

# *The Delmar Prez*

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

**FEBRUARY 2011**

**Number 383**

## **Pastor's Page**

### **Annual Meeting Reflections**

My thanks to the many people who helped make this annual meeting a very satisfying one.

A lot of work goes into making a good annual meeting. First there are all the things that people do throughout the year that help make the committee reports full of many accomplishments. Then there is the work of the various chairs in pulling all the information together in report form. Beyond that there is the preparation for the meeting itself with the room set up and food prepared. You all did your jobs well.

I was very glad to see the leadership team of elders and deacons taking on younger people so that we have a new generation of leaders stepping up to carry on the ministry of the church. Of course, as important as leaders are, they are no stronger than the people who support them through committees and the general work of the church as they give their resources of time, talent and treasure.

I was glad also to have time to answer your questions as we think about the transition period that we will be experiencing over the next year and beyond. I see this new chapter in the life of Delmar Presbyterian as being a good one. You have all the necessary ingredients for a bright future into which God calls you.

As I said at the meeting, over the next five months I will be working as a bit of an interim minister myself. I will shift my style of work to do more delegating of duties, as well as work to strengthen our existing ministry so that things will flow well in the future. This is what the letter to the Ephesians calls "equipping the saints for ministry."

### **Ordination & Installation**

On the first Sunday in February we will ordain and install new Elders and Deacons. Ordination is the act of conferring holy orders. In ordination we recognize people for certain offices, or work, within the life of the Church.

The Presbyterian Church has three offices of ministry: Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elder, and Deacon. The word "Presbyterian" comes from the Greek word, "presbuteros", which means, "elder"; thus we are a church that is governed, not by a bishop, but by elders.

The office of the Minister of Word and Sacrament is for preaching and teaching the Word, as well as the administration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Lord's Supper. The office of Elder is the office for governance, while the office of Deacon is for the work of "sympathy, witness and service." It is the duty of Deacons "to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, the friendless, and to any who may be in distress." These three offices provide the basic leadership team.

While the officers are the basic leadership team, they are not the entire ministry of the church. Rather, they together with all the members of the church make ministry happen. This is made clear in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. In chapter 12 Paul reminds us that we all need each other with all our various gifts because together we are "The Body of Christ." Simply put, that means we do not just "go to church" we "are the church".

### **The Blessing of the Ordinary**

In the last issue of The Prez I closed my page with a short paragraph in which I talked about this season of the church year which appears in our liturgical calendar as "ordinary time". I went on to explain that this is a time when we are not preparing for or celebrating any major festival in the life of the church, such as Christmas or Easter. Most our time is spent in the church and in our lives doing the ordinary things which make up our on going life. Trish Hertz picked up on the article and was moved to sing a beautiful solo, "Ordinary Miracle", which reminds us of the miracle that is there in the ordinary.

January is a time when we pay the credit card bills from Christmas, pay local taxes and look forward to tax returns in April. All very ordinary, even blah stuff; however, this is not all of life, it is only a slice, that is if at the same time we pay attention to the beauty of this season and to the ongoing life that we have in the faith. When we are open in the midst of the ordinary, we can see extraordinary things: the brilliant red cardinal against the cold white snow, the energy and delight of children and the uniqueness that is in each other. The ordinary becomes the context in which the miracle of life is contained and nourished. We need but to keep our hearts and minds open.

