



# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**

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



## October Newsletter 2014

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### Pastor's Corner

As I watched (and helped) the Rummage Sale items come in, be tagged, moved, cleaned and purchased I started thinking a great deal about the things we hold on to. Now, I hold on to WAY more items than 1 person needs to possess. Some of them I hold on to because they contain a memory. I look at the item and I am reminded of a particular time and place in my life. Sometimes those items make me smile, sometimes I cry, but regardless there is an attachment. Recently I was part of a clothing swap. We had to bring at least 5 items of clothes to trade. I thought I don't have 5 items of clothes I don't wear, but 2 garbage bags later I thought, "Man, I have a LOT of stuff!" Most of us probably have a lot of stuff. Some of it we hold on to because of a memory attached to the item. Some of us hold on to something because we think we might need it one day. Some of us hold on to something because we have no reason to get rid of it. Whatever the reason we have lots of things.

As I reflected upon these thoughts through a more theological lens, I realized that the church is also a place of lots of stuff. We have a lot of stuff. We keep them for the same reasons we keep things in our homes: tradition, seasons, emotions, no reason to get rid of it and we may need it someday. I thought of the scripture from Luke 9:1-6 which says, "Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.' They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere."

I realized that stuff is just that; it is stuff. If the stuff I love were to be gone, it would be sad, but the memory attached to the item is mine to keep. Jesus called us to be the church, to be his followers, he called a person. The church is the people. The rummage sale was wonderful, but what made the rummage sale wonderful was not the stuff, it was the people doing God's work. It was the church. It was the people working together, struggling together, donating together, laughing, crying and arguing together. It was the church, God's people. It is a blessing to be the church with you at all times. No matter where we are, we are the church, people doing God's work in the world, our mission field.

Peace, Pastor Leah

## Session Briefs

Meeting held Sept. 29th

- \* Report from Bob Seem, our Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting. Presbytery is healing, but financially in a tough place. The Synod Administrative Review Committee (SARC) will have recommendations for the Presbytery at the end of the year.
- \* The Rummage Sale went well. Thank you for all of your help and donations!
- \* Blood Drive to be held on February 12, 2015 in the Social Hall.
- \* Stewardship letters will be going out soon. Session looked over a very rough draft.
- \* Personnel Committee will conduct staff reviews in October.
- \* Tom and Donna Montgomery asked to become members and were received.



### October Birthdays

*Phil Plummer-10/2*  
*Kris (Lohr) Witherspoon-10/2*  
*Zachary Rescorl-10/10*  
*Bennet Becker-10/11*  
*Frances Webb-10/11*  
*Luanna Day-10/12 (90th!)*  
*Diana Becker-10/16*  
*Peter Crego-10/18*  
*Bob Seem-10/22*  
*Don Ritter-10/27*  
*Sue Ellen Crego-10/28*  
*Matthew Walsh- 10/31*

## Reminder

November Newsletter  
 articles are due on  
 October 23rd  
 Thank you!

It will be sent out  
 On October 30th



## Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met Sept. 8 in the Hawley Room. Sue Harkey and Joanne Elysée joined us. The start of our Bible Study: "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" brought some spirited discussion. Next month's study will examine the historical content in which Paul wrote his letters.

Plans were made to prepare 10 kits for Family Counseling at the October meeting. We do one set in the Fall and one in the Spring.

**Donations for the 3rd Sunday House of Concern will be:  
non-food items such as toilet paper, Kleenex, personal care, household supplies, etc.  
The need never ceases.**

A card was sent to Liza Merriam. Joy's busy summer resulted in a bag of hats to be sent through Family Counseling.

**Come join us on Oct. 6 at 12:30pm. Bring a sandwich.**

Jean Morris



## Christian Education



Hi All!!! I'm your new Sunday School Teacher, Sabrina Hoster. I live here in Seneca Falls with my husband, Tim and our two daughters, Louisa and Emily, and our two fur-babies, Mickey and Winchester. Other than working with children, I love baking, crafting, Disney, and spending time with my family, visiting state parks with my family, and absolutely love animals! I'm very excited to start this incredible journey with your children and look forward to getting to know each one!

PUMPKIN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH– Youth, please wear your costumes. (Adults can too.)



## Worship and Music

Even though it is only October, before we know it the Advent season will be here. Advent begins on November 30th. Help will be needed on Sunday, November 23rd after worship to help decorate the Sanctuary.

Please put on your calendar, December 21st. Christmas caroling for the shut-ins will follow the Christmas party at the Manse. Hope you will all join in this event.



## News From The Presbytery

### **Regarding ruling elders: finding your voice as a ruling elder**

Office of the General Assembly  
VALERIE YOUNG  
LOUISVILLE

“The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles ... calls women and men to all ministries of the Church” (The Book of Confessions, A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4, lines 58–59, 64).

