

The Geneva Pres



2011

***The Presbyterian Church
in Geneva***

**24 Park Place
Geneva NY 14456
(315) 789-1343**

Website:

<http://www.PresbyterianChurchInGenevaNewYork.org>

W. James Gerling - Pastor
Suzanne Otterbacher – Parish Associate
L. Christine Wertman - Director of Music
Sandy Campbell - Church Organist/ Bell Choir
Lorraine Jones – Youth Bells
Kate Komara – Children’s Choir
Kathleen Breese - Dir. Christian Ed.
Edna May Langan – Secretary
Mark Springmeier – Custodian
Virginia Champlin - Chapel Organist
Beth Nicholas – Parish Nurse
Deb Drennen – Nursery care
Alan Schenck – Financial Administrator
Fritz Aude - Treasurer

A Word from the Pastor

We All Need to Be Congratulated!

I feel better about the future already. I am very encouraged about the prospects for the church, for the world, and for our church's mission in the world. I am glad for all of us.

Why? – First, because Carrie Emma Fox graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree. With the awarding of this degree Carrie completed her combined degree program in social service administration and theology. She received her Master's in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago last spring.

As a congregation, we should be feeling so much more than mere familial pride about this. We should be downright joyful and hopeful. Carrie has demonstrated throughout her educational journey that she clearly understands that theological learning does not happen only in the classroom. She has done field work, internships and volunteer experiences that have been about identifying with and serving the poor, the homeless, the oppressed, and the marginalized.

While we should feel very good about this, there is also cause for concern. For the last few years, Carrie has been the only Inquirer (candidate for ministry) in our Presbytery. Now we have none. We need to continue to do everything we can to encourage people (young and not so young) to consider church-related career paths.

However, there are several other reasons for my hopefulness right now and you can read about them in the pages that follow. This year on Baccalaureate Sunday (June 19th) we will be recognizing the educational achievements and accomplishment of several of our fellow members. This will include our high school seniors and others who are completing degree programs.

I hope you will be there to congratulate them and wish them well.

Jim

Come to the

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Wednesday

JUNE 15

5:30-8:00

Cake

Ice cream

Strawberries

BAKE SALE

SERRV International Handcrafts

LIVE entertainment

Activities for children

\$5.00 – age 13 and up

\$2.00 up to 12

.50 additional beverage

.50 cones

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

24 Park Place



Sunday Morning in the South Parlor

9:15 – 10:15

Bring your coffee or tea and join the discussion.

June 5: Chautauqua. Learn about why people have been returning to this summer community since it began 1874 to engage in civil discourse, hear prominent speakers and chaplains, revel in the arts, and engage in formal and informal learning opportunities in a setting that inspires and reveals God's wonders.

June 12: The Hague International Model U.N.

Trevor Burrall, Youth Elder and Geneva High student, will share his experiences as a student representative to the Model U.N. in The Hague this past winter.

Let's Talk....About Issues This Summer

Summer gatherings devoted to informal discussions of social issues over dessert, wine, and coffee.

Thursday, June 30th Dilemmas in Transitional Justice: Peace, Justice, and the International Criminal Court. This will be led by Lydia Kemunto Bosire, who is a doctoral candidate at Oxford. She has worked on various issues of international development and human rights, and is currently a consultant at the UN Population Fund.

Thursday, July 14: Immigration Issues and the Ramifications on New York Farms. This will be led by Mary Jo Dudley who is Director of the NYS Cornell Farmworker Program.

Thursday, August 11: Topic and location to be announced in Summer Newsletter and on the church website.

Location, Time, Reservations The June and July programs will be held at the home of Sandy and Tim Merwarth, 1136 Earls Hill Road (off Rt. 14 South).

7 – 9 p.m. **RSVP to church office or register on the church's website.**

Limited to 20.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these summer gatherings! If you have any questions, contact Tim Merwarth, Diana Capron, Ellen Reynolds, Beth Newell, or Marilyn Nellis. (Adult Education Committee)



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY – JUNE 5, 10:30

ALL classes will take part in the worship service. Practice 9:00 in the Sanctuary. CONFIRMATION meet at 8:30 to go to breakfast before practice.

CONFIRMATION – JUNE 12, 10:30

Youth and sponsors meet in the parlor at 9:30.

BACCALAUREATE – JUNE 19, 10:00

ALL grads and their families are invited to a breakfast sponsored by the deacons at 9:00 am.

COLLEGE GRADS – if you or someone in your family is receiving a college degree please call the church office with the info

It's time to think SUMMER CAMP –

CAMP WHITMAN THAT IS.

