

The Delmar Prez

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

DECEMBER 2011

Number 392

Interim Pastor's Page

What are we waiting for?

Christmas, might seem the answer of many children whose eyes shine with expectation. Visions of what Christmas *is* or is meant to be dart in and out of our thoughts at this time of year. Undoubtedly, from person to person the visions as well as the emotions we carry within us this month will vary. Smiles and sadness, hopes and disappointments, anticipation and resignation all might be there, even within a single person. Be gentle with yourselves and with others, especially with your expectations for Christmas. What the Christian community is called to do is to remember a wonderful act of God in human history, which continues to have a spiritual impact on those who see in it the revelation of God.

What are we waiting for?

God's vision of what's ahead for us as a congregation. With a mission study team about to get underway, we will be engaged in prayerful conversations and reflections with God and each other. Every one of us probably has within their heart or within their minds hope for what God might do among us. We join a great cloud of witnesses through the ages that, knowing of God's great power and love, has beseeched God to give them a vision of the path they should follow. We sit not idly waiting. Instead, we worship God, we read the Scriptures, we look at the needs in the world beyond us, we assess our gifts and capacities, we talk to one another, and we pray to discern God's hope for us. The Season of Advent provides a start.

Each Sunday of Advent (the four leading toward Christmas), the lectionary provides a guide for understanding what God is revealing. We begin with Adventist hope that God would break into history. As in times past, so in the past year and the year ahead, people have predicted the end of the world. We ourselves are Adventists, too. How are we to live in this "in-between" time of expectation and fulfillment? This Adventist hope sharpens when a particular prophet (John) announces the revelation of God is at hand in the first century. John provides clues about what people should do to prepare themselves. More is revealed as the revelation of God comes not as a cosmic appearance for all the world to see, but in the womb of a young woman (Mary). Only innkeepers and shepherds, an elderly man and woman, and sages from another part of the world first see the revelation of God in the birth of a child named Jesus. But the message gets out: *God is with us*. This Jesus, Mary reveals in a song, shall become the Savior of the world. You hear this story today because those who believe Jesus is the Savior of the world have continued to proclaim it from one generation to the next.

It is our turn to proclaim and share the Christmas message.

Christmas Eve services fall on a Saturday this year so please note the time changes. The first service will be at 5:00 PM and be a service for families with an enacted message called "The Innkeeper's Tale," I have prepared. The second service will be one of Lessons and Carols, with Holy Communion, at 10:00 PM. Both conclude with candlelighting.

The following day is Christmas, of course. This year Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so Mary Ingraham and I will be back for a brief service (45-minute) at 10:00 AM with songs of joy, a litany of prayers for Christmas Day, and a brief reflection for you to carry home as you celebrate the birth of Christ. Dress warmly, but casually.

The first Sunday after Christmas is New Year's Day. Again, worship will begin at 10:00 AM and include another enacted message called "Simeon's Tale," from a story written by the late Dr. David C. Read, who served the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

We conclude Christmas season on the 12th night of Christmas (*Epiphany*)-- January 6th— with our first church-wide gathering in 2012. We will celebrate what is called "Three Kings Day" in other cultures with a short film based on the story by Henry Van Dyke called "The Other Wise Man," and a Three Kings cake sponsored by the Christian Education and Congregational Life Committees.

The Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison

Scripture Readings for December

First Sunday in Advent: Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7; I Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

(December 27)

Second Sunday in Advent: Isa 40.1-11; Ps 85.1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mk 1.1-8

(December 4)

Third Sunday in Advent: Isa 61.1-4,8-11; Ps 126; I Thess 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28

(December 11)

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Luke 1.26-38; Ps 89.1-4,19-26; Luke 1.46-55

(December 18)

Christmas Eve 5 PM Family Service: Isa 9.2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2.11-14; Lk 2.1-20

(Saturday, December 24)

Christmas Eve 10 PM Service of Lessons and Carols:

(Saturday, December 24)