I am a true “over-thinker.” That means I’ve thought so much about how I ended up a ruling elder in a teaching elder world that I doubted my qualifications due to a lack of earthly credentials. At times, I have lost sight of the fact that God called me! Others have affirmed it, regardless of how long my resume is or how many degrees I hold.

Valerie recommends the following resources:

Theocademy lessons on Ordered Ministry, especially the first video in the series, and suggests watching it with other ruling elders and teaching elders rather than watching alone

Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders, 4th edition, by Joan S. Gray and Joyce C. Tucker (Geneva Press: Louisville, 2012)

Soon after I began my new role with the synod, I was gathered with new colleagues, still overthinking and doubting my qualifications. A wise collaborator said, “Oh, stop it! You’re here now, so what are you going to do?” While I thought it incredibly rude at the time, I have since come to see it as a reminder of my call, and I am grateful.

At each council level above that of the session (presbytery, synod, and General Assembly), our constitution calls for numerical parity of ruling elders and teaching elders. That means that there are to be equal numbers of ruling elders and teaching elders at each level (Book of Order, G-3.0301; G-3.0401; G-3.0501). Ruling elders are equal partners in the work of the church.

In addition to the moderator of the church session, a teaching elder, the session members are ruling elders. The session is responsible for, among other things, the administration of the church and its mission. “Mission determines the forms and structures needed for the church to do its work. Administration is the process by which a council implements its decisions ... [demonstrating] the unity and interdependence of the church, in that councils share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers” (Book of Order, G-3.0106). The session is charged with the management and direction of the church, we (ruling elders and teaching elders) are to enable one another in our ministries. Ruling elders are called upon more and more to lead, educate, establish, and oversee administration as needed to support the mission of the church. We are partners in ministry and mission.

Remembering the gifts of the Spirit found in First Corinthians, we all have different gifts—and in the PC (USA), ruling elders are called to use them in a broad way—not everyone is called to attend seminary or to serve as a mission co-worker, but everyone—EVERYONE—is called to use their gifts, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ regardless of their standing in the world.

For more about the information provided here:

Please contact Martha Miller at [atmartha.miller@pcusa.org](mailto:atmartha.miller@pcusa.org) and browse the Ruling Elders Web site.

It is time that we all understand the role of ruling elders as partners in Christ’s Church. You’re here now, what are YOU going to do?

*Valerie (Knox) Young, is a ruling elder who has been serving with the Synod of the Sun for almost ten years, currently as co-leader for administration and stated clerk. She also serves as a Steering Committee member of East Broad Outreach Community (a new church development of Grace Presbytery) in Mansfield, Texas.*



## Handbell/Handchimes Report



The Handbell Choir performed a 2-octave piece in September "Rejoice" and will perform a 5-octave piece on October 26 titled "Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace". This composition was written by Kevin McChesney director of Pike's Peak Ringers in Colorado. It was dedicated in memory of the Columbine victims and all victims of violence and seems an appropriate piece in our present day. It is a beautiful combination of sounds depicting a range of emotions from anger to victory.

Good news! We are in the process of adding our newest bass bell ringer – Peter Snyder. He has been practicing working with the lowest and biggest bells and enjoying the challenge. Thank you Peter! We are also very happy to welcome back our Pennsylvania ringer Walt Holly. He will be with us for the October performance but then returns to PA. Thank you Walt, we enjoy your talent and your company.

*Marge*

## Bargains in the Basement/Bake Sale



**Bargains in  
the Basement!**

The day was a good day with blue sunny skies, which made for a profitable sale of \$1430, which included \$200 from the bake sale items and \$85 from the Sunday-after purchases. We had buyers who were just in town short-term during their travels. One was a potter who purchased some napkins, not for their use at the table, but for the lovely embossed bit that she was planning to use to imprint on her clay. Another was a gentleman who purchased two very old photographs with the mark of a Hollywood Studio on the back. The gentleman said he liked photos of beautiful women and he thought the ones he chose were from the early 1900's, possibly before "talkies", and he thought she might have been a very early movie star! And of course the local buyers were plentiful. There were always shoppers, even if only a few at a time. About 2:15 there was a "blue-light" special where for three minutes about 6 shoppers present were allowed to fill their bags for \$1. And during the very last several minutes, before closing at 3:00, most everything was 1/2 price for the couple very late shoppers.

A lot of items passed in and out of the basement, and considering that most items were \$1 or less, that represented a lot of individual small purchases. There was quite a nice jewelry table, and another table filled with a collection of Teapots of all shapes and sizes with many character-pots, several tables of pretty household things, plus a large variety of miscellaneous "other stuff", and the rugless room was full of children's things. If anyone saw the area before the sale, and then after, the full appreciation for what moved through was quite impressive. It was declared a successful sale. If you were not able to stop by and see for yourself, maybe next time you will have an opportunity to be part of the experience. It represents a lot of hard work and long hours, before, during and after the sale for clean-up of left overs. Thank you for whatever part you played.

