



JANUARY 2011

THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

www.delmarmethodist.org

'Living the Questions' and wondering about your faith?

In order to seek a richer understanding of your personal faith, we will offer a safe place to explore questions you and others might have. This course will provide some teaching, but will focus on questions you have and how we all may embrace adult faiths.

Our topics will cover God, Jesus, salvation, practice of our faith and community. The course is being held at two different times: Sundays at 5 pm and Tuesdays at 10 am. Pick the most convenient day/time and spend five weeks in exploration. (This began Jan. 9 and Jan. 11, but new participants are welcome.) Rev. Palm will guide the gathering, which will meet in the Library.

Still time to pledge

In case you forgot to pledge and would like it included in our new year's budget, you can still do that. Cards are available at Church Office. We still see about a \$25,000 gap between our expenditures and presently known income.

OUR CHURCH IN MISSION

► Did you receive a Christmas gift you don't need? Support Ministries' AIDS/HIV program can use extra gifts of any kind and size as birthday gifts and/or prizes for bingo games. There is a collection bin in the second floor stairwell.

Our Church Family

In our thoughts and prayers: Larissa Suparmanto, Eleanor Haverly, Eleanor Riddell, Gerrit Milbert, Gail Garson, Jean Richardson (Hyacinth Mason), Paul Vandemark, Joan Kapral, Rob Heineman, Patti Hardy (Pam Skripak), Susan Mincher (Ellen and Bob Kanuck), Cassie Riordon & Jay Edgar (Marc Edgar), Carol Housekmecht (Karen Seward), Mary Jane Hughes (Lynda Conway), Marco Bonato (Jane Lang, David Rathjens), Ray Scheesley (Ten Eyck Family), Gil & Elsie Faustel (Karen Tedesco), Jim King (Julie Bushart), Mary Storm, Chris Sheridan (Dick & Jeanne Herrmann), Edwin Busch (Joan House).

Friendship Club on Jan. 28 to hear about Northern Ireland mission

At the Jan. 28 gathering of Friendship Club, Rod Aldrich will talk about his eight days in Northern Ireland on a Volunteer in Mission trip to promote peace between the two faith-identified cultural communities. His eyes were opened to the influences that make reconciliation more difficult than most Americans assume. Rod is a member of Pawling Avenue UMC in Troy.

We gather at 6 pm and eat promptly at 6:30 pm. The meal will be potluck; for those bringing a casserole, salad or dessert the cost is \$2 and for those without a food donation the cost is \$7.

Bring a friend, a neighbor, or a fellow church member. If you are not on the calling list, call Hertha Thayer for reservations at 453-0450. For questions, call Mark Baumbach at 765-4419.

Confirmation Class 2011

An information session on our Confirmation Class for 2011 was held Jan. 9. If you are an 8th-grader or older, and interested in joining the 15 already signed up, please contact the church office before our first official meeting on Sunday, Jan. 30: call 439-9976 or e-mail seniorpastor@delmarmethodist.org. Rev. Iona and Rev. Janice are looking forward to a great adventure.

JUMP to discussion – and pizza!

JUMP is FUMC's youth group for middle-school-age children. Plans for the year are under way! On Sunday, Jan. 16 we will have our first discussion group for 2011, at 5:30 pm in the Lounge. Pizza and refreshments will be provided for all.

A February trip to either an indoor ropes course or rock climbing activity will be planned. In March there will be a discussion group and/or hosting Fellowship Hour. As always all are welcome, and bring a friend. Please contact Julie Bushart by e-mail at Jakber@aol.com or 439-7341 with any questions or concerns.

RPMs plan Iowa flood-relief trip

RPMs, our high-school youth group, will make its annual mission trip to Iowa in April to help with the continuing home repairs required by floods in 2008.

These young people will be offering worship leadership on January 23; they also will tell us why their mission trips are important, about their previous experience in mission, and a bit about what they look forward to in this year's mission trip. You can contribute toward their mission trip through your prayers and a check made payable to RPMs Seniors delivered to Church Office. After the group returns, contributors will be treated to a complimentary dinner at which you will hear of their experiences.

