



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**

and **JUST** as God's Grace....



February Newsletter 2014

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Pastor's Corner

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

- Coretta Scott King

I have been thinking a great deal about our compassionate actions. This community is great, but we can always do more. There are many ways for people to plug in. We have just begun a new year and it is never too late to join one of our Ministry Teams. Please just let me know if you think your gifts would benefit the church.

Building and Property is responsible for the maintenance of all property of the church.

Christian Education administers, promotes, coordinates, and evaluates the total education program of the congregation from infant to adult.

Future looks at the future planning and visioning for the church.

Membership and Parish Life provides a variety of fellowship offerings that encourage members and friends to get to know each other as part of our church family. This committee also works to strengthen the fellowship of the members of the congregation and to reach out to those without a church home, inviting them to join us.

Nominating makes nominations at the Annual Meeting for all elective offices, seeking to spread offices of the church among as many of the church members as possible.

Personnel serves in an advisory capacity and as a liaison between the staff, the congregation, and Session.

Stewardship and Finance is responsible for stewardship planning, bills, budget and monies of the church.

Worship and Music supervises all matters relating to the worship and music in the church.

Every one of these Ministry Teams is comprised of people who serve on them with compassionate acts. You too can dig in and serve. In serving and working alongside one another we will make our community become the greatest version of itself. We cannot do it without your help. Dr. Cornel West says, "You can't lead the people if you don't love the people. You can't save the people if you don't serve the people." May we lead, love, save and serve all of God's people.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

Meeting of Monday, January 27, 2014
from Joyce Lohr, Clerk of Session



Out-going Clerk, **Elaine Ritter**, presented September and November minutes for approval and listed names of formerly active members assigned to affiliate membership.

- **Karen Beals** reappointed as Treasurer and **Joyce Lohr** appointed to Clerk position
- Moved to accept Linda Schavemaker to membership by Letter of Transfer
- Moved to accept Barbara Wagener and Linda Schavemaker to membership
- Heard plan for United Way dinner night at Deerhead w/50% going to U.W. on Feb. 4
- Pastor reported receipt of \$7500 grant to church to support S² also known as Wed. night suppers
- Agreed to send letters of thanks to two anonymous donors for generous monetary donations to our church
- Heard reports from ministries: Property has solved the 'squirrel' problem in Eastman Hall; Membership has distributed new hymnals; Worship/Music made communion assignments; Christian Ed. received certificate from UNICEF, plans for Valentine Coffee Hour on Feb. 9
- Decision made for **Ginny Konz** and **Marion Crull** to conduct worship on Sun., Mar. 9
- Pastor invited Elders to assist in taking Communion to shut-ins

Assignments to church ministries: **Christian Ed. Marion Crull** and **Neil Walsh**; **Membership, Carolyn Seem** and **Ginny Konz**; **Building & Property, Wayne Lohr, Matt Crull, Bob Seem** and **Andy Batty**; **Worship & Music, Nancy Shuster**; **Outreach, Jim Clark**; **Personnel, Bob Seem**; **Stewardship & Finance, Scott Jessop**; **Boy Scout Troop #88, Neil Walsh**. Those assigned will report ministry activities to the Session

Session meets next on Monday, February 24, 2014

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barb Wagener- 2/9

Dorothy Tuthill-2/12

Bernie Horle-2/15

Liza Merriam-2/16

Elizabeth (Lohr) Olmstead-2/17

Nancy (Monterville) Brown-2/20

Bill Shuster-2/22

Ed Chase-2/25

Jan Day-2/29



March Newsletter
articles are due on
February 20th
It will be sent out
On February 27th

Women's Circle

Due to the uncertain weather the Women's Circle meeting January 6th was somewhat abbreviated.

We covered lessons 4 and 5 in our Bible Study from Exodus. Passing Through the Waters covered the exodus from Egypt. For Jews and Christians alike, the exodus is tied to the salvation of all people. God Provides explored how God provided faithfully for the people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs in the wilderness.

We will study lesson 6 at our February meeting.

Hats, scarves and blankets were sent through Family Counseling.

**The 3rd Sunday collection for The House of Concern will be:
Soup**

The next meeting is February 3rd at 12:30. Bring a sandwich and join us.

