

The Geneva Pres



JANUARY

2014

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

24 Park Place

Geneva NY 14456

(315) 789-1343

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

Deborah Lind-Schmitz - Transitional Pastor

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

PASTOR DEB'S PAGE

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

(I Corinthians 12:4 January 4th Officers' Training: The newly elected officers and current session elders and deacons will attend a training and spiritual retreat on Saturday, January 4, 2014. Because of the size of the session of ruling elders and board of deacons, there will be two separate retreat times. The deacons will meet in the morning and elders in the afternoon. We will meet in the Presbyterian Church's conference room. What will we do? First, we will discuss the call and responsibilities of elected officers of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Second, the group will have the opportunity to strategize, envision and plan for the coming year. Third, those who are newly elected and current classes of elders and deacons will have an opportunity to communicate their ideas to one another. All throughout the training, we will prayerfully consider the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12).

As the New Year begins, I invite all members to consider the ways you feel united and unique. Just for fun, what part of the Body of Christ are you? Metaphorically, are you the ears, eyes, hands or heart? Now when do you feel united or connected to one another? The Apostle Paul believed the Spirit, in which we are baptized is what unites us. *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. (I Corinthians 13:12-13)*

The Body of Christ is the community of believers. According to Paul, all of us are equal members in God's eyes although we have different roles as teachers, ministers, deacons, etc. In general, our tasks are to instruct, inspire, reach out, love and encourage each other. What if every member made New Year's resolutions to build up the Body?

May God's Spirit unite and inspire us in 2014,

Pastor Deb



CELEBRATION OF SUZANNE'S MINISTRY

On Sunday January 5th we will celebrate Suzanne's ministry. Due to health concerns she will be unable to continue in her role as our Parish Associate. She and Alan will continue living in Geneva and attending our church as they able. Please stop after either service to thank and celebrate with her. There will be a cake after the 10:30 service.

Suzanne and Alan lived in Geneva in the early 1970's when he was at the Cornell Experiment Station. They fell in love with the area, but work took them back to Illinois. They came back a number of times to visit Geneva. They always felt "at home" in Geneva and hoped one day to retire here.

Suzanne started her career out as a librarian prior to attending the seminary in Louisville. She was ordained in 1986 and served as chaplin for a hospice and a hospital emergency room. She was called as pastor to the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Danville, Illinois for 13 years. Upon her retirement they returned to live in Geneva in 2005. Suzanne became our Parish Associate after Nancy Birdsong took a call to a church in New Jersey. We have been blessed to have her in this position and she will be missed, but has offered to help out in any way she is able in the future.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to a charity in Suzanne's honor may do so to her and Alan's favorite, the Marion Medical Mission/Shallow Well Project. It is a wonderful project that builds wells in African communities and is responsible for curtailing water born diseases in these communities. Information on the charity can be found in the church office.

Take Note



Exploring “Glory to God”

“Soon and Very Soon” – hymn 384 “Glory to God”

*Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.*

“*Soon and Very Soon*” expresses the hope of God’s kingdom with assurance and joy. Music and text were written in 1976 by gospel singer Andrae Crouch. This African-American gospel hymn reminds us that God’s reign and kingdom are present now.

The scriptural reference is to John’s vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21: 3-4.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

As you explore our new hymnal, please note all the information that is included. Author, composer, scriptural references, meter, and a few sentences about each hymn can be found. There are also numerous indexes in the back of the hymnal. “*Soon and Very Soon*” is a hymn of joy and hope and is now included in more than 25 other English-language hymnals.

Some information taken from Adam Copeland’s article on the hymn from “Presbyterians Today”-- December 2013.

Faithfully, Chris Wertman

From the Parish Nurse

Dear Church Family,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!! So how many of you have picked out New Year resolutions? How many of you have broken them already? Did some of you pick out resolutions and then “modify” them because you figured you’d never be able to keep them anyway? (That would be me.) I find that people who set reasonable goals for themselves, and are serious about changing their diet, habits, lifestyle, etc, are more apt to do this well with accountability partners. Weight Watchers and AA are two groups who have huge success rates due to the support from, and accountability to, other group members. No matter how large or small the task is, if you have someone who you know is checking up on you, it is easier to say NO!! to that triple-decker fudge brownie with chocolate sprinkles and whip cream on top. You know that when your accountability partner sees you step on the scale, they will know it was not the carrot sticks you said you were snacking on that added those extra lbs.!!! If you are really serious about changing something in your life that is a problem, I would strongly encourage you to either join a group or ask someone you trust, (that is firm but forgiving) to check in with you at least once a week to see how things are going and help you achieve your goal.