FANTISTIC camps open to youth

(beginning 3rd – 12th grade).

There's swimming, sailing, hiking, biking AND SO MUCH MORE!! If you need an application see Kathy Breese. The church pays a scholarship for each of our youth to help defray the cost.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous!!!!

From the Worship Committee: *Gifts of the Spirit*

As we prepare for Pentecost, we realize that we are a gifted congregation! Week in and week out, we see members who are;

- Participating in worship
- Greeting people as they enter for worship
- Being ushers
- Participating in the ministry of music by singing hymns, singing in the choir, playing in the bell choir, playing instruments, directing one of the choirs
- Participating in adult education or study groups, leading adult education and study groups
- Studying justice issues and volunteering in the community, serving on agency boards, communicating with members of congress and our legislators, and serving food at the community lunch program, for example.
- Taking care of the building and the grounds
- Being good stewards of the earth's resources
- Teaching others as they assist in leading worship, preach, teach Sunday School classes, organize and lead the Christian Education Program, offer the children's message
- Practicing wellness, teaching about wellness and caring for others by sending cards and visiting
- Caring for others by sharing food, clothing or other needed items

This list could go on and on. On Pentecost Sunday, June 12, everyone will be invited to wear red. We will also have the opportunity to celebrate all of the gifts of the spirit that we have in this congregation with a large display of red paper balloons.

Red paper "balloons" will be available to the members of the congregation on Sunday, June 5. Please take a moment to reflect on the gifts that you have been given. Write a brief sentence or phrase on the paper balloon about the gift or gifts that you were given and the ways that you use them to share the message of God's love that was manifested in the life of Jesus.



SUMMER UNION SERVICES WILL BEGIN
JUNE 26 at The Presbyterian Church at
9:30 am

At The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

| | | |
|------|----|--------------------------|
| June | 26 | Rev. Don Lawrence |
| July | 3 | Rev. Phyllis Granger |
| | 10 | Rev. Jim Gerling |
| | 17 | Elder Don Wertman |
| | 24 | Rev. Phyllis Granger |
| | 31 | Rev. Suzanne Otterbacher |

At First Baptist Church

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------------|
| August | 7 | Rev. Suzanne Otterbacher |
| | 14 | Rev. Jim Gerling |
| | 21 | TBD |
| | 28 | TBD |
| September | 4 | TBD |



TAKE NOTE..

We have had a musical adventure at The Presbyterian Church in Geneva during this program year. Since late August we have used and evaluated four sets of hymns being considered by the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song. At this time we have one more hymn to consider on June 12.

Here are the statistics for the last three hymns we have used. Text and tune were given a rating from highest to lowest—5 – 1.

Lamb of God (used Palm Sunday)

text: 39/51 rated the text 4 or 5

tune: 42/51 rated the tune 4 or 5

In the Bulb There is a Flower (used Easter)

text: 65/67 rated the text 4 or 5

tune: 63/67 rated the tune 4 or 5

Some comments: “lovely words” “uncomplicated tune” “Love it!” “Yes!”

These were both highly rated by our congregation.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

(used the week after Easter as a choir anthem)

text: 25/27 rated text 4 or 5

tune: 25/27 rated tune 4 or 5

In general congregants liked this hymn but many felt it was better as a choir anthem. I will pass along all this information to the Committee on Congregational Song.

On Sunday, May 15, our Sacred Song Services included “Favorite Hymns of Faith” as determined by a survey. We hope you have found these two ventures useful in our continuing journey of faith.

Faithfully, Chris Wertman



DEACONS

Have you ever been the “stranger in the room”? The new kid in school? The one needing directions and you just don’t know where or who to turn to for help? Maybe you’ve just moved to a new city and though you’d like to meet people, you’re just not sure how to go about accomplishing that? It can be a daunting and unsettling time. Of course, once you know everyone else, you wonder what it was that ever made you nervous in the first place. But that doesn’t stop the same feeling from taking root again once you find yourself in a new situation. Even the most outgoing of us has experienced these moments of uncertainty at some time in our lives.

Maybe you think there isn’t a lot you can do to combat those feelings or stop them from hitting when you least expect it. But there IS something you can do! You can remember what it feels like and try to help others NOT to feel that way in your presence.

The members of our church are well-known for their compassion, their friendliness, and for the warm welcoming hand they extend to all who enter our doors. But sometimes – just maybe – there is that one person who stands off to the side, unsure of what to do or who to talk to. Maybe they’re so quiet and unassuming that they fall off our “friendly radar”. Sounds implausible to many of us, right? But maybe – just maybe – it could happen.

