



THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

www.delmarmethodist.org

Special services as the season of Lent begins

This time of worship following Epiphany is shortly coming to an end. Lent, the time of preparing for Holy Week and Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25.

To mark that beginning, there will be an Ecumenical Worship Service at the Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Avenue at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 25. The Rev. Larry Deys of Delmar Presbyterian, Rev. Bob Zittel of Slingerlands Community United Methodist Church, and Rev. Janice Palm will lead the worship service. This worship service is a time to remember our humanity, our limited life on this earth, and make a renewed commitment to a life of faith. Do come!

On the **First Sunday of Lent**, March 1, we will host the Clown Ministry of the King's Clown Troupe of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Clifton Park. The theme for the worship service is **Let Your Light Shine**. We will celebrate Holy Communion. Do plan on coming to worship this day; your hearts will be warmly touched by this troupe of 25 youth.

Vision – Mission – Path

On Saturday, Feb. 28, from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., the Administrative Council will bring together the ministry teams of our church around the goal of forming a common set of priorities for the next year. We'll explore questions like: What does your path of faith exploration look like? Who is joining you on your journey? How do you serve, and how do others serve you, during the journey?

If you are serving on a ministry team, please join us. If you want to serve on a ministry team, please join us. If you want others to join you on your journey, please join us.

– Rev. Palm, Jeff Peterson, John Lamitie

Church Conference on Feb. 26

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Fenimore, has called for our Annual Church Conference to be held next Thursday evening, Feb. 26. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the church budget for 2009, and to hear the names of persons who cannot be contacted and who would be removed from our membership rolls by the 2010 Annual Church Conference. In addition, our District Superintendent has business to present to the congregation.

A summary of the Administrative Council's recommended 2009 Budget is enclosed with this issue of the *Telescope*. A hard copy of the full, detailed line-by-line budget is available upon request at the Church Office.

All church members are encouraged to attend, and may vote at this Church Conference. We will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will follow at about 7 p.m. Please RSVP by Feb. 18 to Church Office (churchoffice@delmarmethodist.org or 439-9976) so we can make arrangements for tables.

As is the tradition of FUMC Delmar, another Church Conference will be held in June to receive reports of the church's administrative and ministry teams, with summaries of the ministries from the year past and dreams for the upcoming year. This will include a report from the Nominations and Lay Leadership Development Committee.

If child care is needed, please contact Jen Bailey no later than Feb. 19, 439-9976 x 225 or education@delmarmethodist.org.

Our Church In Mission

Let's help AUMS become "green." The Albany United Methodist Society (AUMS) is seeking new canvas or plastic **tote bags** for food pantry clients in order to avoid use of plastic grocery bags that end up in the trash. If you have bags to share from conventions, marathons, etc., please put them in the AUMS grocery cart. Thank you!

Food Pantry Needs: The AUMS food pantry is in need of canned fruits, vegetables, cereal, pasta sauce, canned meats and tuna fish. Though always grateful, they are abundantly supplied with pasta. What may seem like a lot of canned goods will be gone in a week's time. The need for food assistance in the inner city continues to rise. We can help!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 22
Transfiguration Sunday
9:30 a.m.

Sermon by
Rev. Janice Palm
"Double the Spirit
of Elijah"

Texts:
2 Kings 2:1-12
Mark 9:2-9

First United Methodist Church of Delmar
428 Kenwood Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054-1806
(518) 439-9976

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Delmar, NY - Permit No. 13

'A Christian community, growing together in faith and in service to God'

Church Calendar

Thursday Feb. 19	1 p.m. – Mary Marthas (Lounge) 6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir (201) 7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
Saturday, Feb 21	11:30 a.m. – '09 Confirmation Class meeting, with parents (Lounge)
Sunday, Feb. 22	9:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m. – Jr. Church School (begins in Sanctuary) 10:45 a.m. – Fellowship Hour 11 a.m. – Intermediate/Youth Choirs (Choir Room/216) 11 a.m. – Theological & Social Issues (Lounge) 7 p.m. – Women's Study Group (Library)
Mon., Feb. 23	10:30 a.m. – Playgroup (Nursery)
Tuesday, Feb. 24	8 a.m. – Men's Breakfast (4 Corners) 10 a.m. – Treasure Cove (Lounge) 7 p.m. - Upper Room (Lounge)
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study (Delmar Place) 10:30 a.m. – Playgroup (Nursery) 7:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday service, Delmar Presbyterian

Friendship Club to learn about clean energy on Friday, Feb. 27

One of our own church members, John Saintcross, will lead the program for February's Friendship Club. Using a PowerPoint presentation along with time for dialogue, John's topic is "Will Our Children Breathe Easier? The Promise of Windpower and Other Forms of Clean Energy."

