeters and Nursery</i>	7
<i>Prayer List</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	insert

## SESSION BRIEFS

Session Meeting held on January 23, 2012

First meeting in a year will a full membership. Welcome to Karen Kelley, Carolyn and Bob Seem, Jim Clark (who was Excused) and Scott Jessop who did return after filling in for another who became ill. A hearty Thank You to Karen Kelley who is finishing Dick Burtless' term.

We have decided to form a Directory Task Force to decide how to and what to do about updating our Directory this year. We will talk about this more at the Annual Meeting which is January 29th, right after Brunch. Please stay and help your Session make some important decisions about our future and this year.

The Session members who are on different Committees is as follows:

- Christian Education-Carolyn Seem
- Parish Life/Membership-Susan Derr
- Worship-Jannette Monterville and Carolyn Seem
- Personnel-Bob Seem and Dick Damaske
- Property-Karen Kelley and Paul Richardson
- Stewardship/Finance-Jeb Becker and Scott Jessop
- Nominating-Elaine Ritter and Paul Richardson
- Outreach-Elaine Ritter



We did decide that is was cost effective to replace the old copier in the office with a new and more efficient one.

Respectfully Submitted by Clerk of Session-Elaine G. Ritter  
Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, Feb. 20, 2012– 7pm**

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Dorothy Tuthill-2/12
- Bernard Horle-2/15
- Liza Merriam-2/16
- Elizabeth [Lohr] Olmstead-2/17
- Nancy [Monterville] Brown-2/20
- William Shuster-2/22
- Edward Chase-2/25
- Jan Day-2/29

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We will be having Valentine Sunday on Feb 12th. "Souper" Bowl Sunday will also be that day!



**March Newsletter articles are due on February 16th. It will be mailed On February 23rd.**

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Ruby Anderson hosted The Women's Circle January 9th. We completed two lessons on the Beatifieds. "Greatly honored Are those who are famished and parched for justice" and "Greatly honored are those who show mercy". These lessons always generate many thoughts.

Several hats and baby blankets were sent through Family Counseling.

The next meeting will be February 6th at 12:30. Bring a sandwich and join us. We will continue work on personal care kits for the Crisis Center in Geneva.

-Jean Morris

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

**Feb. 19: Soup**

**March 18: Canned Veggies & Fruits**



## VANDERKAMP WINTER RETREAT

**Feb. 3 – Feb. 5, 2012**

It's that time again! Time to start thinking about Vanderkamp 2012! Though October was fairly mild, winter and snow will soon be upon us. Since our numbers have been holding steady the past couple of years, we decided last year to reserve Robert lodge and the smaller Resurrection lodge again. However, if I am sensing that interest is higher than normal this year, I would be happy to try to get us a bigger lodge. 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. I am 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 me to calculate the price per person in a reasonable time frame, I am asking for commitments by Jan. 15, 2012.

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 1100 acres of woods with cross-country skiing/hiking trails, a 48-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.

I have put a sign-up sheet in the church basement. 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 me know. If you are a potential first-timer, please let me know that you are thinking about it. I really need to have firm commitments by early January, though I will not need payment until the end of January.

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is an excellent fellowship opportunity for all ages. Let's fill these 2 lodges! Friends and family are very welcome. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 568-6383.

-Claire Damaske

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

**WE ARE ON THE RADIO:** Each and every Sunday at 10pm, you can listen to the Spirit of Jazz! We have partnered with Geneva Community Radio and this Sunday's show is titled Take 6 with host Jeff Kellem! Log onto this website <http://genevaradio.blogspot.com> at 10pm this Sunday! More information to follow about this opportunity once we are able to see how these shows are working out for us. I see lots of potential! :) Request: please email or Facebook us what you think!

