

The Delmar Prez

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

MARCH 2011

Number 384

Pastor's Page

Ash Wednesday & Lent

On March 9th we will celebrate Ash Wednesday with worship in our sanctuary at 7:30 P.M. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the ceremonial imposition of ashes on worshippers, a tradition going back to at least the tenth century; therefore it is something that the church has been celebrating for at least a thousand years. Ash Wednesday begins Lent, a season of six weeks, during which the last week, Holy Week, culminates in the high and holy celebration of Easter.

If you think that Lent is six weeks of feeling bad about ourselves, or simply giving up some simple pleasure, such as chocolate, I would invite you to think again. Actually, Lent is to serve as a journey of the soul into deeper insight and growth. Our worship life has various seasons with each having its own rhythm. The rhythm of Lent is a more quiet and introspective one, as we seek "to find ourselves again," in the midst of an often chaotic and stressful world.

At Five Rivers there is a sign at one of the viewing areas with a quote from John Burroughs: "I come here to find myself. It is so easy to get lost in the world." Isn't that that the truth! Quoting Burroughs reminds me of similar thoughts expressed by Mary Oliver, in her poem "*Wild Geese*." She writes:

"....the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting –
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things."

Burroughs and Oliver help us to find ourselves as we immerse our senses in the natural world. And yet, as wonderful as Nature is, it is not sufficient for finding ultimate reality as Tennyson reminds us when he writes about "Nature, red in tooth and claw." While "nature religion" can take us a long way, it does not speak to the deepest meaning that we seek. Tennyson was aware of this when in the same work, "*The Way of the Soul*", he writes:

I stretch lame hands of faith, and grope,
And gather dust and chaff, and call
To what I feel is Lord of all,
And faintly trust the larger hope.

Lent is for finding ourselves again, as the Spirit speaks to us in new and deeper ways. Lent is not simply something that we do for God, Lent is something that God does for us, if we will have it.

Wednesdays in Lent

Each Lenten Season I do a study course. This year I am planning to use the book, "*The Naked Now – Learning to See as the Mystics See*" written by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan and a popular author and speaker. He is also the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. His book is a very practical guide for helping us to get into touch with ourselves and find greater meaning in the everyday world. He writes: "It is living in the naked now, the 'sacrament of the present moment', that will teach us how to actually experience our experiences, whether good, bad, or ugly, and how to let them transform us".

I will be offering this course March 16th through April 13th on Wednesdays, from noon to 1:00 P.M. and again in the evening from 7:15 – 8:15 P.M. The cost of the book is \$19.95, however I can get it, tax included, for \$15. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. Please sign up by Sunday, March 6th so I know how many books to order. Please also indicate if you want to be in the noon or evening section.

Thank You, Church School

It was a most enjoyable and cheerful event that the Church School provided for us with the Valentine's Luncheon complete with entertainment. We had good food, and time for lots of good conversation. I want to thank the Church School youth and leaders for such a delightful midwinter event.

L. Deys

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Tuesday, March 1</u>	
Cub Scouts	6:30 PM
<u>Thursday, March 3</u>	
Prevent Child Abuse Meeting	9 AM
<u>Sunday, March 6</u>	
Background to Bible Readings	9 AM
Communion / Deacons Sunday	
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
<u>Monday, March 7</u>	
Boy Scouts	6 PM
<u>Tuesday, March 8</u>	
Deacons Meeting	7 PM
Cub Scouts	6 PM
<u>Wednesday, March 9</u>	
Ash Wednesday Service	7:30 PM
<u>Sunday, March 13</u>	
Worship	11 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
<u>Tuesday, March 15</u>	
Session Meeting	7 PM
<u>Friday, March 18</u>	
Movie Night "Talking Through Walls"	7:30 PM
<u>Sunday, March 20</u>	
Worship	10 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
<u>Wednesday, March 23</u>	
Ladies Who Lunch	Noon
Bethlehem Art Assn.	7 PM
<u>Sunday, March 27</u>	
Worship	10 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
BCHS Senior Celebration Mtg.	7 PM

