

The Delmar Prez

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

MAY 2011

Number 386

Pastor's Page

A Rich and Satisfying Lent and Holy Week

My thanks to all the people who gave their time and talent to enrich our worship life before Almighty God. I want to thank all the musicians of our church. A special thanks to Mary Ingraham, Director of Music and Jack Gajewski, Director of the Bells of Praise, for their fine leadership.

In addition to our musicians, there are those who provide support for our worship life. Thanks also go to our readers and acolytes and all the folks who prepare communion and clean up, as well as all the people who make possible a pleasant coffee and fellowship time after worship.

The Season of Easter

While the secular world sees both Christmas and Easter as celebrations limited to one day, the church sees it quite differently. For the church, Christmas does not consist of only one day, but rather we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas culminating in Epiphany. So too, Easter is not only one day, rather it is a season that continues for fifty days culminating in the Day of Pentecost, which this year is June 12th. Pentecost is also the time we will confirm our youth who have completed this year's confirmation study.

Worship During May

Holy Communion will be served on May 1st. On May 8th, which is Mother's Day, we will write letters in support of Bread for the World as we lift up areas that need attending if mothers and their children are to be fed.

You will have supply pastors on two Sundays in May. On May 8th the Rev. Donald Stake will be here, and on May 29th, Memorial Day weekend, The Rev. Paul Randall will be here.

I will be in town both of those weeks for emergency pastoral care. I will be in the office as I have a lot of pokey, time-consuming work in cleaning out files. Not having to prepare worship services and sermons will give me needed time to clean out thirty years of accumulated paper.

As you know from the Minutes for Mission, which we are using to talk about our transition, that things are progressing nicely for securing an Interim Pastor. I think this is all going to go well for you.

Thoughts and Feelings During Transition

There are many thoughts and feelings that we are all having these days as I near the end of my ministry here on June 30th. Personally, I feel this retirement stuff is a bit of an emotional roller coaster. I am sure you must have some of those same feelings. Transitions are not easy. We all like the feeling of security that comes with the known, the ordinary and the predictable. However, transitions are necessary in life, and we make many of them all through life. It is only by going through the time of transition that we are able to move through the door into new experiences and new life.

During transitions we may feel anxious and uncertain, however, there is one thing that is absolutely constant, and that is God.

As the psalmist writes:

"For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken."
(Ps. 62)

I like the work of Moltmann who talks about God coming to us from the future to draw us into the future. God is not only in the present, but God is also in the future, which of course means that since God is in the future, there is indeed a future for us.

We will move through this time of transition and into new times of growth. We need only to be open to the Spirit, and the Spirit will guide us.

Praise Be To God. Amen.

L. Deys



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 1

NO Background Class Today
Communion / Deacons' Sunday 10:00 AM
Confirmation Class 11:30 AM
 BCHS Meeting 7:00 PM

Monday, May 2

Boy Scouts 6:00 PM

Tuesday, May 3

Cub Scouts 6:30 PM

Sunday, May 8

Worship with Rev. Don Stake 10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 10

Cub Scouts 6:00 PM
Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 14

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM
MSPYs Bake Sale Prep 4:00 PM

Sunday, May 15

Worship 10:00 AM
Confirmation Class 11:30 AM
MSPYs Bake Sale 11:30 AM

Tuesday, May 17

Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 22

Worship 10:00 AM
Final Confirmation Class 11:30 AM

Wednesday, May 25

Ladies Who Lunch Noon

Sunday, May 22

Worship with Rev. Paul Randall 10:00 AM

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 – Will return in the fall
Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays at 7:30 PM

⇒ **PREZ DEADLINE for JUNE** ⇐
May 22

MAY LECTIONARY READINGS:

MAY 1

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm 16:1-11
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

MAY 8

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

MAY 15

Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23:1-6
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

MAY 22

Acts 7:55-60
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14

MAY 29

Acts 17:22-31
 Psalm 66:8-20
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

READERS (Volunteers Needed)