Christmas Day Service: Isa 52.7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1.1-4 (5-12); John 1.1-14

(Sunday, December 25)

First Sunday in Christmas: Isa 61.10-62.3; Ps 148; Gal 4.4-7; Lk 2.22-40

(January 1)

Epiphany Celebration: Isa 60.1-6; Ps 72.1-7,10-14; Matthew 2.1-12

(Friday, January 6 @ 7 PM)

In light of recent news events reporting sexual misconduct and child abuse, the Session reminds the church of the statement below in our Parish Handbook that was revised this fall:

Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures

It is the policy of the Delmar Presbyterian Church that its minister, church officers, church members, youth leaders and non-member employees not engage in sexual misconduct as defined in this policy. Sexual misconduct is a violation of the principles set forth in Scripture and is never permissible. Further, it is the policy of this church that charges of sexual misconduct be treated with the seriousness they deserve, and be dealt with promptly and fairly for the benefit of all parties concerned. In keeping with American law and tradition, the presumption of innocence regarding the accused must be respected. Sexual misconduct includes the following: sexual harassment, sexual abuse and malfeasance, and child/youth sexual abuse. Incidents of sexual misconduct should be reported directly to one of the designated contact persons at the church: Male First Responder: Gary Lind; Female First Responder: Pam Taft; Interim Pastor: Robert Foltz-Morrison; Church School Superintendent: Mary Prostick. A copy of the entire policy may be obtained by calling the church office.

Pastor Bob's Contact Information

Revs. Robert and Leslie Foltz-Morrison, 74 Delaware Avenue, Apt. B, Delmar, NY 12054
Apartment Phone: 518-512-3594 Bob's cell: 908-432-0408

**DECEMBER CALENDAR OF
EVENTS AT CHURCH**

<u>Friday, December 2</u>	
MYPs Pizza and Craft Night	6:00 PM
<u>Sunday, December 4</u>	
Prospective New Members	9:00 AM
Communion	10:00 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
MSPY Craft Fair	11:30 AM
Women's AA Mtg.	8:00 PM
<u>Monday, December 5</u>	
Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
<i>(Last class until Jan. 9)</i>	
Boy Scouts	6:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, December 6</u>	
Girl Scouts	4:30 PM
Boy Scouts	6:30 PM
<u>Wednesday, December 7</u>	
Cub Scouts	6:00 PM
<u>Sunday, December 11</u>	
White Manger Sunday – Worship	10:00 AM
Cookie and Candy Festival	11:15 AM
Welcoming Subcommittee Mtg.	11:15 AM
Outreach Committee	11:15 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
Women's AA Mtg.	8:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, December 13</u>	
Session Dinner	6:00 PM
Session Meeting	7:00 PM
Cub Scouts	6:30 PM
<u>Sunday, December 18</u>	
Worship	10:00 AM
Christmas Pageant	4:00 PM
BCHS Senior Celebration Mtg.	6:00 PM
RPMs Christmas Party	7:00 PM
Women's AA Mtg.	8:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, December 20</u>	
Girl Scouts	4:30 PM
<u>Saturday, December 24</u>	

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 PM	
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 PM	
<u>Sunday, December 25</u>	
Christmas Worship	10:00 AM

<u>Weekly events:</u>	
Background to the Bible Readings – 9 AM	
12/4, 12/11 & 12/18. Resumes 1/8	
Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10 AM	
Women's Bible Study - Monday 10 AM	
Bells of Praise – 12/7 & 12/14 only	
Choir Rehearsal – Thursday 7:30 PM	

⇒PREZ DEADLINE for January ⇐	
Dec. 18	

READERS

Dec. 4 Drew Hyde
 Dec. 11 Robert Lowry
 Dec. 18 & 25 Available

DEACON IN CHARGE

Dec. 4 Robert Phang
 Dec. 11 Art Prostick
 Dec. 18 Paul McGinn
 Dec. 24 Robert Phang – 5 PM
 Ginny Gajewski – 10 PM
 Dec. 25 Dave Austin

