



Geneva Radiant

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road

Potomac, MD 20854

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2013

"Listen to your heart, for within there is an "ear" attuned to God's voice." Peggy Ferrell



Dear Friends,

This is one of those years when Lent comes rushing toward us. It isn't really that early, but it seems like we have just taken down the Christmas decorations and here is Ash Wednesday, a week away. We still have poinsettias in the office. It's kind of like the Christmas decorations that go up



the day after Halloween, but it isn't really the same. The church calendar is designed to order our worship of God in all seasons.

Like Advent, Lent is a season of self-examination. In Advent we follow the steps of the prophets, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels. In those stories, we try to relate to each group. Can we be powerful and aggressive like the prophets? Are we faithful and brave like Mary and Joseph? Are we hopeful and curious like the shepherds? Do we share the joy of the angels?

In Lent we don't have a group of characters like those in Advent, but this would be an appropriate time to think about how we relate to the disciples. Are we enthusiastic and impulsive like Peter? Do we need physical proof like Thomas? Do we have ambitious mothers like John and James?

The actual lists of disciples vary slightly, but here are the names:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Simon Peter | Thomas |
| Andrew, his brother | Matthew |
| James, son of Zebedee | James, son of Alpheus |
| John, son of Zebedee | Thaddeus or Jude of James |
| Philip | Simon the Cananean or Simon the Zealot |
| Bartholomew | Judas Iscariot |

I have a Lenten treasure hunt for you: There are 12 disciples and 6 weeks in Lent. Each week I invite you to search out all the information you can find about any two of the disciples. Google the names; search the concordance in your Bible; check out books in the library. You will find some wonderful legends about where each disciple went following the Pentecost. Keep notes – they don't have to be neat or even legible to anyone else, as long as you can read them. Each week, choose the disciple you like best and why. During Holy Week, review your notes and meditate on how the disciples were feeling in Jerusalem. Can you put yourself in their shoes?

I know this is a big assignment, but I think you will enjoy it and this may be your most meaningful Lent. I often think that the disciples give voice to our thoughts and questions. Take time now to see them on their own. What questions do they bring to your mind?

God Bless In Christ, Reverend Anne

Life without Fear by Kim Mitchel



Can you imagine your life without fear?

Kim Mitchel, your seminary intern, is interested in offering a short, 3 week Lenten small group series on Max Lucado's DVD curriculum titled *Fearless*.

After the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school, we all are left wondering if our children are safe anywhere anymore? After the sniper shootings and 9/11 we question our personal safety and question where God's love is in all the pain.

The DVD sessions try to offer hope and calm in a time of unprecedented fear in our nation and the world. *Fearless* draws from Jesus' encounters with people in frightening situations giving evidence that we can trust God through these scary times. Lots of discussion time, lots of time to share lots of time to reflect. Please join us!

**Feb. 21, March 7 and March 21
at 10 a.m. at Geneva**

Call Kim Mitchel 240-731-4699, or email her at kmitchel07@yahoo.com for more info or to sign up. Make your Lenten season one that unburdens your heart.

Christian Education, 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 February:

- **Feb. 2 & 3 – Superbowl Subs prep (Saturday at 3 p.m.) and distribution (Sunday at 11:45 a.m.)!**
- **Friday, Feb. 8: Friday Night Light** and Mystery Activity – a campfire with *s'mores*? A movie night? Stay tuned for more details...
- **Sunday, Feb. 17: Service Sunday!** We'll be helping out at the National Lutheran Home from 1:30 – 3:00'ish.
- **Friday, Feb. 22, 4 – 6 p.m.: Family and Youth Night at Bounce U!** Cost: Only \$10. Please contact **Stephanie Balian** for more info and to RSVP!
- **Sunday, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m.:** Our second Confirmation/Mentor "Homestyle" session!

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 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:** “Images of God” (Feb. 3); “Who is Jesus” (Feb.10); “Who, or What, Is the Holy Spirit?” (Feb. 17); “Is *That* Worship?” (Feb. 24, evening “homestyle” session).
- **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 February 3 and March 3, 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

- Our next organizational meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 3**, immediately after worship.
- *To the congregation, three notes:*
 - (1) **Thanks for your purchase of the Superbowl Subs!**
 - (2) Future *fun-raisers* (deliberate spelling) will include a Parent’s Night Out, various “dine out” events at local restaurants, a chili and barbecue sauce taste-off, and the return of the Silent Auction (tentatively set for Sunday, May 5th).
 - (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 will need your help in three ways: your prayers; your financial support (by contributing to one of many fundraisers mentioned above or providing 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!