**COME ADVOCATE IN DC:** The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness is hosting the annual 2012 Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day in Washington, DC and Ecumenical Advocacy Days. The CPJ Training Day is a one day even that provides a presentation on the work of CPJ related offices in Louisville, New York and Washington, DC. Their theme this year is on Presbyterians and Economic Justice. This subject is pertinent to all of us as we are in the midst of answering questions related to the work of the Church during these times of economic decline. Similarly, Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a three day advocacy training event held in Washington, DC by more than fifty interfaith and ecumenical advocacy groups located in Washington, DC. The PC(U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness is among this group. The theme for EAD is "Is this the fast I Seek? – Economy, Livelihood, and Our National Priorities." Again, the theme of our economy is ringing. Registration for both events can be done at <http://www.pcusa.org/events/18750/compassion-peace-and-justice-training-day/>. For more information on EAD see [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org).

**Church World Service Update:** LEARN AND SERVE BUS TRIP. Our next trip to work in the New Windsor service center preparing Kits for shipment will be May 21-25, 2012. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn the next step in the Kit process. This trip offers a hands-on experience volunteering at the SERRV International Gift Shop Warehouse and the Service Center in New Windsor, where the Church World Service Blankets and Kits (Hygiene, School, Emergency Clean-up Buckets & Baby Care) are collected, packed, and shipped for use around the world, including the U.S. For more information or a brochure contact Amy at [amanning@churchworldservice.org](mailto:amanning@churchworldservice.org) or 315-458-8535. Although registration and deposits aren't due until March please notify me as soon as possible if you plan on attending.

**SPRING KIT DRIVE:** Want to keep busy this winter? Put your hearts and hands into action and put together Church World Service Kits. Our truck will once again swing down the east coast in May. For more information contact the Upstate NY Regional Office at 315-458-8535 or email [amanning@churchworldservice.org](mailto:amanning@churchworldservice.org). For detailed information about what goes into each Kit and how to pack them go to [www.churchworldservice.org/kits](http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits). Please help us run an efficient Kit Drive and follow directions on the website and in our brochure. Please deliver Kits to depots boxed with the type of kit written on the outside. Please prepare Kits as specified. Extra components or materials that don't meet our specifications will be removed. For example, please include in a Hygiene Kit **one** toothbrush in its **original** wrapping. *Please if giving funds to help with shipping pay by check or money order.*

**BLANKETS+** As you snuggle up to try to beat the NY cold consider making a donation to the Blankets+ program and give the gift of warmth and love. Order your Blankets+ materials today. **REMINDER** We do not automatically send out Blankets+ materials out. To place an order by phone call **1-800-297-1516**. For more information or to order materials online go to [www.churchworldservice.org/blankets](http://www.churchworldservice.org/blankets).





## HANDBELL REPORT

Since I will be in Florida for the months of January, February, March and April and since Carol Millis will be subbing for me, here is the schedule of rehearsal dates and performances:

**FEBRUARY-** No rehearsals until Wednesday Feb. 29,  
Time 7:30– 8:30

**MARCH-** Rehearsals Wednesday March 7, 14.  
Time 7:30 – 8:30, Performance Sunday March 18

Performance for bells on Easter (April 8) will be without a director; an ensemble will play. If you would like to be a part of this ensemble please let me know as soon as possible. Carol has had much experience in ensemble playing and will be able to rehearse this group with a great bit of knowledge.

Rehearsals for Easter service will be March 21, 28, and April 4. I will be back for rehearsal on April 25. See you then!!

*-Marge*

## Community Event at Hobart and William Smith

I am chair of an organizing committee for a Genocide Symposium here at Hobart and William Smith colleges. This semester we are hosting a series of events that might be interesting for church communities. The opening event will be held on February 10 at 5 PM in Albright Auditorium on Hobart and William Smith's campus. The speaker is L. Gen. (Ret.) Romeo Dallaire, a sitting Canadian Senator from Quebec.

Gen. Dallaire was the UN General on the ground in Kigali, Rwanda, in 1994 at the start of the Rwandan Genocide. His requests for additional troops and permission to intervene militarily to stop the genocide were refused, so he was left somewhat powerless to stop the genocide unfolding before his eyes. After that experience he suffered deeply from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Subsequently he has found meaning in service to others, particularly in the cause of genocide prevention and advocacy for human rights. Currently he is focused on stopping genocide and violence by working to prohibit the use of child soldiers and advocating programs for the demobilization of child-soldiers.