Larry A. Deys  
Pastor



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, Feb. 6**  
**Background to Bible Readings** 9 AM  
**Communion / Deacons Sunday**  
**Confirmation Class** 11:30 AM

**Monday, Feb. 7**  
 Boy Scouts 6 PM

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
 Cub Scouts 6 PM

**Thursday, Feb. 10**  
 Prevent Child Abuse Retreat 9 AM

**Saturday, February 12**  
**Memorial Service for Nancy Winn** 11 AM

**Sunday, Feb. 13**  
**Background to Bible Readings** 9 AM  
**Worship** 11 AM  
**Confirmation Class** 11:30 AM  
**MSPYs Valentine Lunch** 11:30 AM

**Tuesday, Feb. 15**  
**Session Meeting** 7 PM

**Sunday, Feb. 20**  
**Worship**  
**led by the Rev. Don Stake** 10 AM  
**No Confirmation Class**

**Wednesday, Feb. 23**  
**Ladies Who Lunch** Noon

**Friday, Feb. 25**  
 Community Book Club Meeting 9 AM

**Sunday, Feb. 27**  
**Worship** 10 AM  
**Confirmation Class** 11:30 AM  
 BCHS Senior Celebration Mtg. 7 PM

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**Weekly events:**

**Background to the Bible Readings –**  
**Sundays at 9 AM**  
**Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10 AM**  
**Women’s Bible Study - Mondays at 10 AM**

**Bells of Praise – Thursdays at 6:15 PM**  
**Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays at 7:30 PM**

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 ⇨ **PREZ DEADLINE for FEBRUARY** ⇩  
**February 20**

**Church Office Hours:**  
 Tuesday – Friday 9AM to 12 Noon

**FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS:**

**FEB. 6** Isaiah 58:1-9a  
 Psalm 112:1-9  
 I Corinthians 2:1-12  
 Matthew 5:13-20

**FEB. 13** Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
 Psalm 119:1-8  
 I Corinthians 3:1-9  
 Matthew 5:21-37

**FEB. 20** Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18  
 Psalm 119:33-40  
 1 Corinthians 3:1-11, 16-23  
 Matthew 5:38-48

**FEB. 27** Isaiah 49:8-16a  
 Psalm 131  
 1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
 Matthew 6:24-34

**READERS (Volunteers Needed)**

Feb. 6 Lois Hessberg  
 Feb. 13, 20 & 27 Available

**DEACON IN CHARGE**

February Sarah Lewis

**USHERS**

Info not available

**WELCOMING HOSTESS**

February Doris Jensen

**GREETERS**

Feb. 6 The Rees Family  
Feb. 13 The Fleischut Family  
Feb. 20 The Fink Family  
Feb. 27 The Jensen Family

**ACOLYTES**

Feb. 6 Katarina Rees  
Feb. 13 Mary Fleischut  
Feb. 20 Evan Finke  
Feb. 27 Tory Kendrick

**COFFEE HOUR (Volunteers Needed)**

Feb. 6 Irene Harbison  
Feb. 13 MSPYs Valentine Lunch  
Feb. 20 & 27 Available

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

Mark Hansen, Lee Hessberg, Dan Lewis, Trish McGinn, Dave Rees, Shirley Simon

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We have now officially “crossed over” from our fall teachers to our spring teachers. I would like to thank the fall teachers for their commitment to our youth: Irene Harbison – nursery, Ginny Gajewski and Sarah Hamilton – pre-k and kindergarten, Melissa Dalzell Phang – grades 2-3, and Lynn and Jim Finke grades 4-5.

Our spring teachers are:

Pre-k – K: James Carroll and Mary Allendorph  
2 – 3: Karyn Rees  
4 – 5: Sarah Carroll, Gina Jack and Trish McGinn

The MSPYs will continue to be led by Linda Miller Lowry, Liza Ahner and Laura Empie.

Due to Trish McGinn’s broken arm, she is unable to take over the nursery for the spring. Therefore we are looking for volunteers in the nursery. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or feel free to contact me.

Our February schedule is:

February 6 Communion Sunday, No Church School  
February 13 Church School, Valentine Luncheon  
February 20 No Church School, President’s Weekend  
February 27 Church School

The youth of the church will be hosting a Valentine’s luncheon on Sunday, February 13 and we invite you all to attend. In preparation for this event, we are asking the children to come to Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 12 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. to help prepare the food and decorations.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to Sarah Carroll for her outstanding leadership as Chair of Christian Education. She has been my friend and mentor for the past several years and I am honored that she has asked me to take her place as Chair. That being said, we are in need of a Superintendent for Church School to replace me. If you would like to learn more about what the job entails, please contact me.

