

The Delmar Prez

**Delmar Presbyterian Church
585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054 (518)439-9252**

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Number 388

Pastor's Page

The very first thing that I want to say in this pastor's page is THANK YOU!

Thank you for the wonderful retirement party and your gracious and generous gifts! Thank you too for all the time, work and thoughtfulness that you put into this event. This was a lot of work for a lot of people, too many for me to even begin to try and name. It was indeed wonderful!

And then, there was a second great celebration with the church school picnic as the children honored me. The wonderful rocking chair graces a special corner in our living room and is a constant reminder to me of the children and the delightful times I have had with them.

I have received many fine cards and letters. I treasure them more than you know. Hugs have been given and received and some of you have expressed your love in tears. It has been a bitter-sweet time.

Retirement is a time for looking back and also for looking ahead. As I look back, I think not only about my thirty years of service, but also those foundational years which took place before I even knew about Delmar Presbyterian Church. My predecessor, The Rev. George Phelps, was the founding pastor of this congregation. For twenty-three years George and the people of this church labored to form a church, build a building and develop a ministry. I see those years as "Chapter One".

When I came in 1983 we started "Chapter Two". We built on the strong foundation that had been put in place. The first major piece of work was to deal with the hot and burning issue of "to have pews, or not to have pews". There were strong opinions and divisions. I could see that this would be a clear testing of this new ministry, a test we all weathered well.

We have done much together. We have strengthened our ministry to the hungry and homeless. We brought into being an ecumenical ministry for the youth of our community, a ministry which has flourished under the capable leadership of Beth Hickox. In 1995 we expanded our building with more classroom space, a beautiful fellowship hall, kitchen and library/lounge. Fifteen years later we put on a new roofing system over the entire building.

During the time I have been here, we have done four capital campaigns: A small one when I was first here and then two more to pay for the new addition, and then one more to put a new roof on the entire facility. They all went very well; however, I am relieved to know that that I will not be doing more of those. All of the things that we have done together over the past thirty years make for a very long chapter two.

Chapter Two ends with my retirement. Having said that, this is a good time to remind you that when a pastor leaves, he, or she, needs to step out of the picture and stay away so the system can recalibrate itself with the next pastor. This is not easy for me, or for you, but it needs to be done for the well being of the church. This of course means that a pastor does not come back to do weddings or funerals or any other pastoral functions. After I retire, I will no longer be your pastor, however if you wish, I will always be your friend.

Now, you are entering into a new chapter. "Chapter Three" will be with your Interim Pastor, The Rev. Bob Foltz Morrison who you will find to be a very capable man and together you will do the important work during this chapter of your life. Sometimes people think an Interim Minister is simply a "place holder", a temporary person who we have until the "real minister" gets here. That is a major misunderstanding. While chapter three will be a shorter chapter, it is a very important one because it will lay the groundwork for "Chapter Four. "

When you are building a structure, every layer of bricks is important because each layer will be the foundation for what will be laid next. A poorly constructed layer will not provide the solid foundation to support the next layer, to say nothing of what will be built far beyond that.

So, I am saying, pay attention to this Interim Work. It is very important! In order to better understand the nature of this work, please see the page in this issue of The Prez which is titled, "The Five Developmental Tasks of Intentional Interim Ministry." This is straight out of the materials that were distributed at Princeton this past October when I took the "Interim Ministry Training Course". I wanted to see what was involved so I could tell my congregation what to expect, and, to be honest, I also took it in case during retirement money should run low, or I got bored, (neither which I think will happen). Please read this piece so you can have a better understanding of this work and the importance of this interim time.

So, we have looked at the first two chapters and I have given you some insight into what the third chapter will be about. And now a word about me and my new chapter because people have been asking me what I am going to do in retirement.

The first thing I will do is take a good long vacation. After that I have a number of projects that I want to do around the house. I also expect I will be doing a fair amount of cooking and cleaning since I will be home while Chris is working.