May 1	Mark Hansen
May 8	Ellen Kelly Lind
May 15	Available
May 22	Available
May 29	Available

DEACON IN CHARGE

May 1	Bob Phang
May 8	Bob Phang
May 15	Pam Hamlin
May 22	Pam Hamlin
May 29	Art Prostick

USHERS

May 1	Robert Phang & Melissa Dalzell
May 8	Ed and Pam Taft
May 15 & 22	To be determined
May 29	Art and Mary Prostick

WELCOMING HOSTESS

May Gina Jack

GREETERS

To be determined

ACOLYTES

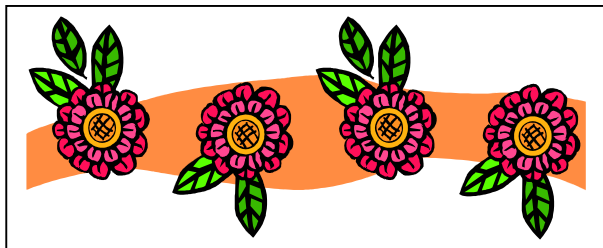
May 1 Kevin Hansen
May 8 John Cheu
May 15 Hannah Lowry
May 22 Katarina Rees
May 29 Mary Fleischut

COFFEE HOUR (Volunteers Needed)

May 1 Carolyn Tweedie
May 8 Available
May 15 MSPYs Bake Sale
May 22 Available
May 29 Available

COMMUNION SERVERS

Marlene Austin, Nathan Cady, Lynn Finke,
Melissa Fleischut, Lee Hessberg, Doug Hamlin.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Please note our MSYPs will be having a bake sale during coffee hour on May 15 to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance targeted for Japanese earthquake and tsunami survivors.

The Christian Ed committee is beginning to look for church school teachers for the coming year (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012). Please consider being a part of our wonderful church school – no

experience required! It is a very rewarding way to become more involved in the church. Please see either Melissa Fleischut or Mary Prostick if you have an interest. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about taking on this important role.

Our May schedule is as follows:

May 1 – Communion Sunday – No church school
May 8 – Mother’s Day – Church school WILL be in session
May 15 – Church school and MSYP Bake Sale
May 22 – Church school
May 29 – Memorial Day weekend – NO Church School

Thank you. Any questions, please contact Mary Prostick at prostick@mac.com.
Melissa Fleischut can be reached at mfleischut@verizon.net.

RPMs

The RPM’s would like to thank everyone for their support with our annual mission trip. It was a very successful trip and we would like to share our experience with all of you. Please join us on May 21st at 6:00pm at the Delmar Reformed Church for our Thank You Pasta Dinner. We will share stories from the trip and show a slide show. We hope to see you there!

End of the Year Calendar:

Sunday, May 1st

RPMs Meeting
7:00PM – 8:00PM
Delmar Reformed Church (386 Delaware Ave)

Sunday, May 15th

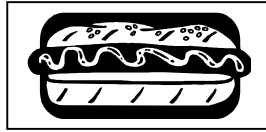
RPMs Meeting
7:00PM – 8:00PM
Delmar Reformed Church (386 Delaware Ave)

Saturday, May 21st

Thank you Pasta Dinner
6:00PM start time – (Set up will be during the day)

Saturday, June 11th
Senior Night

Sunday, June 12th
RPM BBQ
1:00PM-3:00PM
Elm Ave Park



From Iowa to Africa...a Youth Leader's Journey for Mission

Each spring, I embark with upwards of 40-50 teenagers and about 10 adults to do mission work in another part of our country. This mission work is something that is important to me, and I can't imagine my life without it. It is very uplifting to see young people working hard to clean and rebuild and make connections with people living in poverty. When I am with the youth, I have to be totally focused on them: the trip is about them and their work, not mine. Increasingly, I have been feeling a need to do my own mission work. I have finally decided to stop dreaming and start doing.

