

# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**  
and **JUST** as God's Grace....



## January Newsletter 2014

### Pastor's Corner

Inside this issue:	
Session Briefs	2
HandBell/ Handchimes Report	3
Birthdays	3
Women's Circle	4
Vanderkamp Winter Retreat	4
Christian Education	4
Church Family News	5-6
Ushers, Nursery And Candle Lighters	7
Coffee Hour and Prayer List	7
Annual Report Format	Insert
Calendar	Insert

As 2013 began we approved a budget that had a huge deficit, unless we met a large fundraising goal. We were not able to meet our fundraising goal and along the way we lost many dear friends and church family members. The projected 2014 budget did not look any brighter. We have spoken and we will need to make plans for our future. While several have returned or become new members we still are looking at a future with less members or an economy that results in lower pledges.

Another year is about to begin and as per usual I am blown away by the generosity of others. We, as a congregation, have been given a huge gift. It is a challenge. The gift is \$60,000. This will cover the deficit for 2013 allowing us to end in the black and provide a Band-Aid for 2014. This gift is a challenge. A challenge for all of us to reach deeper in our pockets and match this donation. A challenge for us to think far and wide and plan so that in 2015 we aren't in the same place we began. A challenge not to waste any more time. A challenge to have very successful fundraisers. We don't want to add more fundraisers, but we want the ones we have to be successful.

These fundraisers include: Pancake Breakfast with Santa, Hot Beverage Bar, Craft Sale and Wine Raffle, Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and selling of TOPS Cards. We might also occasionally do a Rummage Sale and a variety of bake sales added to these existing events.

We have a lot of talent in our congregation. I think we are up to meeting this challenge. I think we will not waste this amazing gift we have been given. It isn't a gift that allows us to put our feet up and relax. Rather it is a gift that allows us the opportunity to dig our feet in. Let us lean in and give as much as we are able.

Peace, Pastor Leah

## Session Briefs



In lieu of session meeting briefs this month, Elaine Ritter, the Clerk of Session has asked to share this Christmas story. I think you'll all really enjoy it!

### **The "W" in Christmas**

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor.

Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by it's bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snow caps upon their heads. Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

**"CHRISTWAS LOVE"**

And, I believe, He still is. Amen.

## Handbells/Handchimes Report

As I will be in Florida for a few months, the Bell Choir will be in good hands with Carol Millis directing. Bells will not rehearse during the month of January but will begin again on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Carol will rehearse during February and March and perform during those months. She will rehearse the bell choir for Easter and, as they did last year, the bell choir will be their own director. Carol and I have been working on the music for these months and have chosen "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" for Lent and will finish the selections for Easter and February. I know the bell choir enjoys working with Carol and I know she is a fantastic bell ringer with much experience.

I will miss the bells while I am away but I will not miss the ice, snow and cold.



*-Marge*

### *JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*

**Iva Lay-1/1**  
**Barbara Lohr-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**  
**Nancy Rutz- 1/28**  
**Ben Jessop-1/29**

*Happy Birthday everyone!*



February Newsletter  
 articles are due on  
**January 23rd.**

Newsletter will be  
 sent out  
 On January 30th.

## Women's Circle

The annual December luncheon of the Women's Circle was held in the Hawley Room December 2nd. Ginny Champlin from Geneva Presbytery attended along with other women from our congregation. Disposable diapers for the House of Concern were collected: 365.

A potluck meal is always enjoyed– Presbyterian women are great cooks.

A special thanks to Sue and Carolyn who did much of the kitchen duty.

Cards were sent to Liza.

We will cover Lessons 4 and 5 at our January 6th meeting, which will be at 12:30 in the Hawley Room. Bring a sandwich.

**3rd Sunday House of Concern items are:  
Mac/Cheese and pasta**

Merry Christmas!

