



# THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

[www.delmarmethodist.org](http://www.delmarmethodist.org)

## Stewardship Campaign 2011

“Growing Together in Faith and Service” is this year’s Stewardship theme.

A child is amazed each time a seed bursts from the soil and races to the sun. Rich earth, water, and sunlight are all that are needed – plus some tender, loving care.

We experience the same wonderment as we nourish our church. We have the same feeling of satisfaction and are part of something larger than ourselves. We grow in grace each time we contribute.



There are countless ways that we respond to God’s love and grow together. We all have talents and gifts that we bring to our Christian community,

including our financial resources. With Jesus’ love and inspiration, we will work together toward fulfillment of our vision.

Our understanding of Jesus’ teachings will always be strengthened and we will all grow closer to Him.

If you have not submitted a pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the Church Office and should be submitted to the Financial Secretary .

## In Our Prayers

**In our thoughts and prayers:** Pat Bradley, Peg Miller, Dr. Brolin Parker (Albany District Superintendent), Helen Landesman (Bob and Ellen Kanuck), Jack Tuell (Jim Knowles-Tuell), Albert Mertz (Emily Thomas), Doug Jones (Robin Cairns), Sharon Ornoski, Velma Jones, John Lang Sr. (John & Jane Lang), Bill Ramey & Kevin Farnell (Pat & Roger Sutliff), Marilyn Peterson, Jim King (Julie Bushart), Gianna Gisotti (Gisotti and Jachym families), George Marion Boswell, Jr. (Boswell-Penc family), Jean Richardson and Andy Grimes (Hyacinth Mason), Patti Hardy (Pam Skripak), Mary Jane Hughes (Lynda Conway), Ray Scheesley (Ten Eyck Family), Gil & Elsie Faustel (Karen Tedesco), Mary Storm, Laura and Edwin Busch (Joan House).

## All hands on deck!

Think it’s too late to sign up to help out at the Fall Fair **this Saturday, Nov. 5**, from 8 am to 3 pm? HA! It won’t be too late until about 5 pm on Saturday.

If you’re nervous about committing to a schedule in advance, just show up and somebody will give you an assignment. It’s a great chance to make a contribution – and have fun with friends and neighbors. Busy for most of Saturday? Well, then, come at 3 pm – that’s right, after the fair is officially “over.” That’s when we start cleaning up, and it’s a big job. You could be a big help.

One more thing: Don’t forget to come and do a little shopping yourself!

## Annual 'Hanging of the Greens' is a traditional, joyous Church Family Life event—on Saturday, Dec. 3

Start the Christmas season at the "Hanging of the Greens" event on Saturday, Dec. 3. We will make decorations, eat a meal together and sing some carols around the tree in the sanctuary. The Nursery will also be available that morning. If you'd like to sign up your youngster in the Nursery for this event, please contact Jen Bailey at [education@delmarmethodist.org](mailto:education@delmarmethodist.org).

The schedule:

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. Crafts and Greens Preparation
- 10:00-10:45 a.m. Potluck Brunch (bring a dish to share; drinks will be provided)
- 10:45 a.m.-noon Sanctuary Decoration and Carol Singing

### **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

On Dec. 2 the Friendship Club will be treated to a presentation by Robert Mulligan, former curator at Fort Ticonderoga, and for 25 years at the New York State Museum. Career highlights included planning and preparation for the NYS Bicentennial Barge, and many exhibits for smaller local institutions. Mark Baumbach will accompany us with carol singing.

Friendship Club gathers at 6 pm and we eat promptly at 6:30 pm. The meal is 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.

## Ecumenical Concert – Thanksgiving Harmony

Please join us as we unite in song and praise for an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20, 7 pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 25 Delmar Place, with approximately 120 voices participating (including many members of FUMC Chancel Choir) and about 20 area churches. A free-will offering will be received to benefit (after expenses) the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. All are welcome!

