

The Geneva Pres



JANUARY

2013

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

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

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

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

As We Move into a New Time

We are about to enter a time when we will be relating to one another in a very different way. Jane and I will still be living in this community that we love but I will no longer be your pastor. It has been nearly a year since I first told about my decision to retire. I made that announcement as early as I did because I thought it would give us the time to reflect on and celebrate our ministry together over more than three decades.

You have been so very kind and generous in the ways you have helped us feel as though our time with you truly made a difference in the life of the congregation and the community in which we live. Jane and I appreciate the outpouring of love and gratitude that has humbled us to our toes. We will miss the many things that made our relationship so rich and meaningful.

We also know that we have done everything we could think of to prepare ourselves for all the excitement of the new opportunities that await us all.

Just about two weeks from my last day (December 31st) as your pastor the Transition Pastor will arrive (January 15th) to begin her ministry with you. She will be the one, along with the rest of our able staff, who will attend to your pastoral needs.

According to an addendum to the standing rules of our presbytery, *“The departing pastor agrees not to provide any pastoral services to the members of the previously served congregation except by invitation of the Moderator of Session with notification to the Committee on Ministry. This would be understood to include:*

Preaching or leading worship

Conducting or participating in the leadership of funerals, weddings or baptisms of members or their extended family

Pastoral calls to members of the congregation or their extended family in an institutional setting or in a private home”

Additionally, “The departing minister agrees not to attend formal and informal church functions of the previously served congregation except by invitation of the Moderator of Session with notification to the Committee on Ministry.”

In closing, I would like to share the prayer with you that I shared with the Adult Education Forum in a recent discussion on transitions.

A Prayer for Times of Transition (Diocese of Buffalo)

***O Faithful God, as your people,
we cherish our memories
and our history as a sacred gift.***

***We ask you to guide us in our times of transition.
We need your wisdom, that we might be receptive
to change and growth.***

***We need your grace to redirect our hearts
that we may be willing to offer ourselves
In joyful service.***

***Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride
to limit the work of your Spirit,
nor custom to prevent
the creativity within us from bearing fruit.***

***Open our hearts to the call of the Gospel.
Give us courage and renewed hope,
that we may meet the challenge of being
the church of our time.***

***We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.***

Jim



**A Warm Welcome to our new Transitional Pastor,
Pastor Deb!**

We are delighted to introduce you all to our new Transitional



Pastor! The Rev. Dr. Deborah Lind-Schmitz has been signed for a period of one year, starting January 15, 2013. She is just completing an Interim Pastor position with the Covenant Church in Madison, WI. She has been ordained for over 20 years in PCUSA , serving in both installed and transitional (interim) ministry positions. Pastor Deb has a great deal of experience in short-term transitional pastorships. In fact, she has served 10 congregations as a transitional pastor

in communities in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

She was selected as one of four applicants from a pool of more than 40 for an extensive phone interview. We then brought her to Geneva for a face-to-face interview over the Labor Day holiday and were impressed with her people-skills and her passionate Christianity. She in turn loved our strong commitment to mission and our welcoming hospitality. Pastor Deb visited again for a quick overnight trip in early December to line up housing, and got to meet a few more staff and members. She is very excited to be starting this new phase with us at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva because we are “such a good fit.” She looks forward to meeting all of us on her first Sunday of preaching, January 19, 2013.

Her pivotal theological statement is Ephesians 3:20: *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever!* She says, “In other words, God has the power to work in us, in the church and in me to do more than we can imagine!” Her Master of Divinity is from United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN, 1987. She received her Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching/homiletics from McCormick Seminary in 2008. She has a BA in Child Psychology and Music Performance from the University of Minnesota. In her first career Deb taught instrumental and vocal music, performed and directed musical groups. Creativity still runs throughout all of her ministry including a weekly radio spot, dramatic sermons, silk & watercolor painting, and an occasional solo. Pastor Deb has two adult children, a son and daughter, both married with children. Her daughter lives in Chicago and her son in Wisconsin. As a devoted grandmother she loves to talk about her newest grandchildren, Luca and Camille!

The TPNC is co-chaired by Jennifer Morris and Tim Merwarth; other members are Sandy Ansley, Chris Smart, Cathy Thurston, Don Wertman and Paul Salisbury from COM.

Epiphany Feast

Sunday, January 6, 2013 5:30 PM

***Join us for this special event in the life
of our congregation!***

We will celebrate with a candlelight dinner, singing, and a procession of the Magi as we hear their story from Scripture. Start off the New Year with this truly beautiful and meaningful experience.