Thanks,  
Melissa Fleischut  
Superintendent of Church School



## RPMs

### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

#### *RPM Coffee House*

**Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**  
**Delmar Reformed Church**  
**386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY.**

**Tickets: \$15 or 2 for \$25**

**Child Care will be provided!**

***Tickets will be available during church  
fellowship hour***

***or contact [beth.hickox@gmail.com](mailto:beth.hickox@gmail.com) /***

***518.596.2116***

***and of course they will be available at the  
door***

This fun-filled evening is not to be missed! This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a few hours in a café setting, sharing great food, great music by Acoustic Hartland, bidding in a silent auction, and meeting some of our local youth. All this is provided with the cost of a ticket. The real treat is knowing you played a special part in supporting our area's youth as they try to make a difference in the world.

#### **ANNUAL MISSION TRIP**

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the RPM Youth Group will embark on a week-long journey to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for our spring mission trip where we will be doing light construction projects on homes that were affected by the 2008 floods. We have been doing lots of fundraising already and will continue to fundraise, with the annual RPM Coffeehouse, the evening of March 5<sup>th</sup> and include tasty desserts and coffees, good music, and opportunities to bid on silent auction items.

#### **YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS TRIP A REALITY!!!**

To finance this trip, we will pay one-third out-of-pocket, one-third will come from fundraising efforts and the final third from donations and financial support from the congregations. **Your contribution is tax-deductible and will entitle you to a complimentary dinner when the**

**group returns and shares information about their experience.**

Please make your check payable to "RPM Seniors". You can deliver it to the RPM mailbox at the DRC office, or mail it to Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054, and Attn: RPMs.

RPMs is an ecumenical youth group made up of youth in grades 9-12. Any youth in those grades is welcome to attend. If you have, any questions contact Beth Hickox at [beth.hickox@gmail.com](mailto:beth.hickox@gmail.com)

#### **Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Sorting of Midnight Run Donation*

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Delmar Reformed Church

#### **Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Sorting of Midnight Run Donation*

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Delmar Reformed Church

#### **February 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Midnight Run to New York*

Leave Delmar about 5pm

#### **Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

*RPMs Meeting*

7:00PM – 8:00PM

Delmar Reformed Church

#### **Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

*RPMs Meeting*

7:00PM – 8:00PM

Delmar Reformed Church

## NOTES FROM OUTREACH

### **FEBRUARY IS LOVE KIT MONTH**

As you may know, every year we hold a "Love Kit" drive to benefit the people the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless serves. "Love Kits" are goodie bags for their guests that provide them with essential daily items that we often take for granted, such as deodorant, shampoo, razors, and toothpaste. The need for such items is important for their shelter guests

and for their clients at their new drop-in center, who come to shower, do laundry, and have a hot meal every day.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day we ask that you consider donating "Love Kits" to Interfaith. These gifts go such a long way for the people they serve; people who sometimes only have the clothes they are wearing. They provide their guests not only with needed supplies, but also with the feeling that someone cares about them. In past years, we have had folks who decorated their bags or added a special treat, which always lifts someone's spirit.

Please consider filling a clear plastic bag with the following items (**MUST BE SAMPLE SIZES**) and putting it in the white basket in the Narthex.

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Comb             | Brush         |
| Bar of soap      | Toothbrush    |
| Toothpaste       | Deodorant     |
| Shampoo          | Conditioner   |
| Lotions          | Wash cloth(s) |
| Candy or a Treat |               |



Thank you for your continued caring and kindness for the less fortunate.  
Sincerely, Outreach

*First Church in Albany*  
*Give a Meal a Month*  
*- February -*



Cocoa, instant coffee, soup,  
dishwashing liquid.

Monetary donations are always welcome to help  
defray pantry expenses.

