



# GENEVA RADIANT

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road

Potomac, MD 20854

301-424-4346

www.genevapotomac.org



“Four steps to achievement: Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently.” –William Arthur Ward



Dear Friends,

In his book *A Thirty-Day Experiment in Prayer*, Robert Wood includes this prayer:

Father God,

Why is it that I think I must get somewhere, assume some position, be gathered together, or separated apart in the quiet of my study to pray?

Why is it that I feel that I have to go somewhere or do some particular act to find You, reach You, and talk with You?

Your presence is here

In the city – on the busy bus, in the factory, in the cockpit of the airplane; in the hospital – in the patients' rooms, in the intensive care unit, in the waiting room; in the home – at dinner, in the bedroom, in the family room, at my workbench; in the car – in the parking lot, at the stoplight.

Lord, reveal Your presence to me everywhere, and help me become aware of Your presence each moment of the day.

May Your presence fill the non-answers, empty glances, and lonely times of my life.  
Amen.

As we begin 2013, the most important resolution we can make is to spend more time with the Lord. The amazing thing is that if we look for signs that God is present, we will see evidence everywhere. When things go wrong, we quickly ask where God is. We have the habit of only looking for God in tragedy, but not in the miracles of every day.

For 2013, I challenge you to look for the presence of God with new eyes. We will see a new world.

In Christ, **Reverend Anne**





### NOTES FROM JOHN WIDMANN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

It was wonderful celebrating Christmas with Geneva! With this festival behind me, I have completed nearly a year of employment at Geneva. I started about mid-way through Lent in 2012. Thank you for bearing with me when I have not known what your traditions and customs were. I have truly enjoyed this year, and I look forward to many more.



I am really proud of the effort and the beautiful music that our three choirs offered to the Glory of God in the Advent and Christmas seasons. We had a successful concert on December 16th, and a beautiful set of Christmas Eve Services on December 24th, also featuring all three choirs. It is an honor to work with such a talented and dedicated small group of volunteer musicians.



As we move through Epiphany and toward Lent, I look forward to completing my first Liturgical Year here at Geneva. Keep singing along with us!



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



For the most up-to-date announcements about youth activities, please read the weekly "Word on Wednesday" email, sent by DCE Scott Roby. Until then, however, here is a sneak preview of events for January:

- **Sunday, Jan. 6 – Epiphany Sunday!** Sunday School starts up again! Confirmation Information session after worship!
- **Friday, Jan. 11 – Friday Night Light begins!** Our theme: *gifts...and White Elephants...*
- **Sunday, Jan. 20 – Youth Mission Trip organizational meeting** right after worship. Later, at 5:00 p.m. – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Cinema/Movie Night with another Presbyterian youth group!
- **Friday, Jan. 25, time TBS – Friday Night Light** and a *special service project...*

### Faith Seeking Understanding: Christian Education in 2013, Starting January 6<sup>th</sup>!

*First, here is a preview of our winter Sunday School program for children, youth and adults:*

- **Adult Bible Study (Fireside Room, 9:30 a.m.):** We begin "Readings from the Lectionary." Discussions will focus on the scriptural passages for worship that day, with an emphasis on their relevance to our Presbyterian identity. Teachers: Dianne Whitaker, Carl Perthel, Elaine Brasted, and Scott Roby.
- **Sunday School for children and youth (Grades PreK – 12)** begins after meeting for the "Time for Young Disciples" in worship each Sunday.

- **Pre-Confirmation/Credo Class news (Grades 5 – 8):** Our class on **January 6th:** “*What is Confirmation All About?*”
- **NOTE! We will have a special Confirmation information session for students in Grades 8 and 10, and their parents, immediately after worship on January 6th!**
- **Note #2: For the Young Adult Class (Grades 9 – college):** We will attend worship on the first Sunday of each month. Thus, there will be no Sunday School for these classes on February 3 and March 3, 2013. You *will* meet for Sunday School on January 6th!

Second, for our Christian Education Ministry team:



- The CE Ministry team now meets on a quarterly basis. Our next gathering will be **January 27, 2013**. *Topics will include: planning for the winter/spring semester; Holy Week activities; a Lenten adult Bible or film study; Confirmation plans; and youth group review.*

### **2013 Mission Trip News**

- *To any interested participants: LAST CALL!* We have two spaces (out of twelve) left: a spot for one youth and one adult (male) chaperone. If you would like to join us, please give Scott Roby a **deposit check for \$50**, made out to “Geneva Presbyterian Church” with the memo line, “Youth Mission Trip 2013,” ASAP!
- Our first organizational meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 20**, immediately after worship.
- *To the congregation, two notes:*
  - (1) Our next major fundraiser will be the annual (and delectable) “**Superbowl Subs!**” we’ll prepare them on Saturday morning, February 2 and distribute them on Sunday, February 3 after worship. Watch for special order forms (from the Sankeys) in upcoming issues of the Sunday Bulletin!
  - (2) We need your help! We have a small but dedicated group of Mission Trippers this year: eight youth and two adults (to date) have signed up to help with home repairs for the elderly in **Smithsburg, Maryland from June 16 - 22, 2013**. As we approach that date, the group will need your help in three ways: your prayers; your financial support (by contributing to one of many fundraisers to be held over the next six months); and, your time (still need one more adult chaperone!). If you can help us out, please contact either Scott Roby or Sara Sankey!