*The Worship Committee will provide
turkey, ham, rolls, drinks and dessert.*

PLEASE BRING: \$2.00 each (\$1.00 each for children 12 and under) and a vegetable or other side dish.

IF YOU WISH: bring and leave at the manger a gift for people escaping domestic violence through the "Safe Home" project. Gifts may include: toiletries, diapers, alarm clocks, kitchen items (such as silverware, pots & pans), Band-Aids and other basic necessities.

IF YOU CAN: *Lend us a candelabrum for the occasion.*

Bring it a day or two in advance with your name taped to the bottom.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN ADVANCE so the Worship Committee will know how much turkey and ham to buy!

EPIPHANY FEAST: Call the church office 789-1343, leave your reservation in the offering plate, or e-mail us at eml22@rochester.rr.com

NAME: _____ **Phone:** _____

Number of reservations: Adult _____ **Children** _____

Check here if we can borrow a candelabrum _____

At the Epiphany Feast we will be collecting full-sized toiletries and small denomination gift cards (Tops, Walmart, or gas) to donate to Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes. This agency will use the donations to assist women seeking refuge from domestic violence.



THE “A” GROUPS

While other churches are struggling, ours is flourishing. Our attendance and activities are strong, our mission work is exemplary, and our financial base is secure. We owe this success to our pastor, staff, and, let’s call it, the “A” groups.

The A group supports the church through their stewardship. We are blessed that their generosity keeps our church going. Without them we couldn’t “keep it all going”. They don’t give for recognition, they commit in love.

The A+ group is made up of not only the A members, but of the dozens who volunteer their time and talents. Without them, all the money the A group gives could not be put to use. They don’t give for recognition, they commit in love.

The A++ group is a smaller group, but gaining strength. By the end of 2013, they will be 100 strong. This group will contribute past their lifetime by including our church in their wills. Few of them know what they can do but all identify their intentions with our foundation committee. They don’t give for recognition, they commit in love.



JAN. 6, 20, 27 – YOUTH BELLS practice – 11:30

THANKS to all who donated cakes and cookies for Plum Pudding. Yummy!!!!

CONFIRMATION – JAN. 6 – sponsors attend class with youth,
9:00 in the Confirmation room

JAN. 13 – Confirmation attends worship at St. Michael's

2013 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM – July 16-20

Open to ALL 9th-12th graders

INFORMATIONAL MEETING – JAN. 13 – 9:00 in the
Confirmation Room

HEIFER PROJECT – the Sunday School classes are saving to
buy A HEIFER OF HOPE

We have a good start from the money collected from the pumpkin
contest in October.



JANUARY 14, 2013, 7:00

CAMPBELL'S SOUP UPC CODES

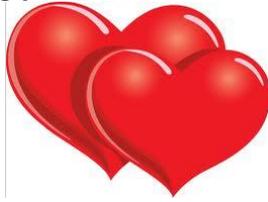
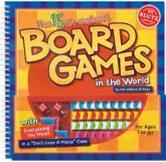
Please save your UPC CODES

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

to benefit Geneva Head Start

**Youth Fellowship
January
Grades 6-12**

Valentines and Games



When: Sunday, January 27th

Where: The Church

Time: 2:00-5:00

Valentines: 2:00-3:30

Games: 3:30-5:00

Bring: a favorite game to play

**Please RSVP to Paula by email
(pjfoote25@gmail.com) by
WEDNESDAY, January 23rd**

Remember to sign up for VanderKamp!!!

Adult Forum
South Parlor
Sunday Morning 9:15 – 10:15
All are welcome!

Jan. 6 Living the Questions: Reclaiming the World.

Human beings have been gifted with a beautiful and complex world in which to live. Its systems and resources are stressed by our behaviors, lifestyles, and arrogance. Care for the environment is not deeply biblical and practical, but increasingly critical – for both the present spiritual life and for our collective future. A followed with discussion.



being
only
DVD



January 13 – February 2

Uppity Women of the Bible

This DVD-based series features Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe who combines careful scholarship with humor and fresh insights and presents background for lively, thoughtful discussion.

January 13 & 20 - Esther. Enter into an exotic and fanciful Persian kingdom complete with a dim-witted king, a defiant queen, and an egotistical lieutenant. With lavish banquets, extreme beauty treatments and dangerous liaisons, can the beautiful and courageous Esther avert disaster for her people? All this occurs in a Biblical book where God is never mentioned.

