

### a PCUSA Congregation

“Glory to God in the highest heaven!”  
Luke 2:14



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SERMON VIDEOS

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NEED HELP WITH  
YOUR TECHNOLOGY?

See page #3

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# Skanpresby Press

## Congregational Meeting

### January 25, 2015



The Annual meeting of the Congregation is called for the last Sunday in the month of January, immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary.

An annual part of this meeting is the approval of the Pastors' Terms of Call, which this year includes both Rev. Craig L. and Rev. Mario B.

## Christmas Pageant 2015



# PEACE ON EARTH! GOOD WILL TO ALL!

By Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey

As we embrace the beginning of a new year, we hope and pray for peace. Our headlines seem continually filled with violence and hatred, which sells.

For many, Christian faith is about a personal identity and relationship with God, which may be more Gnostic than Christian. The Gnostics, whom Paul railed against, believed faith was a philosophical pursuit, purely related to ethics, morals and theories about God, but not about reality. The ultimate difference is whether our faith is confined to our beliefs, or put into practice. We pray for peace, but do we work to provide good will to one another, do we work to change our world?

I am saddened to learn of the tragedies and deaths of so many this year. It occurs to me, that with the passing of a generation, who grew up on family farms and were skilled at so many things, what is passing with them is the expectation that our goal is to provide for our family today and tomorrow. Instead of subsistence, getting through the Depression or the War, we have become pre-occupied with monitoring our 401Ks and IRAs and the cumulative value of our investments. But tragedies and joys, births and deaths are a part of life, a part of life with which God is intimately connected.



We have so much to be thankful for, in this Nation, in this Community, as the Church, and in our lives. Something there is about us as human creatures that we dwell on the negative, on the things which are not perfect, instead of recognizing what we

often take for granted, our freedoms, our health, our abilities. We are incredibly blessed. One of my favorite writers, David Whyte, described: "I have come to the conclusion that one of the most difficult things for a human being in life is to claim their own simple and most particular happiness from the often overwhelming complexity of existence."

## Skapresby Message Board

Dear Church family,  
Thank you to everyone for remembering me while I was in the hospital & Loretto, especially to Rev. Lindsey. It brightened my days there.

Sincerely,  
**Rowena Fisher**

Dear Church family,  
I have experienced the love from our church family. Many thanks for your cards, well wishes, and prayers. The knee replacement surgery has been successful. Each day brings less pain and more flexibility

**Lee Bennett**  
fatherskan@aol.com



Visit us on the web  
**[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com/skanpresby)**  
**/skanpresby**  
for more pictures of  
Christmas Pageant 2015  
Pictures & Video  
Available

# HELLO CHURCH

by Rev. Mario Bolivar

Feliz Año 2015! May God the creator, companion and redeemer be with you and also with the rest of the world. My dear family the New Year is a clean slate, full of hope and miracles, new challenges and more often than not new technology. One of my New Year resolutions (that I have asked God to help me with) is to use all my talents to speak of God’s love and for the benefit of our Community of Faith.

One of those talents is my empirical knowledge of technology, **which I want to put to your service.** I might not be the most knowledgeable person in the world, but I know my way around technology, specially Smart Cellphones (cloud), PDAs, iPads, iPods, Computers (desktops or laptops) Entertainment Systems, Video Games and all the other gadgets that you might have received in Christmas. The only thing I promise is that if I do not know the answer I will make sure that we are at least asking the correct question. It does not matter whether you are young or old, member of the church or a friend of the church, or whether you are the one that needs help or is someone you know. There will be **NO charge** for my time or services, except the occasional cup of coffee. Please, eMail me at [mario@skanpresby.org](mailto:mario@skanpresby.org) if you have questions or candidates that might benefit from this message. Offer does not expire and you may use it as much as you’d like.

*“Let all that I am praise the Lord, may I never forget the good things God does for me.” Ps. 103:2*

## 2014 Bells Christmas Party



The weather outside was frightful but the Bellowship, delightful... And it snowed and it snowed and it snowed...



On Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, (despite the weather), 25 “ding-a-lings” gathered for their annual Christmas Party at the festive home of Joan & Gene Tarolli. Good food, good drink, good friends, good cheer!