Christmas Eve for pre-schoolers

A special thanks to the folks who made the pre-school Christmas Eve service a wonderful occasion for all! Our youngest worshippers took part in creative activities related to Jesus' birth, thanks to Karen Watterworth, Jamie Brock, Julie and Kendra Bushart, Marc and Emma Edgar, and Grace Garcia and Amanda McDonagh. Jennie Mahoney's enthusiasm – and her willingness to do whatever we needed – were perfect! Thanks so much to our maintenance staff members, Terry and Glen, who lugged tables and chairs so that all were comfortable. A warm thank-you to Tri-Village Nursery School for the loan of their coveted half-circle tables! From PowerPoint to photography to posting signs, Laura Collier, Denise Gisotti and Phil Jenkins were the finishing touches that made this event so nice. Nan Rabinow got the word out to our church family and community, bringing many new faces to the event. Lastly, this could not have come off without the constant support and guidance from Jen Bailey, Rev Janice and Rev. Bob.

To our church families who came, we are thrilled you chose to worship with us as we helped our younger members learn about and celebrate Jesus' birth. – Rev. Iona, Lisa Ball and Jamie Cable

Women-in-the-Middle on Jan. 22

Women-in-the-Middle is a group of 40-60 year-olds who find themselves caring for others: spouse, parents, children, and friends. We meet to support each other and enjoy each other's company. If this sounds of interest, join us. Our next breakfast gathering will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22 at Tool's Restaurant at 8:30 am. Please let Linda Graf, GiraffeArt@msn.com (or 439-6659), know if you'll be attending.

Refugee Resettlement volunteer opportunities – ways to welcome newcomers to our country

Are you interested in learning about other cultures and helping refugees learn the “ropes of life” in the U.S.?

The Mission Ministry Team is happy to announce a number of opportunities to get involved with refugee resettlement in Albany through Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus United Methodist Church (RISSE) in Albany:

- **Mentor a refugee family.** This can include helping refugees sort through their mail to identify what is urgent; going to the library or appointments; assisting with resume writing; and being an informal English conversation partner. This is a way to get to know a particular family over time.
- **Volunteer at the after-school program.** The Emmaus Church runs an after school program from 4-6 pm daily. Of particular need are conversational English partners for the kids (this can mean playing games, reading, crafts, etc); volunteers with laptops to teach computer literacy; and volunteers to lead enrichment workshops to complement RISSE’s art program.
- **Volunteer with the summer education program,** which runs all day during summer vacation and serves over 90 children. Teachers would be particularly welcome!
- **Be a conversation partner.** BOCES Adult ESL classes are held at Emmaus six times a week so there are lots of opportunities to help out.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Colleen Cook at 439-4083 or cook.colleen@att.net (e-mail is more reliable).

FUMC donates to Bethlehem project for seniors

Our church joyfully offered a donation to the Bethlehem Senior Project Corporation, a non-profit organization of our town. The church decided to reach out in this way at a time when many folks and non-profit organizations are feeling the pinch of our tight economic times because it feels the call to give when it can and because the Bethlehem Senior Project Corporation helps so many senior folks in a variety of ways in the town of Bethlehem so they might keep living in their homes.

Our church is known for many things: its fine Sunday school program, the well-attended, sought-after Vacation Bible School, its music programs, and its mission outreach. We receive donations of a wide variety of used items in good condition. All of our donations are either given to other mission programs or available to our surrounding community through the church’s Mission Movers program (which provides furniture to screened families who are in need), our Treasure Cove which has weekly sales of clothing and accessories, our Annual Toy and Book

(continued on next page)

Mary Marthas and Iona, Jan. 13

The next meeting of the Mary Marthas will take place Thursday, Jan. 13 at 1 pm in the church Lounge. This is your opportunity to meet our new Associate Pastor, Iona Dickinson, on a more personal level. Come join us as we welcome Pastor Iona to our Mary Martha group.

For further information contact Aggie Clark at 439-5578, Barb Logan at 439-4782, or Shirley Milbert at 475-1298.

Sale, and our Autumn Fair. All of these year-long efforts are ways of putting our environmental concerns into action by recycling items, offering goods at greatly reduced prices for anyone especially those who have limited incomes, providing fellowship for those within our church, and finally, providing the church the means to offer further mission outreach. We are unusual as a church in that we designate at least 10 percent of our budget automatically to mission work. Most of our mission work (which includes both monetary and physical work) usually is directed toward Albany and around the world. Our gift to the Bethlehem Seniors Group is above and beyond our regular on-going mission giving and is an outreach to our immediate community.

Many within the town of Bethlehem know us as the church that has the great fair in the autumn and the place where good, gently used clothing can be found costing nearly nothing. We are both of those but we are more: we are a people driven by the love of Jesus who guides us in saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We are "A Christian Community, growing together in faith and in service to God."