January 27 and February 2 - Judith. This Uppity Woman took things into her own hands – including the head of a brutal warrior chief. Judith, from the Koine Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament, reads like a historical novel rife with warfare, lust, espionage and intrigue.

Lenten Bible Study

GENESIS

Genesis is a book of beginnings:

A beginning for the world

A beginning of the people of God

ABRAHAM JACOB JOSEPH

We will be studying the:

Embraced Call of God

Conflicted Call of God

Hidden Call of God through

familiar stories in the Genesis text.

THE STUDY

We are all fascinated by beginnings. Faith communities produce sacred literature and are a product of those Scriptures. Genesis continues to exert an influence on contemporary culture today.

MEETING

Friday evenings

January 18-March 22

6-8 PM

A supper of soup, bread and fruit begins at 6 pm. The study begins at 7 pm. Handouts for the study are available in the church office.



Deacons

During our December meeting we filled huge goodie bags with fruit, candy, homemade cookies and brownies, and a beautiful African Violet plant for our homebound and shut-in members. Our youth made beautiful craft stick angel ornaments, which were greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone for the special treats.

A big “Thanks!” to the deacons who are rotating off the board at the end of the year for the special ministries and talents they have shared with the congregation and with the entire board. We will miss your presence each month.

The holiday season is a time of reflection on the blessings of the past year, as well as a time to look forward in anticipation of what the New Year may bring. It is a time for reaching out in special ways to those around us. As deacons, we are called to this ministry throughout the entire year and it is our hope and prayer that everyone would adopt this philosophy in their daily lives as well.

There are so many good reasons for doing volunteer work, visiting someone in the hospital or sending a card that says “I’m thinking about you”. There are so many good reasons for stopping by to see someone who can’t get out as often as they’d like, or picking up a special gift for someone we care about. There are so many good reasons for taking dinner to someone or just doing something to make their life a little easier. There are so many good reasons for helping anyone in need. A small gesture of kindness can make a big impact in someone’s life and in our own. There is nothing like touching the heart of another or bringing a smile to someone’s face, which in turn brings a smile to our face as well. These are the enriching and rewarding moments in life.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and blessed

2013

Take Note

Last summer Sharyn Powell talked with me about an idea she had to create a piece of music to honor Jim on the occasion of his retirement from the ministry and particularly from The Presbyterian Church in Geneva.

Sharyn paraphrased some familiar words attributed to Mother Teresa and composed a tune to set to those words.

We worked together to transfer her ideas to staff paper.

Eventually, an arrangement was created. This was all done as a surprise for Jim. The Adult Choir learned the piece and sang it on November 18 at the reception for Jim at church.

The Choir sang this piece, “Love Anyway,” again as the Offertory on December 23. It was suggested that we include this text in the newsletter.

LOVE ANYWAY

Text : Mother Teresa-paraphrased by Sharyn Powell

Tune: Sharyn Powell

Arrangement: L. Christine Wertman

For W. James Gerling’s retirement – 2012

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you.

If you are successful, false friends may become your enemies.

If you are kind and forgiving, you may be accused of selfishness or serving your own gain.

Serve anyway, succeed anyway, and show kindness as God would have us do...

Serve anyway, succeed anyway, and show kindness as God would have us do.

If you find happiness and seek joy, people may deceive and cheat you.

The good you do today, people often will forget tomorrow.

And if you always give your best it may not be enough for anyone who sees you as a threat.

Strive anyway, seek joy anyway and be faithful as God would have us do...

Strive anyway, seek joy anyway for it really is between your God and you!

Presbyterian Women



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sun. January 20 – PW Team Meeting – 11:45am

“Thank You’s”

The Presbyterian Women wishes to **Thank** the many people who contributed generously to the recent “Thank” offering in November.

The Presbyterian Women and the Family of Jane Howland was very appreciative to the people who organized the lovely reception.



FRIENDSHIP STUDY GROUP-Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1:30 pm

Join us in the Conference Room for refreshments at 1:30.

NEEDLES GROUP- Thursdays, Jan. 3 & 17, 1-3:00 pm

South parlor



Another way to help **SERRV**

The SERRV committee wishes to thank our members and friends for their support of struggling artisans and farmers around the world. Your support of our efforts in the shop and on special sales makes all the difference to people we have never met.

We wish to thank the Session of our Church for their commitment of space for this mission project. Also a special thank you to Edna May, Alan and Mark for answering questions, letting people into the shop and accepting boxes of freight when no one is around.