So next time you see someone you don’t recognize, please greet them with a “Good Morning!” and a big smile. Ask them their name, invite them to sit with you in church, introduce them to other members. In short, make them feel at home. I’m betting it will ease their anxiety and make their day. But it will also enrich your day too. And, who knows? You might just find a new friend!

SERRV

There are so many ways to see what SERRV has to offer this spring and summer. Be sure to check out the sensational display done by Jackie Schmit in the Morgan Stanley building next to the bike shop downtown, to have a glimpse of all that is available from SERRV International.

Please bring friends and family to be part of the Annual Strawberry Festival, June 15th and after enjoying dessert stop to browse through the shop for gifts for Dads, Grads, Brides and Birthdays. We will be open from 5-8 pm for business during the Strawberry Festival .

SERRV will be open after the 10:00 am service on June 19th, but not Saturday June 18th. SERRV will be open after all the 10:00am union services; June 26th, July 3rd, July 10th, July 17th, July 24th and July 31st.

SERRV is traveling to two sales -our two biggest and best revenue sales-June 2, 3, 4 to Silver Bay for the UCC State Conference and June 5, 6, and 7 to Rochester Convention Center for the Lutheran State Conference. Also you can check us out on the web at

www.presbyterianchurchingenevanewyork.org



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



UPCOMING EVENTS:

JUNE 15 – 5:30-8:00

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL & BAKE SALE

Please be generous with your donations for the bake sale – and remember that PIES are always a big selling item.

VOLNUTEERS NEEDED:

We need 2 women to be hostesses for JULY, AUGUST, OCTOBER or DECEMBER should receptions be scheduled.

A list of women is available to help anyone who will be responsible for the month. Please call Barb Messur, 789-8159, or

Dot Newcomb, 789-9892.



FRIENDSHIP STUDY GROUP

Have a great summer, see you in September!!!

***Needles group – Thursdays, June 2 & 16 – 1:00
South parlor***

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Dear Church Family,

Well, I never made it to Florida as I had indicated in my last article. But, John and I were very fortunate, as we would have been driving through tornados had we gone. It was one of those blessings in disguise. It's funny how life can be that way, something that starts out seeming like a big disappointment or truly awful turns out to be an event that saves you from something worse!

We have two daughters coming home from college this month for the summer. It got me thinking about some of you who will be sending your young adults off to college for the first time in the fall. Now is the time to start boning up on "Kids to College 101". By now you have been buried in financial aid, loans, tuition and the ever-present online FAFSA forms (in which you have to divulge every bit of information you were ever warned against giving out online). DO NOT lose track of your FAFSA password. You will need it each year. I plan to put information out on the Family Focus Table (found in the Narthex) in June, July and August that may help students and families transition to college a little easier, or at least help you think about some items you don't want to leave till the last moment. Be aware that if your child is over 18, most colleges WILL NOT share information, health or financial, unless your child has signed a release of information form. Keuka College told us they could not notify us if Mary was dying in a hospital unless she signed a release form, it was the same for Shannon at Brockport. Some colleges are "going green" so bills have to be found online. You need your child's college e-mail account and password to find them. If anyone is game for a "Parents of College-Bound Kids Survival Get-Together" to discuss issues and ask questions I could try to arrange that. Give me a call if you are interested.

Speaking of “going green”, the Social Security checks some of you may get via snail mail will no longer be sent out that way as of March 1, 2013. You will need to change over to direct deposit or a debit card. Doing it sooner rather than later is probably a good plan.

June is National Cataract Awareness Month. I will have information out on a number of different eye conditions.

One that I will touch on here is “floaters”. I think we’ve all had them from time to time. They are the little black spots and strings you may see floating back and forth when you’re trying to focus on something. Floaters are most commonly formed when a clear gel inside the eye forms clumps. Tiny amounts of blood due to eye surgery, shrinking and pulling of eye tissue lining due to aging, eye injury, eye disease and crystal-like deposit formation are some things that cause the gel to clump. A few floaters are generally not indicative of any problems. A large number of floaters suddenly appearing and not going away with time needs to be looked into. If a large number suddenly occur with flashes of light and or vision loss, immediate attention is required.

Flashes of light are another annoying problem. In some cases it is caused by a migraine of the eye. This is due to spasms of blood vessels in the brain. If flashes of light come with many floaters and some vision loss it could indicate a retinal tear or detachment, which needs to be treated immediately. Sometimes a shrinking of tissue and pulling of the retina causes flashes to be seen on and off for several weeks.

I will have all this information and much more out in June.

