



# Geneva Radiant



## Geneva Presbyterian Church

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### MARCH 2013



#### *Easter Message From the Pastor*



Dear Friends,  
At home I have a big box labeled "photos. " When I collected them from smaller boxes and the

developer envelopes which included the negatives, I had great plans to organize them by year. I went so far as to buy lots of little plastic boxes that I labeled for each year. The most recent year was 2001, but there are no pictures in that box or any of the others. I'm not sure I'll ever get them organized and that is too bad because over time pictures capture who we are and where we have been.

I also am collecting pictures at the church in preparation for our 50th anniversary. It's fun to see how people have changed and how they have remained the same. Dick Sanderson and I are playing with ideas for displaying pictures, maybe having some contests and recognition games.

Lent is also a time to take snapshots of faith. We begin with a picture of Jesus transfigured on the mountain, talking with Moses and Elijah. It is a translucent image; a radiant Christ begins his journey to Jerusalem. Peter, John, and James want to stay on the mountain, but our Savior won't stay away from the messiness of everyday life.

During this journey we will see pictures of Jesus healing people from many diseases and challenges both physical and spiritual for He knows that our physical is connected to our spiritual. We'll catch a glimpse of Jesus' teaching with parables that paint surprising endings. We'll envision the disciples sitting around Jesus as He teaches them to pray the Lord's Prayer. We'll see Jesus looking on Jerusalem and grieving that

she won't welcome His message of love from God. We'll hear Jesus trying to explain to His disciples that He will suffer, die and be resurrected, but they have a limited perspective and don't want to picture His dying and can't envision His resurrection. We will take imaginary photographs of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We'll see Him cleansing the temple, a picture that frightens us since we're not used to a condemning Christ. Jesus will be challenged by the religious leaders, priests and scribes, and He will surprise them with His ability to answer their twisted questions with lucid statements, clarifying God's truth.

We'll remember the Last Supper in masterpieces like Da Vinci's. We will find ourselves sleepy as Jesus prays. We will be startled awake, scared and confused, when the priests come with their soldiers. We will sit in the garden of the chief priest while Jesus is scourged and beaten. Like Peter we will slip into the shadows, ashamed of our betrayal.

We won't get too close to the cross. It is hard enough to see from a distance. Our eyes will burn with bitter tears. We see the cross in nightmares. We will shy away from the light of day and run from the darkness of night.

But then we will witness the most glorious sight ever seen: the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Light and spirit, lilies and sparrows, laughter and joy will surround him.

Through this journey we will see the sweep of the greatest story ever told. It is in the images that we recognize who we are, where we have been, and where God is calling us to go. Let us take in the whole picture - - the tapestry of our lives and God's good plans for us. Alleluia! Amen!

*In Christ, Reverend Anne*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT *from Jim Harris*

Financial Report, Stewardship and Budget Committee reviewed, discussed and approved the December 2012 Statement. Year to date offering is at 91.68% of year to date budget. Year to date total income is 99.81% of year to date budget. Year to date total expense is 102.35% of year to date budget. The balance in account #900, the Building and Reserve Fund, has decreased from \$74,975.76 on 9/30/2012 to \$53,327.15 on 12/31/2012. This decrease is due to expenditures related to Manse remodeling. Fund #300, Beginning Balance Available Funds has remained steady at \$14,838.73.

Committee reviewed and discussed the 2013 Budget. Jim Harris and Amanda White will be meeting with Tim Sullivan and Melissa to finalize details.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Anne

Treasurer's Report: Amanda White

- *December 2012 Report may require adjustments*

Building Use: Sheri Sankey

- *Emailed Report?*

Building and Grounds: Tom Maxwell

- *Manse Remodeling*

New Business:

- *Expecting a financial gift from deceased member's estate – Janelle*

- *Thank you note to the Day School for financial support – Jim*

Old Business:

- *Storm water runoff at the Manse – Tom Maxwell*

Closing Prayer: Rev. Anne

**Next Meeting: March 18, 2013**



## SESSION REPORT *from Larry Blim*

Session met on February 18 at 7:15 pm in the Founders Room. Reverend Anne opened the meeting with prayer and a call to worship.

