

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

January Newsletter 2013

PASTOR'S CORNER

It is the season of New Year's Resolutions. I think it is great to have goals and I love having something to work toward. Here is a list of the Top 10 New Year's Resolutions:

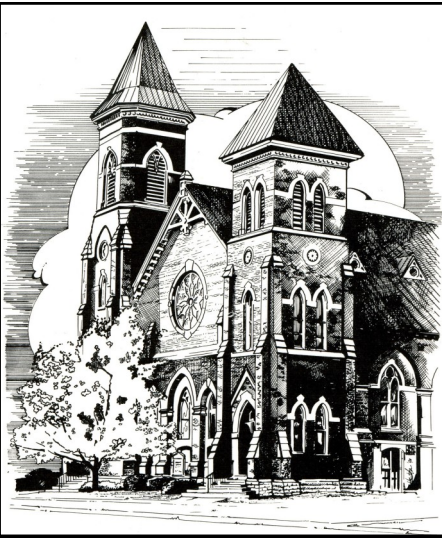
1. Spend More Time with Family & Friends
2. Fit in Fitness
3. Tame the Bulge
4. Quit Smoking
5. Enjoy Life More
6. Quit Drinking
7. Get Out of Debt
8. Learn Something New
9. Help Others
10. Get Organized

(<http://pittsburgh.about.com/od/holidays/tp/resolutions.htm>)

This list shows not only goals, but priorities. The top priorities I see in this list are spending more time to make our self the best version and helping others to be their best too. They are great goals to have and if any of these are on your list I wish you all the best in accomplishing your goals.

As a church we will also set some resolutions for the year when we have our Annual Meeting. We will set our priorities in our budget. We also set priorities for the year, our plans and goals. We hear from our various ministry teams and get to know their ideas for ministry in the upcoming year and what they felt they had accomplished in the last year. It is a time of year to reflect again on how we will use the gifts God has given to us to serve God's community. I look forward to creating the list with you.

Peace, Pastor Leah



Inside this issue:

<i>Session Briefs</i>	2
<i>Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Women's Circle</i>	3
<i>Vanderkamp Retreat</i>	3
<i>News from the Presbytery</i>	4
<i>HandBell/ Handchimes</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>Greeters, Ushers, Nursery & Candle Lighters</i>	7
<i>Coffee Hour & Prayer List</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	insert

SESSION BRIEFS

Session met and for some of us it was the last meeting. We shared some Christmas snacks and said Good Bye to Susan Derr, Barbara Lohr, Karen Kelley and Jeb Becker. Next month we will start the new year with Marion Crull, Nancy Shuster, Neil Walsh and Don Ritter on the team. They will be installed as Ruling Elders on Jan. 20, 2013 during the worship service.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 27th, after worship and Brunch. Hope all will attend.

Don't forget the Open House at the Manse on the 23rd right after worship. We get to see Leah's new kitchen floor that was installed on the weekend of the 9th and 10th.

After the holidays when you get a chance stop in and say Hello to Chris and see what the office looks like all spruced up with some new paint.

Session wants to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Happy New Year!



Submitted by the Clerk of Session-Elaine G. Ritter

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Iva Lay-1/1
- Barbara Lohr-1/5
- Duane Snyder-1/5
- Kyle Bruzda- 1/6
- Leah Ntuala-1/6
- Kiersten Dunbar Fitzgerald-1/12
- George Becker-1/19
- Barb Van Kirk- 1/20
- Jean Stenlake-1/22
- Karen Beals-1/28
- Ben Jessop-1/29



February Newsletter
articles are due on
January 24th.
It will be sent out
On January 31st.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

On December 3rd Presbyterian Women once again proved what great and bountiful cooks they are at the Women's Circle Luncheon. If you were unable to attend, put the first Monday in December on your calendar for next year.

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Virginia Champlin and Carol Limner were present from Presbyterian Women in the Geneva Presbytery.