Sue Grady (aka Ma Bell) was lovingly acknowledged for her years of devotion to making joyful music and for bringing



“Every time a bell rings – an angel gets its wings”

Ring in the New Year for you all,  
**The First Pres “Bellowship”**

## Bell Choir Reflections 2014

It is hard to believe that 2015 will mark our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Palm Sunday in 1985, the bell choir with 8 novice members made its debut. From 1987 to 2014 the Chancel Bell Choir core membership of 11 ringers has remained virtually the same with only a few changes in membership or ringing positions.

The Fellowship Bell Choir formed to meet the interests of those interested in learning about handbells and ringing, but not really wanting to perform. It is hard to believe that 2015 will mark their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This group of 6-8 ringers instituted the "Christmas Tea" and just presented their 5<sup>th</sup> annual event with close to 60 guests in attendance. It certainly made our season Merry and Bright!

In 2007, following a weeklong handbell conference, a small ensemble group began to meet to explore what we had learned. In 2008, these ringers, chose a name for themselves. EmBellishment was born. EmBellishment has filled a need when the full contingent is not practical and allows us to provide a variety of musical offerings as needed.

Throughout these many years as director, I am humbled by the dedication and caring these ringers have shown towards each other and to the goals we have set together. When we began the new ringing season this past fall, we were blessed with the addition of five "new to us" ringers: Ginny Fennesy, Pam Hamlin, Karen Lewis, Sandi Frackenpohl and Mel Bolivar. They have brought new vitality to both the Chancel Bell Choir and the Fellowship Bells and we are so glad to count them as new friends. I can't wait to "ring" in the new year and see what the future will bring for us.

Respectfully,

**Sue Grady**

### NEW MEMBERS POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

Join us after services to honor and connect with our newest members (last six months). Bring the family, a dish to pass and table service for you and your family. Beverages will be provided.

If you can sign up or call the office with a reservation, it will be very helpful for setup. If you can tell us what you will be bringing, all the better.

Don't stay away if you decide at the last minute to join us.

**Membership & Outreach**

### Dear Volunteers...

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU!**

To all you wonderful people who have taken on the responsibilities of hosting the 2014 coffee hours and volunteering to serve as Lay Readers.

You have enriched our Sunday morning and have made our jon to survey easier.

**Membership & Outreach**



## Manor News & Christmas Party

Happy New Year from the Manor residents, staff and board. We wish you a year full of health, happiness and blessings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made a financial contribution during our May fundraiser and to those who gave the gift of time and service for the Sunday dinners.

In spite of some very nasty weather and driving conditions our family Christmas party was a success. The food prepared by

Robbin and Ted was delicious as always and the home was decorated beautifully. **Doris Hill** and **Margie Sutton** treated us with Christmas music and carols.

Our Sunday servers for the month of December were: **Sandy Holbrook, Rev. Mario** and **Mel Bolivar, Mia Grasso, Rachel Rhodes, Barb** and **Doug Wood, Merrily** and **Gary Heyer**. Thank you!

### Manor Board Members

More info, please visit [www.skaneatelesmanor.com](http://www.skaneatelesmanor.com)




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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION

by Jan Sterling

A Big Thanks to all our knitters, gift givers and those who delivered these articles that were warmly received. 170 "Warm Gifts" were delivered to our Skaneateles Outreach, Auburn Chapel House, Syracuse Salvation Army, and Auburn Rescue Mission Family Christmas. **Thank you and Happy New Year to All!**

Mark Your Calendar for Thursday, Jan 8, 2015 for our Annual "Brown Bag" Lunch! Our guest Speaker is Jennifer Coman, executive Director from Sarah's Guest House—See their flyer/article on page 6.

Presbyterian Women Committee will joint the Monthly Circle Meeting on Thursday, Feb 5th at 9:30am in the Skaneateles Presbyterian Church, Dobson Hall, hosted by the Morning circle. Present by Rev. Mario Bolivar, Lesson 5

We will begin collecting articles for Church World Service, Hygiene Kits. Again, thank you to everyone for the donations of Potato Mixes for the Food Pantry Christmas Baskets, we exceeded our goal!