Since John and Kate Saintcross arrived here in New York (from Vermont), John has been involved on the leading edge of research and development on alternate power sources for our state with NYSERDA.

The Feb. 27 gathering will follow the usual format: 6 p.m. gathering in the Fellowship Hall; 6:30 p.m. sharing in the delicious pot luck meal and conversation; 7:30 p.m., program.

The format counts on most of those attending providing main dishes, salads or desserts. If it's

not convenient to bring food, just put a few extra bills in the basket above the \$2 that everyone contributes. To help us get an approximate count for tables and chairs set up, it's helpful if you contact Hertha Thayer at 453-0450 to say you expect to attend.

A thank-you from the Secors

Thank you to everyone for your love and support through this difficult time. We are trying to send notes to express our appreciation to everyone who offered assistance during Sue's struggle with cancer. We will do our best to reach everyone and we should with time, but would like to extend a "thank you" message to our entire church family. Through your spiritual support, counseling, friendships, cards, meals, flowers, visits, hugs, and many other gestures you helped at a time when help was dearly needed. We thank you for all of you acts of kindness and love,

– *The family of Suzanne Secor*

Serve as an acolyte

Any child in grade 4 - 8 who is interested in being an acolyte should contact Karen Seward at church or via e-mail (tseward@nycap.rr.com). If you have never done it before, Karen would meet with the child for about 5 minutes following church on a convenient Sunday for a short practice session.

Our Church Family

In our thoughts and prayers: Shirley Stroud, Camille Caballero, Karen Boughton (Linda Blattner & Kim Ryan), Steve Collier (Brian & Barbara Collier), Sally Young (Gail Garson), Barb Wiley, Lee Diederich, Jonathan Carpenter (Kevin Conley), Julia Hymes ((Mary Noble), Maud Denham, Nellie Evans, Bill Harden (Natalie Darrone), Tiffani Hughes (Byron & Barbara Wilson), Lynn Mallory, Chuck Payne (Ray Bell), Ken Huddleston (Karen & Kyle Jones), Austin Cline, Nick Dubroff (Sally and John Ten Eyck), Sam Kunis (Dana Burns), Denise Knaack, Mary Storm, Susan and Marge Stewart (John Stewart), Bernice Kapral (Joan Kapral), Sharon O'Connor (Lynda Conway), Priscilla Wing (Dori Hallenbeck), George Hartman (McEwan, Ten Eyck families), Kevin Rice and family (Nancy and Steve Rice), Louise Marshall, Geneva Long, Jean Drew, Clara Cabezas (Marian and Bill Jewell), Capt. Sean Quinn (John and Sally Ten Eyck), Chris Sheridan (Dick & Jeanne Herrmann), Bernice Drozd (Karen Ward), Edwin Busch (Joan House), Noah Hyde (Mil Harmon), Viva Klim.

2009 Budget

The church conference is scheduled for Feb 26. One item to be discussed and voted upon is the church budget. In the past we have supplied the budget info at the meeting; however this does not give people sufficient time to digest it and ask questions. Accordingly, a budget summary is provided on the reverse of this page.

The budgeting process involves forecasting and estimating uncertain revenues and every attempt at reasonable conservatism has been made. In the event our revenue projections prove to be wrong, mid-year spending adjustments may be necessary.

Income Issues:

Pledge Revenue:

The 2009 budget will require approximately \$560,000 in total revenue in order to maintain basic operating functions. Of that amount \$381,000 is budgeted to be derived from pledges, loose collection from un-pledged donors and collection of "old accounts" (prior year's unfulfilled pledges).

The loose collection and old accounts are fairly consistent. The big variable is pledges from members. We have budgeted \$325,000 in pledges but as of 1/27/09 we only have \$304,000. The assumption therefore is that the remaining \$21,000 will be raised from the congregation from yet uncommitted pledges or via a supplemental fund raising effort throughout the year.

Endowment Fund Income:

The other major source of income to the operating budget is income from the endowment fund. Due to depressed values of the Church's endowment, Trustees had to decrease the annual supplement from \$120,000 in 2008 to a planned supplement of \$100,000 in 2009. This along with a decline in pledge support has necessitated budget cuts.

The endowment fund support is neither contractual nor certain and is dependent upon investment performance. Should conditions worsen, additional reductions in support may be required. Since we operate a balanced budget, reductions in income would need to be addressed with alternate income or spending cuts.

Supplemental Fund Raising

Additional funds (\$21,000) will be needed to meet our current obligations. In addition we hope to raise an additional \$20,000 in order to consider hiring a Director of Programming for the latter half of 2009. For calendar year 2010, that position will require \$40,000 to support that position

Respectfully Submitted,
John Stewart – Finance Chair
January 27, 2009

FUMC DELMAR 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY				
	PROPOSED	2008	AMOUNT	%
ACCOUNT	2009 BUDGET	BUDGET	OF CHANGE	CHANGE
EXPENSES				
Trustees	\$ 98,900	\$ 110,300	\$ (11,400)	-10.3%
Family Life	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0.0%
Communication	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ (500)	-25.0%
Worship	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%
Education	\$ 6,950	\$ 10,375	\$ (3,425)	-33.0%
Youth Ministry	\$ 4,877	\$ 5,430	\$ (553)	-10.2%
RPM's	\$ 3,354	\$ 3,000	\$ 354	11.8%
Office	\$ 17,800	\$ 21,300	\$ (3,500)	-16.4%
Finance	\$ 4,265	\$ 5,800	\$ (1,535)	-26.5%
Music	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,400	\$ (1,400)	-12.3%
Membership/Evangelism	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,800	\$ (700)	-38.9%
Stewardship	\$ 550	\$ 500	\$ 50	10.0%
Church & Society	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,900	\$ (900)	-47.4%
Seniors	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ (100)	-33.3%
Staff Parish	\$ 291,474	\$ 335,501	\$ (44,027)	-13.1%
Mission Giving	\$ 63,459	\$ 66,538	\$ (3,079)	-4.6%
Conference Apportionments	\$ 46,852	\$ 52,766	\$ (5,914)	-11.2%
Hospitality	\$ 700	\$ 1,750	\$ (1,050)	-60.0%
Special Events	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	50.0%
Historian	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200	100.0%
Library	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	0.0%
TOTALS	\$ 559,881	\$ 636,360	\$ (76,479)	-12.0%
REVENUES				
Pledges	\$ 325,000	\$ 354,000	\$ (29,000)	-8.2%
Church School	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	0.0%
Loose Collection	\$ 51,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,000	2.0%
Use of Property	\$ 21,200	\$ 15,200	\$ 6,000	39.5%
Autumn Fair	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ -	0.0%
Bank Interest	\$ 280	\$ 50	\$ 230	460.0%
Endowment Fund	\$ 100,000	\$ 120,880	\$ (20,880)	-17.3%
Treasure Cove	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ -	0.0%
Old Accounts	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	66.7%
TOTALS	\$ 559,880	\$ 600,530	\$ (40,650)	-6.8%
"FAITH" COMPONENT	\$ (1)	\$ (35,830)		
PLEDGE SUMMARY				
	<u>As of 1/27/09</u>	<u>As of 12/12/07</u>	<u>As of 12/10/06</u>	
# of Pledges to date	179	170	199	
* New Pledges	15	13	24	
Amount Pledged	\$303,837	\$310,959	\$331,962	
Increases	73	90	96	
Decreases	29	12	18	
Unchanged	77	68	85	
Pledged last year but not YET this year	37	46	33	
Dollar value of uncommitted pledges	\$60,330	\$61,722	\$36,000	
Dollar Value of new 2009 pledges= \$17,974				
2008: 200 Pledges for \$346,753 of which \$330,469 was collected (95% collection)				