So it was with great pleasure on Epiphany, celebrated in the Christian tradition as the day the magi offered gifts to the Baby Jesus, that we offered to our immediate community a gift that might better the lives of many of our elders who live within Delmar and the town of Bethlehem.

Nursery care provider wanted

FUMC is seeking individuals to provide child-care on Sunday mornings from 9 am to 11 am (and occasional, additional dates). The ideal candidate will enjoy interacting with infants, toddlers and children up to age 5. Candidates must be 18 or older. Interested candidates should contact FUMCDelmarjobs@gmail.com.

From Rev. Iona – New Year's resolutions

Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia of sorts, says this about New Year's Resolutions: "A New Year resolution is a commitment that an individual



makes to a personal goal, project, or the reforming of a habit. This lifestyle change is generally interpreted as advantageous." This concept is not foreign to us, as we make our own resolutions: lose weight, stop smoking, spend less money, spend more quality time with family and friends – these are among the most popular.

So, what might resolutions look like in the church? We might each consider in this New Year where God is calling us to either make a change or add something to our life. I do not and will not claim to know where God is calling each individual who is part of FUMC, but here are some distinct possibilities:

- Getting more fully involved in the wider mission of FUMC.
- Taking the prayer list from "The Weekly" each Sunday and praying for those names each and every day.
- Inviting someone to join you at church at least twice this year.
- Getting involved in a ministry that you have always watched appreciatively from afar.

So much ministry could happen if we all make a resolution to find a new way to be involved in our church community! This idea is exciting to me and makes me want to jump up and shout "Happy New Year!"

Iona



PASTORAL MESSAGE

A sense of renewed spirit – and an opportunity to extend the gift of peace ...

Rev. Janice Palm

With the celebrations of Advent and Christmas in our most recent history, I hope that we all are gaining a sense of renewed Spirit. Advent brought a focus of peace in worship and a project involving many people of creating peace crane mobiles which still adorn our sanctuary.

We have heard how these mobiles instill a sense of peace while sitting in a pew; there have been many requests to keep the peace cranes floating above us in the sanctuary for a while longer. We shall do that.

Another suggestion of how we might extend this theme of peace is to add to the peace cranes we already have by waging peace. We have additional peace cranes and the makings for another mobile. How about, as someone in our congregation suggested, we write on the cranes how we as a congregation and individuals provide for peace? We'll have cranes and writing utensils available during fellowship time.

Another suggestion is that we not keep peace held within our sanctuary but that we extend the gift of peace beyond our walls. Where might we offer a peace crane mobile that would provide a sense of peace for those who need it? I suggest that, since they were so instrumental in making the peace cranes a reality, the Senior High School Church School Class decide where they would like the mobiles to go.

Christmas Eve we added a service so we provided three distinct worship opportunities for different audiences. Each service was well attended, and for the two later services, attendance was higher than last year. Most especially the pre-school and family services attracted many new folks. New and occasional worshippers were met with invitations to come again, and highlights coming in January, February, and March saying Christmas is a Beginning! All in attendance were graced by worship and the luminaries lighting our paths.

This very publication of the Telescope is another example of renewed Spirit. Now with a monthly edition and this new format, we are looking to have this be a forum where articles about church life are received so that our whole church community may know and celebrate how different parts of the church are in ministry.

In this New Year, additional sightings of a renewed Spirit will take form. Look for them; be a part of them. A couple of examples are in Church Family Life and the many faceted Lenten Series of educational and spiritual growth opportunities.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Janice

Emergency Overflow Shelter continues to need supplies, other help

The Emergency Overflow Shelter is operated during the late fall and winter months by the Capital Area Council of Churches to provide overnight lodging for individuals who cannot access other homeless shelters.

Our church is responsible for the hot evening meal every Saturday until mid-April, when the Shelter closes. Our Mission Ministry Team is seeking volunteers to provide casseroles, vegetables/salads, desserts, and beverages for the 19 individuals and staff members. A sign-up list is posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact Nanette Mayes at 767-9636.

In addition, there is a collection box in the Church Office hallway near the Nursery for items the shelter needs on an ongoing basis:

Cleaning products: Pine Sol, bleach, detergent.

Paper products, etc.: Paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, facial tissue, heavy-duty 20 gal. trash bags, food service gloves, heavy-duty paper hot cups, bowls, plates, sturdy plastic eating utensils.

Clothing: New socks and underwear for men.