-Jean Morris



## Vanderkamp Winter Retreat **Jan. 31 – Feb. 2, 2014**

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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

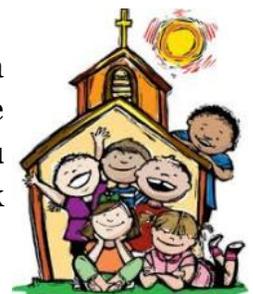
This retreat weekend is a wonderful 2 days of fellowship, fun and food. You do not have to be an outdoor enthusiast, as there are always plenty of activities going on in the lodges. However, the scenery and tranquility there are spectacular! Please contact us if you would like more information or have 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](http://www.vk.org)

Claire Damaske and Wendy Kain



## Christian Education

The breakfast with Santa was fun for all. Each child visited with Santa, received a candy cane and picture with Santa. The pancakes were very good and so were the eggs. A big thank you to Sarah and Neil Walsh for doing the cooking. A thank you to Ericka, Matt and Sean Walsh for helping with setting up. And a great big thank you to Santa for coming to visit.



## Church Family News



**Annual Reports:** The annual meeting is going to be held on Sunday, January 26th. If you are the head of a committee your annual report will be due by Tuesday, January 14th. If you are receiving this newsletter by email you will find "A Suggested Format for Annual Reports" attached. If you are receiving it by mail it is included inside as an insert. Your annual report will be in paragraph form but this format gives you an idea of things to include in your report.

**Thanksgiving Baskets**— Because of the generosity of the congregation in donating boxes of stuffing to The House of Concern, they were able to provide Thanksgiving baskets to 85 families!

**Anybody need a ride?**— Membership/Parish Life Ministry has compiled a list of volunteer drivers available to people in the congregation who need transportation to a medical appointment drugstore, bank, or grocery store. Call the church office and a list of volunteers & phone numbers will be mailed to you.

**Our church welcomed 4 new and returning members on Sun., Dec. 1, 2013.** We are pleased to introduce:

**Michelle (Carissimi) Dugan** & her husband, Greg have three children: Aryanna, age 10yrs; Keara 9, and Isabella, 5. They live on Bridge St., where the family is restoring an 1890's era house. Michelle & Greg enjoy running and working out. Weekdays she works in Syracuse at Southern FL Wines & Spirits and Saturdays at Geneva Pediatrics. Michelle grew up in this church and is the daughter of Brenda & Jim Carissimi, also of Seneca Falls.

**Michelle Geraghty** also grew up in this church. She & husband Don Trout, live in Waterloo. They are the parents of Zion, age 5 yrs and Zoe, 18 mos. Michelle says she's a 'stay-at-home-Mom' and greatly enjoys doing crafts with her children and sewing clothing for them. She is the daughter of Tim Geraghty and the granddaughter of Betty and the late Bob Geraghty, long-time members.

**Charles Clifford Knight**, or "Ford" as his mother shortened his name to, has been worshipping with us since 2011. He is a lifelong Episcopalian and frequently returns to Trinity for worship and a communion service. Ford grew up at 135 Cayuga St and is the youngest of four children. [they are 2nd cousins to Emily Knight Huntington]. He has twin sons, Chuk, who lives in Philadelphia and Dennis who lives in Brooklyn. He was a teacher for 33 yrs, most recently at Mynderse. He says he "was urged by friends to come and hear Leah preach" and having done so on many occasions, began helping with the Wed. night suppers. Ford is interested in the fostering of mental health for all people. He enjoys jogging and restoring his 1954 18ft. Morehouse boat, acquired in 1977. "There's nothing quite like going for a boat ride!" Ford says he has been grateful for the "support, kindness and understanding" he's found among our congregation and says he is pleased to have found a spiritual home.

**Virginia "Ginny" Konz** grew up near the Adirondacks at Natural Bridge NY. She transferred her membership (34 yrs) from The United Church, Phelps NY. Ginny holds degrees from SUNY Albany & Geneseo. She began teaching in Naples, where she met and married a native, Ralph Konz [dec'd, 2010], also a teacher. They later moved to the Phelps area, where Ginny served for 32 years in the Red Jacket system as school librarian. At her Phelps church, she chaired and served on nearly every committee, as well as being a Trustee and Councilman. Ginny began attending worship here a few years ago and now serves on several committees and has recently joined the Bell Choir! She bought a house on Ridge St. Ginny also enjoys reading, bird-watching, gardening and writes with an area writing group. Her children are Christine, a 6th grade Mynderse teacher and Sam, an investment firm professional. Two of Ginny's grandchildren live in Seneca Falls and two in New Jersey. If you visit Sonnenberg Gardens next summer, you may recognize your tour guide; Ginny does that too!