In July, I will travel to the rural village of Denu, Ghana, to spend a month volunteering with the organization STAESA (Students Travel and Explore South Africa), helping with the planning and construction of an orphanage in a community called Adafienu. The orphanage will be more than just a place for children to call home. It will provide shelter, food, clothing and basic education to orphans, street kids, and children with disabilities. It will accommodate 80 kids between the ages of a few months to 18 years. Free education will be provided for the children in the community and its surrounding villages.

Upon completion of my work in Ghana, I will fly to East Africa to teach in an orphanage. I will be spending two weeks teaching English and math and spending time with the children of the Alesi Orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania. There is no doubt in my mind that though I will be teaching those children, I will gain far more, in so doing, than I could ever give.

In both locations, I will stay with host families and be immersed in the local culture. This trip will not only be life changing for me but it will

make me a better leader for our youth as I will be able to share my experiences with them and teach them that it is quite possible to live out one's dreams. It is my hope that many of those teenagers, as they become young adults, will find similar opportunities for mission work not just in this country but in struggling third world countries, as well.

During my time in Africa, when I am able, I will be sending regular updates on the work I am doing and the impact of my volunteer work on the community. I cannot wait to share my experiences with all of you upon my return! (For more information, please contact me at beth.hickox@gmail.com.) Your prayers and support would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Beth Hickox Gould

SESSION DIGEST

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved at the 3/15/11 and 3/20/11 meetings of Session:

That a Transition Administrative Team be established to meet weekly after worship following Larry's retirement, and that it will include the following chairs of committees: Doug Hamlin, Lee Hessberg, Jack Gajewski, Melissa Flesichut, Nate Cady; and Clerk of Session Lois Hessberg to act as secretary.

That seed money be allotted to facilitate the Retirement Celebration planning, such funds to be taken from the General Checking Account.

That under CIF, Part II, Step 5 (Primary Skill Choices), Information Technology be deleted and Organizational Leadership and Development be included. That the CIF be approved, as amended, in its entirety.

Lois Hessberg, Clerk of Session

**CALL TO A SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
5/22/11**

A Special Congregational Meeting of the Delmar Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2011, following Sunday Worship, in the Sanctuary of the church at 585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY.

The purpose of the meeting will be to vote to approve the retirement of Rev. Larry A. Deyss, effective 7/1/11.

Lois Hessberg
Clerk of Session

“Flipping the Presbytery”

Rev. Tim Coombs, Presbytery Staff member, will be conducting a series of meetings in May to which the Presbytery is inviting all interested folks and will be listening to our ideas as to what our ministry needs are.

This is our chance to voice what types of support Presbytery might offer to our congregation in an effort to shift to a ministry-based mission and outreach. Ideas generated will be incorporated into a later series of workshops offered by the Presbytery.

A more complete explanation and list of dates are located on the Outreach Bulletin Board. Please contact Larry Deyss, Dana, or Lois Hessberg if you wish to attend one of these luncheons.

NOTES FROM OUTREACH

One Great Hour of Sharing

We are pleased to announce that the amount donated to One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm

Sunday was approximately \$8,000.00 including the \$126.27 in the children’s Fish Banks.

Thank you and keep the donations coming!

Daniel Lewis
On behalf of the Outreach Committee
dpcoutreach@nycap.rr.com

***Bread for the World
Offering of Letters***

On May 8th, we will come together to fight global hunger.

We will supply the pens, paper and sample letters and we will mail the letters. We ask you to write them. This outpouring of concern sends a powerful message to our political leaders and helps us move closer to our goal of ending hunger.

Sample letters will be available on May 8th. Handwritten letters—using your own words—are most effective. Here is a sample letter should you choose to write yours in advance:

*Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
or
Senator Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510*

*Representative Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510*

Sample Bread for the World Letter

Date _____

Dear Senator _____,

Dear Representative _____,

I’m asking you to reform the way the United States delivers foreign assistance so it will help millions of people in poor countries move out of hunger and poverty. Streamlined and more efficient U.S. foreign aid programs will ensure that our tax dollars are used effectively.