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

⇒PREZ DEADLINE for APRIL ⇐
March 20

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 9AM to 12 Noon

MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS:

MARCH 6 Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2:1-12
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

MARCH 13 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32:1-11
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

MARCH 20 Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121:1-8
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

MARCH 27 Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95:1-11
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

READERS (Volunteers Needed)

March 6	Available
March 13	Drew Hyde
March 20	Available
March 27	Available

DEACON IN CHARGE

March 6, 13, 20	Dave Austin
March 27	Art Prostick

USHERS

March 6 Dave and Marlene Austin
March 13 Ron and Lynn Taylor
March 20 TBD
March 27 Ed and Pam Taft

WELCOMING HOSTESS

March Shirley Sargent

GREETERS

March 6 The Jensen Family
March 13 Bob and Ellen Barker
March 20 Anne Stewart & Jean Somerville
March 27 The Cheu Family

ACOLYTES

March 6 Amelia Hertz
March 13 Jack Empie
March 20 Megan Empie
March 27 Henry Fleischut

COFFEE HOUR (Volunteers Needed)

All Sundays available

COMMUNION SERVERS

Marlene Austin, Nathan Cady, Lynn Finke,
Melissa Fleischut, Jack Gajewski, Doug Hamlin

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone who attended the Valentine's Luncheon. Approximately 70 people joined us for lunch and I hope everyone had a great time! Special thanks go to Leslie Cheu and Sarah Carroll for coordinating the entire event. I would also like to thank Liza Ahner, Melissa Dalzell-Phang, Laura Empie, Lynn Finke, Trish McGinn, Linda Miller Lowry, Mary Prostick, Karyn Rees, and Pam Taft for helping to prepare the food for the event. Lastly, a big thank you goes to our children who were our cookie decorators, servers, entertainers, and clean-up crew. We are blessed to have some very talented and hard-working youth in our church family!

I am also excited to announce that Mary Prostick has stepped forward to become the new Church School Superintendent. We are all looking forward to working with her.

I encourage each of you to join us for the next movie from our "Movies to Think About" series scheduled for **Friday, March 18th at 7:30 p.m.** These movies are chosen to both entertain and encourage us to think about our faith in new ways. The next movie in our series is **Talking Through Walls**, a short documentary about the controversy in a New Jersey town about the construction of an Islamic community center and mosque. The mosque was planned for construction during the time period immediately following September 11th. Our MSPYs will offer a concession stand during the movie to support their mission projects. Coffee and discussion will follow the screening. *Admission is free and open to the community.* Please ask your friends and neighbors join us for what promises to be another thought-provoking movie.

Our March schedule is:

March 6 Communion Sunday – No Church School
March 13 Church School – 1st Sunday of Lent
Daylight Savings Time
March 18 Movies to Think About: *Talking Through Walls* 7:30 P.M.
A short documentary about the controversy surrounding the construction of a mosque in a New Jersey community.
March 20 Church School
March 27 Church School

Thanks,
Melissa Fleischut
Superintendent of Church School

RPMs

ANNUAL MISSION TRIP

On April 17th, 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 5th 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



RPM Coffee House
Saturday, March 5th 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 /
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.

Saturday, March 5th

Coffeehouse
Delmar Reformed Church

Sunday, March 13th

RPMs Meeting
7:00PM – 8:00PM
Delmar Reformed Church

Sunday, March 27th

RPMs Meeting
7:00PM – 8:00PM
Delmar Reformed Church

SESSION DIGEST

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved at the January 2011 meeting of Session:

That Session restore \$200 to the CLC budget from the Administration postage line, making a journal entry and leaving the Reduced 2011 proposed operating budget totals unchanged and that Session accept the reduced proposed 2011 Operating Budget as modified above.

NOTES FROM OUTREACH

New Email for Outreach

The outreach committee has established an e-mail address: dpcoutreach@nycap.rr.com
Please submit ideas or interest for event support to this e-mail and the committee will contact you right away. Many thanks!