Gen. Dallaire is the author or co-author of three books. Shake Hands with the Devil is his autobiography. It was also made into a feature film and a documentary.

Though our series focuses on genocide, the particular focus we have is on how people respond to genocide, including responses of reconciliation and forgiveness. We plan to host events dealing specifically with those themes in the future.

We will continue hosting other events throughout the following year.

Richard C. Salter, Chair

Department of Religious Studies, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 315-781-3370

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**A message from Chris Sweet:** The first month of my new job as the Office Manager has been wonderful! I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My maiden name is Chris Schaertl and I am the daughter of Katie and Mickey Schaertl. My husband, Frank and I were both born and raised in Seneca Falls. Frank and I moved to Greene, just outside of Binghamton in 1987. We have a son, Aaron who is 25 years old and a Math Teacher in the Binghamton area. While living in Greene I was a Preschool Teacher and Home Based Visitor for the Head Start Program. I left that job and moved back to Seneca Falls in July 2011 to take care of my Mother who had Cancer. She passed away in October. My Father has Alzheimer's Disease and we decided to move back to Seneca Falls permanently and move in with him to take care of him so he will be able to continue living in his home. Frank is working on our home in Greene and will put it on the market this Spring. I want to thank all of you who have come in the office to meet me and thank you for such a warm welcome. You are all welcome to stop in the office anytime because I would love to meet all of you.



**February 23rd–March 1st:** Pastor Leah will be at the UN Commission on the Status of Women for the UN Office at PCUSA.

**Feb. 26th** is our worship service at the Seneca Nursing and Rehab Center. We will need volunteers for that and Leah can provide prayers for you and the songbooks are there.

THANK YOU to all the people who helped in taking down and putting away all of the Advent decorations. We appreciate your hard work!

A BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Mitten Tree especially all those handmade items!! In total we had:

- 1 handmade sweater/hat/mitten set
- 1 sweater
- 12 handmade scarves
- 9 head bands
- 1 mitten/scarf/hat set
- 10 hats
- 17 handmade hats
- 23 pairs of gloves and
- 15 pairs of mittens



## USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY

### February 5th-Communion



Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
 Greeters: Paul and Connie Richardson  
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Barb Lohr

### February 12th-Valentine Sunday

Ushers: Susan Derr and Kathy Gee  
 Greeters: Andy and Betty Batty  
 Nursery: Carolyn and Paul Richardson

### February 19th

Ushers: Mike and Jan Day  
 Greeters: Jean Morris and Liza Merrian  
 Nursery: Barb Lohr and Elaine Ritter

### February 26th-1st Sunday in Lent

Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem  
 Greeters: Jean Loar and Barb Lohr  
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Kathy Gee

### March 4th-Communion-2nd Sunday in Lent

Ushers: Scott and Becky Jessop  
 Greeters: Jerry and Barb Gray  
 Nursery: Susan Derr and Jan Day



## COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST

**Feb. 5th:** No coffee hour– Vanderkamp Weekend

**Feb. 12th:** Valentine Sunday. Hosts- Marion Crull and the Sunday School

**Feb. 19th:** Miracle at Foggy Bottom, Steve Beals. Hosts–Bob and Carolyn Seem

**Feb. 26th:** TBA



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

**To Keep in our prayers:** Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Tony Coluccio and his family, Margaret Crane, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Bob and Betty Geraghty, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Rob Lange and his Mother, Margaret Marsh, Joan Olmstead, Bobbi Plummer, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Nancy Shuster, Alberta Stuck, Cpl. Geoffrey Tyler, Cathy Van Vechten, Margaret Yells, and Fran Webb.

Church Office: 315.568.6636  
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-2:30  
Manse: 315.257.0028

**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  
Mina Choi- 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 the 3rd Monday (20th) this 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.

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls  
P.O. Box 383  
23 Cayuga St  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
Phone: 315.568.6636  
E-mail: [fpresf@verizon.net](mailto:fpresf@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.fpresf.com](http://www.fpresf.com)



**February Newsletter 2012**