Call me with any questions. My cell phone number is 315-759-9039.

God Bless You All,

Beth

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michele Ross, sponsored by Donna Loeb, is originally from Holland Township, NJ, where she was raised in the Lutheran church. She attended Rutgers University before going on to Cornell Vet School, where she graduated in 2009. Michele currently works at Keseca Veterinary Clinic in Geneva NY where she focuses primarily on dairy cattle. She and her husband, Scott, currently live on Seneca Lake in Romulus. She spends much of her free time at the Geneva YMCA, but also finds time for travel and mentoring vet students.

Judy Terrell, sponsored by her daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Rich Snook, was raised as a Baptist. The first time she went to a Presbyterian Church was when one of her sons was married in one. She started coming to this church when two of her grandchildren were baptized here. She found it very friendly and after she and her husband retired and moved here, she decided to join this congregation. She worked in Oneonta's hospital for 23 years and retired in 2008. She and her husband have four children and 8 grandchildren.

Hugh and Kathy Price - Kathy retired from Clifton Springs Hospital with 36 years experience as a medical transcriptionist. Hugh retired from Cornell University in 2003 where he chaired the Dept. of Horticultural Science at the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station. In retirement, the Prices devote time to Literacy Volunteers and Habitat for Humanity. They are currently involved in construction of the fifth Habitat house in Geneva. In addition, Hugh accepts international volunteer assignments through the USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Program. Recent assignments have been in Tajikistan, Malawi, China and Paraguay.

The Prices have 5 children and 4 grandchildren. Thus considerable time is spent traveling from Massachusetts to Ohio to Arizona in order to keep up with birthdays, graduations and sporting events. They are sponsored by Jean and Mike Dickson.

Stacey Rowles, sponsored by Lauren Lamb, was brought up in Kendall, NY. She was baptized, had her first communion and confirmation in the Kendall Concordia Lutheran Church. She has an amazing family with whom she is very close. After high school graduation, in 1997, she attended Niagara University where she studied Elementary Education with a concentration in English. She graduated in May of 2001, and was offered a job at the Geneva Middle School teaching 6th grade, which is still her current position. While teaching at GMS, she continued her education earning a master's degree in 2005, from SUNY Brockport. Teaching is a passion and she loves working with middle school students. Currently, much of her free time is spent at GMS working with the after school program, the outdoor education program, the character education program and the middle school student council. Her hobbies include playing soccer, cooking, and traveling. She is looking forward to her upcoming wedding on August 13, 2011, when she will be marrying Gordy Baxter.

Lori Greene is a native of Geneva and is working as a school teacher and school to career coordinator for Geneva High School. She is currently the Multicultural Club and Jr. Class Advisor. She's Chair of the "ONYA Voices of Experience" annual event and an active member of the "Festival of Nations" committee. She enjoys participating in community service activities and spending time with her friends and family. She is a member of the YMCA and enjoys walking her dogs along the lake. She is sponsored by Heather and Carl Aten.



THANK YOU!!!



A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of my wonderful singers and instrument players involved in the Children's choirs. It was a wonderful year of praising our Lord through music! Thank you all for coming each week, for singing and laughing and learning and growing, and for allowing me to be a part of it all.

A special thanks to all the Mom's who came to sing with their children on Mother's Day. I know some of you were a little out of your comfort zone, but I appreciate your willingness to join in, have fun and make beautiful music with your children. It was a wonderful performance! I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Kate Komara

Books...Books...Books... and More Books

To all those who have brought books for the Geneva Reads Bookshelf in the Fellowship Hall:

THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!

Children may choose a book and take it with them to read and read again. It is amazing how many books disappear in a week or two. It is also amazing to have such a selection of good books for our young readers. Thank you for your support.

LECTIONARY for the Lord's Day -

June 5: Acts 1:6-14; Ps 68:1-10, 32-35

1Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

12: Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30; Ps 104:24-34, 35b

**1Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or
John 7:37-39**

19: Gen 1:1-2:4a; Ps 8; 2Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

26: Gen 22:1-14; Ps 13; Rom 6:12-23; Matt 10:40-42



The Memorials and History Committee recently received several donations:

In memory of **Beth Beretta** from Stuart and Barbara Messur and Carl and Heather Aten.

In memory of **Jeremy Lathey** from Stuart and Barbara Messur.

COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM

The Presbyterian Church is serving on Thursdays in **AUGUST (4, 11, 18, 25).**

We NEED a kitchen coordinator for each Thursday. If you can help please call the church office.

We NEED workers for each Thursday (9:30-1:00) b . If you can help please call the church office.