The major things I want to do will be reading, writing and birding, and not necessarily in that order. I want to study and writing in two areas: One is the area of the interface of Ecology and Theology, and second is I want to think and write about the Church in a secular and technological age. I will also be taking classes at Five Rivers as an Instructor in Training. I think I will focus on the more simple areas, like taking out first and second grade classes for general nature appreciation.

Then too, I will be seeing a lot more of the grandchildren and I look forward to that, especially since they grow so fast. There will undoubtedly be more travel to Japan to see Toma and his parents.

Actually, there is a lot that I am hoping to do. I think I am beginning to understand what my retired friends mean when they say, "In retirement you will be busier than ever! You will love it!"

Last, but in no way least, I want to say to all of you, "Thank You" for helping to make the past thirty years so very rich. As we move into these new chapters, I think we will all do well. After all, God is with, we are not alone.

Thanks Be To God. Amen

Your friend,
Larry



Curious?

Curious about worship? – Why and how we worship, as Christians and as Presbyterians? Curious what other traditions do, and why? Willing to explore together with our new interim pastor how we might worship with him, and how he might lead us in worship, during his interim ministry?

Worship is among our most fundamental experiences and practices as Christians, yet something we do routinely without often giving much thought to what we're doing, or how we might do so in new and yet meaningful ways. In and through worship we engage in dialogue with God, in many and diverse ways – through prayer, word and music, with heart and voice, communally and individually.

As Bob Foltz Morrison begins his ministry with us, one of the areas he wishes to explore with us most immediately is our worship life and experience. In my role as chair of the Worship Committee, I'm extending a call and invitation to those of you with curiosity about and interest in worship to join with Bob, me and the Worship Committee as we commence this exploration this summer and into the fall.

Curious? Interested – even just enough to join the exploration with Bob to learn more about worship and its possibilities for us during Bob's ministry here? Please let me know – in person, phone or email. Thanks in advance for heeding the call. It's a great opportunity to get to know Bob early on, too!

Jack Gajewski, Chair, Worship Committee
439.0374
jack.gajewski@yahoo.com

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday, July 3</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, July 10</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, July 17</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, July 24</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, July 31</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, August 2</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday August 14</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, August 21</u> Worship	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, August 28</u> Worship	10:00 AM

<u>Weekly events:</u>	
Background to the Bible Readings – Will return in the fall	
Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10 AM	
Women’s Bible Study - Will return in the fall	
Bells of Praise – Will return in the fall	
Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays at 7:30 PM	

⇒ PREZ DEADLINE for SEPT. ⇐ August 21	

JULY/AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS:

JULY 3 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
 Psalm 45:10-17
 Romans 7:15-25a
 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

JULY 10 Genesis 25:19-34
 Psalm 119:105-112
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

JULY 17 Genesis 28:10-19a
 Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
 Romans 8:12-25
 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 24 Genesis 29:15-28
 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
 Romans 8:26-39
 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

JULY 31 Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

August 7 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 14 Genesis 45:1-15
 Psalm 133:1-3
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 16:13-20

August 21 Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Psalm 124:1-8
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

August 28 Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

READERS

TBD Volunteers Needed

DEACON IN CHARGE

July Ginny Gajewski
 August 7 Ginny Gajewski
 August 14 Paul McGinn
 August 21 Paul McGinn
 August 28 Art Prostick

USHERS

TBD

WELCOMING HOSTESS

July Ginny Gajewski
August Judy Riopelle

GREETERS

TBD

ACOLYTES

July 3 Megan Empie
July 10 Henry Fleischut
July 17 Chris Hyde
July 24 Greg Hyde
July 31 Callie McGinn
Aug 7 Jennifer Jack
Aug 14 Kevin Hansen
Aug 21 John Cheu
Aug 28 Hannah Lowry

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

TBD Volunteers Needed



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all parents, teachers and students who helped with the farewell church picnic for Larry. The children did a wonderful job singing a special song for Larry and the rocking chair gift turned out beautifully.

