



2013

GENEVA RADIANT

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road

Potomac, MD 20854

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www.genevapotomac.org



“We are only fully alive when we’re helping others.” – Rick Warren



Dear Friends,

In his book *Something Beautiful for God*, Malcolm Muggeridge begins the story of Mother Teresa with these words:

“I ran away and stayed away; Mother Teresa moved in and stayed. That was the difference.”

The whole book is inspiring, but for me that first sentence is the most powerful.

In America today we seem to be a people of short attention spans and limited staying power. Protestant churches and volunteer non-profits around the country are struggling with the symptoms of today’s short-term approach to life. It’s easiest to get people to help for a one-day project, not regular weekly or monthly commitments.

At Geneva, we don’t seem to be struggling with this as much as many churches. We are blessed with young families who are jumping in to help all around the church. I know it is hard to find time with work and families to support, but our families and individuals are stepping up.

Being part of the choir is a huge commitment to practicing every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Young parents have stepped up to lead the children’s choir, allowing us to have a youth choir as well. Parent volunteers are supporting Scott Roby’s youth programs.

We have marvelous teachers for all of our Christian education classes for every age group. I would say that our adult classes are as good as any church anywhere!

As any parent knows, children are quick to complain, but my son, Johnny, told me not long ago that he loves his high school class led by Carl Perthel, Mark Allen, and Nick Owens. He said, “Where else

could I get the chance to talk with outstanding men about real life and making good decisions?”

Our Deacons provide loving care for the church family and keep things running smoothly by ushering, counting the offering, setting up the sanctuary, and greeting all who come.

Elders serve as chairpersons for the committees of the church, providing financial, worship, and educational leadership. They are responsible with the pastor for equipping the saint – that means YOU – for service in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Over the years, the most devoted volunteers have been members of the Geneva Presbyterian Women. They have raised money for mission and for the renovating of the fireside room, kitchen, and founders’ room. They have organized receptions for church events and funerals. They organize the flowers in the sanctuary and for special seasons.

One person has moved in and stayed at Geneva for so many years. She has served in every office of the church and on every committee and board. She is here almost every day taking care of the details. It is Doris Murray.

Doris is moving to New Jersey to be near her daughter. I can’t image Geneva without her, but she has made every effort to organize the tasks she is leaving behind. I have treasured Doris. Knowing she would be embarrassed to stand in front of the congregation and be regaled, I’ve chosen this small note to say, “Thank you, Doris.” We will always remember you and your generosity. Godspeed to your next church home!

In Christ,
Reverend Anne



TO THE GENEVA DAY SCHOOL !

Forty-eight years ago, some wise parents got together to create a co-operative for childcare at Geneva. Today that program has grown into the best preschool and kindergarten in the county, maybe the country! We are blessed with the opportunity to provide for the school and they have blessed us, too.



Most recently, the Day School painted and refurbished the William A. Gibson Founder's Room. The inviting beige paint opens up the room, making it seem more welcoming. They have put new molding on the walls, adding beauty and practicality since a matte paint is used above the molding and a more easily cleaned paint below.

The project was completed in time for Easter Sunday. The School also provided a glorious flower arrangement for our most holy day.

When you have a chance, please stop by or send a thank you note to Suzanne Funk, the Day School Director, for this generous and timely gift.

In Christ, Reverend Anne



EXECUTIVE REPORT, from Jim Harris

Financial Report, Stewardship and Budget:
Opening Prayer: Rev. Anne

Treasurer's Report: Amanda White

- January 2013 Report – committee discussed and approved with adjustments

Stewardship Report: Ken Denaburg

- Discussed weekly accounting procedures

Building and Grounds: Tom Maxwell

- Manse Remodeling continues

New Business:

- Received a \$40k check from the Day School for our reserve fund
- Received a \$5k check from the Day School for the C.E. fund

Old Business:

- Postponed discussion of ecobeco Manse energy audit report – Tom

Closing Prayer: Reverend Anne

Next Meeting: April 8, 2013



SESSION REPORT, from Larry Blim

Session met on March 18 at 7:15 pm in the Founders Room. In lieu of a Study of the Word of God, Reverend Anne opened the meeting with a Tenebrae

Communion service just like the one she gave to the Confirmation class. The service, which is held in a darkened room lit only by candles ("Tenebrae" means "darkness" in Latin) tells the story of Holy Week. Readings and a

variety of objects that are passed around make the meaning of the service very clear and powerful. At the conclusion of the service, Communion was shared by all present. Following the service, Reverend Anne opened the

meeting with prayer and a call to worship.