Submitted by Dan Lewis, Chair

Capital Area Council of Churches CROP Walk News



Plan to participate in the Capital District CROP Hunger Walk scheduled for **May 1, 2011**. As this is the 30th year of the Albany CROP Walk, (one of the most successful walks in the country), let's celebrate by having a team of 30 walkers from Delmar Presbyterian Church!

The Recruiters Rally and 30th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for 4:30 - 6:30 pm on Sunday, March 20 at the First Lutheran Church, 646 State. St., Albany. This is always a fun and inspiring event. If you would like to be a member of the Albany CROP Walk planning committee, please call Kitt Jackson at 462-5450.

Nancy Scholes
ncscholes@verizon.net

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



Cocoa, coffee, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Monetary donations are always welcome to help defray pantry expenses.

TRANSITION UPDATE

Elder/Deacons Meeting

On February 15, 2011, the Elders and Deacons met in a Joint Meeting with Cass Shaw, General Presbyter and Deborah Waggener, elder and liaison from the Committee on Ministry. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the Elders and Deacons with the transition process the church will be going through to get a new pastor.

The following is an excerpt from the meeting:

BUSINESS:

- Presbytery and Committee on Ministry Representative to explain Transition Process – Cass Shaw, General Presbyter, and Deborah Waggener, elder and COM liaison, were introduced to the assembly. Cass reviewed the 'Timeline for Session' in some detail. Given Larry's retirement date of 7/1/11, it is expected that a congregational meeting prior to the second week in June to officially sever the pastoral relationship will be held in order to bring the resolution to the June Presbytery scheduled for 6/11/11. A farewell event should precede his final Sunday, which would fall on 6/26/11, and

Cass Shaw would like to preach within a week or two of that date, either direction.

Cass emphasized the importance of allowing Larry the graceful exit his long service has afforded him. We should not importune him to continue a pastoral relationship with us, although the friendships he has developed within the congregation are certainly appropriate.

Over the next three to four sessions, we can move forward in the process, but Larry will need to excuse himself from discussions surrounding his departure and replacement. Cass strongly recommends we locate an interim pastor, versus weekly or temporary supply. It is important, given a long pastorate, to have the guidance and evaluation for which an interim is trained.

Questions were fielded by both Cass and Debbi:

1-When can we begin? Work can begin now on pulpit supply for the summer for which Worship committee would be responsible. Lists of approved supply pastors are available through the Presbytery. Can also begin the process of searching for an interim so that we might have one ready to go by the fall.

2-What is the mission study and when do we do it? A mission study involves an in-depth look at demographics, census data, and pertinent information regarding who we are and who are our neighbors. We gather the congregation to determine what our strengths are, what our weaknesses are. What we do well and what we need to work on. It is particularly important if we have not done any self-evaluation in recent years. Frequently this is done with the interim. We also have within Presbytery staff (Tim Coombs, Transformation contract staff) who can facilitate whether we do a mission study before or after we decide on an interim. COM then reviews the mission study, and once approved, we can call a congregational meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

3-How do we find an interim? Session appoints a mini-search committee which then develops a brief CIF (Church Information Form). The CIF is posted on-line where interims are also posting their PIFs (Personal Information Forms). A pool of candidates is identified and evaluated. We may use sermon tapes, DVDs, or transcripts to critique. Skype interviews are also helpful. Once the appropriate candidate is identified, we must be prepared to move quickly in order to be successful.

4-Who hires the interim? The interim signs a contract with Session for a specific period of time (usually a year), although the terms can be negotiated by the interim search committee. The committee should be a sub group of session and can be an ad hoc committee or commissioned to act on behalf of session.

5-How long can we expect to have an interim before hiring a permanent called pastor? Average is probably 18 months, although the range can fluctuate from a year to three in certain circumstances.

6-What happens in the event of a death or a wedding if we are without an interim on 7/1/11? We should be in contact with our COM liaison, Debbi Waggener. Her numbers are **518-229-3413**(cell), **518-456-2559**(home) and e-mail is **debw521@yahoo.com**. We may be able to ask Larry to officiate with COM approval if he is willing, or there may be another pastor in the area who is willing and available.