USHERS

Dec. 4 Drew and Mary Wilson Hyde

WELCOMING HOSTESS

December Sherry Putney

GREETERS

Dec. 4 Ginny Hazard and Carolyn
 Tweedie
 Dec. 11 The Kilgallon Family
 Dec. 18 Howard and Dorothy Geyer
 Dec. 25 Ted and Sherry Putney

ACOLYTES

Dec. 4 Evan Finke
 Dec. 11 Tory Kendrick
 Dec. 18 Amelia Hertz
 Dec. 25 Jack Empie

REFRESHMENTS

Dec. 4 Available

Dec. 11 Cookie and Candy Festival
 Dec. 18 The Lynks
 Dec. 25 Available

COMMUNION

Marlene Austin, Mark Hansen, Dan Lewis, Trish McGinn, Dave Rees, Shirley Simon



Holiday Craft Bazaar

presented by the MSPYs
Sunday, December 4th
 immediately following worship



The **perfect** place to buy
 ornaments, teacher & bus driver gifts,
 and delicious stocking stuffers!

Proceeds will benefit Flood Relief
 in Schoharie & Greene Counties

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As in many prior years, December is a wonderfully busy month for many of us, including the members of our Church School family. We will celebrate the coming of our Savior in many ways throughout this month.

December 4 is Communion Sunday and our first Christmas pageant rehearsal. Children should report to the Fellowship Hall instead of their classrooms after the Pastor's Time with the Children. As indicated previously, it is necessary for all pageant participants to be present for this initial rehearsal, as well as proceeding rehearsals, in order to feel confident and ready for the performance on December 18.

Also, on December 4, the MSPYs will have their annual Holiday Craft Bazaar immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. The students are busy at work creating ornaments, gifts and goodies for the Bazaar. All proceeds will benefit flood victims in Schoharie and Greene counties. Please be sure to support the students in their efforts.

December 11 we will celebrate White Manger Sunday and our annual Cookies and Candy Festival. On White Manger Sunday, the children process into the church during the opening hymn with gifts wrapped in white tissue paper. After leaving their gifts at the chancel, the children who are participating in pageant should go directly to the Fellowship Hall for rehearsal. Additionally, after rehearsal is complete, the children will be gathered together and led to the library by the church school staff. **Parents should come to the library to retrieve their children when the church service is complete.** This is intended to eliminate the chance of unsupervised children being present in the Fellowship Hall just prior to the Cookie and Candy Festival.

Our third and final pageant practice will take place on Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Rehearsal will take place in the sanctuary and costumes will be distributed. After rehearsal, church school staff will provide the children with pizza and juice and **they will be ready for pickup at 12 noon.**

Finally, Church School will be held as usual on Sunday, December 18. Children should then return to the church at 4:00 that afternoon, in costume, for the 4:30 pageant. Following the pageant, we will celebrate with cookies, fruit and punch. Please join us in supporting our Church School youth as they present the story of Jesus' birth.

December events:

December 4: No Church school / **FIRST PAGEANT REHEARSAL** / required attendance for all pageant participants. Communion Sunday.

December 11: White Manger Sunday / No Church school / Pageant rehearsal

Saturday, December 17: Pageant rehearsal 10 a.m. to 12 noon in sanctuary

December 18: Regular Church school session during service

Christmas Pageant at 4:30 – children report in costume at 4:00

December 25: No church school. Worship at 10 a.m.

Any questions regarding this schedule, please don't hesitate to call or email me (475-9574 or prostick@mac.com).

Thank you,

Mary Prostick, Superintendent of Church School



RPMs

Hoffman Car Wash Tickets

Make Great Stocking Stuffers!

Tickets are \$9.00 and the RPMs receive half of each ticket. They will be available until they are gone. Contact Beth Gould at 596-2116 /RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com or see Trish McGinn to pick up yours today!