Jean Morris



Christian Education

February 9th is Valentine's Sunday! Please join the Sunday School following the morning worship to make Valentines for your loved ones and members of our church family and eat some goodies.



Reminder: Sunday School is now at 11am following the worship service at 10am. Please see Marion Crull or Neil or Sarah Walsh for more information about Sunday School or if you would like to join this Ministry Team.

Upcoming Events: Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!
TBA.

William Robert Knox

Reprinted from the December 24, 2013 Bitter Root Star



CORVALLIS – William Robert Knox (“Bill”), 89, of Corvallis, MT, died peacefully December 17, 2013 surrounded by his family. Born October 3, 1924 to Lawrence Mason and Mabry Alice (Black) Knox in Marble Falls, Texas, he was a gentle, loving man with a keen mind, dedicated to bettering people’s lives. He is survived by his wife Gayl and four children: sons Jeff (Maureen Shortell) and Bob Knox, daughters Martha Knox (Richard Bailly) and Becky (Ian Graham), and Grandson Ray Bailly. Bill loved music (especially jazz), people, travel, skiing, football, his dog, ice cream and marching bands. He had a remarkable sense of humor with a joke or terrible pun for nearly every occasion. Young “Billy Bob” grew up in Giddings and Elgin, TX among many cousins scattered between Lee County and Austin. Much of his early years were spent on his uncle’s ranch and working – at the Brick Yards in Elgin, golf caddying, and at another uncle’s store in Ledbetter. Bill graduated in 1942 from Elgin High School, where he had played coronet in the band. He attended the University of Texas in Austin where he studied Chemical Engineering, but left to enlist in the Army in May 1943. He proudly served in the “Timberwolves” (the 415th of the 104th Infantry). In November of 1944 he had an argument with some German shrapnel, earning him a Purple Heart. Later in life, Bill proudly led the Memorial Services at the Timberwolves’ annual reunions.

After his discharge, Bill earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947 from Austin College. Following this, he attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. While working with Campus Ministry in Columbia, MO, he met Virginia Gayl Auer of Towson, MD. They were married in Aug 1950 and shared 63 years together. Bill received his Bachelor of Divinity in 1951. He was ordained in July 1951 in Charlottesville, VA where he began his ministry as Campus Minister. His life in the church took him to Fayetteville, AR and then to Philadelphia where he served as Director of the Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in June 1966. From there, he answered calls to Syracuse, NY; Seneca Falls, NY; Boone, NC; Watkins Glen, NY; and finally, Lansing, NC. After 40 years of active service, Bill returned to Boone and was Honorably Retired from the Presbyterian Church in 1990. In 2001, he and Gayl moved to Corvallis, MT to be near family.

Bill was passionate about human rights, social justice, world peace, hunger and the environment. One of his proudest days was in March 1963 when he joined the crowds at the Lincoln Memorial to hear Martin Luther King Jr. and others speak for civil rights. Bill’s legacy is helping make the world a better place. Always stepping up whenever he saw needs, many of his efforts continue to blossom. He was an active organizer and promoter of programs to fight world hunger such as 2¢-a-Meal and Crop Walk. He worked with “The Witherspoon Society” from its inception, a network of concerned Presbyterians that continues to promote social equality and justice issues. Encouraging people to “walk the talk,” he joined “Witness for Peace” and toured Nicaragua in 1983 during the Contra War. This organization continues to work throughout Central America supporting peace, justice and sustainable economies. He was a co-founder of “Presbyterians for Restoring Creation,” a national, grassroots organization to support people of faith working towards “environmental wholeness with social justice,” and was honored with the Bill Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement in Environmental Justice in June 2001. Bill believed strongly that all citizens should participate in the political process. A lifelong Democrat, he was actively involved in campaigns for local, state, and national offices and issues. Services for Bill will be held at the Hamilton First Presbyterian Church on Friday, December 27th at 11 a.m. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, any interested persons make a donation to “Heifer International” (www.heifer.org). Their work to fight poverty and hunger was near and dear to Bill’s heart. Condolences may be left for the family at www.dalyleachchapel.com.