Without all of you there would be no SERRV shop in our church. Thank you for all YOUR support and **we wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.**

Reminder: The shop will be closed in January for inventory, and will reopen again in February.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On Sunday, January 21, we will receive the MLK Scholarship Fund Offering. Scholarships are given annually to support the college education of some of Geneva's finest young people of color. You'll find offering envelopes in the church pews.

From the Parish Nurse

Dear Church Family,

“If nothing ever changed, there’d be no butterflies.” – Author Unknown. Change is never easy, frequently not wanted and often, fiercely rebelled against. But, life demands that we have to constantly deal with changes or transitions. Some changes aren’t good, some changes are glorious and others, well they are just going to happen no matter what, you just have to deal with it!!!

There are numerous changes many of us have had to deal with in the past year. Some of us have lost loved ones; some of us have new babies in the family. Some of us have ended relationships and others have started new ones. Some of us have changed jobs, moved, had children leave home to start new lives on their own. Some of us have lost independence and health; others have gained better health through medical treatment. Good or bad, things change and life goes on.

I have lived through 5 church transitions, from one pastor passing the baton to another. All were a little heart wrenching, some went well, some were a little rocky and one was downright awful. But none were good, bad or awful due to the new pastor, it was due to the congregation and how they came together (or not) to embrace the new pastor and move ahead.

So how do we manage to keep some sanity with all this change going on around us? In most of the articles I’ve read, a common theme is to be optimistic. Change always brings uncertainty, but if you approach life with worry and an “it’s going to be awful” attitude, it probably will be. If, on the other hand you look ahead and say, “How can I use this change to grow, improve, and come out being better because of it?”, you might be more productive. There are some changes that are just downright bad, if that’s the case; we do our best to make it better.

But an optimistic view and willingness to at least attempt to find the positive side of a change can't hurt.

Change generally is a process of accepting the end of one thing and embracing the start of something new. For this to be successful, we need to deal with loss. Examples of loss could include: loss of a certain way of doing things, loss of a significant relationship, or loss of a significant burden. Good or bad, we need to deal with the loss or end of something in order to truly focus on anything new. This doesn't mean we can't feel sad or hurt or happy, we just need to be able to sort out our feelings toward the old ways and not project them onto new people or ideas. If you were in a bad relationship, you may not be able to trust someone new. It's not the new person's fault; you are just projecting baggage from the old relationship onto the new one.

Other ideas to help deal with change are: find time to reflect on how you feel and why, be truthful with yourself, take one day at a time, talk with a friend about how you feel, try not to be negative and really try to understand the change (don't just assume it will be bad).

The Parish Health Ministry Team is working on a Passages dealing with coping with change. We hope to have something ready soon.

Hope you all have many blessings in this New Year! As always, let me know if I can assist you or if you have any new ideas for me. My cell phone number is 315-759-9039.

*God Bless You All,
Beth*





The Memorials and History Committee recently received several donations:

In memory of **Dr. J. Richard Hart**, by Muriel Stobie.

In memory of **Alexander Davis**, by Kristin David and Diana Davis.

In memory of **Dorothy Mills**, by Muriel Stobie.

In memory of **Solvieg Cook**, by Alice Van Gorden.

In memory of **Norma Knowlton**, by Alice Van Gorden, Barbara Carragher, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lamphier and Genesee Valley Trappers Inc.

In memory of **Jane Howland**, by Patricia Melvin and Frances Sherley.



Annual Meeting /BRUNCH

January 27, 2013

During 10:30 Worship new officers will be installed. Then we'll share a delicious brunch presented by John Hovey, while we hold our annual meeting.

WATCH the bulletin for sign-up.

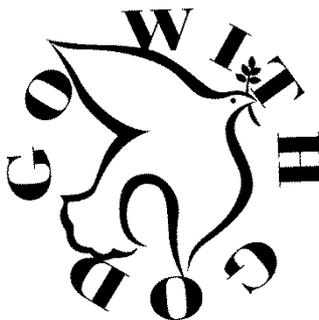
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JANUARY 25 - NOON

MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

A new year is upon us and will see the completion of the garden in the spring. The trellises and lights will be installed soon, but the winter season is delaying some plantings and the running of the fountain. Our columbarium is also delayed due to a backlog of orders at the manufacturer.

Our grateful appreciation to all of our members who have supported this project. Many niches and memorial bricks have been sold. Along with donations, the burden of the cost will be minimal.

Applications for donating to the project, for columbarium niche purchases, and for memorial bricks are available in the church office.