Another idea for breaking bad habits is not being “me” focused. Many bad habits we pick up are due to us trying to find ways to deal with our own worry or depression. Smoking and drinking too much can be a result of “me” issues. “I need to smoke, drink, eat comfort food for me to feel better” is what we tell ourselves. (I have yet to find anyone whose situation improved from these habits.) If we can change our thoughts to “I shouldn’t smoke, drink too much, eat too much because it will hurt my loved ones”, we are then moving the emphasis off of “me” and on to others. Shifting from an all about me to an all about helping others mindset can help people move away from unhealthy behaviors because they are doing it for someone else. When you help someone else you feel better about yourself. When you feel better about yourself it is easier to take care of yourself.

Above all, God is our greatest “accountability partner.” Pray for help in achieving your goal, asking someone to pray with or for you and focusing on God’s plan for you can be your best help of all. Call me if you have questions or need help, 315 759 9039.

God Bless, *Beth*



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

This year's theme is BEES AND TREES.

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

CONGRATULATIONS – Hannah Burrall, Erin Equinozzi,
Kim Oswald, Prashanta Augustine – were inducted into the GHS
Honor Society



JANUARY 13, 2014, 7:00

CAMPBELL'S SOUP UPC CODES

Please save your UPC CODES

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

to benefit Geneva Head Start

2 CENTS – A - MEAL

We will collect 2 cents offerings on JAN. 5

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

January Youth Fellowship 6th-12th Graders



Family Fun Night

When: January 12th

What: Come in and enjoy an afternoon of good company, food, and games. We will also discuss and brainstorm ideas for the spring youth fellowship.

When: 4:00-5:00 (Games)

5:00-5:45 (Eat)

5:45-6:30 (discuss Mission trip and other
Spring ideas)

Who: Parents and Youth. We will provide soup. Please bring a dish to pass.

Please RSVP to pjfoote25@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 7th so we can get an accurate head count. Please RSVP to Lauren Lamb either by email nylams@gmail.com or phone 789-6589 to let her know what dish you will be bringing to pass.

REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR VANDERKAMP!!!!

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!!!!**

Presbyterian Women



Upcoming Events:

January 19, at 11:45 - PW Team Meeting will meet in the
Conference room.

THANKS to everyone who supported the Women's Organization
by helping at the Bake Sales and Receptions and for their many
donations this past year. It was very much appreciated. Happy
Holidays to one and all!



FRIENDSHIP BIBLE STUDY GROUP- Tuesday, 14, 1:30
Read Chapter 5 – God Provides

NEEDLES GROUP- Thursday, 16, 1:00
South parlor



Deacons

During our December meeting, we filled big Christmas bags with fresh fruit, homemade cookies, brownies, candy, snack mix and a lovely flowering plant for our home bound and shut-in members. Thanks to everyone for the special treats! The youth group made snowmen magnets to be included as a special decoration. AND thanks also to Suzanne and Alan for hosting the deacons get together following our meeting!

A big **THANK YOU** to the deacons who are rotating off the board at the end of the year for the special ministries and talents you have shared with the congregation. We will miss your presence each month.

Also at our meeting, Britt Penta from the nominating committee reported a full slate of deacons who have agreed to serve starting in January.

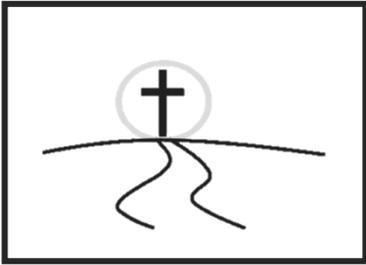
For the class of 2017: Faith Benedict, Steve Cottrell, Heather DeMoras, Susan Henderson, Lorraine Jones, Mary Ellen Schreher and Connie Van Gordon.

Serving for a one year term for the class of 2015: Richard Henderson.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and blessed new year!



SERRV will be closed for the month of January.



A Journey of Faith

Adult Sunday Morning Forum

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in South
Parlor

All Welcome

Jan. 5 Carol Sing Join singing a few favorite carols in the Fellowship Hall and learn a bit about a couple that we sing each year. The more the merrier!

Living the Questions

This DVD series features noted religious commentators and scholars addresses topics for 21st Century Christians. Guided discussion follows.

Jan. 12 Kingdom Without Walls: Can there be a Kingdom without barriers that separate us? The good news of the gospel tells of a radical hospitality where boundaries, barriers, and walls are overcome by a grace that knows no bounds.