Toiletries: Small-sized toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, hand sanitizer.

Volunteers: To help with meals, make beds, do laundry, sign in guests, etc. Please call the Shelter at 426-1227.

Financial gifts are always welcome - and needed. Make checks out to FUMC and indicate for Overflow Shelter and bring to Church Office.

Notes of sympathy

We offer prayers for those who have recently lost loved ones and especially...

- ♦ Lois Vadney and family on the death of her beloved husband, **John Vadney**, on Nov. 2, at home. Contributions in John's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 260 Osborne Rd., Albany, NY 12211.
- ♦ Joy Griffith and family upon the loss of her mother, **Florence Griffith**, on Nov. 25. Florence was a nurse for 60+ years including WWII, a nursing instructor, and a very caring person.
- ♦ Friends of **Given Hynds** (husband of the late Frances Hynds) who passed away on Monday, Dec. 6 at the Hospice Inn.
- ♦ Family and friends of **Rev. William J. "Bill" Barney**, a former superintendent of the Albany District, who passed away peacefully on Dec. 22 at his home surrounded by his loving family and friends. A "Celebration of Living and Loving Fully" will be held for Rev. Barney at Christ Church United Methodist, 94 Bay Street, Glens Falls on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. All are welcome.
- ♦ Family and friends of **Rev. Roger Day**, who died in Lebanon, N.H. on Jan. 1. Rev. Day served United Methodist churches in the following locations: Pittsfield, West Sand Lake, Salem, Queensbury, Eagle Mills, and Schenectady.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

Upcoming events of note

Thursday, Jan. 13	1 pm	Mary Marthas	Lounge
Sunday, Jan. 16	5:30 pm	JUMP (Jr. Hi youth group)	Lounge
Monday, Jan. 17	8 am 7 pm	Senior Ministry Team Finance Team	Four Corners Rest. Room 207
Saturday, Jan. 22	8:30 am	Women-in-the-Middle	Tool's Rest.
Sunday, Jan. 23	11 am 7 pm	Care Corps Team RPMs meeting	Room 207 Delmar Reformed
Monday, Jan. 24	7:15 pm	Education Team	Room 207
Friday, Jan. 28	6 pm	Friendship Club	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Jan. 30	12 noon	Confirmation Class session #1	FH/Lounge
Monday, Jan. 31	7 pm	Special Administrative Council meeting	207
Sunday, Feb. 6	11 am	Special Church Conference	Fellowship Hall

Regular weekly schedule

Sundays	9:30 am 9:45 am 10:45 am 11 am 11 am 5 pm	Worship (Sanctuary) Church School (classrooms) Fellowship Hour Junior/Intermediate Choirs/Youth Singers Theological/Social Issues <i>Living the Questions</i> study w/Rev. Palm	Sanctuary Classrooms Fellowship Hall 219/Choir Room/218 Lounge Library
Mondays	10:30 am	Community Playgroup	Nursery
Tuesdays	8 am 10 am 10 am 3 pm 7 pm	Men's Breakfast <i>Living the Questions</i> study w/Rev. Palm Treasure Cove Rev. Iona "Coffee Talk" Upper Room Study Group	Four Corners Library Lounge Perfect Blend Library
Wednesdays	10:30 am 10:30 am	Bible Study Community Playgroup	Delmar Place Nursery
Thursdays	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bell Choir Chancel Choir	Room 201 Choir Room

The February edition of the Telescope will be mailed on Wednesday, Feb. 3.
Final copy deadline for that issue is Friday morning, Jan. 29.

See our on-line calendar at calendar.yahoo.com/delmarmethodist

Save the dates – Feb. 23 and March 27 – for family events!

“FamilyWed” Game Night – Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6 pm
(School break week)

If you’re not going to Florida then you could be at Game Night. Tons of fun for all ages! A variety of games will be offered, but all will feature the famous “FamilyWed.” Bring a dish to share, enough for your family PLUS a few more. Hot dogs and beverages will also be available. *Chairperson/contact: Katie Hodge, e-mail shodge5@nycap.rr.com.*

“Seussical the Musical” – BCHS – Sunday, March 27 at 2 pm

One of the best shows in town will be at Bethlehem High School. Come and be entertained and be proud of this town’s incredible young talent in the cast of “Seussical the Musical.” A block of tickets is being secured. Pizza party will follow the performance in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the show and the pizza party are estimated at between \$10-\$20. *Chairperson/contact: Jane Lang, e-mail jjlang3@mindspring.com.*

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

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