By focusing our aid dollars on moving people out of poverty, we help foster economic growth and opportunity. Fewer people struggling with poverty and stronger economies in developing countries contribute to our national security as well.

This is why I am asking you to support reforms in the ways we deliver and administer U.S. foreign aid. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Your Address

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



Coffee, drink mixes, gelatins, puddings, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving cream.

Monetary donations are always welcome to help defray pantry expenses.

FROM OUR CHURCH HISTORIAN

I am collecting photos of members and activities of the church over its 55 year history for preservation as digital files and would like to borrow any which members and friends could spare. These can be in the form of photographic prints, negatives, slides, or digital photos (preferably accompanied by the subjects identified); the originals will be returned.

Of the photos I have been able to collect to date, many individuals remain unidentified. I would be happy to have screenings for individuals or groups willing to try to identify subjects and

provide any background information of the event(s) of which the photos were taken.

As part of the Historian project, I have also been trying to archive all the Annual Reports and issues of the Prez. I have been unable to find copies of the 1959, 1997, 1998, and 1999 Annual Reports; the copy of the 2002 report is incomplete. If anyone has any originals which I could copy, please contact me.

The Prez was apparently established about 1972, and is theoretically numbered as consecutive issues. The earliest issue I have been able to find is #12 from October 1974. Isolated issues are also missing:

Issues #1-11 (c. 1972-1974)
Issue #46 (March 1978)
Issue # 50 (Jul-Aug 1978)
Issue #108 (May 1984)
Issue #156 (Nov 1988)
Issue #167 (Nov 1989)
Issue #191 (Jan 1992)
Issues #213-303 (Jan 1994 - Nov. 2002)
Issues #305-314 (Jan 2003 - Nov. 2003)

Prior to the Prez, there was a "News;" these were not numbered, so I have no idea how often it was published, or how many issues per year were distributed. I have some issues for the years 1966-1969. If anyone has any of these, I would be most appreciative. All originals will be returned.

Thanks in advance.
Ed Taft, DPC Historian

TRANSITION NEWS

CALLING ALL CONGREGANTS!!

**Share your memories, your stories,
your vignettes, your photos!!**

Please send all your recollections of the past 30 years of Larry Deyss' service to the Delmar

Presbyterian Church. Nothing is too little or too strange!! Please e-mail to either Linda Miller-Lowry at linda12054@gmail.com or Lois Hessberg at loisjbh@aol.com, or call either at home to share your item (Linda at 475-0737 or Lois at 439-6032). All submissions must be received no later than Sunday, May 15, 2011 for inclusion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



An evening of celebration,
reminiscence, music, photos,
and fellowship!!

Saturday, June 4, 2011
Normanside Country Club
Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00PM
Buffet Dinner at 7:00PM
Cost: \$45 (includes \$5 towards gift)

Invitations to this special event
will follow.

Please contact the Office Manager,
Dana Hebert, in confidence, if a
monetary consideration would impact
your ability to attend.

~ Ladies Who Lunch ~

Wednesday, May 25th
Noon



Program: "Ed Taft, Church Historian"
Hostesses: Liz Matterson &
Ann Stewart

Bring your own lunch -
Dessert and beverage provided

Please sign up in Narthex
Next LWL: June 22nd
Submitted by Diana Wildemann 439-2249

SPORTS NEWS

SOFTBALL

On April 28, Presby will open its 40th season in the Cooper-Varney Ecumenical Church Softball League.

Anyone interested in playing should contact the manager, Greg Turner, at gturn@nycap.rr.com or call him at: 768-2955 - home
439-9958 - work
424-7426 - cell

Then bring your glove and show up one-half hour before game-time on Thursday evenings. Game time is 6:30 p.m., except for our first game and the play-off games in August. They begin at 6:15 p.m.

Our home field is the BCHS girls' varsity field near the parking lot.