Our January meeting will cover lessons Four and Five

January's 3rd Sunday collection for The House of Concern will be peanut butter/jelly. The luncheon resulted in 25-30 packages of diapers for the House of Concern. Thank you to all who donated!

Many Thanks to all who helped at the luncheon.

-Jean Morris

A note from Family Counseling: Thank you so much for the beautiful afghans, scarf and hats. They are so precious to our clients because they knew someone cared enough to make a handmade gift for them. I have seen gifts bring tears to some Mom's eyes and children's faces light up. Joy is our big knitter.

VANDERKAMP WINTER RETREAT

Feb. 1 – Feb. 3, 2013

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is only 1 month away. Several people have signed up on the sheet in the church basement, but there is plenty of room for more! Remember, family and friends are always welcome. The more, the merrier! We will be asking for firm commitments by January 13th. The estimated price for the weekend, which includes 2 nights and 3 meals, is approximately \$100 per adult, but the exact amount can not be calculated until we know how many people are going. 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.

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 and 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

News of Cindy Bolbach's Death:

We have received word that Cindy Bolbach, Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010), has passed away. She was admitted into hospice care for the end stages of her fight with cancer. As we continue in our work and ministries, please keep her friends and family, and the community who loves her, in prayer. Here is a brief reflection from Rev. Mark Koenig (Director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations) from earlier today:

<http://graybeardtrail.wordpress.com/2012/12/12/utter-chaos/>

This message was left on her Facebook Page at 4:30pm:

“Dear Friends of Cindy

At 2:00 pm on 12-12-12 our favorite Moderator left this world and went to Moderate meetings with Martin Luther, John Calvin, Bonhoeffer and Jesus. She went peacefully in her sleep with friends and family surrounding her. Actually, I had just finished reading her all your postings on Facebook about her.

Need More Information About BoP Benefit Changes?

Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the recently announced recommendation for a change to the dues structure for the Traditional Program of the Medical Plan of the PC (USA), administered by the Board of Pensions. I know you are hard at work this Advent season, but I ask that you take a moment out of your busy schedule to register for this important event.

Pat Haines, Senior Vice President of Benefits for the Board of Pensions will host a webinar on the topic on January 11, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EST. I encourage you to register now — and no later than December 31, 2012!

The Presbytery office will also be showing this webinar at our office! You are more than welcome to join us at our office. Please RSVP by January 8, 2013 to Karen Jensen at kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org or just give the office a ring!

Camp Whitman Passion Out There?

Interested in getting involved with Camp Whitman's 60th Anniversary planning? We are wondering if you or someone you know would share your gifts by being a member of one of the following subcommittees: Pine Camper Outreach (This is our camp for persons with disabilities), Spring Gala, Fundraising, Site Improvement, Community Relations, and Special Events! We are in the beginning planning process for this very important milestone for Camp Whitman! We are also looking to hire our Camp Whitman staff soon, so please pass along our employment link in your materials!

<http://campwhitman.org/wordpress/staff-and-jobs/openings/>



HANDBELL/ HANDCHIMES REPORT

Now that we have 5 octaves of handbells and 5 octaves of handchimes the challenge becomes having enough ringers to ring them all! Our needs are 13 people to meet once a week for rehearsals and once a month for performance. This is quite a challenge! I would like to thank all of our ringers for being as flexible as is possible given job requirements, parents responsibilities, grandparents as caregivers to grandchildren, illnesses, emergencies and circumstances. Many times we have had to change music to fit the number of ringers available. I would like to thank Carol Millis and Wendy Kain who are very reliable substitutes as well as very fine ringers and help out whenever possible. Carol will substitute for me and will direct the bell choir during February and either March or April. There will be no rehearsals in January.