Jan. 19 Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision. In a society which is often unjust, inequitable, we are compelled to pursue social justice as an expression of hope in realizing a better world.

Jan. 26 Incarnation: Divinely Human. The meaning of incarnation is debated. While most often associated with Jesus, it can be understood when it includes Jesus' followers, called like Jesus, to en flesh the Spirit in divinely human ways.

PRAYER: a study

In a recent article in the New York Times (Oct. 15, 2013) by T. M. Luhrmann entitled “Conjuring Up Our Own Gods”, Mr. Luhrmann writes about prayer in this way. “Many churchgoers will tell you that keeping God real is what’s hard. Pastors often preach as if they are teaching people how to keep God constantly in mind, because it is so easy not to pray, to let God’s presence slip away. But when prayer works, people experience God as alive.”

Mr. Luhrmann continues by saying, “The idea of an invisible agent is basic to our psyche. Experiencing an invisible companion as truly present ... takes work: constant concentration, a state that resembles prayer.” For us as true Christians, our prayers to God keep God alive, a companion in our living and a friend in hard times.

Lent is a time to look inward spiritually; a time to augment faith with personal meditation. The Lenten Bible study this year will explore many aspects of prayer – the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. There will be six sessions exploring the spiritual aspects of prayer including our personal relationship to prayer. These sessions will explore (1) Who is the object of prayer? (2) What is prayer? (3) When do we incorporate prayer? (4) Where do we pray? (5) How do we pray and (6) Why do we want to pray? Each class will build on the previous sessions so it is suggested that you try to attend all sessions. Opportunities for prayer will be a part of each evening as we explore our personal relationship with God through prayer.

This Lenten Prayer Study will be on Friday evenings beginning March 7. The final class will take place on April 11. A soup dinner will be provided by class participants. The dinner starts at 6 pm followed by the study at 7 pm. The study is usually completed by 8 pm. Save these dates on your calendars so that you can participate in this study, enjoy the companionship of fellow congregation members, and develop a new understanding of the power of prayer.

**SAVE THE DATES!!
FRIDAY EVENINGS
MARCH 7-APRIL 11, 2014**



Epiphany *Feast*

JANUARY 5, 2014

5:30 pm

We will celebrate a candlelight dinner, singing, and a procession of the Magi as we hear their story from Scripture.

Turkey, ham, rolls, drinks and dessert are provided.

Please bring a side dish. **Watch** the bulletin.



JANUARY 26, 2014

New officers will be installed during the 10:30 Worship. Then we'll share a delicious brunch while we hold our annual meeting.

WATCH the bulletins for sign-up.

Session of Ruling Elders Training and Spiritual Retreat

Saturday, January 4,

**9:00 am-11:30 am - Board of Deacons Training and
Spiritual Retreat**

Noon-3:30 pm - Session Elders

Lunch will be provided-Please RSVP



Dear Friends,

If you haven't yet returned your 2014 pledge card, it's not too late in these early days of January to get it to the church office.

We realize Christmas, New Year's Day and Epiphany are busy times with family and friends, and that your pledge may be in that "to do" stack at home.

If you haven't yet made a pledge commitment for 2014, we invite you to join others who are including the Presbyterian Church in Geneva in their charitable giving budget. Your ongoing support allows the church to continue its ministry to our congregation, as well as provide a critical presence of outreach and hope in Geneva and beyond.

If you need a replacement pledge card, please call the church office at 789-1343. After prayerfully completing your card, you may mail or drop it off in the office, place it in the collection plate, or call the Financial Administrator, Alan Schenck.

Already returned your pledge? **Thank you, thank you!**

Happy New Year!

The Interpretation and Stewardship Committee



THANK YOU!!!

Blood drives are a critical component of the American Red Cross' mission to save lives. We appreciate your willingness to provide a blood donation center. One blood donation can help save the lives of three different people, and the lifesaving contributions that were made at your location will benefit your friends and neighbors across the Finger Lakes region. THANK YOU!!

RECORDED SERVICES

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



PASTOR DEB – deblindschmitz@pcgny.org

EDNA MAY – eml22@rochester.rr.com

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
JANUARY 17 – NOON**



The Memorials and History Committee recently received several donations:

In memory of Stan Hamling, by Lucille and Donald Stewart of Geneva.

In memory of Ralph Aten, by Lucile and Donald Stewart and Andy and Jan Rao of Geneva.

In memory of Laura Clise, by Joann Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. William DeFederico of Geneva.

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