The Community Lunch Program of Geneva provides a nutritious meal to people who are hungry, raises awareness about hunger, and empowers the community to respond to this need.

Local projects receive financial support from the Presbytery of Geneva

Great news! The following organizations will receive a total of \$23,800 in grants from the Presbytery of Geneva in 2011. Our church sponsored these applications. The grants are made possible by contributions from the churches in our Presbytery, including 2-cents-a-meal donations.

Village Links program

Boys & Girls Club of Geneva Project Learn: Planting the Seeds of Higher Education

Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes: Hispanic Youth/Bilingual Family Services

Geneva Community Lunch Program

Geneva Food Pantry

House of John

Emergency Outreach/Hunger Assistance of Our Lady of Peace

Social Ministry

League of Women Voters Court-Watching Project

Ontario-Yates Hospice

Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes

These organizations and projects address critical needs in our community, and our support of them is guided by our church's vision statement:

With Jesus Christ as our model

and the Holy Spirit as inspiration,

we boldly live our faith in God as disciples, serving each other, this church, our community and the world.

Mission & Social Concerns Committee

WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH

Looking at the new banners, have you also looked again at the sanctuary windows? Church windows can have many different patterns. Some Presbyterian churches in the area (Hector, Palmyra) are plain glass, God's light passing through, because light is a major symbol of God. Some are just decorative patterns with colored glass-- often these include important simple Christian symbols like the keys of St. Peter (Sodus, Bath). Some churches have a huge picture window, like Christ the Good Shepherd at Geneva's Methodist church, or tall narrow windows (often memorial), each a picture illustrating a different Biblical passage—the Oaks Corners church, or the Tiffany window of Christ knocking at the door at Seneca Falls' Episcopal church. And there can be a whole system of meaning in pictures—the events of a saint's life, perhaps, or a whole plan for a church. Our sanctuary comes closest to the last—a single system uniting design and color, put in when the church was rebuilt in 1878, though no longer quite what it was once the west window was removed at unification when the North Church organ was brought in..

Let's start by looking at the round windows at the top. First, each is linked to its partner across the church: the grapes and the sheaf of wheat symbolize the bread and wine of communion. Cross and crown represent the height and depth of Jesus' experience. The open Bible, spreading the truth through text, and the anchor (symbolizing faith or hope in Christian imagery) are the sources of the Christian experience. There is also an order in which they occur: closest to the entrance to the church, the grounds of belief and how we learn about God; Christ at the center; communion, which links the people of the congregation together and with God, closest to the sacred area of the pulpit. In short, the windows in sequence describe the essentials of Christianity. And the framework of each window is the same pattern, though colors differ in each pair, with decorative part-circles which can also symbolize God because circles have neither beginning nor end.

The tall windows (lancets) are harder to understand—puzzling to a child. Each window is exactly alike in pattern with one tiny exception -- can you find it? That difference may have been an error in assembly or a deliberate choice of imperfection to represent the imperfection in all human accomplishments (these are common in medieval religious art and poetry). There is one odd design at the top of each of the twelve windows, then a series of basically geometric panels with some designs repeated in them. But the color patterns differ. The six windows on each side are divided into three pairs by color, with the same pattern of color occurring on the other side of the church, like the circular windows. The main colors differ in each of the three pairs, so that the last group, where red dominates, has quite a different effect from the others. So the basic structural unit of the windows is a unit of three, with two lancets balancing a round window above them, and there are six of these units, three on each side of the church, linked by color and design.

Now what on earth is that odd design of concentric circles and white curly bits that at the top look rather like an owl's ears? If you look at the visions of God that open Isaiah (6) and Ezekiel (1), both saw seraphim before the throne of God—in Isaiah, they have six wings and Ezekiel includes wheels within wheels—remember the spiritual “a wheel in a wheel, way in the middle of the air”? Well, that seems to be what we have, in a simpler version suitable to stained glass—and don't miss the tiny sun above the seraphim that may represent the throne of God! The pink and grayish diamonds below have a design applied in black that seems to be a lamp or chandelier—the lesser human light as contrasted with God's? And whenever twelve appear in Christianity or Judaism, the primary association is with the twelve tribes of Israel or with the number of the apostles linked to them. The purpose, if any, of the geometric forms is not clear—if you have ideas, let us know! And the bent rectangles with curled tops in the border might be simplified scrolls for the books of the Old Testament or sheaves of wheat for the followers of the faith; each window has 52 of them marching around it, and since the year has 52 weeks, they may be linked in meaning to the passage of time.