## Church Family News

**TOPS CARDS-** Get in the TOPS Card habit! Cards may be used just as you would use cash or a personal check at any TOPS Market. And when you buy yours from Membership/Parish Life (Sunday mornings after worship), our church makes money! You may not be a frequent shopper at TOPS, but a \$10 or \$25 card in your wallet could sometime come in handy! Cards are also available in \$50 & \$100 amounts. You could buy a couple of extra \$10 cards and tell your friends about them and sell them a card or 2 also! So far we have ordered 273 cards and made \$712.50. Every little bit helps the church out. Thank you to those who are buying them on a regular basis!

**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.

**Wine Raffle Winners-** We had 3 winners this year, each getting a case of wine. The winners were Jim Clark, Ginny Konz and Linda Kennedy who bought her ticket from Becky Jessop. Congratulations to all 3! This fundraiser along with the hot beverage bar, cards and sale of Shirley Sage's homemade scarves during "It's a Wonderful Life" weekend brought in \$1,144.00! Thank you to everyone who helped with this fundraiser!

**Congratulations to Scott Jessop!!** Scott was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the New York Army National Guard. He serves with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

**New Hymnals-** Session approved the purchase of new hymnals, so they have been ordered. They were ordered before the end of December because the price jumped after the first of the year. You may help offset this cost by purchasing one for the church "in Memory of" or "In Honor of" a friend or loved one. We will then put that information in the hymnal. The cost is \$17.50 each. If you would like to purchase one, call the church office. There will also be envelopes coming with the hymnals when they are delivered that you could use and drop in the collection basket during service. This new book of congregational songs will include:

- Over 800 hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs.
- Approximately 50% of included hymns will be from the 1990 Presbyterian hymnal. The remaining pieces will come from former Presbyterian hymnals, other denominational songbooks, and individual authors and composers.
- A musical setting of almost every Sunday lectionary psalm.
- Music from six different continents.
- Music covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres, including approximately thirty-five African American/Gospel hymns.
- Comprehensive indexes.

*Glory to God* will also contain worship aids and printed liturgies for Sunday services (including baptism and the Lord's Supper) and services for daily prayer. Complete orders of service will include congregational responses, prayers, and creeds.

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

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>
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
<b>*Dorothy Tuthill</b>	<b>c/o Mary Jane Tuthill, 30 Wycliffe Road, Waterloo NY 13165</b>
Fran Webb	c/o Parr's Springhurst Pines Box 215B 3001 N Hurstbourne, Louisville KY 40241

\*Please note address change

## Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

### January 5th– Communion

Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem  
Nursery: Susan Derr and Ericka Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh



### January 12th– Baptism of the Lord

Ushers: Paul and Connie Richardson  
Nursery: Neil Walsh and Sarah Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Zion Trout

### January 19th

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

### January 26th

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Ericka Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Zion Trout

### February 2nd– Communion

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



## Coffee Hour and Prayer List

**Jan 5th:** Coffee Hour in Social Hall; Hosts needed  
**Jan 12th:** Spiritual Gifts: Pastor Leah; Hosts: Howard and Barb Van Kirk  
**Jan 19th:** Topic TBA; Hosts needed  
**Jan 26th:** No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting and Brunch.

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



**To Keep in our prayers:** Lorraine Beals, Johnny Boyd, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie Chase, 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 Stenlake, Alberta Stuck, David Troutman, Dorothy Tuthill, 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: [fpresf@verizon.net](mailto:fpresf@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.fpresf.com](http://www.fpresf.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.**

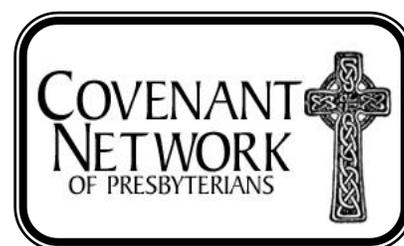
Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus  
Chris Sweet-Office Manager  
Karen Beals-Treasurer  
J. Carl Vollbracht- Director of Music & Organist  
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand Bell Choir Director  
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton



*Session meetings are 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.  
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 2014**