In her Moderator's Report, Rev. Anne welcomed to Session new Elder Bob Ricci and said farewell to several Elders who are leaving Session, including Pat Wright, Nick Owens, Janelle Thibau, and Larry Blim. Janelle has left Session to join the Diaconate, and Larry Blim will continue as Clerk of Session. Reverend Anne shared with Session the PowerPoint slides that will be shown to the congregation on March 17 to accompany the Last Supper dramatic presentation featuring Geneva youth. Jim Harris, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported that the Treasurer's report for December needed adjustment because of an issue

with FICA withholding for 2012. Until this issue is resolved, the Treasurer's report would not be submitted for Session approval. Janelle Thibau, outgoing Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that three more Elders were needed on Session and five Deacons were being sought. Also since Janelle is joining the Diaconate, a new Chair for the Nominating Committee is needed.

For the Fellowship Committee, Dianne Whitaker said that the next pot luck luncheon would follow the service on March 10. Information about 2013 Mission Committee plans may be distributed during the pot luck. Rev. Anne reported that over 270 students are enrolled in Geneva Day School classes. Dianne Whitaker, Chair of the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Committee, reported that the fall average of Sunday school students fell slightly over spring numbers to 26 per week. The CE Committee welcomed two new teachers, Sara

Sankey and Melissa Cetola, and is looking for a third teacher. The Confirmation Class started on January 13 with 8 students. The Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for June 16-22 at Smithsburg, MD. Carole Jelsema, Chair of the Worship and Music Committee, reported that, based on feedback from members, a better balance is being sought between familiar and new hymns at services. In addition, the Committee will try to ensure that the first hymn sung at each service is more "child friendly". It was also reported that planning for Geneva's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is proceeding, with celebrations tentatively planned for September 2013 (to commemorate the first Sunday service of the church that would become Geneva Presbyterian) and May 2014 (to commemorate the chartering of the church). The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:10 pm.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS from Scott Roby



For the most up-to-date announcements about youth activities, please read the weekly “Word on Wednesday” email (sent on Tuesday afternoon!), sent by DCE Scott Roby. Until then, however, here is a sneak preview of events for March:

- \* Friday, March 1, 6:30 - 8:15 p.m.: Friday Night Light Campfire at the church!
- \* Sunday, March 3, noon: 2nd Youth Mission Trip planning meeting.
- \* Saturday, March 9, 9:45 - 4:30 p.m.: Confirmation Day Retreat at Camp Eder!
- \* Sunday, March 10, after worship: Lenten Drama rehearsal with Rev. Anne.
- \* Friday, March 15, time and activity TBA: Friday Night Light.
- \* Saturday, March 16, 3 p.m.: Lenten Drama Rehearsal with Rev. Anne and Scott.
- \* Sunday, March 17, during worship: The Geneva Youth present a Lenten Drama. After worship: Confirmation Class attends a “Passion Play” with Rev. Anne.
- \* Friday, March 22, time TBA: Confirmation Class - Third “Homestyle Meeting” and dinner with your mentors.

Note: In March, Friday Night Light will happen on the 1st and 3rd Fridays due to the Spring Break and Holy Week schedule.

### Confirmation News

Our new 2013 Confirmation Class began their “formal” classes on Sunday, January 13. Those choosing to join the church after the four-month long program (filled with Sunday School lessons, four evening sessions with their mentors, two retreats, two service projects, worship and committee reviews, drafting a faith statement and presenting that statement to the Session on May 20) will do so 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 Winter/Spring, 2013

*First*, here is a preview of our winter and 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: See your Wednesday email from Scott for details, Confirmands!
  - 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 March 3 or April 7, 2013.



*Second*, for our Christian Education Ministry team:

- The CE Ministry team now meets on a quarterly basis. Our next gathering will be March 10, 2013, after the pot-luck lunch. Topics will include: Holy Week activities; a Lenten adult Bible or film study; Confirmation updates; planning for the summer; and youth group review.