In her Moderator's Report, Rev. Anne presented a list of committee chairs, which Session approved. Session also approved another term of office for Amanda White as Treasurer and Larry Blim as Clerk of Session. Jim Harris, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported that the Treasurer's report was still being finalized and therefore was not available for Session review or approval. Remodeling of the manse continues. Dianne Whitaker, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, reported that Sunday school attendance continues to vary each week, as usual for Spring, and is currently averaging about 34 students per week, compared with a weekly average last Fall of 26 students.

The Confirmation class contains 8 students and 6 mentors. Confirmands are scheduled to meet with Session on May 20 to be "examined," present their faith statements, and enjoy some pizza with the Elders. The Youth Mission trip is scheduled for June 16-22 in Smithsburg, Maryland.

Carole Jelsema, Chair of the Worship and Music Committee, was absent but submitted a report stating that, with the exception of the youth chimes, all Geneva music groups are now meeting and performing regularly. All groups can use more members; see John Widmann if you or your child has any interest in singing with a choir. Rev. Anne reported that Geneva Day School had a successful silent auction and is considering one or two projects to honor Geneva as

it celebrates its 50th anniversary beginning this September. Registration for fall classes remains strong. For the Diaconate, Wendy Propst reported that the Family Groups are being updated. Rosie Perthel, Chair of the Mission Committee, reported that committee goals for 2013 include continuing the mission at The Lord's Table; participating in mission day work for adults or families, e.g. at the National Center for Children and Families; planning at least one new mission activity per quarter in 2013; and incorporating Earth Care activities into Geneva's mission, mindset, and vision. Judy Stiles is now the committee Communications Director.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:00 pm.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, from Scott Roby



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 April:

- Week of April 1 – 7: No youth group events.
- Friday, April 12: Friday Night Light! "Final Four Fajitas"? Return of the "Blue Kooshie" Hunt? Stay tuned...
- Sunday, April 14: Youth Mission Trip planning meeting #3.
- Sunday, April 21: Dual service projects for the Youth Mission Trippers and the Confirmation Class! (see email announcements for further information).
- Friday, April 26 – Saturday, April 27: Confirmation Overnight Retreat at the church – "Exploring Other Faith Traditions."
- Sunday, April 28: (tentative) continuation of Youth Mission trip service project for the church.

Confirmation News

Our new 2013 Confirmation Class and their mentors will enjoy an overnight retreat this month (entitled “Exploring Other Faith Traditions” and featuring a series of field trips to other churches, temples, mosques and synagogues). The students also begin preparations of their faith statements, which will be presented, to the Session on May 20. The Confirmands will join the church in a very special ceremony on June 2, 2013.



The Christian Education Ministry team humbly asks for your prayers for the following eight students and their six mentors:

- Conor Cetola (mentor: Carl Perthel)
- Steven Dunne (mentor: Floyd Cox)
- Ludivine Komliapoe (mentor: Janelle Thibau)
- Bri Millet (mentor: Rosie Perthel)
- Miles Millet (mentor: Scott Roby)
- Toni Millet (mentor: Rosie Perthel)
- Avery Sprinkle (mentor: Sara Sankey)
- Kaitlyn Stiles (mentor: Sara Sankey)

Faith Seeking Understanding: Christian Education for the Spring, 2013

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

- Adult Bible Study (Fireside Room, 9:30 a.m.): We continue to read and understand The Gospel According to Luke. Teachers: Dianne Whitaker, Carl Perthel, 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, except for the Confirmation Class (which meets during worship, except on the fourth Sunday of the month). The children’s and youth grades are as follows:
 - Nursery (ages 3 and under)
 - PreKindergarten – Grade 1
 - Grades 2 – 4
 - Grades 5 – 7
 - Confirmation (Grades 8 – 10)
 - Young Adult Class/Sr. High (Grades 11 – 12) and college
- Confirmation Topics for this month: “The Sacraments – Baptism and Communion” (April 7); “Being Presbyterian 101 – Five Basic Ideas” (April 14); “Stewardship” and a service project with Rosie Perthel (April 21); “Exploring Other Faith Traditions” (April 26 – 27).
- Note: For the Young Adult Class (Grades 9 – college): We will attend worship on the first Communion Sunday of each month. Thus, there will be no Sunday School for your class on April 7 or May 5, 2013.