So what is the whole scheme? Christianity’s essential elements balance on their source in Judaism, with the height of the Jewish experience represented by the vision of God. In the east window there is a larger version of the crown, Christ triumphant and the reward for those faithful to death. But what was in the missing west window? Some of us remember it from childhood, and there is a black-and-white photograph in Dr. Hart’s book (p.162). The window was pointed like the arch and lancets, but about twice the width of the lancet and divided into three sections vertically, and at least three horizontally; the basic color was a medium green (this is from memory). On the sides of the top panel appeared the Greek letters alpha and omega in gold—the first and last letters of the alphabet, and so symbols of God as the beginning and end. The middle panel contained one seated figure on each side in lavender glass; no identifying marks can be located, but the highest probability is that they are heads of Peter and Paul, with Moses as a possible alternative for Paul. The center and the lower panels aren’t clear in the picture (does anyone remember?), but the highest point in the center contained the IHS, superimposed to look rather like a dollar sign with an extra vertical—that stands for “Jesus Salvator Hominem” , “Jesus Savior of Men” in Latin., one of the oldest symbols of the church. I remember that the left bottom panel was a fascinating Z-shaped tangle of ribbon in white, purple and gold, with an inscription Dr. Hart recalled, “Take heed how you hear,” from Luke (8:18). What this suggests is a window representing the Trinity—God the Father at the top, the apostles of the Son, and the Holy Spirit acting in the world at the lowest level. What happened to the window when the building was remodeled is not known.

A church is a house of God—in shaping the church to remind us of God, we find a way to bring Christ closer to us and reshape ourselves in his pattern.

Researched and Written by Marilyn Nellis

CAMPBELL'S SOUP UPC CODES

Please save your UPC CODES

2 CENTS – A - MEAL

We will collect 2 cents offerings on JUNE 5
You can make a difference in the lives
of hungry people!!!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
to benefit Geneva Head Start
LOOK FOR THE BASKET

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -
FRIDAY, JUNE 17, NOON



JIM – wjg@rochester.rr.com

SUZANNE – revsuzyo2@gmail.com

EDNA MAY – eml22@rochester.rr.com

Website: <http://www.presbyterianchurchingenevanewyork.org>

REFLECTIONS ON THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

2011 MISSION TRIP TO BOSTON:

ROBERT LAMB – I found the children of Boston so welcoming. Every time we worked with them they immediately assumed that we were not only cool, but also that we were their friend. They couldn't have cared less about where we were from what kind of people we were, or why we were there in the first place. They just wanted us "Yankees" to play a game, run, jump, catch, throw, listen, talk and simply be. Oh and Improv Asylum was hysterical, I guess.

KRISTIN OSWALD – This year I met a girl named, Sasha, on the trip. The day we met her it was her 7th birthday. Allison and I colored on a brick bench at one of their local parks with chalk. When we first met her that day she wasn't having a very good birthday. She kept telling us she wanted to say six. I hope that by the end of the day she had a better birthday because there were new people for her to color and play with. It was Sasha's idea to color on the bench and soon a whole bunch of girls were with us coloring on the bench. It became a master piece with all different shades of purples, pinks, greens, blues, and yellows. I hope that not only did it brighten the kids' day but also anyone who walked through the park and saw it. The kids kept saying it will wash away the next time it rains but those kids will remember coloring it and so will I. While we were coloring other kids were out playing a game of soccer. It was Boston vs NY. That game went on for about an hour. When it was time for us to leave Sasha gave everyone hugs. Her hugs are one of the warmest, sweetest hugs ever. She doesn't say anything when she gives you a hug just this really sweet smile that makes you smile right back. I had so much fun playing with those kids that day. I hope they had as much fun as I did.

The people who went on the Mission Trip this year were great. I had fun hanging out with them. Thanks for allowing us to get this great opportunity to go a big city and help out even if it is only for a couple of hours. I still feel really good and I enjoyed helping the people.

ALLISON CHAPIN – BOSTON!! So much happened in such a small amount of time that we didn't even explore half of what there was. But the most significant part of it for me was being able to work with the kids at the Community Arts Center. They were having a "field day" and so the adults, as well as some of us, set up different activities for them: face painting, Pictionary, (which I was in charge of), scooter races, etc. Some of the games, including mine, transformed a bit after only a few minutes. Pictionary with chalk on a park sidewalk became just drawing pictures. Then, due to one young girl's dislike of the color of the brick structure surrounding a park bench, became as many kids as possible, including myself and Kristin and some of the adults, trying to color the brick with chalk to make it much prettier.

