



# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**

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



## June Newsletter 2014

Inside this issue:	
Haiti News from The Lovelands	2
Birthdays	2
Women's Circle	3
Vacation Bible School	3
News from the Presbytery	4-5
HandBell/ Handchimes Choir	5
Church Family News	6
Ushers, Nursery & Candle Lighters	7
Liturgists	7
Prayer List	7
Nicaragua & Migrant Farm Worker Projects	insert
Calendar	insert

### Pastor's Corner



Profound is too small of a word to describe my recent trip to Israel as part of the PCUSA Peacemaking Conference: Mosaic of Peace. The above pictures are ones I took, the first of some of the graffiti art on the wall in Bethlehem (home of Jesus' birth). The second is on the road to the Jordan River to the place where Jesus was baptized and began his ministry. These are photos of 2 of the more profound moments for me on this safari.

The title of the conference, Mosaic of Peace speaks to the idea that each of us is broken. All of us have been through a lot in life. We each come to church with our own baggage, our own heartbreak, our own stories. Each of us is a person who sins, but we are also a forgiven person. In the hands of God we are shaped and sculpted. Our broken and rough edges are made smooth. God takes us, these broken, yet beautiful pieces, and places us in communities where together through our ministries and service we bring out the work of art known as the Kingdom and God.

You are a piece of that Mosaic, I am a piece of that Mosaic. Yes, we weep at times, as Jesus wept. Yes, danger is all around us, like these landmines along the River Jordan. But God is with us. We are left asking ourselves, 'Are we with God?' Or another way I have heard this question framed is, "Sometimes I would like to ask God why God allows poverty, suffering, and injustice when God could do something about it. But I'm afraid God would ask me the same question." As I continue to process this trip and ask God what actions I should take I am glad that I am able to process the questions as part of this community of faith.

Thank you for all **you** do and the ways **you** serve.

Peace, Pastor Leah

## Haiti News

### Where Did You See Jesus Today?

That was the question posed around the supper table several nights while we were in Haiti last month. Bonnie Miner, the nurse from Upstate Medical Center that joined us, suggested we review our day and look for Jesus in the people we met and the events of the day. It was a great exercise which I highly recommend. We really need to be looking for Jesus each day to see him at work through those around us.

One day I saw Jesus in our new eighth grade interpreter, Woodmy Therme. We were sitting in the shade outside talking with another eighth grade sponsored student, Leogene Santil. Leogene, is an orphan having lost both his parents in the earthquake January 12, 2010. He moved from Port-au-Prince to Verrettes and lives with an aunt. He shared that his aunt can't provide for him and shows him no love. He sleeps in a corner and often goes without food. I told him we would start him on a monthly food allowance of \$25. Also the mission would provide money for new uniform pants to replace the ripped and outgrown ones he was wearing.

Then Woodmy, my interpreter shared that some of the students at school pick on Leogene and say "Look at you! Your clothes! Nobody cares for you!" Sadly, I reflected it seemed that no one did. I was wrong! Woodmy shared that he has befriended Leogene and they spend free time at school together. As Woodmy shared "Everyone needs a friend so I am his friend." With tears in my eyes I thanked God for people like Woodmy that bring the love of Jesus to the hurting people around them. That is where I saw Jesus that day in Verrettes, Haiti!

Pete and Carol Loveland  
Your missionaries to Haiti



### June Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup>- Nancy Shuster  
4<sup>th</sup>- Jannette Monterville  
6<sup>th</sup>- Claire Damaske  
7<sup>th</sup>- Wayne Lohr  
8<sup>th</sup>- Jeff Richardson  
15<sup>th</sup>- Andrea (Day) Silverman  
19<sup>th</sup>- Marvin Lay  
21<sup>st</sup>- Scott Jessop  
26<sup>th</sup>- Sarah "Sally" Porsch



**July/August**  
Newsletter  
articles are due on  
**June 19th**

Newsletters will be sent  
On June 26th.

## Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met May 5th with five members present. We completed the study of Exodus and Deuteronomy. Next year's study will be based on 2Corinthians; Reconciling Paul. We will order a couple of extra copies in the hopes someone will join us.

Our treasury of \$581.38 was voted to be distributed as follows:

- \$100 left for any summer emergency
- \$100 to summer bag lunch program
- \$100 to Camp Whitman
- \$100 to Church World Service
- \$50 to Chemo packs– as needed



### The 3rd Sunday donations for The House of Concern are:

The House of Concern



June: canned vegetables or fruit

July: peanut butter/jelly

August: cereal

The next meeting will be a luncheon at Abigail's at 12:00 pm June 2nd. All women are invited. Call Joyce Lohr if you plan to attend.

Jean Morris

## Vacation Bible School

**Discovering God's Creation VBS:**

Come experiment with us!

**Monday, July 14th-Friday, July 18th 2014**

**9am-Noon**



Come join us as we explore the wonders of God's Creation using Bible stories, crafts, music and hands-on science experiments. On Friday, July 18th at Noon we will be serving lunch for all the families and having a short concert to showcase your child's work. Vacation Bible School is free and for children K-6th.