Lodging for patients and families



**LODGING + TRANSPORTATION + MEALS + COMFORT**

***THE WOMEN OF OUR CONGREGATION, PWC, SEND EACH OF YOU GREETINGS OF PEACE & GOODWILL FOR 2015***

**WE INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL BROWN BAG LUNCH  
ON JAN 8, 2015 AT NOON  
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SKANEATELES**

**SPEAKER: JENNIFER COMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH HER  
SARAH'S HOUSE 20 YEARS OF SERVICE 1994-2014**

**WE WILL PROVIDE SOUP, COFFEE & DESSERT  
(you bring a sandwich & a friend)  
*Call our Church Office, 685-5048, by January 5 for reservations***

Sarah's Guest House provides lodging in a healing environment primarily for relatives and loved ones of adult patients seeking medical treatment outside their own community. It is the only residence of its kind in the Syracuse area. Sarah's Guest House was created in response to the need for shelter and emotional support for family members visiting seriously ill patients in our Syracuse area hospitals.

Many of us have had a loved one who has been hospitalized away from home for an extended period of time. We can relate to the stress that this kind of experience introduces to our lives - sleepless nights, financial worries, and anxiety over the eventual diagnosis, as well as being in an unfamiliar city away from friends and family.

**SARAH'S HOUSE, 100 ROBERTS AVENUE, SYRACUSE, NY 13207  
STRATHMORE AREA  
[www.sarahsguesthouse.org](http://www.sarahsguesthouse.org)**

## Food Pantry

by Judy Gelston

Our year at the Pantry has officially closed. This past calendar year we provided a three day meal plan to 35,863 individuals. We currently serve at least 100 families per month in our community. For Christmas we served 234 clients. This means 101 family units received help and 52 of our elderly were also included in our Christmas dinners. The Girl Scouts helped deliver these to both senior living complexes.

Additionally this year each family received a bucket of cleaning supplies and some personal care products as well as a large box of staples to carry them over for when we were closed for break. All of this would not have been possible without all of your donations of time, food, and money. The financial help is what keeps us still able to meet our needs of the clients over the other 10 months of the year. The Rotary had an extremely successful Turkey Dinner to help the Pantry. The Firemen provided smoke detectors to new clients.

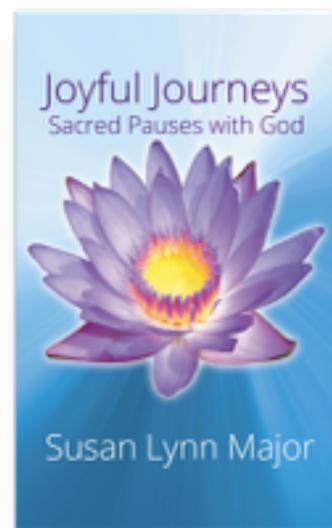
A special thank you goes to Rev. Mario, Christopher Niebuhr, and Nicholas Rottger who helped unloaded a large amount of extras for our baskets on a rainy Saturday. It was a lot of work for all, but our clients were totally delighted with the extras they received.

## Joyful Journeys

Life-long Skaneateles resident, Susan Major, has written a book about her cancer journey entitled *Joyful Journeys: Sacred Pauses with God*. It is published by Divine Phoenix Books, and is available for \$15,00 through Susan's website or through her mother and parishioner Karen Graham.

It wasn't that long ago when we joined the other parishes in Skaneateles to pray for healing for Susan as she battled breast cancer. Susan is now healthy and using her experience with Cancer to spread the message of faith and courage! This book is a series of spiritual reflections meant to inspire others on their journeys of faith.

[www.susanlynnmajor.com](http://www.susanlynnmajor.com)



# Our Sudanese Mission

By Jack Howard

Our Duk Lost Boys Clinic Staff continues to serve both displaced people and residents in Panyagor and the newly established transient Clinic under tent at Poktap in Duk County. The emphasis is on getting nutrient supplements to the people we serve to minimize the famine..

Major NGOs rely on the John Dau Foundation to carry out their missions because of our reputation of getting things done. For example, Samaritan's Purse asked our Staff to locate and assemble children with cleft palates for transport to Juba for remedial surgery. Our staff found 11 young patients and along with parental accompaniment for two plane loads to fly to Juba. All 11 were treated and returned successfully.