Our newest bell ringer, Neil Walsh, has done a remarkable job as a bass ringer. He has so many bells to ring and handchimes, too, but has done a great job ringing for the first time. Neil, Sarah, Ericka, Matt and Sean performed as a family last summer and are planning to play again in 2013. Walt Holly is another bass ringer who will be with us during the spring/summer/fall seasons. He has played bells previously and was happy to join us. We are happy to have him in our bell choir. Phil is the 3rd bass ringer in the group. He was very happy for the help to play some of the big bells as he had all of the bells from C3 to B3 plus his own C4D4 (which was a total of 16 bells). He was busy! Hedra Harrison joined us when possible and it's always lively when she is at rehearsal. Hedra also played bells before and plays piano for the Wednesday night service. Bob Seem has also joined us as a regular member and is one of the musicians who can play any position and does when it is needed.

Some of our regular members have played in the bell choir since their children were in grade school and are now parents themselves. Their experience and talents is a big asset to the bell choir. Karen Beals, who plays the bell tree, Carolyn Seem, Claire and Dick Damaske, Joanne Elysée, and Nancy Shuster. Connie Richardson is one of the newer members who is a perfect example of someone who had never played bells but realized very quickly the most important fact – you must count. She progressed from coloring her bell notes (we called it Connie's flower garden) to being a very fine bell ringer who counts and doesn't need a flower garden anymore.

My thanks go to the bell choir members. We are lucky to have all of them.

-Marge



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- * **The Wine raffle and hot beverage bar** that were held during “It’s a Wonderful Life” weekend were successful fundraisers for the Church. The wine raffle brought in \$1,030.00 and the Hot Beverage Bar brought in \$223.50 for a total fundraiser of \$1, 253.50. There were 2 winners. The first winner was Sherry Matuszkiewicz from Seneca Falls. The 2nd winner was Chris’ son, Aaron Sweet from Binghamton. This is a picture of Aaron and his girlfriend Kari with some of their wine. Thank you to everyone who donated wine and who worked the tent on December 8th.



- * **January 6th Coffee Hour:** During the coffee hour on Jan. 6th, we will be honoring Dottie Dickieson for her 12 years of coffee hour service. If you want to honor Dottie please think of making a donation to the work needed on the church organ in honor of her love of music and the music arts.



- * **Office Painting:** The Church office will be painted during Christmas week while Chris and Leah are off. The office will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2nd. Come visit after the new year to see how it looks!

- * **Offering Envelopes:** If you haven’t picked up your offering envelope box, please check the Narthex. They are there with your last name on the box. If you don’t find your name, there are extra boxes in the office. If you want to make other arrangements to get your box, please contact Chris.

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 and NURSERY

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



January 13th– Baptism of the Lord

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

January 20th

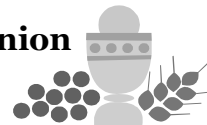
Greeters: Doreen Christopher and Susan Derr
 Ushers: Gerry Gray and Neil Walsh
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Lohr
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

January 27th

Greeters: Dick and Claire Damaske
 Ushers: Marion Crull and Elaine Ritter
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Susan Derr
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

February 3rd– Communion

Greeters: Sarah Walsh and Ericka Walsh
 Ushers: Marion Crull and Matt Crull
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Neil Walsh
 Candle Lighter: Matt Walsh



COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST

Jan 6th: Fellowship Hour in Social Hall to honor Dottie Dickieson's 12 years of coffee hour service. Hosts: Session
Jan 13th: Their Return to Haiti: Peter & Carol Loveland; **Hosts: Needed**
Jan 20th: **TBD Hosts: Needed**
Jan 27th: No Coffee Hour. Annual Meeting.



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, North Seneca Ambulance, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Duane Snyder, Peter Snyder, Alberta Stuck, Susan Tuck, Dorothy Tuttle, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington, and Margaret Yells.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Church Fax: 315-568-6616
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30am-12:30pm
Manse: 315-257-0028
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- Hand Bell Choir Director
Kyle Bruzda– Sexton
Chris Sweet-Office Manager



Session meets of 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 New Year to:

January Newsletter 2013