The registration form can be found online at

<http://fpressf.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Discovering-Gods-Creation-registration-form.pdf>

There will also be forms in the office



Discovering  
God's Creation  
July 14th-18th  
9am- Noon

## News From The Presbytery

### **Understanding the politics: A PC(USA) mission letter from Israel/Palestine (2014 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study, p. 333)**



#### JERUSALEM

In 2008 native Jerusalemite Sahar Vardi had recently graduated from high school. She was 18 years old. And she was in prison. She was being punished for the crime of refusing to be conscripted into the Israeli army.

She articulated her motivation in a letter she wrote to Prime Minister Netanyahu, “The bloody cycle in which I live—made up of assassinations, terrorist attacks, bombings, and shootings—has resulted in an increasing number of victims on both sides. It is a vicious circle that is sustained by the choice of both sides to engage in violence. I refuse to take part in this choice.”

I met Sahar in December, 2013, in her capacity as staff for the American Friends Service Committee’s Israel program, working to counter the militarization of Israeli society. I was impressed and fascinated by her analysis of her own culture and the detrimental effect the occupation is having on Israeli society.

So later, when leaders of a trip from White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C. reached out to me to help them meet some local people during their time in Israel-Palestine, I immediately thought of Sahar. She agreed to meet with them and shared with them her motivations for refusing military service, her experience in prison, and her understanding and experience of the militarization of Israeli society.

Sahar also described her understanding of the occupation and why she believes it must end. She told a story of a horse that had gotten ill in a village whose only access point is a road with a checkpoint on it. The soldiers at the checkpoint have a list of every object and person allowed in the village. When the owner brought the horse to the checkpoint on his way home from the vet in Bethlehem, the soldier refused to let the horse through, saying it wasn't on the list.

The villagers had to call an Israeli friend who made calls to the military, and eventually the commander gave the soldier permission to let the horse through.

“This isn’t a tragic story,” Sahar said. “No one was hurt. No one did anything wrong. The soldier was just following orders. But it gives a glimpse of the total control the occupation has over the lives of Palestinians. That was the occupation functioning at its absolute best, and there was still something fundamentally wrong about it.”

By the end of Sahar’s talk, I was left saddened by her picture of the pervasiveness of fear and hostility in Israeli society, but heartened by her commitment to making her country what it could be — an equal and fair society free of all the burdens of war.

Meeting Sahar has helped to humble me about the vastness of knowledge and experience I do not possess around this conflict. It was easy for me to be casual about the significance and difficulty of this move to Israel -Palestine, as it is a move I’ve made twice before. And neither time previously did I have either a salary or a husband.

And true, a lot is familiar — the smell of the spice shops, the sound of the adhan, or call to prayer, the sight of Orthodox Jews, Palestinians, and internationals all trekking around the same streets surrounding the Old City. I remember where to catch the bus, how to engage in the Palestinians’ beloved pleasantries, what to do at checkpoints.

But there is much that remains new and unfamiliar. It is indeed a huge change from our fun and comfortable life in Atlanta. There is so much I never learned or was never exposed to during my previous stays, and there is so much that has happened in this place since I last lived here.

This time I must understand the ongoing politics within Israel and within the Palestinian occupied territories, especially in the midst of Kerry’s peace talks.

This time, I must become familiar with the culture and politics of the various Christian factions here. This time, I must learn what it means to represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this particular place.

Cont’d on page 5

Cont'd from page 4

## News From The Presbytery

Luckily, the timing of a local conference meant that I did not spend my first week blankly looking around figuring out how to get started. From March 10-14 I had the privilege of attending the third biannual "Christ at the Checkpoint" conference organized by Bethlehem Bible College.

More than 600 Christians of more than 20 nationalities traveled to the West Bank here to participate alongside local Palestinian Christians. The conference aimed to engage Christian evangelicals on the theology of Christian Zionism, expose them to the daily realities experienced by Palestinian Christians living under Israeli military occupation and challenge them to participate in peacemaking.

This year's theme, "Your Kingdom Come," explored how God's kingdom should look in Israel-Palestine and how conference participants can help make that kingdom a reality. As founding former president of Bethlehem Bible College, Bishara Awad, said during his opening remarks, "The gospel is and should be good news for both Palestinians and Israelis."

As I begin building relationships with people on all sides of this conflict, Awad's claim will provide the foundation of my ministry. As God promises in my favorite passage from Isaiah, "I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight...no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress (Isaiah 65:18b and 19b)."

Even in the few short weeks I've been here, the people I have met have convinced me that God truly is in the midst of this process, guiding and leading all of us to a future of peace and justice for all. Thank you for being a part of that unfolding future as you join in this ministry with me. I am encouraged by your curiosity and concern for the people of Jesus' birthplace. I am sustained by your prayers. I am grateful for any financial gifts you are able to contribute, for without you there would be no Presbyterian witness in the Holy Land. Thank you for the privilege of serving the Church through connecting it to the place I hold most dear.