## 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
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

## Church Family News



**Thank You** go out to a few of the many people who do many of the "little" and "big" things around the church, all year long! Joanne Elysée, for faithfully tending the lovely flowerbeds around the church; Cherie Clark, for seeing to the sanctuary plants; Jim Clark, for his tireless menu-planning, shopping, and prep for the S2 suppers and to the many folks who never fail to provide drinks, desserts, set-up, serving and clean-up, each week - all helping to make our guests feel at home and welcomed! To Wayne Lohr, for taking our food, brought by faithful donors, to the House of Concern, each month. To the ladies who keep the pews tidied and pencils sharpened and to those who send cheery cards & notes to our friends sick or hospitalized or homebound. To everyone involved in the Bargains in the Basement sale and bake sale, from bringing items in to setting up and cleaning up after. You all care and help our church in serving one another. Thank you!!

*Thank You*



**Congratulations to Courtney Lapresi**— If you watch the show MasterChef with Gordon Ramsay and saw the finale on Monday night (Sept. 15th) then you saw Courtney win the grand prize of \$250,000 and the opportunity to write her own cookbook which she is in the process of doing now. Courtney is the Grand Niece of Barb Van Kirk. She is the granddaughter of Barb's brother. She lives in Philadelphia now but is from Geneva.

**"To Keep in our Prayers" List**— Beginning with the first Sunday bulletin in October, all names on the prayer list (except for shut-ins) will remain on the list for 2 months after a request is made or updated. Please let Chris know when prayers are no longer needed for someone on the list if it is less than that 2 months. Call the office at 568-6636 or email her at [fpresf@verizon.net](mailto:fpresf@verizon.net) to update this list



**Listening Sessions**— These sessions continue in October with Pastor Leah. They are a time to check in. They are a chance to grab a cup of coffee or lunch and ask questions, share joys or concerns. It is a chance to connect. Pastor Leah hopes you can join her this month at Café XIX. See the calendar for dates and times.

**Special Offering for Christian Education Teacher**— Our goal for the special offering was \$3,000.00. We collected \$1,222.00 from this offering. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

### **Luanna Day - her 90th Birthday!**

My mother's 90th birthday is October 12th and we wanted to let folks know about this milestone. For those who can, sending her a card for her birthday would be very much appreciated and something she would enjoy. We will be in Seneca Falls that weekend for a small celebration so we may see some of you then. We would be grateful for any cards Mom receives and thanks in advance for your thoughtfulness!

Her address is:

Luanna Day  
2705 Lower Lake Road  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Best Regards,  
Mike and Jan Day

## Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

### October 5th– Communion



Ushers: Carrie Jessop and Ben Jessop  
 Nursery: Keara Dugan and Scott Jessop  
 Candle Lighter: Mason Ntuala

### October 12th

Ushers: Ford Knight and Andy Batty  
 Nursery: Barb Lohr and Susan Derr  
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

### October 19th

Ushers: George Elyséev and Gerry Gray  
 Nursery: Aryanna Dugan and Marion Crull  
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

### October 26th– Reformation Sunday

Ushers: Iva and Marvin Lay  
 Nursery: Carrie and Becky Jessop  
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

### November 2nd– Communion



Ushers: Aryanna Dugan and Keara Dugan  
 Nursery: Cherie Clark and Marion Crull  
 Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan

## Liturgist List



- 5th– Ford Knight
- 12th– Karen Beals
- 19th– Karen Kelley
- 26th– Marion Crull

## Coffee Hour and Prayer List



- Oct. 5th:** Fellowship Hour in Eastman Hall; Host: Barb Van Kirk
- Oct. 12th:** Being an EMT and the Firehouse by Matt Crull and Will Storrs  
Host: Marion Crull
- Oct. 19th:** Holy Sites-Israel by Pastor Leah; Host: Joanne and George Elyséev
- Oct. 26th:** Pumpkin Sunday; Host: Christian Education

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Joanne Elyséev– 568-9993

**To Keep in our prayers:** Dorothy Baker, Joanna Baxter, Diana and Jeb Becker, Bevin Blankenbuehler, Ken Bogart, Johnny Boyd, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie Chase (Wendy Kain’s sister), Carol Colbert, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Diane Draheim, Tom Frascatore and family, Cindy Granger, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Linda Heal, Charlene Hooper, Jennifer Jovinelly, Dottie Lorenz, Bill Lovell, Liza Merriam, Penny Moore, Tyler Morgan, Cormac Morris, Diane Paradise, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Andrea Pratt, Larry Scesney Jr., Bob and Jean Stenlake, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Alexandria Williams, Loraine Worthington, EthelMae Wright and Margaret Yells.

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Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30  
Manse: 315-257-0028  
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Website: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com)

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**Sunday School (K-4th grade) and Youth Group (5th-12th grade)- 9-9:45am**  
**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available**  
**Coffee Hour 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 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.

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