

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## April Newsletter 2013

PASTOR'S CORNER Rev. Leah Ntuala

As we prepare for another PK (preacher's kid) and I am a PK, I thought this was the perfect last newsletter article before maternity leave. It is taken from the website: <http://achurchforstarvingartists.wordpress.com/2013/03/13/normal-pastors-kids/> Enjoy!

I appreciated [this post](#) by Southern Baptist pastor Thom Rainer who informally asked pastors what **Ten Things Pastors Wish They Knew Before They Became Pastors**. I've been thinking especially about #7:

7. Show me how to help my kids grow up like normal kids. "I really worry about the glass house syndrome with my wife and kids. I'm particularly worried that my children will see so much of the negative that they will grow up hating the church. I've seen it happen too many times." Their experiences - like other Pastors' Kids - are unique for several reasons:

- Most kids don't go to work with their parents and watch them do their jobs in a variety of settings including a pulpit.
- Most kids do not get exposed to meetings where a gathering of people discuss and vote on how much money their parents will make, how much vacation they will get, or whether or not they deserve a sabbatical.
- Most kids are not as exposed to birth and death on such a regular basis. Another parent asked me on a playground once if I was a funeral director. "Your kids are always saying that you have another funeral."
- Most kids don't witness the meanness of adults who work with their parents so up close and personal. Our children once witnessed an angry church person storm out of a pizza restaurant rather than eat in the same room as The Pastor. They've watched people yell at their mother because she was The Pastor.
- Most kids are not exposed to the physical health and mental health issues of adults who are not members of their families. A troubled church member once shared with our 8 year old over the phone that she wanted to kill herself. True story.

As far as being "normal" though, there are benefits to being a PK:

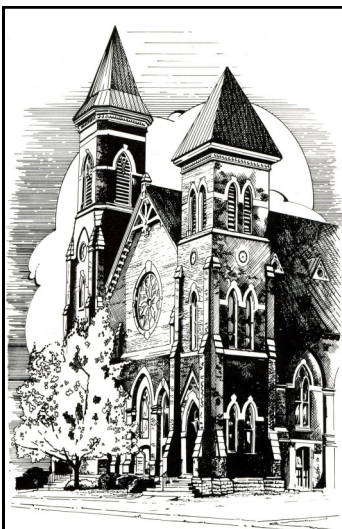
- **A Pastor's schedule is flexible** enough to go to afternoon soccer games, especially when there is a meeting that night. A Pastor can choose not to officiate at a wedding on her daughter's birthday.
- **Some people have special affection for our children** just because they are the Pastors' kids.
- **Pastoral ministry offers excellent opportunities to teach children very directly about hospitality, pastoral care, and Real Life.** Although our kids didn't know the confidential business of our parishioners, they were aware that people were in the hospital or going through a divorce. They watched me weep when people died. They asked where \_\_\_ was when they noticed he was no longer participating in church anymore. They watched parishioners grow old. They welcomed new babies like cousins.
- **PKs are exposed to a wide variety of people:** black, white, Asian, African, European, gay, straight, very young and very old, homeless people, mentally ill people, Republicans and Democrats. They get to know people they never would have known if they hadn't been part of the church, and because they were usually the first to arrive and the last to leave any church function, they get to know these people pretty well.

As a mom who believes in the flinging-the-doors-open style of parenting, talking about everything as it comes up in an age-appropriate way, it was wonderful sharing professional ministry with our kids. Because of the way they were raised, they are savvy and solid human beings. And if I may say so, we have really normal and happy kids. Most of that is sheer grace.

But if you are reading this and you are not a Pastor, but you have a Pastor and your Pastor has kids, please keep this in mind:

- Don't expect more from PKs than you would expect from other kids.
- Please don't believe you can reprimand or offer commentary to our kids in ways you would never talk to or about other people's children. (Yes, I'm talking about you Smiling Mean Person who used to criticize our daughter's soccer uniform during the Passing of the Peace.)
- And please encourage your Pastors to go to all Parent-Teacher conferences, PTA meetings, their concerts, plays and games - even if there is a church meeting that night.
- Please understand when your Pastor doesn't want to schedule your daughter's wedding on her daughter's 16th birthday or your husband's funeral on the afternoon her son is singing a solo at the school concert.
- Please be the people you profess to be as followers of Jesus. Believe me, PKs in particular notice when you are mean or rude or selfish. Thank you.