*~ Ladies Who Lunch ~*

*Wednesday, February 23rd*  
*Noon*



*Program: "My Year in Syria"*

*Speaker: Octavia Taylor*

*A personal look at Arabic culture*

*Hostesses: Joan Given and Ginny Hazard*

*Bring your own lunch -*  
*Dessert and beverage provided*

*Please sign up in Narthex*

*Next LWL: Wednesday, March 23rd*

*Submitted by Diana Wildemann 439-2249*

**Save the Date**



Join us on Tuesday, March 8th, for a FREE noon piano concert by Findlay Cockrell, Troy Music Hall, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt. If you are interested in carpooling, and perhaps having lunch either before or after the concert, please contact Nancy Scholes 439-7759. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

**We Need Your Help**

For ease of accounting and in order to help us keep your pledge accounts accurate, please indicate clearly in the memo section of the check, or on the envelope, what it is for.

## Letters



Dear Friends,

With the end of the year comes the need not only to pause and reflect, but also to analyze some statistics. Math and numbers are not my favorites, yet I think it might be worthwhile to share some of this data.

First, Christmas went well. We provided gifts and food for 149 children and their families.

During the year 2010 we fed 420 family units. 154 of those families were new to the food pantry during the calendar year. Many of those families were served month after month. Overall food was provided for over 71,250 meals as well as diapers and formula for infants.

The numbers are staggering; the need continues to grow. By the grace of God and the generosity of many we have always had the means to provide for all.

Thank you for your continued support. You are an important part of our ministry.

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

PS. Your support makes a HUGE difference. Thank you for ALL that you do!! Barb

Dear Betsy and Outreach,

Thank you so much for all of your support of our work. You may be interested to know that since 1995, Delmar Presbyterian has contributed more than \$10,000 to help prevent child abuse!

Best wishes,  
Christine Deys

Executive Director  
**Prevent Child Abuse New York**

Dear Betsy et al,

Thank you for your most generous gift of \$500 to **Troy Area United Ministries**. Your support during these difficult financial times makes it possible for us to serve the growing number of people in need of our programs. Knowing that we could not do this work without you, we are particularly appreciative of your support. Grace and peace to you,

Rev. Donna M. Elia  
Executive Director

PS. How marvelous it was to meet with your committee several weeks ago. Thank you for your very generous support. Blessings upon you, yours and the good saints at Delmar Pres.

Dear Pastor Deys,

Thank you for your recent gifts of \$195.00 and \$535.00 to **Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless**. Our goal of aiding homeless individuals with immediate shelter and providing services that maximize their self-sufficiency wouldn't be possible without help from our community.

Sincerely,  
Janine Robitaille  
Bonnie St. Onge

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent deodorant and soap drive for **Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless**. Although these items are a part of our everyday lives, they are highly valued to our guests at the Emergency Shelter and especially to those who visit our Drop-In Center, many of whom are living on the streets or bouncing from couch to couch. Interfaith tries to supply hygiene items to all of our guests but unfortunately with the growing homeless population; it would not be possible without your support.

A couple of days after your donation was delivered, we had a guest move out of our emergency shelter. This guest was particularly

quiet and kept to himself; I had never heard him talk until the day he was moving out. He was half excited and half nervous to be taking his next step on the road to sustainability. When I handed him some deodorant and soap to wish him well, he cracked the first smile I ever saw in his three months of staying at our shelter. The simple items you donated made someone's day and your kindness and support will continue to make a difference to our clients.

Very sincerely yours,  
Samantha Tymchyn

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the **Fellowship of Reconciliation**, I write to express our appreciation for your thoughtful gift in the amount of \$500.00. We are so grateful for friends like you. Thanks to your generosity FOR continues its peacemaking programs in Colombia, the Middle East and the US.

For more information about our current work please visit our website at <http://forusa.org> and the ongoing conversation on FOR's blog at [www.forpeace.net](http://www.forpeace.net).