### 2013 Mission Trip News...and the return of the Silent Auction!

- To the trip participants: Our next organizational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3, immediately after worship.
- To the congregation, three notes:
  - (1) Thanks again for your purchase of the Superbowl Subs last month! We raised \$326.
  - (2) **The Silent Auction is coming!** If you have some unique items you would like to donate to the Auction, please contact Scott Roby ASAP! In December 2009, during the last Mission Trip auction, members contributed such items as: a weekend stay at a beach house; a full-course Thai meal and dinner party; an autographed Washington Redskins football; babysitting services; music lessons; yard care; antique collectibles....you name it! The auction is going to happen before and after worship on Sunday, May 5th...but we need donations by April 15th at the latest. Please help!
  - (3) We need your help in other ways! 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 humbly requests: your prayers; your financial or donation support (such as the Silent Auction, or attending one of our fundraisers, or through scholarship money to a youth participant – **we need to raise approximately \$4500 by June 9th**), and your time (we still need one more adult male chaperone!). If you can help us out, please contact either Scott Roby or Sara Sankey!

### Holy Week and Sunday morning Christian Education

*A few notes.....*

- 1) Sunday School classes will meet on Palm Sunday (March 24), following the palm procession in worship and a brief “gathering time” in the Open Classroom downstairs.
- 2) Children will meet early (9:45 a.m., after choir practice) on Palm Sunday to practice palm waving!
- 3) There will be **no** Sunday School on Easter Sunday (March 31st).
- 4) After Easter worship, it’s the annual Easter Eggstravaganza! Scott Roby will need help: a) stuffing the Easter eggs with non-chocolate candy during Holy Week; and b) hiding the 500 or so eggs early on the morning of the hunt (between 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.). The egg hunt begins immediately after worship!



**Donations  
Needed!**



## MUSIC UPDATE from John Widmann

With one exception, which is Easter on March 31, the entire month of March is during Lent.

Lent is the most somber of liturgical seasons, and Easter is the biggest celebration of the church year. Yes, bigger than Christmas. Even so, during Lent we will have ample musical opportunities:

Every Sunday, we get to hear the Geneva Choir sing. Except for the Summer and the Sunday after Christmas, the Geneva Choir sings an anthem, leads the hymns, and sings a call to worship and a call to prayer. It takes a lot of practice to sing each week, and the Geneva Choir works hard each Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8:00 to bring you all of that music most of the year 'round.



**On Sunday, March 10**, we will hear our Geneva Bells play two pieces in the service. This group works hard too, and rehearses each Wednesday night from 8:15 to 9:30.

**On Sunday, March 17**, we will hear both of our children's choirs sing. They rehearse on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

**On Sunday, March 24**, we will hear a number of anthems in a very musical Palm/Passion Sunday service, which we are calling "Lessons and Lent".

**On Sunday, March 31**, we will again hear our bell choir, and several anthems from our Geneva Choir at our main Easter service at 10:30 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you, and hearing you sing hymns with us!



## Geneva Presbyterian Women



The Geneva Presbyterian Women now has **NEW OFFICERS**. Recently elected were **Betty Halls, Chairperson**; **Ginny Wilson, Secretary**; **Rosalie Ruff, Treasurer**; **Doris Koskos, Hospitality and Flowers**, assisted by **Barbara Prosswimmer**. Doris and Barbara will be responsible for arranging for the altar flowers, poinsettias, lilies, and the Advent Wreath.



### !!! HELP WANTED FOR COFFEE HOUR !!!

We are looking for someone to take over responsibility for scheduling coffee servers for Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Rhonda Ricci** at 301-762-7022 or [rhondaricci@aol.com](mailto:rhondaricci@aol.com).



## **GENEVA DAY SCHOOL NEWS from Suzanne Funk**

Though February was a short month, it was a busy one for Geneva Day School! Students celebrated various holidays and events, as the Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, 100 Days of School, Dental Health Month, and more. The School conducted an all-school program for the Chinese New Year complete with Lion Dancing, "showing and telling" of artifacts, reading a Chinese story and singing a Chinese song, and sharing fortune cookies. Various families helped out, so it was a wonderful cultural experience for all!