The Christian Ed committee is still seeking teachers for the fall and spring 2012. Please contact either Mary Prostick or Melissa Fleischut if you would like to contribute in this meaningful and rewarding way.

Thank you again for all your contributions and work this year for our church school community.

Mary Prostick, Superintendent of Church School

RPMs

HEY 9-12TH GRADERS!

Come And See What RPMs Is All About

RPMs Youth Group is an Ecumenical Group comprised of three churches the Reformed, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches in Delmar. Any 9-12th is welcome to come and join in on the fun. The RPMs do community service around the area including working with Habitat for Humanity, Cooking for Interfaith and the Overflow Shelter, and much more! We travel to New York City to do a Midnight Run, go on a retreat and travel for our annual mission trip in the spring. This is a great group! For more information please email Beth Gould at RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com

September Schedule:

SUNDAY- Sept. 11th – New Member Meeting – Delmar Reformed Church, 7:00pm

SUNDAY - Sept 18th – All Member Meeting – Delmar Reformed Church, 7:00pm

SATURDAY - October 1st – Car Wash – First United Methodist Church Parking Lot 10am-2pm

SUNDAY - October 2nd - Students & Parents Meeting - Delmar Reformed Church, 7:00pm

New Address
Frank Mengel and Lois Lee
100 White Pine Drive
Apt. 433
Albany, NY 12204
Phone: 640-9683

SESSION DIGEST

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved at the May 17 regular meeting, May 22 special meeting of Session, and the May 22 special congregational meeting:

That the members of the 2011 confirmation class, comprised of Dmitry Rees, Lindsey Cheu, Brendan McGinn, Danika Jensen, and Devin Jensen, be accepted through profession of faith as members, such reception to take place on Sunday, June 12, 2011.

The Office Manager will be entitled to the following paid time off (PTO) effective immediately: Six holidays (New Year's, Independence, Thanksgiving, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas, and one floating (to be used at the employee's discretion); Fifteen days PTO for vacation, personal, or sick time; a "day" is defined as the then-current workday and compensation rate for the position (currently five hours).

That Building and Grounds complete the lighting repairs as previously recommended, in the amount of \$2,200, necessary funds to be taken from the balance in the B&G equipment reserve account.

Session authorizes Dave Rees, Finance Chair, to make the necessary investment of funds with New Covenant.

That Session approves an offer of employment to be made to Rev. Bob Foltz-Morrison as presented with the following changes: increase total offer by \$1500 and increase continuing education by \$1000 for a total compensation package of \$100,479 (with Social Security impact added); and that Doug Hamlin, chair, be empowered to negotiate a final contract with an additional 15% leeway beyond the total noted above.

That the congregation approve the retirement of Rev. Larry A. Deyss, with thankfulness, and appreciation for his 30 years of dedicated service to Delmar Presbyterian Church, effective 7/1/11.

Lois Hessberg, Clerk of Session

Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study will resume this fall on September 12th. It will be held on Mondays at 10 AM and the book of Exodus will be read and discussed. Look for more information in the September Prez.

NOTES FROM OUTREACH

"There's Nothing for Big Kids!"

Thank you for your warm response to the plea for outgrown but still usable clothing to be passed along to the homeless kids at Schuyler Inn! At our last family party on Sunday June 5th the parents happily selected clothing and stuffed animals for their infants and toddlers as preteens and teens hovered in the background noting disappointedly, "There's nothing for big kids".

Sadly, there's a full house at Schuyler this summer – families with children from infants to teens. As a cramped, shabby motel room is no place for anyone to spend a summer vacation, members of many churches are joining together to raise funds to send as many kids aged 3 through 16 as possible to the six-week day camp run by Israel AME Church in Albany. The Israel AME Camp is a real blessing to both children and parents; it includes 8 am morning pickup, two meals, snacks, sports, crafts, tutoring in reading, field trips, swimming, and 4 pm delivery back to the motel.

