

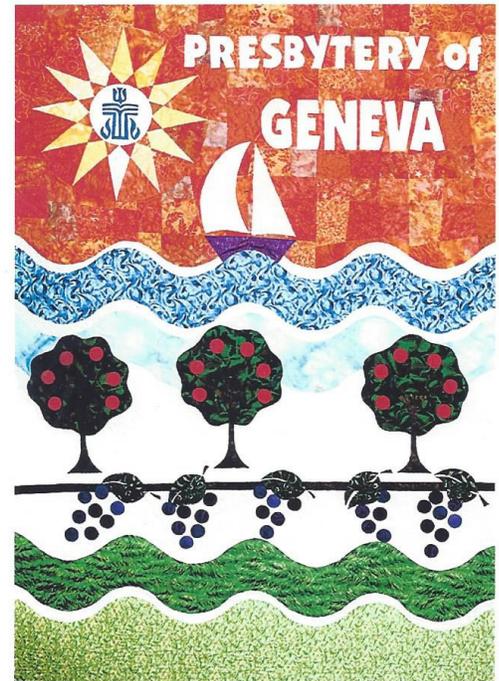
Moderator's Letter

Grace to you and peace. I hope the new year is beginning well for you and for the ministries in which you serve.

In this letter you will find information about:

- the new temporary presbytery leader
- the January Presbytery meeting
- closing service for the Fairville Church
- the installation service for A.J. Tierson, pastor of the Phelps United Church
- used Bibles and an organ offered
- A fundraiser for Camp Whitman at Serenity vineyards.
- a link to the Synod newsletter
- the office of past moderator

David Kilgore



The New Temporary Presbytery leader

At its January 11 meeting, General Council heard a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that Rev. Bronwen Boswell be hired as our Temporary Presbytery Leader. Council voted unanimously to hire her for a six month period at .6 time, beginning January 18. Bronwen is a former executive in Western New York Presbytery. Her title was Presbyter of Discipleship, Communication, and Transformation. Before that she was, for a time, the stated clerk of that presbytery. She was a member of the SARC, so she knows us, warts and all. The Personnel Committee will introduce her at the January 30 Presbytery meeting in Hammondsport.

For a couple of months we have been tossing around two terms that sound a lot alike: a temporary leader and a transitional leader. General Council has been increasingly frustrated by the lack of someone to handle many administrative decisions in the Presbytery. Most of these will be handled by a transitional leader, once that person is elected by the presbytery. But it will take some time for the search committee to do its work and bring a candidate to the presbytery. So General Council has decided to hire someone to fill in until we get a transitional leader. The rationale for this temporary position was explained in the report of the Personnel Committee at the September presbytery meeting.

The January meeting of Presbytery

Presbytery will meet at the Hammondsport church on Saturday, January 30, 2016. This will be a morning meeting only, with no meal served. Only a few items are docketed for the meeting. We will install the new moderator of the Presbytery, Dick Schied, and the new vice-moderator, Joann Braun. Our worship service will include the reading of the necrology, and preaching by Deb Lind-Schmitz who will reflect on lessons that came out of her heart attack and the whole business of new beginnings. Rev. Bronwen Boswell will be

introduced. We will adopt the budget for 2016, so bring your copies of that document. You can find it on the Presbytery website. And we will hear a presentation on the fossil fuels overture by representatives from the Ithaca Church. We will vote on whether to concur with that overture to the General Assembly.

Closing service for the Fairville Church

On Sunday afternoon, December 13, the presbytery held a service at the Fairville Church to mark its closing. We remembered its ministry and the fellowship that had marked its life for many years. Presbytery leaders in the service included Paul Salisbury, chairman of the A.C. to close the church, Tim Johnson, Gail Heimberger, Kirk Baker, Val Fowler, Stated Clerk, Kilgore, preaching, and Lawrence Dapolito, organist. The church property is now owned by the presbytery and is up for sale.

The installation service for A.J. Tierson, pastor of the Phelps United Church

A.J. Tierson was installed on December 13 as the Presbyterian pastor of the Phelps United Church. A.J. has been the pastor of this church for several years, but it has been under the appointment of the United Methodist bishop. When he became a Presbyterian teaching elder that appointment evaporated, and the Presbytery proceeded to install him as the church's pastor.

Pictured on the top row are Russ Roth, Paul Salisbury, David Kilgore, and Andrew VanBuren, pastor of St. John's Episcopal Church in Clifton Springs. In the bottom row are Christina Albrecht, Nan Clark, A.J. Tierson, Ellen Donnan, and Marjorie Roth.



Used Bibles and an Organ Offered

Our Administrative Assistant Karen Jensen received these emails; the first from First Church in Bath, and the second from North Church in Elmira.

Hi Karen:

We have a substantial quantity of Revised Standard Version Bibles that we no longer use. We had been funneling them to the Bath VA but they no longer wish to receive more.

Are there any churches that might be able to use these Bibles? Perhaps a church getting started, or one damaged in a disaster that these might help them till they can purchase new? Is there an overseas mission that might be able to use them?

We really do not want to see them destroyed and so we are hopeful there might be a new life for them somewhere. Your help to get this message to the right person will be appreciated.

Thank you.
Ruth Walters
First Pres of Bath
(607) 776-6464

Hi Karen-

One of our parishioners has a Baldwin II Studio Organ that they are hoping to donate to a church in the Presbytery of Geneva. If you have any churches that are interested please have them contact me and I can provide them with pictures. My regular office hours are Monday – Friday, 9 am – 2pm.

Heather Flandreau
Church Administrator
Elmira North Presbyterian Church
(607) 734-2977

Camp Whitman Fundraiser

Join us on February 6th for a festive day of mulled wine, food, music and raffles benefiting Camp Whitman's campership fund for low-income and disadvantaged campers at Camp.

There will be a special tasting menu with a variety of our different wines using mulling recipes catered to each wine's specific flavor profile for \$5. The standard wine tasting will also be available, as well.

The raffle will include a week of camp!

Saturday, February 6th
12 pm - 5 pm
Serenity Vineyards
Penn Yan, NY



To receive copies of the Synod Newsletter contact Nancy Talbot, Synod Clerk at nancy.talbot@synodne.org

The Office of Past Moderator

Dick Schied and I had lunch together last month to talk about the job of presbytery moderator and to let me to pass on to him some tips about handling this motley crew.

I told Dick that the past moderator actually has a job description: to sit back and grouse about what a bad job the new officers were doing. I expect to do a poor job of that work ... but you never know!

It has been an interesting year as moderator: more work than I anticipated, but in spite of the headaches, an overall rewarding experience. It has been a time when together we picked ourselves up and, by the grace of God, began to rebuild community and look toward some new directions. I have enjoyed preaching in several churches and representing the presbytery to those congregations.

There are two items of unfinished business which I hope I can work on in 2016. I will get the Presbytery Design Team going again to finish what was begun at the retreat we had back in April. I let that ball drop this past fall, and need to get it going again. Also, I hope to do some work in restoring relations and communication between the presbytery and some of our smallest churches. Some of them do not have continuing Presbyterian pastoral leadership. In recent years they have also been ignored by the presbytery, and the contact between them and the larger body has suffered.

I am happy to hand Dick the moderator's gavel. He has some interesting ideas for this year that he wants to share with you, so be listening for them.

Thank you for the privilege of being your moderator.

-David