Notes from John Widmann – Music Director



What is appropriate to play, sing and hear in church?

I'm thinking about this today, on Superbowl Sunday. It's about 1:45 p.m., and my Ravens play in a few hours. I

hope they win. Scott Roby did a great job of "pinch-preaching" for Reverend Anne, who was sick this morning with the flu.

In my sacred music studies (part of my organ major in college), I was taught that church music should be religious in nature. Some churches have rules, particularly about weddings. Brides and their mothers often ask for far-from-sacred pieces to be played by the organist. Even the "Bridal Chorus from 'Lohengrin'" by Richard Wagner (Here comes the Bride...) is from a secular opera. And, in the opera, the groom leaves the bride after she asks him the forbidden question, which is "What is your name?". Some churches forbid that piece from being used in

weddings. I don't personally care for the piece. It is musically uninteresting, but I have played it for weddings. Some brides have dreamed all of their lives about marching down the aisle to just that music. They relate to it.

Church must, however, relate to our lives, and sometimes seemingly unreligious events have deep meaning to us. Christ reached his disciples by relating their faith to fishing. It is what they knew. My son, Martin, was baptized the week before the Superbowl (XXVIII - Cowboys beat the Bills 30-13), and the priest spoke about the baptismal font (which at our church was a huge glass bowl) as being God's "Superbowl of blessing and forgiveness".

So, what is appropriate music for church? That which we can relate to as we strive to become closer followers of the Lord. And, I just may have included a bit of the Ravens fight song in the music that I played before my prelude this morning. Shhh.

Corporate Worship and Music Committee, Carole Jelsema



The Worship Committee is looking for new members! We are going to be meeting after church on the 4th Sunday for about 45 minutes – this is one of the Sundays that John Widmann can stay after the service, rather than hurrying to a carillon rehearsal in Frederick. Join us! This is an opportunity to have input into the music and the services. The Worship Calendar for 2013 is included below.

Recently two new lectors – Floyd Cox and Dianne Whitaker – were trained and Sara Sankey is soon to be trained as well. They join Mark Allen, Larry Blim, Alice

Franks, Carl Perthel and Janelle Thibeau and take the places of Jane Campbell and Ginny Wilson.

With the beginning of the new year there have been some changes made with the children's choir. It was decided to split the children into two age groups with the younger children meeting with Stephanie Balian, Wendy Probst and Katie Brand and the youth meeting with John Widmann and sometimes singing with the Geneva Choir. Both the children's and youth choir will be meeting at 9:30 on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in the choir room. We look forward to hearing them sing!

This past month the focus seems to have been on baptism. We celebrated the Baptism of Jesus on January 13th by having a reaffirmation of baptism for those who wanted to participate. It was a very moving service. On January 27, 2013, we had the baptism of Walter and Avery Sprinkle.

As we approach the Lenten and Holy Season, we are hoping to have new choir members – perhaps some of the parents dropping off their children would like to sing with the choir?! We are planning to send out postcards again prior to Palm Sunday and Easter inviting the community to celebrate Holy Week with us – and join us in singing if they would like to. Please feel free to invite friends that you know love to sing!