Second, for our Christian Education Ministry team:

- The CE Ministry team now meets on a quarterly basis. Our next gathering will not be until June 23, 2013.

2013 Mission Trip News

- To the trip participants: Our next organizational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14, immediately after the Second Sunday Lunch (and worship).

- To the congregation, two notes:

(1) Future fun-raisers (deliberate spelling) will include:

- **Sunday, April 14:** The Trippers will bus the plates and wash the dishes for the Second Sunday lunch...tips are greatly appreciated!
- **Sunday, April 21 and Sunday, April 28:** Sponsor a bench renewal! That's right! Pledge some money to the bench of your choice (there are four of them) in the Founder's Room as we repaint them!
- **Tuesday, April 23** – "Dine Out" Night at Rockland's Barbecue (20% of all proceeds from 4 – 9 p.m. that day will be applied towards the Mission trip! Tell your friends!)
- **Coming in May:** a Parent's Night Out on May 10th (see article below); another "dine out" events at the Grilled Oyster Company; and the return of the Silent Auction (set for Sunday, May 19th – see article below).



(2) We need your help in other ways! We have a small but dedicated group of Mission Trippers this year: seven youth and three 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 mentioned above; and your financial support by providing scholarship money to a youth participant. We only need to raise approximately \$2500 by June 9th. If you can help us out, please contact either Scott Roby or Sara Sankey ASAP!



The Return of Parents' Night Out: May 10th!

Back by popular demand! And just in time for Mother's Day weekend! The Middle School and Sr. High youth of Geneva Presbyterian Church's Summer Mission Trip will host another Parent's Night Out event on Friday, May 10, 2013! Parents: Drop off your little ones (ages 4 – 9, and potty-trained, please!) from 5 - 8 p.m. for an evening of games, crafts, a short film, and plenty of good food! While we are taking care of your children, you can enjoy a quiet night. For more information, contact Director of Christian Education Scott Roby at the church, 301-424-4346, or at scottrobiwan@earthlink.net.

May 19th: THE SILENT AUCTION IS COMING!!!



We have moved the date of the Youth Mission Trip Silent Auction from May 5th to **May 19th** so that you, the congregation, have more time to think about great and unique items you would like to donate! In December 2009, for the last Mission Trip Auction, members contributed such items as: a weekend stay at beach house; an autographed Washington Redskins' football; babysitting services; a full-course Thai meal and dinner party; music lessons; yard care; antique collectibles...you name it! The Auction is going to happen before and after worship on Sunday, May 19th (also the last day of Sunday School for the spring semester). We will need your donations by May 1st at the latest. Please help – and contact Scott Roby for more details!



GENEVA DAY SCHOOL, from Suzanne Funk

Geneva Day School enjoyed its recent Spring Break, as both staff and students welcomed the chance to spend time with families and take mini-vacations. We are now back at

school and will be very busy during the final two months of the year.

During March, staff have been busy with the normal schedules of school: circle times, center times, snack and recess, story times,

flannel board stories, music/movement, art, field trips and/or cultural programs and more! Now, staff are busy assessing students and preparing for the end-of-the-year parent conferences, Earth Day, Field Day, spring field

trips (including singing at the Bowie Baysox Game on April 17 – Come along!), and preparing for Mother’s Day.

The Geneva Parents’ Association sponsored an amazing Silent Auction with the theme of “Genevaopoly.” It was a very fun night with School and Church friends, food and frenzied bidding! Proceeds benefited the Geneva Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who were able to attend or support the Auction.

The School consulted with church staff, the Executive Committee, and

the Women’s Group regarding a facelift of the Founders’ Room. Now that the door to the sanctuary is finished, as ordered by the Fire Marshall, the room needed some paint and other work. The School wanted it refreshed and ready for Easter Sunday, so that you could enjoy its renewal on that special day! We hope you like it!