## Mary Marthas to meet Nov. 10 with Rev. O'Connor-Slater

The next gathering of the Mary Marthas will be held at 1 pm on Thursday, Nov. 10 in the Lounge. We will be privileged to have our Senior Pastor, Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater, join us to become more personally acquainted and share her life experiences with us.

## United Methodist? There's an app for that!

Mobile device users can access information about the United Methodist Church on the go with a new free United Methodist app.

You can access UMC news, daily devotionals, videos, resources and pictures – and there's a "find a church" feature for when you're traveling.

Developed by United Methodist Communications and Music City Networks, the app is now available for free download for iPad and iPhone. Simply search the App store with keywords "official methodist."

Plans are for the app to be available to Android smartphone users shortly, as well; check the Android market later in the month.

## Alice Kolb joins Church staff

Staff Parish has hired our new bookkeeper – Alice Kolb. Alice comes to us with a great background in bookkeeping and accounting in both the public and private sector.



Alice says “I look forward to meeting members of your community and to using my abilities to be of service.” Alice is full of ideas, and is familiar with the operations of a church. She serves for the Council of Churches as well. Alice will be in the office daily between the hours of 10 am - 2 pm, so stop

## Our Church Family

**Our congratulations** to Rev. Iona, Phil and Eliza upon the birth of their new little girl, Salena Rose, on Oct. 18 at St. Peter’s Hospital.

### Our prayers and sympathy:

- ◆ To Betty Ann Essex and family upon the loss of her beloved husband David on Oct. 30, 2011 at St. Peter’s Hospice Inn. A funeral is planned for Friday, Nov. 4 at 10 am. Rev. Kanuck will preside.
- ◆ To the friends and family of Margaret Ann Penk (McNitt) upon her death on Oct. 9 in Santa Maria, CA. Ann was the daughter of Sally and Roger McNitt (both deceased), longtime members of FUMC Delmar.
- ◆ To John and Sally Ten Eyck upon the loss of John’s mother, Ann Ten Eyck, on Oct. 15.
- ◆ To Diane Berninger and Rachel and Will Anderson upon the loss of their father and grandfather, Olin J. Johnson Sr., in Atlanta Oct. 15.
- ◆ To the family and friends of Shirley Post, upon her death Oct. 14 at her home. Memorial gifts may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 260 Osborne Rd., Albany 12211 or to FUMC Delmar.
- ◆ To Paul Kehoe and family upon the loss of his father, John Kehoe, on Oct. 23 in Chesire, CT.

## RPMs youth program looks forward to a busy month of service and fundraising

The RPMs, our ecumenical youth group, have started their Pampered Chef fundraiser. Help them raise money for the mission trip and also, get your Christmas shopping done. If you are interested in ordering something, contact Charlene Hesse at 439-8155 or visit her website [www.pamperedchef.biz/chefchar](http://www.pamperedchef.biz/chefchar). Once you place your order on the website enter RPMs in the host/organization box. Questions? E-mail Charlene at [pamperedchar@gmail.com](mailto:pamperedchar@gmail.com), or give her a call.

Anyone in 9-12th grade is invited to come and see what RPMs is all about. This youth group is an ecumenical group drawn from three churches: the Reformed, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches in Delmar. The RPMs do community service around the area including working with Habitat for Humanity, cooking for Interfaith and the Overflow Shelter, and much more! We travel to New York City to do a Midnight Run, go on a retreat and travel for our annual mission trip in the spring. This is a great group! For more information please email Beth Gould at: [RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com).

### November schedule:

**Sun., Nov. 6** – Delmar Reformed, 7 pm

**Nov. 19 and 20:** Wreath-making for fundraiser. 12 – 2:30pm and 2:30pm – 5pm / Majestic Tree Farm, Selkirk

**Sat., Nov. 26:** Wreath-making for fundraiser, 6:30 – 8 pm / FUMC

**Sun., Nov. 27** – Delmar Reformed, 7 pm



MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Report to the Church Conference:
Moving on to a life of greater good

Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this..." (Philippians 1:3-6a)

Paul wrote these intensely personal words to the Christian community in Philippi sometime after 50 CE. He wrote to express his profound joy and deep gratitude for the much-loved community. While Paul sent this thank-you note to the people of Philippi, he was in fact thanking God for their (the Philippians) response to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

At this moment I feel a kinship to Paul as I express to you my heartfelt gratitude to God for the United Methodist community of faith

here in Delmar. I cannot help but believe that my sense of joy, gratitude, confidence, and affection for this present-day community of faith rivals that of Paul as he wrote to the faithful in Philippi so long ago.