Sunday, December 11: RPMs Meeting
7:00PM – 8:00PM / Delmar Reformed Church (386 Delaware Ave)

Sunday, December 18: RPMs Meeting
7:00PM – 8:00PM / Location



NOTES FROM OUTREACH

Offering of Food – Thanksgiving 2011



Thank you for your generosity.

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



Canned meat, vegetables and soups. Coffee and cocoa. Paper and hygiene products.

Monetary donations are always welcome to help defray pantry expenses.

SESSION DIGEST

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved at the 10/18/11 meeting of Session:

That the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Reporting Procedures, as presented with corrections, be approved and adopted immediately by Delmar Presbyterian Church.

That the Sexual Misconduct Task Force be expanded to include appropriate Committee Chairs enabling preparation of operating procedures and physical environment recommendations intended to prevent or greatly reduce the likelihood of inappropriate behavior by those working in and for the church, and that the life of the Task Force be extended in order to establish such procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the policy adopted.

That Session approve Dave Rees' requested use of the Fellowship Hall the 1st Tuesday of every month for his Bear den's meetings.

That Session approve, on the recommendation of the Administration Committee, the AA requested use of the Library on Sunday nights, from 7:30-9:30PM. We will waive our usual policy of requiring outside insurance, and reduce our fee from \$30 per week to \$30 per month.

That the expenditure of \$183 to purchase a K-type fire extinguisher to bring us up to code be approved, even if it results in deficit spending for the current budget year.

That, if the way be clear, an expenditure of \$800 be approved for the purchase of bookcases for the Pastor's study, to be expensed in 2012 if the current year's budget is inadequate.

That the Delmar Presbyterian portion of the RPM director compensation currently at \$5,101 for 2011 be raised incrementally to \$6,800 in 2012 and \$8,533 in 2013.

Lois Hessberg, Clerk of Session

To My Delmar Pres Family

As I embark on a new journey in my service in the church universal I wished to thank you--each and every one of you who have entrusted your church's leadership to me and others like me. When I was elected and installed as an elder 17 years ago, through 8 years as a serving elder, and 6 1/2 years as your Clerk of Session, I had

no idea your support, your love and faithfulness, your fellowship would lead me to this point in my life where I now find myself, as of 11/12/11, Vice Moderator of the Albany Presbytery.

This will be a new challenge, and I'm reliably informed, an enormous amount of work. I have already had a small taste of what it will entail, having served as your permanent elder commissioner for the past 8 years. Speaking of which, since I can no longer serve in this capacity, we would invite anyone who is interested in this position to have a conversation with us.

Because I feel strongly that we, as disciples, must reach out and connect with our brothers and sisters in the church, this new responsibility will involve a journey which will take me from your presence frequently over the next two years, and for that I'm already grieving. I will be doing double duty for a while, having already assumed some tasks associated with my new role, but still serving as your Clerk of Session until the end of January, so I'll be around for a while longer.

That said, this will always be my church, you are my church family, and I will always draw strength and comfort knowing that my elevation to this position only happened because you once had the faith to call me to service here, in Delmar Pres. And I promise I will always return to worship with you whenever I am not visiting one of the 70 congregations and fellowships in the Albany Presbytery.

Lois Hessberg

Mission Study Team

The following six adults and two youth have been asked by the Session and agreed to serve on the Mission Study Team which will work with you to look at the future we believe God is calling us to envision.

*Lisa Allendorph
Sarah Carroll
Ginny Gajewski
Doug Hamlin
Dan Lewis
Pam Taft*

Mary Allendorph
Lindsey Cheu

They begin in January. Keep DPC in your prayers as we discern God's hope for us.

NOTES FROM FINANCE

Dear Congregation,

The final weeks of our three-year capital campaign are coming to a close. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the campaign a success. We were able to fix our roof, replace some carpeting, purchase new furniture for the Fellowship hall and build a nest egg for future capital repairs. Your pledges exceeded our collective expectations, making possible a significant reserve fund against unforeseen capital needs. As of September 30th, payments against pledges were at 91%, with just \$36,000 remaining to complete the campaign. Please try to make your final payment by the end of December, and accept our collective thanks and appreciation for doing so.