The Rev. Kate Taber serves on the ministry team of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. She assists U.S. Presbyterians visiting the Holy Land and facilitates Presbyterian involvement in volunteer opportunities.



## Handbell/Handchime Choir

Now that we have 5 octaves of handbells and 5 octaves of handchimes the challenge becomes having enough ringers to ring them all! This is quite a challenge, as the music requires many rehearsal hours! Time to rehearse has to be set so that each ringer is able to make several rehearsals and also time to practice as a team.



I would like to thank all of our ringers for being as flexible as possible given job requirements, parents responsibilities, grandparents as caregivers to grandchildren, illnesses, emergencies and circumstances. My thanks go to the bell choir members for their continuing commitment. We are lucky to have all of them.

The Bell Choir will be ringing on June 1 with 3 octaves of bells and will ring again on June 22 with 5 octaves of bells and chimes. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays in the Bell room from 7:15 – 7:45 rehearsing the 5-octave piece and 7:45 – 8:15 rehearsing the 3-octave piece.

If anyone would like to join us or just come to a rehearsal to observe bell ringing you are invited to it anytime. I would like to invite anyone interested in learning to ring bells or just to try ringing to contact me (or any bell ringer) and I (we) would be very happy to demonstrate the many ways of the bells and chimes. If there are enough people interested we can offer a workshop in the fall. Bell ringing is fun, challenging, and the sound of bells is musically satisfying.

*Marge*

## Church Family News



**New S2-Wednesday Worship Logo-** Have you noticed the new S2 logo? It was designed by Stephen Beals and we think it's a great eye catching logo! You'll be seeing it on all of our S2 flyers, etc. Thank you Stephen!

**July/August Newsletter-** There will only be one newsletter for the months of July and August. Please have your articles in by Thursday, June 19th and the newsletter will be sent out the following Thursday/26th.



**Interested in doing a reading at Church?-** If you'd like to be a Liturgist during our Sunday service, please contact Ford Knight at ford.knight@yahoo.com or 315-759-0785 or see him at Church and let him know what Sundays you have available. He would like to make a list for the months of July and August. Thank you!

**Coffee Hour-** Ginny Konz has volunteered to get speakers for coffee hour for the month of September. Tracing your ancestors will be the coffee hour topic for the September get-togethers.



**Sept 14** - Dating old photographs- Bring those you need help with . If you can narrow down the time frame, it's easier to identify the people.

**Sept. 21** - Cemetery and death records- What's available and how to find it (These first 2 will be presented by Louise Furber, a librarian/genealogist friend)

**Sept. 28** - Ginny Konz will show photos and talk about her trip to Great Britain (sorry, I did not track down the signers of the Magna Carta, maybe next time)

**Jan Owen and Jack LaValley have a new grandchild!** Asa Watts Dunning arrived on May 17th, weighing 6lb 15oz. Asa's parents are Jan's daughter, Megan and husband Gary of Colton NY. This is Jan's first grandchild. Congratulations to all!!



### 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	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
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

### **June 1st– Communion**

Ushers: Matt Walsh and Sean Walsh  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Keara Dugan  
Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan



### **June 8th– Pentecost Sunday**

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
Nursery: Matt Crull and Matt Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

### **June 15th– Trinity Sunday & Father’s Day**

Ushers: Ford Knight and Gerry Gray  
Nursery: Ginny Konz and Becky Jessop  
Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

### **June 22nd**

Ushers: Neil and Sarah Walsh  
Nursery: Ericka Walsh and Matt Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan

### **June 29th**

Ushers: Marion Crull and Carrie Jessop  
Nursery: Matt Crull and Sean Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Zion Trout

### **July 6th– Communion**

Ushers: Carrie Jessop and Ben Jessop  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Aryanna Dugan  
Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan



## Liturgists



June 1st- Karen Kelley  
8th- Ginny Konz  
15th- Ford Knight  
22nd- Hedra Harrison  
29th- Marion Crull  
July 6th- Bernie Horle

## Prayer List

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Susan Derr– 568-1918



**To Keep in our prayers:** Dorothy Baker, Joanna Baxter, Diana and Jeb Becker, Johnny Boyd, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie Chase (Wendy Kain’s sister), Doreen Christopher, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Cindy Granger, Margaret Greene, Bill Greer and his family, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Wilfred Kinney, Dottie Lorenz, Samuel Martins, Liza Merriam, Penny Moore, Tyler Morgan, Cormac Morris, Diane Paradise, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Larry Scesney Jr., Bob and Jean Stenlake, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington and Margaret Yells.

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: [fpresf.com](http://fpresf.com)  
Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Scan this  
code to visit  
our website!



**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available. Sunday School 11am.**

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 to the Session



*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  
Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

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

*Happy Summer to:*



**June Newsletter 2014**