Our outreach is extensive. Our Missions Team, Treasure Cove, and the weekly Shed sales are a wonder to behold. Our Christian Education program is exemplary. The sight of God's children, young and old, meeting weekly to learn about the love of God fills my heart with joy and hope.

Our staff gives the very best of themselves in response to their various responsibilities.

But, like Paul I do not kid myself that we at FUMC have "perfected" being the church of Jesus Christ in this day and time. Our forbearer, John Wesley, reminded us that we, as God's children, are always moving on to a life of greater good, and that true perfection (that is oneness with God) comes only at the time of our mortal death and passing into eternal life.

Of primary concern to me at this time are the giving and spending patterns of the church. It is not uncommon for a "new" pastor, upon arrival to a "new" church, to study the church budget. The budget, particularly the monthly Profit and Loss statement, can tell one a great deal about the inner workings of an organization.

Of primary concern to me at this time are the giving and spending patterns of the church.

While studying the 2011 budget for FUMC I interpreted it this way:

- Our current expense budget for 2011 is \$574,000.
• FUMC's yearly operating budget is not fully funded by our pledged giving. Only 53% or \$352,000 of our annual budget is funded by our offerings on Sunday morning (including both pledges and loose offerings).

- FUMC’s yearly operating budget is heavily subsidized by the earnings from the Fall Fair, the Treasure Cove, and the earnings from our Endowment Fund. All told, \$222,600 is needed above and beyond our giving in 2011 to meet our operating expenses in 2011; that’s 47 percent of our budget.

- ◊ We are depending on the Fall Fair to provide us with \$45,000 worth of income.
- ◊ We are depending on the Treasure Cove/Thrift Shop to provide \$25,000 worth of income.
- ◊ And, we are depending on the Endowment Fund to provide us with about \$121,000 (a projected 90% of the investment earnings).

That’s a total of \$191,000 from these three sources.

If this interpretation is accurate we will still have a \$31,600 shortfall in our 2011 budget. It is my understanding that in June of 2011 the Finance Team asked the various program ministries of the church to reduce their spending by 10% in hopes of resolving the projected shortfall. The program teams have done well in their response to the Finance Team’s request and it appears now that we will not overspend our projected income for the year.

The questions that linger for me are:

- Is our budget realistic in light of our giving pattern?

- What if we were suddenly to lose the income from our Thrift Shop, Fall Fair, and/or our Endowment investment earnings?
- How shall we proceed in building the 2012 budget ?

These questions, and many more must be prayerfully and carefully discussed in our Finance Team and Trustees meetings over the next several weeks and months. Consequently, we did not present the 2012 budget for approval at our October 26th Church Conference. We will instead, present it for information purposes with

**Is our budget realistic in light of our giving pattern?**

the intention of presenting the finished product after the December 5th Administrative Council meeting.

Please understand that this is not “bad” news. It is just

“new” to me and I believe you should be aware of ,and involved in the decisions made for your church.

Please keep your church in, your daily prayers. Pray for the staff and all those who give unselfishly of their time and energy to serve in various leadership positions. In 2012 I will continue to keep you in my daily prayers. I ask that you would do the same for me.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Rev. Deborah O’Connor-Slater  
 Senior Pastor, FUMC, Delmar NY

Blessings,  
*Deborah*

in and welcome her. Phone: 439-9976 x 224;  
email: [accounting@delmarmethodist.org](mailto:accounting@delmarmethodist.org).

## Monthly Fair Trade/Equal Exchange sales for the holidays

In the holiday season our thoughts turn to helping others – and also (blush) to something warm and yummy.