This young girl is Sasha and that day was her birthday. In fact, she even wrote on the sidewalk (in chalk) "I HATE 7." However, she did not let this keep her from being excited and eager to ensure "her" little project of brick coloring kept going. As it approached the time to head back over to the Center, Sasha made sure we knew that she was happy we were there over and over again with her hugs. It was cold so we kept hugging all the way back to the Center.

One other girl named Miriam also stuck out to me. She was a very happy kid and she was very excited to find out that she and I were wearing the same shoes!! She also hung onto me much of the way back to the Center. And right before we left both girls showed their gratitude for our presence that day. When Jen (a regular worker at the Center) announced we were leaving Miriam said, "Wait!!" and ran over to hug me, then said, "Now you can go." And Sasha hugged every one of us.

Such simple gestures these children make. They reminded me of how simple it is to be a kid and how even the smallest gestures you make for them leaves an impression. That they opened up to us so quickly, allowing us into their lives for a day, was so touching. And their behavior reminded me of how important it is to be such a presence – a positive, happy one- in others' lives. It also helped me to realize that I, personally, have more of an impact on others' lives than I really thought I did. These kids really touched my heart, my soul, and my life, and it is a memory I will hold onto and cherish for the rest of my life.

CHRIS JONES – On this trip, there was one project in particular that was very meaningful. When we went to the Community Arts Center, I was astounded by how open and accepting the kids were to outside strangers. They were so kind-hearted and friendly, you would never expect them to have grown up with a hard life. Even being in these children’s lives for a few hours seemed to be a blessing given to us. The happiness in these kids was plainly a virtue that many of us still haven’t grasped. I would like to thank the church and Community Center for giving the eleven of us the opportunity to spend time with these children. This experience not only benefitted the kids, but it enriched and enlightened us. I, for one, am thankful for being given this chance to help others and will never forget it.

EMILY CAMPBELL – This Mission trip to Boston has really been a great experience for me. Out of the missions that we did I really enjoyed working with the kids in the Community Center. On our way to meet with the kids I thought that they would be quiet and reserved like kids usually are with unfamiliar people. This was not the case. All of the children were very outgoing and opened right up to all of us. The kids were on their spring break like we were so we helped set up relay races for the field day they were having. Being able to meet the kids and help them have a wonderful field day really made me feel good because it is always amazing to see kids having fun and smiling. I, personally, thought that our Mission Trip this year was a success.

AMY GORIA – I had a lot of fun. Boston, by foot, was interesting. Helping with the kids was tiring. The subways were fun. Helping in the kitchen was messy. The Improv show was funny.

RICKY CIERI – Our Mission Trip to Boston during spring break was quite an interesting experience. Boston, as you may know, is an historic and energetic city. There are tiny brick, colonial buildings tucked between massive skyscrapers, beautiful brick roads and sidewalks and a gorgeous harbor. However, Boston is not completely pure. A good portion of the Boston population is poverty stricken. I had the opportunity to view such poverty several times throughout the trip. On Wednesday morning the group arrived at Pine Street Inn, a facility for homeless people in Boston. We arrived and one of the first sights I saw was a homeless man lying on a mat. This man seemed to be in agonizing pain. As we walked by him I looked into his tired eyes and I knew that he desperately needed help. We continued to the kitchen. For the duration of our mission at Pine Street Inn, we helped prepare massive amounts of food in the kitchen. It was difficult work but in the back of my head I kept the thought that I was helping to defeat homelessness. After cutting many loaves of bread into little pieces, and seasoning hundreds of raw chickens my work in the kitchen was done. Then, we proceeded to tour the facilities. Pine Street Inn had 2 sections, the males and the females. We saw the hundreds of beds provided every night for the homeless. From the mission at Pine Street Inn I took away the “warm feeling” that I helped people who have no home, food or occupation. I am proud to say that I helped defeat poverty and homelessness “one step at a time.”

LORRAINE JONES – This week’s trip to Boston was memorable for a number of reasons, but the one thing that most stands out for me is the camaraderie of the youth group members. Although they came from different backgrounds, go to different schools and are of different ages, they all seemed to go out of their way to help each other out and get along. There were no cross words spoken, just simple words of encouragement as we worked the service projects and conquered the subway system in Boston together! I really enjoyed this trip despite the hectic pace and the cold weather.