As of October the 2011 stewardship campaign is below the anticipated level of giving and we ask that if you have the means to contribute beyond your original pledge you consider an additional offering to help narrow the gap. We understand that a pledge is not a contract, but a good-faith estimate made a year ago as to what level of giving was appropriate for you so the church can fulfill its mission to the congregation and the community at-large. It is understood that sometimes people's situations change and understand that sometimes this means not making pledge payments. Please do not harbor guilt or anxiety if your circumstances have changed and making the pledge is causing an undue hardship. We as a community of faith are here to support one another.

By now you have received the 2012 pledge materials and hope you have had the opportunity to review the material. If you have

already returned your pledge for next year thank you. If you're still contemplating what level of giving is appropriate please try to have the forms into the office by early December so we can wrap up the campaign. Your pledges help the Session plan our ministry path ahead, and help the future minister called by God to serve us, see our commitment to the future we seek together.

As always I am willing to address any questions you may have. I can be reached during the evening at 439-1346.

Dave Rees
Finance Committee Chair

Books for Christmas Giving



Three of our more popular and prolific Christian scholars have new books out this year that merit consideration for Christmas gift giving. Two of the writers will be familiar to those who became acquainted with them in a DPC book study several years ago: Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright. The third, John Shelby Spong, has also written extensively, challenging his readers, as Borg and Wright do, to think “outside the box” about their faith and religious practices.

All three books speak to a similar theme – understanding the Biblical writings and the language of faith as they believe it was meant to be understood and should be understood today. Marcus Borg's Speaking Christian – Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power – and How They Can Be Restored, seeks to understand how the words of our sacred texts and the stories employing those words were meant originally, and thereby restore their power to transform our faith.

N. T. Wright's Simply Jesus – A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters, seeks to see beyond the contemporary debate between traditionalists and critics of the institutional church, to reveal what he believes the New Testament really teaches – what is the real story of Jesus. Be prepared to be both challenged and surprised by his attempt to tell

the story of Jesus as if we were hearing it for the first time.

John Shelby Spong's Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World explores the origin and meaning of each of the books of the Bible, attempting to free the reader from both a literal and a traditional view of the Biblical narrative. Writing for everyday Christians, he draws upon scholars who, he believes, have overturned much of what we thought we knew or took for granted.

These three writers encompass the current conservative-centrist-progressive spectrum of thought on Christian faith and understanding. Each provides a refreshing, if not challenging and perhaps a bit upsetting, new look at the foundations of our faith – its texts and language, and the focus of both, for Christians, Jesus. And all three are interesting and relatively easy reads, both entertaining and yet thought-provoking.

Submitted by Jack Gajewski
Chair, Worship Committee

Milestones

Nathaniel and Christa Cady welcome Ella Mae Cady, born Monday, November 29, 2011, weighing 7 pounds.

~ Ladies Who Lunch ~



Nov. Meeting - Flower Arranging

Next meeting: January 25th at Noon

Homemade Christmas Cookies and Candy Christmas Festival



Sunday, December 11, 2011
Fellowship Hall after Worship

Once again, it is time for family and friends to “share a little Christmas together.” Reminders for the Festival: Dads, moms and children working together to bake cookies and make candies (and cleanup) can make wonderful Christmas memories for the family. Take your delicious treats to the kitchen **Saturday, Dec. 10, between 9:30 AM and 12 PM or Sunday Dec. 11 at 9:30 AM.** Please sign up in the narthex - it helps in our planning. We are happy to have the children’s table again.

After the service, please go to the library to pick up your children and go to the Fellowship Hall together to have fun picking out your treats, enjoying each other, your friends (maybe make a few new ones) and listening and singing along with the wonderful Christmas music. A special note: Who do you think will be playing the piano this year? Guess!