For camp the children and teens need summer wear, a swimsuit, a towel, and sneakers or sandals and flip flops. In September they'll need everything a school kid needs – "cool" school clothes, school shoes, and school supplies.

DPC church members have generously donated clothing (including pajamas), used but still wearable shoes, stuffed animals (everyone needs a stuffed animal to hug), toys, books, magazines, towels, washcloths, bath soaps, laundry detergent (folks with little clothing need to wash often), lotion, shampoo, school supplies, household items (flatware, glasses, sets of dishes, sheets, blankets, comforters, coffee mugs ... The notes on the bags, "bedding - freshly washed", was much appreciated! The only item we regularly buy new is underwear.

Thank you for remembering our homeless neighbors in Menands as you sort and recycle this spring/summer! If you have something to give away that you're not sure about, don't hesitate to call me at 439-3836. Please understand that if you have happily used something, most likely it will bring a smile to a neighbor in need.

Irene Harbison
Outreach



NOTES FROM BUILDING AND GROUNDS

To keep the grounds looking good we need volunteers during the summer to help with weeding the gardens (and watering them once all the rain stops). If you are willing and able to help with weeding and watering, please call Nate Cady at (518) 768-7005, or email natecady@gmail.com.

~ Ladies Who Lunch ~

Wednesday, July 20th
11:30 AM
Out to Lunch

☞

Car-pool from church parking lot
(Delaware Avenue)
Please sign up in the narthex

Details to follow via email /phone

Submitted by Diana Wildemann 439-2249

First Church in Albany
Give a Meal a Month
- July -



Instant coffee, drink mixes, cereal, Jello, laundry detergent, deodorant, disposable razors.

Monetary donations are always welcome to help defray pantry expenses.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

The office manager will be away July 4-8 and July 25-29 As our interim pastor, Rev. Foltz-Morrison, will just be settling in, we ask that you save routine business for when Dana is in the office.

TRANSITION NEWS

What About Bob?

Grace and peace to you!

I am the one Lauren Jack identified on Trinity Sunday as the “guy named Bob” who will be your interim pastor. Who is this “guy named Bob”?



I am a native of New Jersey whose parents twice moved us during my childhood – once to Miami, Florida and again to the Panama Canal Zone. I participated in baseball, football, track (pole vaulting). I can be enticed to play softball or show up for your kids’ athletic endeavors. I did a lot of hiking and camping as a Scout and still enjoy that. Point me to the parks and trails! I love to run – in spirit, though my right knee is not so committed to that. The gym or pool or walks work for me. Invite me on a walk so I know the routes.

Coming back to “the States” as a college student at Davidson (NC) and a seminarian at Princeton (NJ) got me placed among “international students.” I have great affinity with international students and immigrants and carry something of a bi-cultural experience within me that keeps me open to the global village in which we live and are affected by. I love to know about family histories.

I met my wife Leslie Foltz in seminary; we married and had two sons during my first pastorate in the Bronx. Leslie also is an ordained Presbyterian minister who has served churches, hospitals as chaplain, and most recently the administrator for a post-9/11 interfaith partnership for disaster recovery in New Jersey. We are still figuring out this distant

living arrangement between my renting in Delmar and the home we own in Westfield, NJ. Twenty-eight years of marriage works in our favor. We also can see each as often as Skype remains free.

My sons are now young adults. Dan (24) graduated from Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA so “Bethlehem” has multiple meanings for us. A music major, he sings choral music for a church in NJ and loves singing opera and Leid (19th century German song). He is taking voice lessons in NYC toward a role in opera. Andrew (21) is a senior at Rutgers University this fall. A social geography and philosophy double major, he wants to get his Ph.D. and teach. Both are active in the Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry, campus politics, and causes that reflect responsible stewardship. They continue to let me know of the latest apps in social networking. I welcome young adults, their perspective, and how their technical knowledge can get our church message out.