### **GENEVA DAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from student and staff friends of Geneva Day School! We wish you, your families, and the Church family the very best in 2013, and hope that it is the best year ever!

The Day School had a very busy though short December. “Little Elves” were working in all classes to prepare holiday gifts, cards, wrapping paper and more for their parents. There were two all-school Holiday Sings, with Ms. Eads playing the piano and a professional violinist father performing. All classes had performances and parties to which family members were invited, including the spectacular Kindergarten

Class Holiday Program for the entire school. One of the joys of being Director is to be able to Party Hop among all the special events (16 in all!) during this period and visit with parents and grandparents. I happily did this!

During the Winter Break, Geneva conducted two fabulous winter camps for students and other young children who needed supervised and fun recreational activities. These enrichment camps are always a welcomed resource for working families.

The sad school shooting tragedy in Connecticut last month generated lots of discussion and concerns among Geneva staff. The School will be reexamining its practices to strengthen security measures in January, and will be working with church officials to coordinate additional measures. We appreciate your thoughts, as well, as we think about and work together on this project. Your ideas are very important.

January and the New Year bring lots of activities for the School, including the GPA's Ice Skating Party on January 12 at Cabin John's rink, parent seminars on "Positive Discipline" (presented by PEP) and using the county's early intervention programs (presented by school and county staff), a professional day with training, and preparation for a second Monarch Butterfly seminar at the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education in early February, among other events.

The School always enjoys volunteers for reading, one-on-one work, and other activities, and Church Friends are certainly welcomed! Just let us know if you would like to be a part of the fun in your School!

Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



### **MISSION NEWS**

On December 8th Geneva volunteers prepared meals for 65 guests at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen. Thank you to all who contributed the many wonderful gifts and wrappings for Martha's Table in D.C. The gifts were given to families in need. A special thanks to Doris and Jim Williamson for delivering the gifts.

### ***"Caroling For Cans"***

Nine brave, jingle-belled souls went into the damp and dreary neighborhood on December 9 to participate in the first ever "Caroling for Cans" Christmas event. The church neighbors had received a flier the week before - inviting participation by placing canned food items on their front porches. All neighbors who had placed a donated food item would receive a visit from the Christmas carolers. The event aimed to capture the essence of the season through singing, friendship, and community kindness.



Familiar, friendly neighbors such as Renee, Rosie, Carl and Reverend Anne provided several full bags of food that aided in stocking the local food bank. After the Christmas caroling and food collection, the group returned to the church to thaw with a warm cup of hot chocolate and cookies. All agreed, we will make some revisions in the activity, but we definitely want to do the activity again next year.

**'WE GATHER TOGETHER'.....**

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known'  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing  
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not his own.**

No one knows who the author of this hymn was, but we can trace it to the Netherlands in the first quarter of the seventeenth century. The Dutch were praying for freedom from Spanish oppression. One Dutch city after another had been captured and sacked by the Spanish armies. Many citizens had been exiled.

But a few years later, the Spanish overlords were being driven out. Night was ending; the dawn was coming. This hymn was written to give thanks for the victory that was almost in sight. For these Dutch believers, "the wicked oppressing", were the Spaniards, who would "now cease from distressing." There was no doubt that God should receive the glory for the victory.

**Life is often like that. The victory may still be around the corner. But that should not keep us from giving thanks. For Holland, a golden age of prosperity—of world exploration, or artists like Rembrandt, and scientists like Leeuwenhock—was only a few decades away. And blessings like these are merely a foretaste of what God has for us in the future.**

Reprinted from "The Complete Book of Hymns" by William J. Petersen and Ardythe Petersen.



***BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS***

Please say a special prayer for the Geneva members celebrating a birthday this month.

1/5	Sheena Galliani	1/18	Amanda White
1/6	Bob Ricci	1/20	Terry Shima
1/7	Claire Wilson	1/22	Howard Behrhorst
1/7	Kyle Wilson	1/24	Reverend Anne Benefield
1/8	Rosalie Ruff	1/25	Kee-Cheok Cheong
1/10	Henry Haller (turning 90!)	1/25	Carole Haller
1/17	Janice Mueller	1/28	Jim Dickson
1/17	Sara Torrence	1/28	Ruth Nunn



## Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2013*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2013*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 13, 2013*
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance, *January 21, 2013*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2013*

January 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

## For the new year.....

- H**old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- P**ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- P**ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

- N**eglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
- E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- Y**ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
- E**xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- A**im for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
- R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols

## RADIANT DEADLINE

The deadline for the February 2013 Radiant will be Sunday, January 27, with publication on February 3. Please send your news and articles to Marie Smith, [hamblehants@yahoo.com](mailto:hamblehants@yahoo.com), by January 27th. Thanks.



**Reverend Anne E. Benefield  
Geneva Presbyterian Church  
11931 Seven Locks Road  
Potomac, Maryland 20854**