Geneva Presbyterian Church - 2013 Calendar

Sun.	Jan. 6	10:30 am	Epiphany (communion by intinction)
Sun.	Jan. 13	10:30 am	Baptism of Jesus/Baptism re-affirmation
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
			Unhanging of the Greens
Sun.	Feb. 3	10:30 am	Communion/served
Sun.	Feb. 10	10:20 am	Transfiguration
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Wed.	Feb. 13	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday (communion by intinction)
Sun.	Feb. 17	10:30 am	Lent 1
Sun.	Feb. 24	10:30 am	Lent 2
Sun.	Mar. 3	10:30 am	Lent 3 Communion/Intinction
Sun.	Mar. 10	10:30 am	Lent 4
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Sun.	Mar. 24	10:30 am	Palm Sunday
Thurs.	Mar. 28	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
			Communion by intinction
Sun.	Mar. 31	6:15 am	Easter Sunrise (communion by intinction)
		10:30 am	Easter Resurrection (communion served)
Sun.	Apr 7	10:30 am	Communion by intinction
Sun.	Apr 14	10:30 am	Worship
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Sun.	Apr. 21	10:30 am	Worship: Earthday
Sun.	May 5	10:30 am	Communion served
			Sunday Potluck (avoiding Mother's Day)
Sun.	May 12	10:30 am	Mother's Day
Sun.	May 19	10:30 pm	Pentecost/ Blessing of the Kirk! (Wear your Kilt!)
			Presbyterian Heritage Sunday
Sun.	May 26	10:30 am	Memorial Day Observed
Sun.	June 2	10:30 pm	Confirmand Service and Music Appreciation,
			Christian Education Appreciation
Sun.	June 9	10:30 am	"Praise Picnic" at Cabin John Park,
			Communion by intinction
Sun.	June 16	10:30 am	Father's Day
Sun.	June 30	10:30 am	Fourth of July, Special Music
Sun.	July 7	10:30 am	Communion by intinction
Sun.	July 14	10:30 am	Worship
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Sun.	Aug. 4	10:30 am	Communion/served
Sun.	Aug. 11	10:30 am	Worship
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Sun.	Aug. 25	10:30 am	Reverend Anne away
Sun.	Sept. 1	10:30 am	Labor Day Weekend,
			Communion by intinction
Sun.	Sept. 8	10:30 am	Homecoming Sunday/ First Day for Sunday School
		11:45 am	Welcome Home Potluck
Sun.	Sept. 29	10:30 am	Geneva Day School Appreciation
Sun.	Oct. 6	10:30 am	World Communion served
		2:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals

Fri.	Oct. 11	8:00 pm	Family retreat social evening
Sat.	Oct. 12	all day	Family retreat
Sun.	Oct. 13	10:30 am	Rev. Anne at retreat, guest pastor
Sun.	Oct. 20	10:30 am	Children's Sabbath
		11:45 am	Sunday Potluck Lunch
Sun.	Oct. 27	10:30 am	Reformation Sunday
Sun.	Nov. 3	10:30 am	Communion/intinction
Sun.	Nov. 10	10:30 am	Worship
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Sun.	Nov. 24	10:30 am	Christ the King Sunday
		11:45 am	Hanging of the Greens & Chili Cook-off (date not Confirmed – could be Dec. 1)
Sun.	Dec. 1	10:30 am	Advent 1 (communion served)
Sat.	Dec. 6	6:00 pm	Geneva Family Christmas sing-a-long
Sun.	Dec. 8	10:30 am	Advent 2
		11:45 am	Second Sunday Potluck
Sun.	Dec. 15	10:30 am	Advent 3
Sun.	Dec. 22	10:30 am	Advent 4
Tues.	Dec. 24	4:00 pm	"Christmas for Children"
		7:00 pm	"Lessons and Carols"
		11:00 pm	"Communion by Candlelight"
Sun.	Dec. 29	10:30 am	Casual Worship

Geneva Day School News from Suzanne Funk



It's Fabulous February at Geneva Day School! Though it is a short month, it will be very busy with special events planned for Ground Hog's

Day, the Chinese New Year of the Snake, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, Dental Health Month, and more!

As a result of the incident in Connecticut last December, the Day School has been studying what additional security measures it could take. The School consulted with a number of experts, including the police, and has begun and will be taking further steps to enhance security and comfort levels in the building. Enhancements include increasing outdoor lighting and alarm capabilities and adding doorbells and key pads, among others. We are working with Church officials to coordinate these efforts.

A number of Geneva staff will be presenting the Monarch Butterfly Project at the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education in Ocean City later in February. We are always excited to share the success of this study unit.

On Wednesday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m., the Geneva Parents' Association is presenting a parent seminar on "Positive Discipline." Church Friends are always invited, and child care is provided. Please R.S.V.P. the School Office to make a reservation, especially for child care, at 301-340-7704.

The annual all-school "Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration" is planned for Monday, March 4. You are welcomed to come and read some favorite Dr. Seuss stories on this date!

Have a Fabulous February!



!!! 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).