Leslie--one of four sisters--and I--one of two brothers and three sisters--have families strung from Kansas to France, Virginia to Florida. Our moms are both deceased; her dad lives in Kansas and mine in Florida, both with good health. Many my age provide support both to their parents and their children.

I come to you as one who has previously served in five congregations and a presbytery as its executive—much like the Rev. Cass Shaw, a friend, serves Albany Presbytery. I don’t approach life as having all the answers. I am curious about the questions we seek to have answered (and those we avoid) so that we can live good and faithful lives, grounded in God’s hope for us. I continue to read and listen widely about what it means to be “the church,” “a community of faith,” “God’s people,” “ambassadors for Christ,” “filled with the Spirit.” As I come to serve you and open my heart and mind to you, I hope you will come to feel free to do the same. I seek to live with a pastor’s heart and a missional mind. We are loved by God and given wonderful opportunities to contribute to the well-being of God’s hope for us and all people. Stop by to talk. Invite me over.

We journey together in and through this transition. This is new territory we will map

together. Our spiritual experiences with God are our compass. We have companions in the wider church who also traverse transitions and come to the border where a new pastor is called. What will most help is our talking to one another about our hopes and fears, our passions and dreams; praying; doing what we already know is right. In these activities, the Spirit of God is playing an active role with us. Believe me, God is right here with you as a Counselor.

So I am the guy named Bob, or Pastor Bob if you like, here to journey with you as minister of word and sacrament in this interim, this in-between time.

Rev. Foltz-Morrison / Pastor Bob can be reached either through the church office, **439-9252**, or his cell phone number **908-432-0408**, or via email at foltzmorrison@gmail.com.

He expects to be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings and by appointment other days, evenings, and weekends.

The Five Developmental Tasks of Intentional Interim Ministry

The time between the ending of one pastorate and the beginning of another is an important time in the life of a congregation. How a congregation uses this time shapes its growth, identify, and health for years. The interim period offers a chance for a congregation to talk about and clarify its hopes and questions about church life.

The rich potential of the interim time began to be recognized about 30 years ago. Primarily through the work of the Alban Institute, five Developmental Tasks of the congregation were identified. These serve as the foundation for helping a congregation understand itself, its context, and its calling. The five tasks are:

1. Coming to Terms with History

It is important for congregations to know their history so that they can appreciate their heritage and at the same time be aware of the issues and concerns that need to be resolved in order to move freely into the future.

2. Discovering a New Identity

Identity is the task of understanding "who we are now in our present context and what it is we understand God is calling us to be." It is the task of developing the vision to which a congregation is being called.

3. Shifts of Power/Leadership Changes

In most congregations over a period of time the leadership begins to take on much of the style and values of the previous pastor. When that pastor leaves, there is often a time when persons who have been in leadership rethink their commitment and determine whether or not they want to continue in leadership positions. Other persons often find the interim time an opportunity to take leadership roles. This is an opportune time to empower those who are out of power and to welcome leadership gifts from all parts of the congregation. It is also a time to confront "informal leadership" or special interest groups.

4. Rethinking Denominational Linkages

Congregations often are not aware of the support and resources they receive from their middle judicatory and national denominational structures. That relationship is normally more visible while the structures of the church beyond the congregation are engaged in working with the congregation in moving through the interim period and seeking to find the right pastor to call. The transition time helps raise the awareness of a congregation to its denominational heritage, ministries, and resources.

5. Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future

When a congregation has developed a shared vision of its future and has sought to call a pastor to help lead it in moving into that future, there will probably be a new commitment both to that new leader and to that new future.

These are the five crucial developmental tasks of a congregation in search of a new pastor. If congregational members do these tasks thoroughly with wide participation, the chances for effective ministry with a new pastor are greatly enhanced.

Thank You! Thank You!