Very truly yours,  
Bill Winston  
Director of Organizational Advancement and Communications

Dear Friends,

I would like to add my personal note of appreciation for your generous support of the work of the **Fellowship of Reconciliation**. You and those of us at FOR, on staff and in leadership roles as volunteers, recognize the challenge and the importance of our work today.

Wars and the threat of war, violence and injustice, compounded by ignorance and cowardice, extended by the use of lies and fear, leave us despairing. Despairing, but not hopeless. We know, whatever the odds and however long the struggle, that we can and will continue to work in the spirit and practice of nonviolence, knowing that truth and love will be triumphant in the end.

Yours in Peace, for Justice,  
Mark Johnson

Dear Friends,

On behalf of **Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.**, thank you for your recent donation of \$205.00 to the Emergency Heating Fund. Your donation will be used to assist low-income older Town residents this winter.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Becker  
Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.

Dear Members of the Delmar Presbyterian Church:

On behalf of **Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.**, please accept our sincere thanks for your generous donation of cereal and canned goods to the Bethlehem Food Pantry.

Over 1,500 community residents utilized our pantry during the past twelve months for food, help with prescription costs and other non-food items, the School Supply drive, the Garden Bounty produce program, the Summer Nutrition program and the Emergency Heating fund. It is through the continued support of the community that we are able to help those in need.

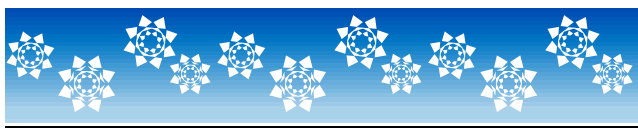
Sincerely,  
Joyce Becker  
Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution (of \$750) – especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, **Church World Service** can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by natural disasters, as we are doing in Pakistan now. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

In a world wounded in so many ways, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient women, men, and children we assist around the world; and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Yours in service,  
Rev. John McCullough  
Executive Director and CEO



## **CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER NEWS**

**“Coin and Kingdom: Would Jesus Toss Us Out Today?”**, w/ **Rev. Norm Tellier, Certified Financial Planner**, Sat, Feb. 26, 9am -3pm, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 10 N. Main Ave, Albany

For all who manage money in the church. Cost: \$75 by 1/26, \$85there after. Registration deadline: Feb. 10, 2011

**“Connecting with Calvin: Restoring Unity to the Church”**, w/ **Dr. Randall Zachman**, Sat., Mar. 26, 9am-12m, at Siena College,

One of today’s leading Calvin scholars, Dr. Randall Zachman sheds light Calvin’s on desire for unity rather than the division with which he is often associated. Course fee covered by

sponsors; free will offering to be taken. Reg deadline: Mar. 18, 2011

**“Faith, Power & Perspective: Women in the Old Testament”**, w/ **Dr.Katharine Doob Sakenfeld,Fri.**, Fri. April 8, 9am-4pm, at Union Presbyterian Church,. Stories of faith in response to God that changed history. A course for men and women together! \$85 by Mar. 4; \$95 thereafter. Reg deadline: Mar. 23, 2011

**“Adding Strength, Speed & Balance to Your Congregation”**, w/ **C. Jeff Woods**, Thurs. & Fri., May 12 & 13, 9am-4pm, Explore components of healthy congregational identity and visioning with this national consultant from Alban. \$85 by April 26; \$95 thereafter. Reg. deadline: April 14, 2011

**“A Walk in the Woods: Backpacking Through Creation”**, w/ **Rev. Kent Busman**, Fri.-Mon., April 29-May , Join other pilgrims on this spiritually and physically challenging journey through the Western Adirondack Wilderness. \$250. Reg deadline: April 13, 2011

Register online at [www.capitalrtc.org](http://www.capitalrtc.org) or by phone at 518-462-2470. Watch our website for information on these and many other courses available in 2010. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact us for an application.