Peace, Pastor Leah



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## Session Briefs

It was another good meeting with the sharing of views and ideas to move forward.

Due to Pastor Leah's due date being so close to the April meeting date, Session decided to cancel the April Session meeting and our next meeting will then be on May 20th. Due to Memorial Day weekend being the 4th Monday of May it had to be moved up a week.

There will be a new floor installed in the Balcony area of our church as soon as the Boy Scouts and Neil Walsh have the time to provide the labor for the installation of this flooring.

There is still time to sell or buy Raffle tickets for the KitchenAid Mixer. Mike Kelley won the Afghan Raffle when his name was drawn at the Easter Egg Hunt and Bake Sale last Saturday, March 23rd.

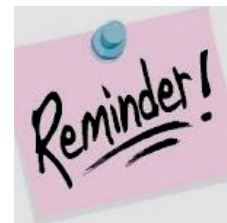
Pastor Leah was surprised with yet another Baby Shower when she went to do her service at Huntington on Monday morning. That one was really a surprise.

Respectively submitted by Clerk of Session-Elaine G. Ritter



### April Birthdays

Carolyn Seem-4/5  
 Andrew Batty-4/11  
 Doreen Christopher-4/11  
 Betsy Hannan-4/13  
 John Damaske-4/15  
 Carolyn Jessop-4/16  
 Dorothy Lorenz-4/17  
 Paul Richardson-4/20  
 Simon Ntuala-4/24  
 Abigail Rescorl-4/29



May Newsletter  
 Articles are due by  
 April 18th  
 Newsletters will be sent out  
 April 25th

## Women's Circle



The Women's Circle met March 4 in the Hawley Room.

The lesson from 1 John emphasized that in God's household, God's children are nurtured and nourished in the pursuit of righteousness. Joy, as always, does a great job as leader.

We completed 15 personal care kits to be sent through Family Counseling along with an afghan and several hats.

Cards were sent to Liza and Doreen.

**The 3rd Sunday House of Concern donation for April will be Canned vegetables and fruits.**

Thank you to all who donated breakfast cereals in March for the House of Concern!

The next meeting is April 8 at 12:30. Bring a sandwich and join us.

Jean Morris

## Christian Education



Thank you to everyone who brought in baked goods and hard boiled eggs. Thank you to Ericka Walsh who played our Easter Bunny this year. You are Awesome! Thank you also to everyone who helped stuff eggs, put together crafts, set up tables and hide the eggs. We had about 40 children there and it was a success. Next year we hope to also do a Pancake Breakfast at the same time to bring in more people and host a fundraising event for the church.

## Vacation Bible School

**July 15-19, 2013**

**Theme: Baobab Blast**

Vacation Bible School will be held 9am-Noon from Monday, July 15th through Friday, July 19th. Your help is needed to make it successful. We will need help with crafts, games, story time, music and snacks. On Friday, July 19th at Noon we will be serving lunch for all the families and will have a short concert and showcase of the children's work. You are all invited to attend. Vacation Bible School is free and for children K-6th.



For more information please contact Director: Sarah Walsh.

## News From The Presbytery

### **Conversation With Our Synod Transitional Leader: All Are Welcome!**

We want to invite anyone who is interested in attending a conversation with Rev. Harold Delhagen, our Synod Transitional Leader to our next General Council meeting. Rev. Delhagen's conversation will start at **11am on April 9, 2013. Lunch will be provided.** Please RSVP to Karen by Friday, April 5 if you are attending by emailing [kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org). Rev. Delhagen received his Bachelor of Arts from Hope College, Holland, Michigan in 1979, Master of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1982 and Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1995.