I want to acknowledge those that were so helpful in making Pastor Larry's Retirement Party a huge success:

- HUGE organizing help from Linda Miller Lowry, Melissa Dalzell Phang, Lois Hessberg, and Sarah Carroll.

- Musical help from Ron Tweedie, Carey Ahner, Dave Perry, and Lois Hessberg.

- Scrap book help from Sue Kilgallon.

- Also a big thank you to Dana Hebert for her help in the office.

I could not have done it without you all.
THANKS!

Karyn Rees

SPORTS NEWS



SWIMMING: Pam Taft, competing in the Empire State Senior Games, June 10 and 11, swam her way to a silver medal for second place in the 50-Yard Backstroke and a bronze medal for third place in the 500-Yard Freestyle in her age bracket.

TRACK AND FIELD: Ed Taft also made the trip to Cortland for the Senior Games. He came home with two silver medals for his age group taking second place in the 100-Meter Dash and the Long Jump.

SOFTBALL: Despite an abundance of showers, none of Presby's May 26 - June 16 games was rained out.

Game 6 - St. Thomas II 15 - Presby 9

Presby was leading 8 - 6 after 5 innings, but St. Thomas scored 6 runs in the top of the 6th to put the game away. Both Jeffery and Matt Young hit homers in our first loss of the season.

Game 7 - Presby 24 - Delmar Reformed 4

Tied at 3 - 3 in the 2nd inning, Presby put the game on ice with 9 runs in the 4th inning. Dwight Partridge homered twice. Nathan Turner also added a homer as did Matt and Jeffery Young.

Game 8 - Presby 12 - St. Thomas I 7

St. Thomas took a 7 - 4 lead into the 5th when Presby put a five-spot on the board to take the lead. Matt Young rounded the bases again. Nathan Turner and Jeffery Young contributed triples.

Game 9 - Presby 22 - Beth Emeth 3

Attending his first game since 1981, Pastor Deyss delivered the pre-game prayer. Larry obviously brought us good luck in our first meeting with Beth Emeth. When he left for an appointment, we were leading 13 - 1. Jeffery Young and Dwight Partridge homered.

The following games are scheduled for 6:30 p.m.:

6/23 Game 10 - King's Chapel @ Henry Hudson Town Park

6/30 Game 11 - Bethany Reformed @ home

7/7 Game 12 - St. Stephens @ Bethlehem Middle School, Field 1

7/14 Game 13 - Delmar Fire Department @ home

7/21 Game 14 - Clarksville Community Reformed @ Feura Bush Town Park

7/28 Game 15 - Wynantskill First Reformed @ Wynantskill

At last, our home field is the BCHS girls' varsity field near the parking lot! All of these regularly scheduled games begin at 6:30 p.m. Playoff games will begin at 6:15 p.m.

Check the league website for scores, the playoff schedule, directions to the fields, etc.

<http://cvsoftball.tripod.com>

See you at a game?

Bob Lynk
thelynks@midtel.net
439-3948 or 827-4340

Letters

Hello All,

Thanks for your thoughts and prayers, cards and well-wishes. Sarah has conveyed them all to me. She is very good at that! I appreciate that you have been thinking of me. I am recovering well so far and expect to be approved for all activity by the end of July. Peace be with you.

Diane Hamilton

Dear Friends,

It's summer – at least some of our days feel that way. It is a time for sunny days, summer vacations, and gardens full of weeds.

Summer is a difficult time for many of our families – there are no more school breakfasts or lunches. And as any of you who have raised children know – kids tend to eat more when they are at home all day! This naturally will place some extra demands on the pantry.

It is then that we pause and appreciate all that you do throughout the year. Without your regular support, we would be unable to meet the needs of the growing number that we serve.

Thank you for caring and sharing and for ALL that you do. You make our ministry possible.

Sincerely,
Rev. Barbara Morgan, Community Outreach
First Church in Albany

PS – Thanks you for continually caring and sharing. You make my job easier!