Geneva Summer Camp for Young Children is just around the corner, so keep Geneva in mind for your own children or grandchildren! It begins June 3 for nine one-week sessions. Register children, 2-6 years, with Amanda White in the School Office

at 301-340-7704 or on-line at www.genevadayschool.org in the Camp File.

The BIG news of the past month was the “world premiere” of the new Geneva Day School promotional video at the Auction. It was well received and Blasted to all “friends” from the school already. Soon it will be put up on the revised web-site, too. Watch for it and look for some adorable children! The staff and parents interviewed are great, too. Enjoy this, as well!

Happy Easter Season from your Geneva Day School Friends!

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, John Widmann



We had a great month in March, with six anthems from the Geneva choir on Palm Sunday, March 24. The Geneva Bell choir performed two pieces on March 10, and another two on Easter. The Geneva choir provided three anthems on Easter, and we got to hear Caroline McCue, our fabulous guest trumpeter on Easter, too.



We also heard from both of our newly divided youth choirs in March, on the 17th! Our younger children did a rousing version of "Father Abraham", which pleased me greatly! It was so much fun playing for them! Our older children performed with the Geneva Choir, singing an anthem, "Be in My Seeing" by Wayne Wold, a Maryland native. Both of our Youth choirs will offer their voices to us again on Mothers Day, May 12. We continue to welcome more children to join us. The children rehearse BEFORE church on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays, from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Those upcoming Sundays are: April 14 and 28, and the day that they sing, May 12. The children will sing again on June 2, Music Appreciation Sunday, and will rehearse on May 26 before that date. Keep singing along!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Carole Jelsema is busy moving house this week so there is no report from the Worship Committee. Some important dates discussed at the Worship Committee meeting were:

- April 21 Earth Day celebration – special music
- April 28 Geneva Day School appreciation of Geneva Church. Gift to school of Founder’s Room refurbishing
- May 12 Mother’s Day breakfast

- May 19 Presbyterian Heritage. Blessing of the Kirk with guest piper!
- June 2 Music Appreciation. Confirmands special ceremony.
- June 9 Picnic at Cabin John Park



MISSION COMMITTEE, from Judy Stiles

The Mission Committee is open to anyone interested in working on projects that contribute to the betterment of God's creation. The possibilities for involvement are virtually endless. Whether looking to be an environmental steward, a monetary contributor, or an active advocate to give a hand-up to those in need, there is a place for anyone that is looking for a greater good. The Committee meets every third Sunday immediately following the church service.

The Mission Committee gives voice to our values and practices as a church and offers us the opportunity to practice our faith experientially. Often we tend to think of the Mission Committee as an outreach effort to those faced with disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and devastating famine. And this is an important part of our mission work. However, there is



also the need to serve those within our community, and often within our church. Frequently, we define the needy as those who are economically deprived but perhaps we want to expand our definition of needy. Perhaps, the neediest are those who are deprived of inner peace, love, acceptance and spiritual richness of a greater connectivity to love.

The Mission Committee will always work to serve our neighbors who are deprived of basic needs such as food and shelter. But it can also serve non-judgmentally, offering acceptance and support to all of those in need. As Christians, we are called to care for the needy; however, why not expand and take the opportunity to build spiritual moments throughout our daily itinerary? No doubt, a peaceful attitude won't solve the world's problems, but it often can make the difference in someone's world.



COFFEE, TEA, COOKIES? HELP NEEDED!

We are still desperately searching for someone to take over arranging servers for Sunday coffee hour! We cannot expect the same person to do it indefinitely. If you want to continue having refreshments on Sundays then someone needs to offer to organize volunteers. Please help us out by calling Rhonda Ricci at 301-762-7022. Your offer will be very much appreciated.



MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS WANTED

Geneva has been delivering Meals on Wheels for many, many years. We are looking for two people to take over the Bethesda route. The delivery day is the 2nd Thursday of each month. It takes no more than 2 hours to complete the deliveries. You are bringing lunch and dinner to residents who are unable to get to the grocery store because of illness, don't know how to prepare their meals or find it too difficult to cook for themselves. They are very appreciative and are always happy to see you. If you think this is something you could do, please contact Rhonda Ricci at 301-762-7022. This is a very valuable service and doesn't take up too much of your time considering the pleasure it brings to people.