During January, parents and staff of the School began to plan how to enhance security in the building. Consultation was held with various church officials to seek input and approval. A number of measures were discussed and have begun to be implemented for the benefit of both the school and the church, and at the expense of the school. One measure was the installation of shatterproof window films. These are also slightly tinted so inside rooms are less visible from the outside. Any items hitting the glass, such as a brick, will not shatter the glass. All first floor windows and glass doors in the main building and Learning Cottage now have this safety feature.

Other measures being explored for future implementation include enhancing the fire alarm alert system to include other emergency notices, adding an alarm to the playground, and adding four keypads for entrance into the building, among others. These steps will help staff, parents, and students feel more comfortable and safe within the building. We hope that you will, too!

Early March is the annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration! This year, he would have been 109 years old, and classes are excited to read favorite stories. Please feel free to join us to read too, on Monday, March 4, as you are available. We always enjoy seeing Church Friends! Thank you Scott, and other volunteers!

Have a Marvelous March and Lent from your Geneva Day School Friends!



### **Calling All Gardeners!**

The Day School is thinking about enhancing the outside church property beyond the Butterfly Garden in the woods. It would like to develop it as more of a Children's Garden to include educational, play, and perhaps meditative components. Native plants, including flowering ones, will be used with benches and garden sculptures.

The School would like to have planners from the church help develop plans for implementation beginning this fall and to continue over the next two years or so. Would you like to add your creative thoughts to the process? We would love to work with you!

Just contact the School Office at 301-340-7704 to express your interest. We will be contacting you later about several meetings this spring. Thank you!

Wouldn't it be great to go on a great vacation and know you are supporting a good cause while you lay on the beach or dine in a bistro? How would you like to do all of your birthday and holiday shopping in one place...maybe get some great deals or one-of-kind items and know that your shopping is benefitting others?

It's so easy to do! Register for **Geneva-opoly--Auction 2013**, Geneva Day School's biggest, most fun fundraising event of the year!



Visit [www.genevadayschool.org/parents/auction](http://www.genevadayschool.org/parents/auction) to download the registration form or to register online. Or stop by the School for a form.

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## A modern-day parable

My friend had a large hydrangea bush in her yard. Each year for a decade, she found only one or two blooms. “Cut it down!” she told her husband in frustration. But he, a very patient man, urged, “Let’s give it one more year. I’ll water it and fertilize it with coffee grounds. If it still doesn’t bloom, I’ll chop it down.”

The next year, as the couple anticipated carrying out the death sentence, the bush not only bloomed, but bloomed in abundance — and in multiple colors that amazed my friend, an avid gardener. “It’s the barren fig tree all over again!” she exclaimed.

Indeed, sometimes God replicates his miracles, perhaps because we need a refresher course in patiently waiting for his glorious blessings.

—Heidi Mann

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

3/1	Adam Brand	3/20	Kristina Rose Dunne
3/5	John Biermann	3/21	Matthew Dunne
3/5	David Denaburg	3/21	Danny C. Miller
3/5	Vince Lupo	3/24	Fiona Brand
3/8	Ellen Koch	3/24	George Hunt
3/9	Carl Perthel	3/25	Lee Roby
3/9	Megan White	3/28	Walter Sprinkle
3/10	Adam Winchenbach	3/29	Holly Allen
3/14	Nan Sprinkle	3/30	Veronique Weinstein
3/16	Rollin Franks	3/31	Toshika Ota
3/19	Miyoung Ledoux		

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### **RADIANT DEADLINE**

The deadline for the April Radiant will be March 31, with publication on April 7. Please send your news to Marie Smith, [hamblehants@yahoo.com](mailto:hamblehants@yahoo.com), by that date. Thank you.

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#### **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24**

10:30 a.m. Procession of the Palms; “Lesson in Lent”

#### **Maundy Thursday, March 28**

7:00 p.m., Traditional Service of Tenebrae with Communion

#### **Easter Sunday, March 31**

6:15 a.m., Sunrise Service with Communion on north lawn

10:30 a.m. Resurrection Service with Communion

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt!





**Reverend Anne E. Benefield  
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