The JDF Board is exploring means of assisting John Dau's second NGO, South Sudan Institute, to obtain newly expected grants to restore agriculture, education and peaceful reconciliation between tribes in the State of Jonglei. These functions are within the SSI charter and SSI has had problems in the past for obtaining workable grants.

I tendered my resignation as Chairman of the JDF Board of Directors at the 12/11 JDF Board Meeting and it was accepted. The Mission's past 10 years has been a wonderful challenging experience for me, John Dau and our dedicated Board Members and Advisors. My contribution was as an organizer and project manager. Now, JDF needs a Board that can concentrate on expansion, building a greater "brand" name by marketing and fundraising. I will remain on the JDF Board as a voting Member.

## Joys and Concerns

- \* Proud grandparents, Ann and Jim Higbee welcome new grandson, McQuade Higbee to their family.
- \* January birthday celebrants include Cindy Hinman, Joe Bernazzani, Natalie Bernazzani, Nan Corsello, Elsa Marshall, Connie Beale, Nancy Williams, Betty Curley, Kayleigh Rottger, Joey Meyers, Bill Nichols, Melanie Helmsley, Deb Covell Rev. Mario Bolivar and Stefanie Mowery.
- \* Brenda and Alex Davidson are celebrating a January wedding anniversary.
- \* Last month, Craig Lindsey marked 18 years as our pastor.
- \* Lee Bennett has had a knee replacement, and Ko Fey had another foot surgery. Both are doing well
- \* Elsie Kellar remains hospitalized, Fine Beck has been moved to St. Camillus to recover from her surgery. She is now in the same facility as her husband, Dick. Rowena Fisher is back at home.
- \* December brought great loss to our congregation as we learned of the deaths of John May, Rosie Langley, Chuck Crosman, and Molly Rhoads' father. We extend our sympathies to Dolores, to Marvin, to Molly and their families as well as to the Crosman family.
- \* As we pray for God's blessing and healing for these friends please include Todd Marshall's mother, Doris Hill's brother-in-law, Ron Bartlett, Mike Palmer and Bev White as well as our shutins, Jody Conroe, Mary Miller, Helen Huey, Mary Ayer, Dick Beck, Marylou Osborne and Marvin Langley.

# Parents Night Out!

Have the freedom to relax at home for a few hours, go on a date, or get a massage—a team of dedicated and loving youth and adults will care for you child! Contact Rev. Mario with your questions, information or/for consent forms. [mario@skandpresby.org](mailto:mario@skandpresby.org) or call the office now!

**Friday January 23rd from 6pm-9pm.**

**Please RSVP by January 21, 2015.**

No price per child or fee, only donations to help with our Boston Mission Trip.

## We're going Tubing!

This event is going to be attended by middle-schoolers from all over Syracuse! We will be heading to Four Seasons Tubing Hill in Manlius, NY. Students have Monday off so we will be staying out late Sunday night!

We will be meeting at 4:00pm at **Skaneateles Presbyterian Church** to ride together to Manlius. We will be tubing from 5pm-9pm and will return to Skaneateles Presbyterian between 9:30 and 9:45. The cost for the night is **\$25** and includes all the tubing possible, pizza, and a crazy WyldLife club with over 100 middle-school students!

**Are you going? You need to have the following 02 completed forms. Contact the church office for your copy.**

We are organizing drivers and rides for kids from Skaneateles to Manlius. If your son/daughter is thinking about attending Tubing Night, please email Mario - so [mario@skandpresby.org](mailto:mario@skandpresby.org) so we can ensure that we have a seat for them that Sunday night. We are asking parents to send snacks if you are able. This could be chips, cookies, pretzels, or anything else! Hope to see you tubing!

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Sundays

8:30am Jr. & Sr. Sunday School  
9:30am Worship Service  
10:30am Coffee Hour  
11:00am Confirmation Class

### Wednesdays

7:00am Bible Study (Book of Isaiah)

### This Month

January 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Brown Bag Lunch (see p.6)  
January 11<sup>th</sup> PYC Servers at Manor House  
January 18<sup>th</sup> Youth Tubing Night (see p.9)  
January 23rd Parent Night Out  
January 25<sup>th</sup> New Member Luncheon (see p.4)  
January 25<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting (see p.1)

### Next Month

February 5<sup>th</sup> Morning Circle and PWC (see p.5)