Virginia ‘Gayl’ Knox

Reprinted from the December 27, 2013 Missoulian



CORVALLIS – Virginia “Gayl” Knox, 83, passed away Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, at her home in Corvallis. She was born on Dec. 3, 1930, in Baltimore to Gaylord Rudolf and Virginia Adams Auer. She grew up in Towson, Md., just outside Baltimore, with her parents and a series of canine companions. Her father owned Bacharach Rasin Sporting Goods and was well known as a major promoter and equipment supplier of the game of lacrosse. She often traveled with her father up to Canada, where she developed an appreciation of Native American and Scottish cultures. She also spent time on Maryland’s Lower Eastern Shore, where she learned to love sailing and soft-shelled crab. Gayl graduated from Towson High School in 1948. She earned an associate degree in 1950 at Stevens College in Columbia, Mo. At Stevens, she met her future husband William Robert “Bill” Knox. They were married on Aug. 26, 1950.

Bill’s career as a Presbyterian minister took them to assignments in Charlottesville, Va., Fayetteville, Ark., Philadelphia, Pa., Syracuse and Seneca Falls, N.Y., Boone, N.C., Watkins Glen, N.Y., and Lansing, N.C. Gayl was actively involved in the Presbyterian Church as well, in the Witherspoon Society and Peacemakers, and helped start the Voices of Sophia. At the completion of Bill’s last church assignment in 1990, they returned to Boone, where they continued to be involved in social and political issues that had been central to their beliefs throughout their careers. In 2001, they moved to Corvallis to be near family. Gayl was a great believer in education. In 1984, at age 54, she earned a bachelor’s degree in Earth studies at Appalachian State University, but this was just a milestone in a lifelong journey to learn more about those with whom she shared the planet. Gayl was a mother of invention. She took pride in her constructions, and sometimes the solution would come together in a way you could not have predicted and be just right for her purposes. She had a special love of music. She loved the way music could cross barriers of culture and language and raise people up to a place of joy and happiness. She felt that from there, good things could be accomplished.

She had many passions. Photography, drawing, painting, reading, sewing, knitting, traveling and skiing were all activities she pursued with gusto. But her greatest passions were those of love and compassion for others. Together, Bill and Gayl worked on issues of peace, social and environmental justice. At home, Gayl was active in PFLAG, women’s rights and promoting the Democratic Party. While in Seneca Falls, she was a co-founder of the Seneca ARC (Association for the Help of Retarded Children).

Fearless in their work, Bill and Gayl traveled to many “rough spots” to provide help. But while Bill would work on building networks, Gayl took the direct path. She built toilets in Nicaragua, met with the president of Iceland, and helped erect a school building in rural Mexico and rebuild homes in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Gayl’s love of travel was lifelong. In addition to Nicaragua and Mexico, she traveled all around the U.S., and to Europe, Iceland, Cuba, Costa Rica and El Salvador. At age 82, she took a mule trek into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Life was an adventure, and she wanted to explore it all! Gayl drove all the roads on the map, and some that were not.

Gayl is survived by sons, Jeff (Maureen Shortell) and Bob; daughters, Becky (Ian) Graham and Martha Knox (Richard Bailly); and grandson, Ray Bailly.

A joint memorial service for Bill and Gayle will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Hamilton with the Rev. Janet Malone officiating. There will be reception following the services at the church. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, any interested persons make a donation to Heifer International (heifer.org). Its work to fight poverty and hunger was important to Gayl. Condolences may be left for the family at dalyleachchapel.com.

Church Family News



Membership & Parish Life hopes our readers will mark **Friday, Feb. 7, 5:30 pm for Potluck & Game Night...** invite your neighbors. Bring your children and grandchildren! The Potluck isn't fancy, but always varied, interesting, and *tasty* and we play Bridge, Euchre, Scrabble, and Rummy or whatever game you'd like to bring. The weather outside may be 'frightful' but here, on **Potluck & Game Night**, we'll have a wonderful, *warm* time together. Give it a try!

TOPS Cards... We have plenty! Stop by the TOPS table in the lobby on Sunday or drop by the church office any day, Tues. -Thurs. \$10,\$25,\$50, & \$100 cards available. Use them as you use cash or personal check, at **ANY TOPs** super market. You'll be helping the church treasury. It's *that* easy!