STORIES STORIES

A LETTER FROM AFGHANISTAN

from Captain Christopher Smith, **USAR**

“Greetings from lovely, sunny, dirty, dusty Kabul, Afghanistan. What a long, strange trip it has been to even get here. After 102 days of mobilization at Ft. Dix, we finally flew out of BWI, through Germany and Turkey, to Manas Airbase in lovely, scenic, freezing Kyzgyzatan, where a foot of snow and lows of minus 11 degrees kept us grounded for 6 days before we finally flew out (on our second attempt) to Bagram for a night and then finally to Kabul.

Most of us are in hard-stand barracks (some are in tents) that are open bays of double bunk beds, 4 bays per unit. I have 6 roommates, although two are on leave now, and 1 is in a class. The guy in my top bunk works the night shift, so I don’t see him much. 3 are Marines, one is Dutch Navy, and the other 2 are guys from my unit. We have wifi internet and hot showers (they actually have a sign saying “Danger, Hot Water”) which is way better than “Danger Cold Water!” so I really can’t complain. It is a 4 minute walk from my bunk to my desk, so the commute isn’t bad! Although I don’t have my own desk, because they don’t have enough desks and computers to go around, so you just sort of hop on wherever you can. The chow hall is right next door, and the food is pretty decent, definitely better than it was in Ft. Dix.

Being at NATO headquarters, there are troops here from all over the world, all working and living together, which is very cool. English is the common language, but the little shops, run by Afghan locals, all take Euros. The power is 220, so I had to buy a converter to plug anything in. My job is to be a Governance Analyst, focusing on getting the Afghan central and regional governments up and functioning so that they can provide their own security and development. It should be pretty interesting.

It is very dusty here, and the pollution is very bad, but the weather has been nice, mostly sunny, highs in the 50s, lows I guess in the low 40s. We are at almost 6000 ft., surrounded by higher mountains, with some 15,000 ft. peaks off in the distance. Very pretty. The time difference is 9.5 hours ahead of the East Coast here, so it is morning while it is late in the evening back in the world.”

My son was fortunate in being assigned to the headquarters in Kabul. He came home safely and returned to his job with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Many of his buddies and others did not do so well. They came home wounded and suffering greatly. Please remember them, and help them with their problems, both physical and mental, by donating to the Wounded Warrior Project. Your help is greatly needed.

Marie Smith



Recipe of the MONTH!

Reverend Anne's Heavenly Bread Pudding

Butter a baking dish. Put in it:

2 cups Challah bread, pulled apart (I don't use the crust);

¼ cup butter; and 1 quart hot milk

Cool. Set the oven at 325 degrees.

Add to bread, butter and milk mixture: ¾ cup sugar; 2 eggs, slightly beaten;

½ teaspoon salt; 1 teaspoon vanilla

Stir to blend. Sprinkle the top with cinnamon sugar.

Bake 1 hour. It will be a little jiggly in the center. Don't overcook it so that the center is too firm. It is better the second day, but in my house it doesn't usually make it to the second day!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS! Please say a prayer for these Geneva members who are celebrating their birthday this month.

4/1 Jane Campbell
4/3 Matthew Denaburg
4/5 John Mollard
4/11 John Wright
4/12 Dean Allen
4/12 Alex Kneessi
4/13 Curtis Allen
4/13 Conor Cetola
4/16 Jake Moloznik
4/18 Jennifer Cox
4/19 Ted Cetola
4/20 Steven Dunne



4/21 Corrine Alexander
4/21 Dodge Kneessi
4/22 Kim Burgess
4/24 Michael Mueller
4/25 Luis Galliani
4/24 Heather Mueller
4/26 Patricia Boadea
4/26 Rhonda Ricci
4/28 Lauren Heimberg
4/29 Tyler Allen
4/30 Kyla Lupo
4/30 Jimmy C. Miller

RADIANT DEADLINE

The deadline for the May Radiant will be April 28, with publication on May 5. Please send your news, pictures, stories and recipes to Marie Smith, hamblehants@yahoo.com by April 28. Thank you.



**Reverend Anne E. Benefield
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