The proceeds this year will be divided equally between the Bethlehem Festival Fund and Senior Services. We hope that our fellowship together will bring Christmas joy and warm memories to each one of you.

Submitted by Eleanor Norrix on behalf of the Festival subcommittee: Eunice Jones, Karyn Rees, Eleanor Norrix and Lynn Taylor.

Letters

To our friends at DPC,

We have been in our new home for six weeks and are still in the process of unpacking boxes of belongings; the movers brought us 147 of those boxes, along with other items that were too large to be put in boxes. Our current challenge is in finding space for everything. It is unsettling to Margaret to be in an unfamiliar environment; she misses her home, her church and her friends in Delmar. Our daughter Joanne and her husband Alan are of great help, but it will take time for Margaret to adjust.

To all of the good folk at Delmar Presbyterian, I express on Margaret's behalf our appreciation for their friendship and their tolerance. I will try to provide reports of major changes here. Our new address is:

6423 Clearview Road
Boulder, CO 80303-3005
Phone: (303) 494-2765
Email: fredtubbs2@comcast.net

With good wishes for all,
Fred Tubbs

++++++

To our friends at the Delmar Presbyterian Church,

Thank you to all of you who have given of your time, talents and gifts to help bring not just our farm but our community through the challenges sent to us in the form of "Irene." Your prayers and positive energy has given us strength as we create what will be a "new normal" in our lives. Although the cleanup seems to drag on, we are looking forward to repairing the fields and greenhouses in anticipation of the new growing season! As we move forward we are trying to focus on what we feel are our farm's assets and let the rest of it "go down the creek!"

Thank you so much for taking us into your hearts and becoming part of our farm family – we are truly blessed! God bless you all.

Fondly,
Cindy and Jim Barber
Barber Farms

++++++

Dear Rev. Foltz-Morrison,

On behalf of the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church Session and our entire church family, we would like to extend to you and your congregation our gracious gratitude and a big thank you for your church's commitment of time and hard work. Everyone's contribution played a major role in helping us move forward as we continue to recover from damages caused by the flood that occurred on August 28, 2011. Please extend our sincere appreciation to your congregation.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to serve as volunteers. Much of the progress we have made is due to the work completed by dedicated volunteers like your congregation, and we are very grateful.

Peace and blessings from the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church,

Sincerely,
Linda Mencucci
Clerk Pro Tem
Dear Pastor Bob, (excerpt)

Thank you for your card. I loved hearing about all my friends at the Delmar Presbyterian Church. Also, thank you for the mailing (of the bulletin and sermon).

Warmly,
Patti Ellis

From our students away from home:

Dear Outreach Committee,
Thank you so much for the box of treats that was sent to my dorm room this week! I thoroughly enjoyed them, they were baked deliciously! Thank you for the care package.
Sincerely,
Packy Carroll

++++++

Hi Outreach Team,
Thanks a lot for the care package! All the sweets were DELICIOUS! Can't wait to stop by church next time I'm back. Thanks again!
Sincerely,
James Carroll

++++++

Hi everyone,
Thank you all so much for the goodies, it made my day to get a present from so many people. I've enjoyed the cookies, so have my friends on the floor. I'm loving college despite the workload, but it's nice to get something from Delmar.
Best wishes,
Sarah Morse

++++++

To the wonderful bakers and the entire congregation,

Thank you so much for thinking of me while I'm away at school. The box of baked goods made my day, not only was everything absolutely delicious, but it was nice to know I still have my church community supporting me while I'm away.

Love,

Taylor Capuano

++++++

Dear Members of DPC,

Thank you so much for the goodie bag! The treats were so good, and my roommates and I really enjoyed eating them at college. I really appreciate that you thought of it – it meant a lot to me.

Thank you again,

Lindsay DeBerry

Movies to Think About

The Fourth Wise Man



Starring Martin Sheen & Alan Arkin

Friday, January 6th (Epiphany!)

Please save the date! More details to follow soon.