LECTIONARY For the Lord's Day -

JAN. 6 – Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2: 1-12

13 – Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

20 – Isa 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10; 1Cor 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**27 – Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19; 1Cor 12:12-31a;
Luke 4:14-21**



RECORDED SERVICES

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



SUZANNE – agosgo2@hotmail.com

EDNA MAY – eml22@rochester.rr.com

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

2 CENTS – A - MEAL

We will collect 2 cents offerings on JAN. 6, 2013

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



Thank You!!!

We are so grateful that we decided to check out the Presbyterian Church in Geneva on Mother's Day in 2004. We knew that we had found the right church. We have enjoyed singing in the choir, the men's gospel quartet, being on Session and Deacons and committees. As we move to Florida in January, we'll miss all of the friends we've made here. We were blessed to have been a part of this congregation for the past 8 1/2 years.

Bob and Marge Bailey

*Happy Holidays!! **Thank you** to the youth group and Deacons for the lovely plant, goodies and the angel ornament that I put right on my Christmas tree. The thoughtfulness of all of you has made my holiday time a very special one. May God bless all of you and your families during the holiday season.*

Nancy Lathey

***Thank you** for your gift to Geneva Reads, a literacy coalition that includes the Public Library, the Geneva School District, HWS, the City of Geneva, and others in the Geneva community. The objectives include raising the level of literacy in people of all ages and increasing the importance of reading and the reader in our community.*

***Thank you** from the children and families of Camp Good Days & Special Times for your generous donation. Your support allows us to continue providing our many programs and services to help improve the quality of life for children and families whose lives have been touched by cancer and other life threatening challenges.*

OCTETS

Do you know....

Seven Octets
are meeting
regularly
and enjoying their
time together!!!

*An eighth Octet may
be formed to meet
during the daytime
if enough people
are interested!!!*

Octets are doing well and there has been so much excitement as they have gotten started. Many of the groups already have eight members, but there are several open places so you can still express an interest in participating and fill a few of those spaces. And if we get enough for another group we will expand.

Also, interest has been expressed in having an Octet that meets during the daytime. So if you would be interested in such a group let us know and we will form our eighth Octet. Eight groups of eight. Wouldn't that be exciting!!

The forms for participating are on the Adult Education bulletin board. Just complete the form and give it to Edna May in the church office. Or let Ellen Reynolds or Diana Capron know of your interest.

Octets are groups of eight people who meet on an informal basis. It is hoped that the groups will develop strong ties because they are small and intimate. Because of the informality of the groups and the nature of the group interaction, the schedules of the groups are only shared within the Octet. However, those interested in a similar experience but who do not want to join an Octet are invited to participate in the Adult Forum on Sunday mornings or to come to a Let's Talk or Soup/Supper presentation. These events are publicized and everyone is invited to participate.

COME, JOIN

in one or all of the experiences that the Adult Education Committee has to offer.

JANUARY 2012 - ANNUAL REPORT

Summaries for the Annual Report are due in the church office NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 11.

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

Donations Now Accepted Online

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva has partnered with WePay, Inc. to provide us with the ability to accept electronic payments for your donation. Initially we will be accepting donations for pledges, memorial flowers, memorial contributions and per capita. For each donation you make you will be asked to provide additional information related to the donation.

The church is charged a fee for each transaction processed. When making a donation on the webpage, you will be given the opportunity to add the fee to the cost of your donation. You may enter your financial information for each transaction or you may create a WePay Account. WePay uses state of the art encryption to insure the security of your account information and is FDIC insured.

In the second column of the web page there is a small paragraph labeled with the heading, "Donations". To visit the donations page at any time follow the directions contained in that paragraph

This is all for good and necessary reasons and it will work best if it is a mutual agreement to make this change in our relationship as easy as possible on each other.

CATSUP, CORNMEAL AND COMET can help feed the hungry people of Geneva. The Community Lunch Program serves more than 70 low income people a day, a nutritious hot meal. The volunteers also provide kindness and compassion. When so many are struggling, programs like this help to fill a void.

The Community Lunch Program is in need of the following items:

Ketchup	brown sugar	grated cheese
mozzarella cheese	cornmeal	dried beans
eggs	small Corelle bowls (not cereal)	
silverware (from garage sales)	gallon freezer bags,	
Comet cleanser	heavy duty hand-held can openers	
vegetable peelers.		

Please limit your donations to those on the wish list.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

Donated items may be brought to the Methodist Church kitchen any weekday between 9-1:00. Parking is located behind the church on William St.

Van Der Kamp

Feb. 8, 9, & 10, 2012

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!

Please take note of the date (a change this year) and 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