SARAH PANE – While on this Mission Trip we did many things in Boston. We went to the Pine Street Inn and helped out with their lunch program. Their lunch program serves all the homeless people that come to their shelter. People on the street get handed a brown bag with a sandwich in it and they send food to other shelters in the city that don't have a big enough kitchen to make all the food. When homeless men and women are at the Pine Street Inn they have an opportunity to learn many things and end up with a job in their life. They also receive meals, a place to sleep, a place to shower, and shelter from the weather. They can also talk to a psychologist, doctor, dentist, and eye care person. What I've realized is that many of us who have nice things like a comfy bed or expensive clothes take things for granted because there are a lot of people who don't have a home or expensive clothes or a nice warm, soft bed to sleep in. I would like to thank the church for letting me come on the Mission Trip and make changes in people's lives that need someone or something changed. We did a big job that was a big help for the Pine Street Inn in Boston. Some jobs were messy or took a lot of work but we didn't back down or complain.

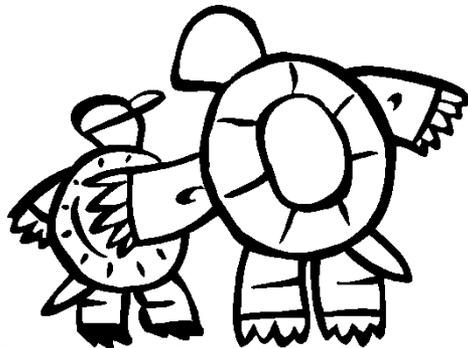
ALAN SCHENCK – Kids smiling. Kids laughing. Boston kids and our youth smiling and laughing together. It's comforting to see that youth can relate to each other and share a common experience no matter what their background is. Playing soccer or swinging in the park, singing and listening to the story of Good Friday and the promise of Easter, and receiving hugs as it's time to say good-byes and leave. These are some of the experiences that we shared.

We are all children of God. It's good to see many "big" children of God sharing the story of God's love. Community Center leaders along with our host church's leadership and lay folks all display great care for the youth of Boston. And their dedication and love show in the faces of the kids.

Our time was far too short in length, but was filled with wonderful opportunities to truly be a servant to others. How especially appropriate during this Holy Week as we reflect on Jesus' life, teaching, struggles, suffering, death, and finally His resurrection.

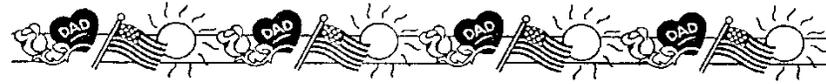
FAITH BENEDICT – Thank you Presbyterian Church in Geneva for supporting eight high school students and three adults to visit Boston to work and see some of the sights in the city during our April vacation.

A meaningful time for me was to be a part of Fourth Presbyterian Church and its outreach to children in the Dorchester area. We have seen the needs of adults and children as we have been at the Pine Street Inn and the Community Art Center. But helping little Bernice make a beaded cross after the children’s Good Friday service was special. What does love look like? It’s talking and helping one person at a time, each that we have met personally and shared moments with. We have seen it with the hands, hearts, singing and prayers, many doing and giving of time but with generous open hearts. The people at 4th Pres seem to be trying to meet the needs of those around them. The doors of both church and house being open with various programs (AA, food cupboard, English as a Second Language, Youth Job Program) and the Friday Vacation Bible School for children on Vacation (K-6th). I thank God for all those who seek to serve being God’s hands and heart.



Happy Father’s Day

June 2011



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 7:00 pm Property Committee 7:00 pm Deacons | 2 1:00 pm Needles Group | 3 | 4 10:00 am SERRV Shop open 12:00 pm Camp Whitman BBQ & Open House |
| 5 8:15 am Worship Service 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday School Sunday 11:30 am SERRV Shop open after both services 11:30 am Congregational Meeting | 6 | 7 | 8 7:30 pm Worsnip Committee 7:30 pm Finance Committee | 9 | 10 | 11 10:00 am SERRV Shop open |
| 12 12:01 am Communion 8:15 am Worship Service 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice/Warm-up 10:30 am Confirmation Class Received 10:30 am Birthday Offering Received 10:30 am Pentecost Sunday Service 11:30 am Blood Pressure Clinic after both services 11:30 am SERRV Shop open after both services | 13 7:30 am Memorials Committee | 14 FLAG DAY  | 15 5:30 pm Strawberry Festival | 16 1:00 pm Needles Group | 17 12:00 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 18 |
| 19 9:00 am Choir Practice/Warm-up 10:00 am Baccalaureate Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am SERRV Shop open after church service 11:30 am Presbyterian Women | 20  PENTECOST SUNDAY | 21  Summer Is Here! | 22 7:30 pm Session | 23 | 24  Graduation | |
| 26 9:30 am Summer Union Service 10:30 am SERRV Shop open after summer union service | 27 7:30 pm Mission | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |