

*The Geneva Pres*

December



*2013*

# *The Presbyterian Church in Geneva*

24 Park Place

Geneva NY 14456

(315) 789-1343

**Website: <http://www.PresbyterianChurchInGenevaNewYork.org>**

*Deborah Lind-Schmitz - Transitional Pastor*

*Suzanne Otterbacher - Parish Associate*

*L. Christine Wertman - Director of Music*

*Sandy Campbell - Church Organist/ Bell Choir*

*Lorraine Jones - Youth Bells*

*Kathleen Breese - Dir. Christian Education*

*Kate Komara - Children's Choirs*

*Edna May Langan - Secretary*

*Mark Springmeier - Custodian*

*Virginia Champlin - Chapel Organist*

*Beth Nicholas - Parish Nurse*

*Deb Drennen - Nursery care*

*Diana Capron - Coordinator of Adult Ministries*

*Paula Foote - Coordinator of Youth Ministries*

*Alan Schenck - Financial Administrator*

*Fritz Aude - Treasurer*

*Bette J. Schubert - Clerk of Session*

## Christmas Letter: Hidden Gifts

**As I write this Christmas letter, my thoughts and prayers center on Thanksgiving. Preparations for both Thanksgiving and an expanded family gathering on Friday are well underway. Tragically, my uncle Robert fell broke his neck and died in November. My sister and first cousins agreed that the two remaining sisters must be together. So, my mother will flying from Texas to unite both families including two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and Aunt Elaine's four children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. I have lost count. It does not matter because we just want to be together. I am so thank-full for the hidden gifts of love!**

**No doubt, Christmas gifts are fun to give. I am the first to admit my temptation to over-buy. However, the real gifts are less tangible. Every Sunday in Advent, we light a candle representing those hidden gifts. Peace, Grace, Joy, and Love; these are the gifts Christ gives to the world.**

**Our Advent worship services prepare our hearts for Jesus Christ's arrival. There is something for everyone. The 8:15 am will focus on carols and dramatic sermons. The 10:30 worship will include the Vivaldi's "Gloria" and the Children's Pageant. I hope that Christmas carols, scriptures, poems, dramas and stories will warm your hearts and ignite your faith during this Advent/Christmas season.**

**May the Light of Christ guide your path.  
May the Holy Spirit bring Joy to your hearts.  
May God bless all your relationships with love.  
May the blessings of Christmas give you peace.**

*Pastor Deb*

# ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP/ACTIVITY

## CALENDAR

### **DEC. 1 First Sunday in Advent**

**8:15 and 10:30 am Communion**

**Scriptures: Jer.3:14-16, Luke 21:25-26**

**Sermon: "Past Event, Present Reality, Future Expected" - Suzanne Otterbacher**

### **DEC. 8, Second Sunday in Advent**

**8:15 am Scriptures: Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12**

**10:30 am "Gloria"- Vivaldi's Cantata**

**Sermon: "On the Breath of God" - Deb Lind-Schmitz**

*Hanging of the Greens* – following 10:30 worship

**Help us decorate the church for the season!!**

**Christmas caroling to our shut-ins – 2:00**

### **DEC. 15 Third Sunday in Advent**

**8:15 & 10:30 Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:39-56**

**Sermon: "The Magnificat: Mary Did You Know?"**

### **DEC. 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**8:15 am Isaiah 7: 10-17, Matthew 1: 18-25**

**Emmanuel: "God Is With You"**

*Christmas Pageant and Plum Pudding*

**10:30 am - The children will offer a Christmas Pageant as part of the worship service.**

**Special treats will be served in Fellowship Hall as**

**Pastor Deb leads us in songs of the season.**

### **DEC. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight services**

**4:00 pm - Especially for Children**

**8:30 pm - Lessons and Carols**

**Readings and Carols include Luke 2:1-20**

### **DEC. 29 ONE SERVICE – 10:30**

**NO Sunday School or Adult Ed.**

*The staff wishes you a  
blessed holiday season!!!*

*Pastor Deb    Suzanne  
Edna May    Kathy    Chris  
Kate    Virginia    Lorraine  
Alan    Mark    Sandy  
Beth    Joe    Deb  
Diana    Paula    Fritz*

*Christmas begins in the heart!!*

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



## *Take Note*

*Glory to God in the Highest!*  
*Cantata Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013*

If you stop by the sanctuary on Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings you will hear the Choir, soloists, and Sandy Campbell working hard on sections of Vivaldi's "Gloria" for Cantata Sunday. The Choir will offer 5 sections of this wonderfully sunny work. Pastor Deb will also sing a lovely solo from the work while Sharyn Powell and Ruth Benedict will offer a cheerful duet.

Antonio Vivaldi composed this his most famous choral piece for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls, in Venice about 300 years ago. For 200 years after Vivaldi's death, the "Gloria" lay undiscovered until the 1920s! The now familiar version was given its first performance in New York City in 1957.

We hope you will find inspiration in this wonderful work by the "red-headed priest."  
*"Glory to God"*

Faithfully, Chris Wertman  
Information from notes by Peter Carey, Royal Free Singers.

**Keep**  
**in Christ**  
**Christmas**

---

---



SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING for Nov/Dec/Jan. goes  
to HEIFER PROJECT.

This year's theme is BEES AND TREES.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Our Annual Christmas Pageant will be Dec. 22, during  
the 10:30 Worship Service.**

**DRESS REHEARSAL - (NO COSTUMES)  
SATURDAY, DEC. 21 - SPEAKERS - 9:00  
3YRS- 5TH GRADE & ORFF - 10:00**

**DEC. 22 - Everyone meet in the Sanctuary at  
9:00 SHARP!!!**

**PLUM PUDDING**

**Watch the bulletins in Dec. to sign up to donate a cake or cookies  
for our Plum Pudding feast on Dec. 22, following 10:30 worship.**

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - DEC. 29



**JANUARY 13, 2014, 7:00**

CAMPBELL'S SOUP UPC CODES  
Please save your UPC CODES

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION  
to benefit Geneva Head Start

**Youth Fellowship  
December  
Grades 6-12**

# Caroling



When: Sunday, December 8th

Where: Church

Time: Meet at church at 1:45. We will leave at 2:00 and go caroling until about 4:00.

Feel free to invite friends and parents!

Please RSVP by Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> to  
[pjfoote25@gmail.com](mailto:pjfoote25@gmail.com)

# Christmas Craft



When: Sunday, December 8th

Where: Berg-Pappert's House

Time: 4:00-til we finish (5:30)

We will be making crafts following caroling. We will order pizza for you to enjoy while making crafts!

Please RSVP by Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> to  
[pjfoote25@gmail.com](mailto:pjfoote25@gmail.com)



Adult Forum  
In the South Parlor  
Sunday Mornings  
9:15 – 10:15  
All are Welcome!

**Advent**, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for **God's Gift of Love**, is a busy and sometimes stressful time of year.

Advent also gives us an opportunity to slow down, recognize that God's love has found us, and live in peace.

The study, **God's Gift of Love**, offers the opportunity and challenge to appreciate and live in the amazing gift of God's love by studying the Bible readings designated for Advent and viewing slides of great works of art that depict the events of the Nativity.

These sessions will follow the Sunday Lectionary and be held on **December 1, 8, 15 and 22** in the South Parlor. The art will be works that depict *The Annunciation*, *The Visitation of Mary*, *The Annunciation to the Shepherds*, and *The Adoration of the Shepherds*.

**Please consider using this preparation for receiving God's Gift of Love at Christmas.**



On **January 5<sup>th</sup>** we will complete our celebration of the season with the popular **Carol Sing**. We will look at the history of a few favorite Christmas Carols and sing together. All voices welcome!

# *From the Parish Nurse*

Dear Church Family,

It seems we have overshot our quota of people falling in November. Santa is definitely going to put us on the naughty list if we keep this up in December!! We haven't even gotten into the snow and ice yet, so I thought we might go over some ideas for staying upright this Christmas and being able to HO HO HO instead of BOO HOO HOO!

There are many risk factors to falling: muscle weakness, problems with balance and gait, blood pressure fluctuations when changing position, poor vision, some medications, dementia, and slow reflexes to name a few. Falls are usually an accident (or a result of trying to do something you really aren't sure you should do). Falls happen in a split second but the results can be life changing.

Many falls can be prevented by simple changes such as; installing grab bars, moving things from higher shelves to an easily accessible spot, avoiding wet or slippery areas, getting rid of rugs that you could catch a toe on, good lighting wherever you walk, having sturdy railings to hold on to, using slip mats in the tub with grab bars, and doing things SLOWLY if you are uncertain of your balance. Balance is probably the single most important factor in avoiding a fall. I will have some handouts on the Health Tables on exercises that can help improve your balance. I will also have some tests from the CDC website to see if you are at risk to fall.

If you know you have problems with your Blood Pressure dropping when you change position, do it slowly and stay in the position for a moment or two to let your body adjust. For example, getting up to use the bathroom at 2am. Don't just bulldoze yourself into the bathroom; you may end up on the floor. First, sit on the side of the bed and wait to feel that you aren't dizzy. Then, stand slowly and wait a moment before starting out. Be sure you have the path clear and have enough light to see where you are going. Many people end up falling on an early a.m. visit to the bathroom. If it is really a problem, a bedside commode is always an option (we have many of these in our loan closet at church). If your blood pressure drops with change of position, NEVER do anything fast. So this Christmas, remember the reason for the season and don't get stressed out over the secular things. Enjoy and feel blessed by what you have, help someone in need, and rejoice knowing a baby, our savior, was born for YOU because God loves you so very much!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, *Beth*

315-759-9039

# *Presbyterian Women*

---



## Upcoming Events:

**No PW Meeting in December – Happy Holidays to all!**

*Thank you to all who baked and worked for the PW  
bake sale on Election Day.*



**FRIENDSHIP STUDY GROUP- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1:30**

**Read Chapter 4 – Passing through the Waters - led by Suzanne  
Otterbacher.**

**NEEDLES GROUP- Thursday, Dec. 19, 1:00**

**South parlor**



**If you would like to have a poinsettia in the chancel for Christmas  
in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office.  
You may take the poinsettia after the service on December 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cost is \$12.00. Orders must be placed by**

**DECEMBER 9.**



## Deacons

The opportunity to give.

**This summer, my husband and I went with friends to New York City to visit their daughter Megan, who had been living there for the past five years. As we walked through Manhattan, Megan was quick to share with us her NYC mantra. "Don't acknowledge strangers. Don't make eye contact. Just keep walking."**

**Shortly thereafter, a young man trailing a small suitcase approached Megan. Their eyes locked and he asked if she would give him four quarters for the bus. She did not hesitate. She checked her purse and pockets. We all did likewise. No one had the change. As the young man continued on his way, Megan ducked into a nearby Dunkin Donuts. She soon emerged with coffee and four quarters. She gave the money to her father, Paul and asked him to try and find the young fellow. When Paul returned several minutes later with a big smile on his face we all knew he had been successful.**

**That exchange with a stranger in the street will always stand out as the highlight of our trip. I wondered why the young man directed his request solely to Megan. And, why didn't one of us give him a dollar bill so he could get the change himself. It seemed to me that the situation was meant to play out the way it did for a reason. The truth was that Megan, this "unaffected" New Yorker chose to seize her opportunity to give. In spite of her comments to the contrary, she didn't keep walking. She made eye contact. And, she completely acknowledged a stranger.**

**As we head into this Christmas season, let's hope that we will take advantage of occasions to acknowledge others and seize our opportunities to give.**

**Wishing You a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas!**

*Sandy McDonald*



**The Memorials and History Committee recently received several donations:**

**In memory of Stan Hamling, by Gary S. Nielsen, of Waterloo, and Jennifer Morris and Jim Spates, and Carl and Heather Aten of Geneva**

**Ralph Aten, by Doris Simmonds and Nancy Phillips of Canandaigua**

**Laura Clise by Judy Brignall and Mary E. McCoy of Waterloo, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maloney of Liverpool, and the Poormon Living Trust of Waterloo**

**2 CENTS – A - MEAL**

**We will collect 2 cents offerings on DEC. 1**

**You can make a difference in the lives of hungry people!!!**

**JANUARY 2013 - ANNUAL REPORT**

**Summaries for the Annual Report are due in the church office  
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 10.**

**PLEASE, help make Edna May's job a little easier by getting  
your report in on time!!!!**

*Another way to help* **SERRV**

**HOLIDAY HOURS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>. WE WILL BE OPEN SATURDAYS, 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM AND SUNDAYS AFTER BOTH SERVICES. ALSO VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE WEEK DAYS DURING OFFICE HOURS.**

**We have purchased many new items for Christmas, so come in and shop for all your gifts. There are ornaments, nativities, holiday linens, jewelry, scarves, baskets, chocolates, new soapstone bookends and décor, wall art, many beautiful wood items from India and some wood and ornaments from crafters in the Philippines that need help right now after the disastrous typhoon.**

**Every SERRV purchase helps artisans and farmers and their families. Collaboration with these partners help them earn a fair income and create sustainable choices with materials , production techniques, financial resources and social programs that benefit entire communities. All handcrafted items are authentic and individually made with some variations in color and size that makes each gift unique and more meaningful.**

**Thanks goes to the thousands of VOLUNTEERS who help in many ways through support offerings, spreading the word, selling products in their communities, checking new products in the New Windsor Maryland warehouse and modeling for SERRV catalogs and website. We are grateful to all our local customers, volunteers and supporters. With our profits we donate to local programs, as Hunger Relief, Community Lunch, Food Pantry, Center of Concern, Presbyterian Woman Mission program, our church mission program and the Gerling Fund Success for Children. National and Worldwide we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, Church World Service, Heifer project, Joy offering, SERRV Scholarship grants and special emergency requests.**

**We will be closed for the December holidays through January inventory time, so take advantage of the opportunity to help others locally and around the world right now. We will open again February 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 just in time for Valentine gift shopping.**

# Christmas Dinner for Community Lunch

We would like to make "*Christmas dinner in a bag*" to give to those who attend Community Lunch Program. Last year they were a BIG HIT!!! We will do all canned foods so there won't be a problem with spoilage. You can choose to donate a whole meal or a portion of a meal or money towards buying supplies for the meal. We need all donations by Sunday, Dec. 15.

Meals include:

A small canned ham (must not need to be refrigerated)

Canned sweet potatoes or white potatoes

Canned green beans

Canned cream corn

Large can of fruit

If you can find cans with pull top lids it would be easier for them to open.

# Van Der Kamp

## Feb. 7, 8, & 9, 2014

VanDerkamp is a retreat center tucked away in the woods near Syracuse. Our Church has been spending a weekend there for over 25 years. At VanDerkamp there are 3 houses (each sleeps about 25 people) on a 45 acre lake, you can step out your front door and ski through 850 acres of trails or sled down Cherry Hill. Or you could stay inside and tend the fire and read a good book or play the guitar. Or you could eat marvelous food!

Sounds good but no ski equipment? There is plenty to use there and it is included in the price! Don't ski? There is still lots to do. Can't afford it? There are confidential scholarships available. If your Youth Group child is going, please sign them up with Paula. Don't let your child talk you out of coming too – they have their own house to stay in!

The cost is \$65.00 for everyone 13 and older  
\$45.00 for 12 and under. 4 and under are free!  
Sign up soon! Any questions? Please feel free to call  
Lauren Lamb at 789-6589 or the church office

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# Over age 13 \_\_\_\_\_ #age 5-12 \_\_\_\_\_ # 4 & under (for head count only) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be head of your house? \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks out to: Presbyterian Church, Membership Activities

## Stewardship Campaign

We kicked off the annual Stewardship Campaign at The Presbyterian Church in Geneva on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Many of you shared in dedicating pledges toward God's work here at the Stewardship Breakfast on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and at the Brunch on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to those who have pledged their financial support over the years and for sharing your time and talents. With commitments like yours, we have a ministry that makes a big difference in people's lives.

As of November 20, we have received 143 pledges of our 300 total potential pledging units. You can continue to track our progress on the tall pledge-o-meter in the Fellowship Hall. We are optimistic about receiving a pledge from all members.

Your commitment to the year ahead is needed to help us continue our work. We would like to encourage you to make a pledge to the mission and ministry of our church, if you haven't already. Remember, a pledge of any size indicates your support of our work.

**You will be part of transforming lives!**

*Blessings, Interpretation and Stewardship Committee*

The Presbytery of Geneva is already planning the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mission and Learning Experience to Washington, D.C. It will take place October 10-13, 2014 over the Columbus Day Weekend. Travel to Washington, D. C will be by motor coach. Some of the planned activities include a seminar with Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and guest speaker, hands-on mission projects: clothing closets, food/soup kitchens and tours of the city.

If you would like to learn more about the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mission and Learning Experience to Washington, D.C., please call the Presbytery of Geneva Office at (315) 536-7753, email Rhonda Everdyke at [Rhonda@PresbyteryofGeneva.org](mailto:Rhonda@PresbyteryofGeneva.org) or email Joelle Davis at [Joelle@PresbyteryofGeneva.org](mailto:Joelle@PresbyteryofGeneva.org).



THANK YOU!!!