### **Presbytery Sponsored Event: April 25!**

Rev. Dr. Cason Mouser will present a workshop on narrative mission studies on April 25. Please see and share attached flier. Please RSVP to Karen ([kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org)) by April 19. Lunch will be provided that day so when you RSVP, please let Karen know of any special dietary needs.

### **What is NEXT?**

Earlier this month, Rhonda Everdyke, our Communications Director, attended a two day conference in Charlotte, NC for the NEXT Church. The mission of NEXT Church is to foster relationships among God's people: sparking imaginations; connecting congregations; offering a distinctively Presbyterian witness to Jesus Christ. Trusting in God's sovereignty and grace, NEXT Church will engage the church that is becoming by cultivating vital connections, celebrating emerging leadership and innovation, and working with congregations and leaders to form and reform faith communities. There were 600 participants there and over 600 who logged in online for some of the conference. That recording should be available soon. There will also be a blog on this event on our website. Some great items to check out right away are a video that I saw at NEXT and a book list that was produced from two days of author lunches from authors attending the conference. If you have another must read, feel free to add it in the comments: Video: <http://vimeo.com/61370349>

### **Camp Whitman Sunday!**

Just a reminder that Camp Whitman Sunday materials were sent out via email from Rhonda Everdyke last Friday (March 8, 2013) with all suggested resources for your worship activities. If you would like her to send you those or would like a hard copy of anything, please feel free to email: [Rhonda@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:Rhonda@presbyteryofgeneva.org). Also, we'd love to hear how you celebrated Camp Whitman and/or any stories or pictures that we can share on our website, Facebook, and with our community! Thank you so much for your continued support for our amazing camping ministry!

### **CAMP WHITMAN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN ONLINE!**

We are now live with all of our registration options on our website! [www.campwhitman.org](http://www.campwhitman.org).

### **Mission Trip to NYC**

Come Join Us For Our 3rd Annual Mission and Learning Experience

On Columbus Day weekend October 11th-14th, 2013, we will be heading back to NYC! We have been busy confirming more details about this amazing mission and learning trip! Here are some of those details: This trip will include the following (more will be added to the list as they become confirmed)

#### Transportation:

We will be taking an Amtrak train from Syracuse to Penn Station in NYC on Friday morning and will return Monday afternoon.

#### Accommodations:

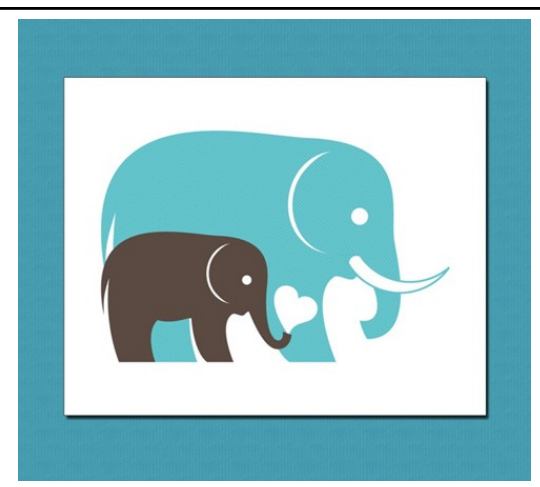
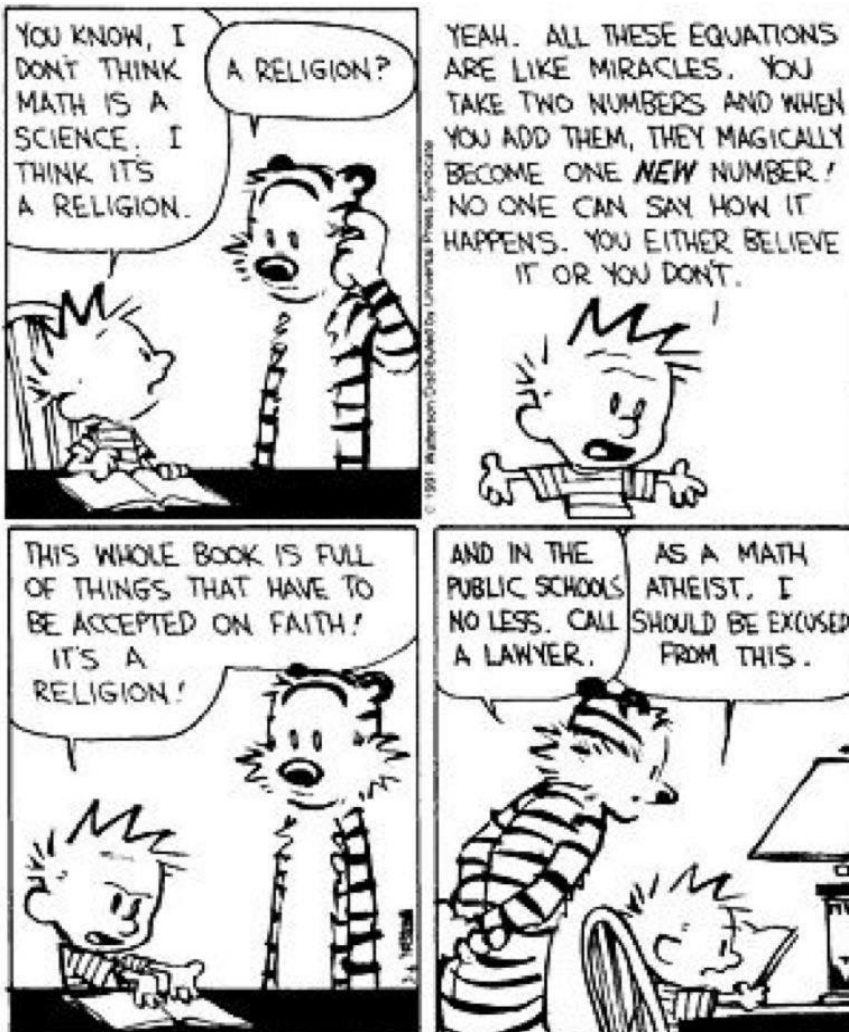
We have secured a great group rate for a comfortable experience at the Hotel at Time Square: <http://applecorehotels.com/the-hotel-at-times-square/>.

## Wednesday Worship

Thank you to everyone who helps in making Wednesday Worship a success; the cooks, the planners, the table setters, the cleaners, the bakers and the music maker! You all are wonderful and Wednesday Worship has grown because of how each of you have used your gifts of ministry. We have grown from 12 people, mostly from this church into about 30-40 regulars, many not from our church, but from the community who come for worship and stay for dinner. I think it is probably the most ecumenical service in town. We have Mormons, Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, Lutherans and the list goes on.

I wanted everyone to know what will happen with these services while I am on maternity leave. We felt not holding them was not an option, so a huge thank you to Stephen Beals who will lead the Wednesday Worship services the last 2 weeks in April and all of May. In June, Hedra Harrison, will be leading music and a volunteer will work the powerpoint and lead the service with the slides Hedra and I have created. If you would like to be in charge of the powerpoint for a Wednesday in June, please sign up on the sheet on the fridge in the kitchen.

We hope everyone will come and check out the service at 5:30pm on Wednesday's in our Social Hall and stay for dinner at 6pm.



Thank you to Diana Becker, Nancy Rutz, Sue Ellen Crego and Chris Sweet for planning our baby shower on March 16th. It was perfect! Thank you to everyone who brought a salad or dessert, the food was great! Thank you also for all the gifts, prayers and blessings. Your love and support have meant the world to us.

Peace and Love,  
The Ntuala Family

## Church Family News



- **Tops Market Cards:** Don't forget to buy your Tops Market gift cards for you or someone else. We have them in \$100, \$50 and \$25 amounts. The church profits 5% on each card sold. So far we have profited over \$300.00 on this fundraiser.