7-In summary, then, what should our next steps be? Call a congregational meeting to approve Larry's retirement. Set a goal to have an interim in place by September. Prepare a goodbye. Create the interim pastor committee to develop the CIF, get on-line, evaluate candidates, select and hire an interim.

In conclusion, Debbi stressed the need to keep programming going. She has experienced interim situations in her home church, and has found that communication is key. Cass, Debbi, and Larry all emphasized the need for leadership to be in regular

communication with the congregation. Cass suggested 'Minute for Transition' each Sunday, similar to 'Minute for Mission', in order to share important information as we move through the process. It was also noted that we need to be especially attentive to the children. Larry is the only pastor they have ever known. Cass suggested that we be very deliberate, using the children's sermons to deal with retirement, what it is, what Larry will be doing, how he will be spending his time, and the like.

The joint meeting of Elders and Deacons was adjourned with prayer at 8:40pm and with the departure of Cass and Debbi, and the deacons having been excused, Session reconvened for the balance of the meeting.

- Parish Handbook Update – Larry reminded all chairs that their Handbook entries should be updated and sent to Dana as soon as possible.
- Donation – Larry informed Session that Colleen Brewer has donated a full sized microwave which is now in the kitchen.
- Church Historian – Larry informed Session that Ed Taft has agreed to fulfill the function of church historian. The following motion was made, seconded, and approved:

That Ed Taft be appointed as official Church Historian.

Interim search committee – Elders Doug Hamlin (chair), Marlene Austin, Lynn Finke, and if the way be clear, Mark Hansen (Nominating), and Deacon Ginny Gajewski volunteered to serve on the committee. Doug will present a "Minute for Transition" on Sunday summarizing tonight's meeting. The following motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously:

That an interim search committee, consisting of Elders Doug Hamlin (chair), Marlene Austin, Lynn Finke, and if the way be clear, Mark Hansen (Nominating), and Deacon Ginny Gajewski, be established to guide the Session in identifying and hiring an interim pastor.

~ Ladies Who Lunch ~
Wednesday, March 23rd
Noon



Program: "One Last Time with Larry"
Hostesses: Shirley Simon
& Phyllis Howell

Bring your lunch -
Dessert and beverage provided

Please sign up in Narthex
Next LWL:

Submitted by Diana Wildemann 439-2249

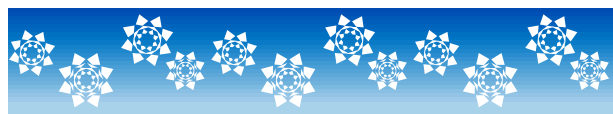
CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER NEWS

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

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. Sponsored by Siena College, Franciscan Center for Catholic Studies, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, (Albany). Reg deadline: Mar. 18, 2011.

"Sunday is Fun Day! Church School Rotation Model Workshop" w/ Rev. Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, April 2, 2011, 9am – 4pm, at First Presbyterian in Albany, Come discover why Rotation Model works for all learning styles and various size churches. See it set up!. \$65 by Mar. 3, \$75 thereafter; Reg. deadline: Mar. 17.

"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 that changed history. A course for men and women together! \$85 by Mar. 4; \$95 thereafter. Reg. deadline: Mar. 23, 2011



“A Walk in the Woods: Backpacking Through Creation”, w/

Rev. Kent Busman, Fri.-Mon., April 28-May 1, Join other pilgrims on this challenging journey through the Western Adirondack Wilderness. \$250. Reg. deadline: April 13, 2011

“Adding Strength, Speed & Balance to Your Congregation”, w/

C. Jeff Woods, Clifton Park Center Baptist Church, 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

Register online at www.capitalrtc.org or by phone at 518-462-2470. Watch our website for information on these and many other courses available in 2011. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact us for an application.

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 L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO

Letters



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution (of \$177.00) – 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.

Movies to Think About



Friday, March 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Dessert, and Discussion Following the Movie

Free Admission – Please bring a friend!