We were surprised to learn that league play began without us; we drew a bye for Game 1, so we begin

- 4/28 Game 2 - Bethlehem Lutheran at home
- 5/5 Game 3 - Mountainview Church at the BCHS JV field
- 5/12 Game 4 – First United Methodist Delmar at home
- 5/19 Game 5 – Bethlehem Community at South Bethlehem Town Park
- 5/26 Game 6 – St. Thomas II at home
- 6/2 Game 7 - Delmar Reformed at the Henry Hudson Town Park

The league schedule accommodates 15 teams. Three are new: Beth Emeth Temple, Mountainview Church, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Greenville Christian Life and King's Chapel are not playing this year.

Come on out to the ball game and root for our church team! See you there?

Bob Lynk, 439-3948
thelynks@midtel.net



Letters

Our Dear Church Family,

We are so overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and generosity that you have given us. The “housewarming reception” after church services on March 27th was such a thoughtful and beautiful event. (It seems as though Sue times her falls so that she misses something she really wants to be a part of.) We realize and appreciate how much effort went into the planning, organizing and putting on this event.

Special thanks to these folks, as well as to all who supported us with the lovely gifts for our new apartment. Fellowship Hall was so beautifully decorated as well as the gifts. As always, the food was delicious.

We've had our number of “bumps in the road” but our last was the most devastating, the fire that destroyed our apartment and all our belongings. But, from that darkness came great light – all the love and support from so many avenues, including yours. How uplifting it is to feel this warmth of others and seeing God at work in our lives:

THANKS BE TO GOD, that everyone made it out of the building safely.

THANKS BE TO GOD, that all the affected tenants found a place to stay. (We were at CrestHill Suites for 4 months.) After searching, we could not find a place that met our needs in the Albany area.

THANKS BE TO GOD, that we were led to the Schenectady area to Kingsway Village Independent Senior Housing. They just happened to have an opening, the perfect apartment waiting for us and we do love it here.

THANKS BE TO GOD, that Dave can sell well again. After a year of poor eyesight, his doctors were successful in removing a cataract so that he now has one eye he can rely on. He has been able to help out here, by playing for an ecumenical service on Sunday afternoons.

We will not give up as there is always HOPE through God's presence and His leading us, even though we don't realize it or know His purpose. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! For your continual and comforting Christian love. May God Bless – always – this congregation.

Love,

Dave and Sue Howland

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. please extend our thanks to the members of the Delmar Presbyterian Church for their recent donation of \$1000.00 to the Emergency Heating fund. This donation will be used to assist low-income older Town residents this winter.

In the winter months, one of our largest concerns is that our residents have enough heat to be comfortable. We have tried for many years to identify as many low-income residents as possible and provide them with information on energy related programs. We help people fill out HEAP forms and can give information about many other programs, such as our Bethlehem Food Pantry, food stamps, SSI, STAR, telephone Lifeline and other programs that can save people money.

Through the generosity of many churches, civic groups and individuals, we are also able to help people directly with fuel bills and high National Grid bills through our Emergency Heating fund. We do this by directly crediting the bills of persons who have fuel related difficulties and that we have determined to be low-income and have applied for and received HEAP (heat energy assistance program).

Sincerely,
Joyce H. Becker
Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.

CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER NEWS

“Adding Strength, Speed & Balance to Your Congregation”, with 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. \$95 each day; Cost for both days together: \$165. Reg. deadline: April 14, 2011.

Thus Says the Lord: Listening to the Prophets, Old Testament II, with Rev. Dr. Beth Tanner, Niskayuna Reformed, Begins July 21, A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course. \$250; \$200 to audit. Reg. deadline: July 18, 2011.

Empathy in Action: Intro to Pastoral Care, with Rev. William Grosch, M.D., Lynnwood Reformed, Begins September 8, A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course. \$250; \$200 to audit. Reg. deadline: August 23, 2011.

Canoeing Through Creation, with Rev. Kent Busman, Mon, Sept. 12- Thurs. Sept. 15, Camp Fowler, Get away into the beautiful Adirondacks for hiking, canoeing, and theological reflection on the care of God’s good creation. \$300; Reg. deadline: Aug. 24.

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.