Chicken and Pork BBQ- West Fayette Presbyterian Church will be holding one of their famous chicken and Pork BBQs on Saturday, Feb. 15th at the church on Rt 336, 1/4 mile east of Rt 96a. Pork steak or chicken with potatoes, baked beans, beverage and dessert. "Come join us for great food and fellowship."

2 Cents a Meal- Located in the Social Hall is a bin for bottles and cans. If you would like to donate your bottles and cans that have 5 cent deposits on them, please bring them in and put them in the bin. George Elyséev brings them to the redemption center for us and the money we make from them goes to the 2 cents a meal program.

Mitten Tree- We collected 4 towel sets, 5 sets of mittens, 2 scarves, 4 mitten/hat sets, 2 mitten/scarf sets, 3 hats, and 4 sets of gloves. Thank you also for the hand knit ones!

Maintenance Request Forms- There are now maintenance request forms that can be found in the hanging wall files next to the thermostat in the office. If you see something that needs repair, please fill one of them out and depending what the issue is, put it in either the "Sexton" mail box for Kyle or in the "Property" mail box.

S² Grant- We received notice that we will be getting the \$7,500 grant from the PCUSA 1001 new worshipping communities for S² also known as Wednesday Worship.

Handbell/Handchimes- Carol Millis will resume bell rehearsals on Wednesday February 5th at 7:15pm in the bell room.

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

Name

Address

Ed and Bobbi Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls NY 13148
Doreen Christopher	149 Ballston Ave, Ballston Spa NY 12020
Luanna Day	2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dottie Lorenz	Huntington Living Center, Room 121, 369 E Main Street, Waterloo NY 13165
Liza Merriam	114 Ashton Court, Clifton Springs NY 14432
Jean Stenlake	Steuben County Healthcare Facility, Room 194, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext. Bath NY 14810
Robert Stenlake	18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Alberta Stuck	2999 Williamson Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Tuthill	c/o Mary Jane Tuthill, 30 Wycliffe Road, Waterloo NY 13165
Fran Webb	c/o Parr's Springhurst Pines Box 215B 3001 N Hurstbourne, Louisville KY 40241

Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

February 2nd-Communion

Ushers: Marvin and Iva Lay
Nursery: Neil and Sarah Walsh
Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop



February 9th– Valentine Sunday

Ushers: Ford Knight and Gerry Gray
Nursery: Carrie Jessop and Becky Jessop
Candle Lighter: Aryanna Dugan

February 16th

Ushers: Paul and Connie Richardson
Nursery: Marion Crull and Aryanna Dugan
Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan

February 23rd

Ushers: Marion Crull and Matthew Walsh
Nursery: Cherie Clark and Ericka Walsh
Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh

March 2nd– Communion

Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop
Nursery: Marion Crull and Michelle Geraghty
Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh



Coffee Hour and Prayer List

Feb. 2nd: Coffee Hour: Social Hall; Host: Nancy Shuster

Feb. 9th: Valentine's Sunday

Hosts: Christian Education and Membership/Parish Life

Feb. 16th: Topic TBA; Host Needed

Feb. 23rd: Programs at the Library– Michelle Robbins, Director of Development; Host Needed.



To Keep in our prayers: Dorothy Baker, Johnny Boyd, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie Chase (Wendy Kain's sister), Doreen Christopher, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Joanna Fuller, Cindy Granger, Margaret Greene, Bill Greer and his family, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Dottie Lorenz, Liza Merriam, Tyler Morgan, Cormac Morris, Diane Paradise, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Bob and Jean Larry Scesney Jr., Stenlake, Alberta Stuck, David Troutman, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington and Margaret Yells.



Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30
Fax: 315-568-6616
Manse: 315-257-0028
E-mail: fpressf@verizon.net
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code
with your smart
phone to visit our
website



**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
Joyce Lohr-Clerk of Session



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

Presently serving Elders: Andy Batty, Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Matthew Crull, Scott Jessop,
Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr, Bob Seem, Carolyn Seem, Nancy Shuster Ericka Walsh and Neil Walsh
Joyce Lohr, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383
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Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Happy Valentine's Day to

February Newsletter 2014