STAYING FAITHFUL TO ONE'S BELIEFS by Marie Smith

Several years ago my sister sent me a poem quoted below, and I decided to speak about going to Church, and staying faithful to one's beliefs. Here is the poem:

Next Time

I almost went to church last night,
But couldn't find the time.
So much to do in the garden,
To have left it would be a crime.
So I dug and hoed and weeded,
And went wearily to bed.
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night,
But my favorite program was on.
And by the time it'd finished,
The time for church had gone.
So I sat before the "telly",
Until the set was dead.
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night,
A certain preacher was there.
And for his kind of preaching
I didn't really care,
So rather than go to church,
And come back with a heavy head,
I made a resolution,
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But some old friends of mine came,
And to have closed the door on them,
Would have been an awful shame.
So we talked and chatted and gossiped,
Until the goodbyes were said,
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But left it rather late,
And unpunctuality
Is a thing I really hate.
So I sat before the fire,
Took up a book and read,
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night,
But found it was too late,
The church was locked and silent,
And "For Sale" was on the gate.
Oh, the remorse, which now I felt,
The little church was dead,
And I, yes I, had killed it,
By going next week instead.

We have all been guilty of finding excuses not to go to church on a Sunday, but we pay a price. We lack direction in our lives, we miss having people around us who care, even though they are not related to us or have any real reason to care. It is important for us to make the effort, not only for our own sake, but also for our children's, if we have any. But we must be consistent if we are to have any lasting effect on their lives, and also our own.

When I was a child my mother took my sisters and me to church every Sunday, and to Catechism classes (we were Catholic). However, like so many children, as soon as I left home and didn't have my mother encouraging me, I gradually drifted away from the Church. I still thought of myself as a Christian, but being a Christian does not consist of weekly church attendance. It means giving of ourselves to others, praising the Lord, and leading an unselfish life.

When my children were born I decided I should give them the opportunity to learn about God and His place in our lives. I faithfully took them to church every Sunday. Then, as they grew older, I drifted away from the Church again, and so did they. I was saved by some neighbors who invited me to join their bible study group, and they brought me back to the Lord, and I became a born again Christian.

I hesitate to admit it, but when the group broke up, I drifted away from the church again. Then, at the prompting of some friends, and with an inner hunger for something more in my life, I joined the Geneva Presbyterian Church. I hope I never drift again, and with your help I won't. I have found such friendships and caring, such strength, since joining this church. I cannot believe I went so long without being a member of a church, and practicing my faith.

I think what I am trying to say is: Don't make excuses for not coming to church. Don't let your children as they grow up leave their faith behind. Give them a strong grounding so they continue to worship the Lord and then pass on their faith to their children. It is too easy these days, in this busy world, to get our priorities wrong. Living the Christian life is such a wonderful and powerful thing. One need never be lonely or afraid if one truly believes in Jesus Christ. He will send you friends such as those I have made in this church, who will support you and care about you. He will be there whenever you need him, if you just give him a chance.



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

2/1	Helene Chimba	2/17	Johnny Thibau
2/3	Elyssa Lyn Alexander	2/18	Curtis Chimba
2/3	Parker Hart Alexander	2/19	Elaine Winch
2/3	Barbara Prosswimmer	2/21	Wendy Propst
2/6	Lea Crecelius	2/23	Rosie Perthel
2/7	Maria Lenahan	2/24	Margo Hunt
2/7	Vicki Pike	2/25	Ryan Alexander
2/8	Nick Owens	2/25	Thomas Devine
2/14	Janelle Thibau		



Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.
Give up worry – trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement – be full of hope.
Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred – return good for evil.
Give up anger – be more patient.
Give up pettiness – become mature.
Give up jealousy – pray for trust.
Give up gossiping – control your tongue.
Give up sin – turn to virtue.
Give up giving up – persevere.
—Author unknown

Valentines to give your children

- **Acceptance** - Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are.
Give this gift with a kiss.
- **Self-confidence** - Help children understand that they can trust themselves.
Give this gift with a hug.
- **Life without needless fears** - Don't let your kids see you as a worrier.
Give this gift with laughter.
- **Appreciation** - Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life.
Give this gift as they go out the door.
- **Faith** - Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have.
Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.

RADIANT DEADLINE

The deadline for the March Radiant will be February 24, to be published on March 3. Please send your news and articles to Marie Smith, hamblehants@yahoo.com, by February 24. Thanks.



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