- **KitchenAid Mixer raffle:** Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for a KitchenAid stand mixer. It is valued at \$400.00. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The drawing will be held on Sunday, May 5th ( The week before Mother's Day!!) Call Chris in the office or talk to a fundraising committee member (Sarah Walsh, Jeb Becker, Jim Clark or Carolyn Seem) if you want to sell or buy some tickets.



- **Afghan Raffle:** Mike Kelly was the winner of the afghan raffle. Congratulations to Mike!
- **A Note from Diana Becker:** As you know Leah will soon be out on maternity leave and I am looking for help with Sunday worship from late April through late July. May 5th, June 2nd and July 7th are communion Sundays and will be led by the Rev. Tim Johnson. The plan for the other Sundays starting April 27th will be to use lay people. Don't panic !! You won't have to write a sermon. All material will be provided but we need folks to lead worship, prayers, do readings, read the message etc. We have so many gifts in our church that I know we can do this. If you would be willing to participate, please email me at [lilyandkimmi@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lilyandkimmi@rochester.rr.com) or call me at 315-568-6525 and let me know what Sundays you are free and what parts of the service you are comfortable doing, ranging from a whole service to just a scripture reading. Thanks so much for your help with this. I know God will bless us and this church as we move forward and give Leah some much needed rest.  
Blessings, Diana

- **Funeral Service for Betty Batty:** The funeral service for Betty Batty will be held on Saturday, April 13th at the Church at 11am. There will be a luncheon following the service in the Social Hall. Please bring a dish to share if you could and join us in remembering our friend Betty.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Ed and Bobbi Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls NY 13148
Doreen Christopher	418 N. Main Street, Rm 126, Penn Yan NY 14527
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
Liza Merriam	114 Ashton Court, Clifton Springs NY 14432
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, Louisville KY 40241

## Greeters, Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

### April 7th – Communion



Greeters: Becky and Scott Jessop  
 Ushers: Matthew Walsh and Sean Walsh  
           Carrie Jessop and Ben Jessop  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull  
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

### April 14th

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

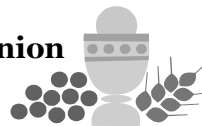
### April 21st

Greeters: Shirley Sage and Carol Rook  
 Ushers: Carolyn and Bob Seem  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Neil Walsh  
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

### April 28th

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

### May 5th – Communion



Greeters: Paul and Connie Richardson  
 Ushers: Carrie Jessop and Ben Jessop  
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Dick Damaske  
 Candle Lighter: Erica Walsh

## COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST



**April 7th:** Social Hour; Hosts Needed

**April 14th:** What do Presbyterians Believe?- Pastor Leah; Hosts Needed

**April 21st:** Women's Leadership Council efforts: Dede Olufsen; Hosts Needed

**April 28th:** House of Concern updates: Diane Draheim; Hosts Needed

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Carol Rook– 539-9192

**To Keep in our prayers:** Andy Batty and family, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Doreen Christopher, Reverend Scott Cupp, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Gerry Gray and family, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Ben Heckman, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Liza Merriam, Tyler Morgan, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Ann Ritter Rayner, Alberta Stuck, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington, Margaret Yells and Betty Lou Young.

*Please contact Chris with any changes to this list.*

Church Office: 315-568-6636  
Church Fax: 315-568-6616  
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30  
Manse: 315-257-0028  
E-mail: [fpresf@verizon.net](mailto:fpresf@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.fpresf.com](http://www.fpresf.com)

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**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  
Chris Sweet- Office Manager  
Karen Beals-Treasurer  
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton  
J. Carl Vollbracht- Director of Music & Organist  
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Handbell Choir Director  
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session

SPRING

*Session meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.*

Presently serving Elders: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Richard Damaske, Scott Jessop, Jannette Monterville,  
Paul Richardson, Don Ritter, Bob Seem, Carolyn Seem, Nancy Shuster and Neil Walsh  
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

Happy Spring to:



**April Newsletter 2013**