*THANK YOU to all our Presbyterian Friends who helped us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It would not have been the same without you. You all hold special places in our hearts. Alan & Suzanne Otterbacher*

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**At it's November 5th meeting, the Presbytery of Geneva's Committee on Ministry approved our request to extend the Transitional Pastor Agreement with the Rev. Dr. Deborah Lind-Schmitz to April 21, 2014. This action was at the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee as the original agreement expires on January 14, 2014.**

## Christmas Joy Offering

**“Good News of Great Joy!”**

**As we celebrate the good news of great joy – that God’s love in human form is now among us – may we open our hearts and may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love.**

**The Christmas Joy Offering benefits current and retired Presbyterian church workers in need, students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools around the country, and our neighbors who visit the Geneva Food Pantry and the Community Lunch Program. Moments for Mission in the coming weeks will describe these projects in more detail.**

**Mission & Social Concerns Committee**

**The Memorial Garden at The Presbyterian Church in Geneva was officially “opened” on October 6, 2013. The congregation followed Pastor Deb and the bell choir into the garden to prayerfully open the garden and show off all the hard work of our designers and contractors. A huge thank you goes out to all who helped make this project a reality. A formal dedication ceremony will occur in the spring of 2014. Columbarium niches and memorial bricks are available through the church office or by calling Beth Reiners (Memorials and History Committee chair) at 315-789-3761. Look for more pictures on our church website.**



## RECORDED SERVICES

Sunday services are recorded and available on CD to borrow from the church office.



**PASTOR DEB – [deblindschmitz@pcgny.org](mailto:deblindschmitz@pcgny.org)**

**SUZANNE – [agosgo3@gmail.com](mailto:agosgo3@gmail.com)**

**EDNA MAY – [eml22@rochester.rr.com](mailto:eml22@rochester.rr.com)**

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 20 – NOON**



## **Church Directory Now Available Online**

**The Presbyterian Church in Geneva has placed our church directory on our website. Access to the church directory is strictly limited to members and friends of the church having a valid username and password to the directory. To register for a username or to access the members directory with an approved username, go to the church's homepage then scroll down the page until you find the title "Church Member Directory" in the middle column. The article found here gives directions on how to register for a username and how to access the church directory if you already have a username. The first paragraph is an introduction; the second paragraph gives instructions on how to register for a username and the third paragraph gives directions on accessing the church directory after your username has been approved.**

Two large matching ceramic vases are missing from the flower room. We really need them to be returned by whomever borrowed them. They were bought especially to hold silk flower arrangements which we use on occasions.

Please return them to the church office.

Thank you.

ALSO :

Chancel Guild is in need of more wide mouth cans (juice or large stewed tomato) for Sunday service flowers to be distributed to "shut-ins."

Bridges Bereavement Support Services will participate in the 17th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting to honor all people who have died...that their light may always shine. Sponsored worldwide by The Compassionate Friends, this date marks National Children's Memorial Day. You are invited to light a candle for any loved one on this memorable night, Dec. 8, 6:30 pm. Friends and relatives are welcome to attend. Please bring a framed photograph of your loved one(s) and a special reading or memory, if you desire. Candles and

candleholders will be provided. Refreshments, raffles, and sharing will follow the ceremony.

Enter The Presbyterian Church, 24 Park Place, Geneva through the back parking lot - ceremony takes place in the Chapel.

Contact Jan at 315-789-0563 for further info.

**Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes (CCFL) is proud to present a one-man production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this holiday season.**

**Kim Tenreiro of Canandaigua stars in this version of the classic play, taking on the role of more than 30 characters! Kim has presented the play for the past three years as his gift to the Finger Lakes region, with all benefits going to charity.**

**The performance will go up on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at the First United Methodist Church at 340 Main Street in Geneva. Doors open at 1:15 pm and the show starts at 2:00pm. All proceeds will support the Geneva Community Lunch Program, administered by Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes. The Community Lunch Program is open to everyone five days a week, and serves over 15,000 hot, free, and nutritious meals each year.**

**Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and \$25 for families of three or more. They can be purchased by calling CCFL at 315-789-2686, or sending payment to Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, 94 Exchange Street, Geneva NY 14456**



### **A REMINDER**

**Please consider remembering the Presbyterian Church in Geneva in your will, estate or other long-term plans. Thank you!**

***Ruth Benedict and Jerry Rose, Co-chairs Foundation Committee***