Well, here's how to have it both ways. Church and Society will offer coffees, tea, chocolate, nuts and cranberries during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, Nov. 13 – their monthly sale of Fair Trade/Equal Exchange goods. FUMC Cookbooks will also be on sale for \$10; all proceeds benefit the Capital Region Food Bank. The Exchange is offered the second Sunday of every month.

## Women-in-the-Middle

Women-in-the-Middle is a group of women that meets for breakfast once a month to network, support, and enjoy one another's company.

Ages run from approximately 40 to 60, and many are in the middle of many passages of life journeys, such as kids in college, aging parents and partners, menopause, illness, and much more! Anyone is welcome to participate at any meeting.

The next Women-in-the-Middle breakfast will be at 8:30 am (8 for early birds) on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Tool's Restaurant. To sign up, e-mail Mary Lou Jackson at [MLJ7W@yahoo.com](mailto:MLJ7W@yahoo.com) or call 475-1861 by Thursday, Nov. 17.

## Check out J.U.M.P. – Junior United Methodist People

For those in 6th -8th grades who are looking for fun, fellowship and ways to serve the church and our community, J.U.M.P. is the place. Have a fun idea or need information, contact Julie Bushart at [jules385@verizon.net](mailto:jules385@verizon.net) or 439-7341.

Upcoming J.U.M.P. events:

- ◆ Nov. 5 – Help with Fall Fair
- ◆ Dec. 3 – Serve lunch at Capital City Rescue Mission
- ◆ Jan. 8 – Host Fellowship Hour

### **A NOTE OF THANKS FROM REV. IONA AND FAMILY**

To Our Church Family,

Thank you all so very much for your well wishes, thoughts, prayers and cares upon the arrival of Salina Rose.

And thank you so much for the generous outpouring of gifts. Your collective gift will allow us to get everything we need and then some for a new baby in the family.

Our family is so grateful to be a part of the FUMC family – thank you!

– Iona & Phil (and Eliza & Salina)

## Church Calendar for the month

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Wednesday, Nov. 2  | 6:30 pm  | Basic Lay Speaking Course (also 11/9)   | Room 207  |
| <b>Saturday, Nov. 5</b>  | 8 am–3pm   | <b>FALL FAIR!</b>   | Entire Church   |
| Sunday, Nov. 6   |  | <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS (2 am)</b><br><i>All Saints Sunday &amp; Holy Communion</i>  |   |
|  | 11 am  | Methodiva Women's Group   | Fellowship Hall   |
| Monday, Nov. 7   | 7 pm   | Bible Basics (& Nov. 14, 28)  | Library   |
| Tuesday, Nov. 8  | 11 am<br>5:30 pm<br>7 pm   | Bible Basics (& Nov. 15, 29)<br>Staff Parish Relations Team<br>Trustees   | Library<br>Room 207<br>Room 207   |
| Wednesday, Nov. 9  | 6:30 pm<br>7 pm<br>7:30 pm   | Membership & Evangelism<br>Basic Lay Speaking Course<br>Stewardship Team  | Room 216 *note change<br>Room 207<br>Room 218   |
| Thursday, Nov. 10  | 1 pm   | Mary Marthas  | Lounge  |
| Tuesday, Nov. 15   | 7 pm   | Finance Team  | Room 207  |
| <b>Sunday, Nov. 20</b>   | 11 am  | <b>Harvest Dinner</b>   | <b>Fellowship Hall</b>  |
| Monday, Nov. 21  | 8 am   | Senior Ministry Team  | Four Corners  |
| Tuesday, Nov. 22   | 7 pm   | Worship Dream Team  | Room 207  |
| <b>Regular weekly schedule</b>   |  |   |   |
| Sundays  | 8:30 am<br>9:30 am<br>9:45 am<br>10:45 am<br>11 am<br>11 am<br>11 am | Adult Bible Study<br>Worship<br>Church School<br>Fellowship Hour<br>Junior/Int./Youth Choirs<br>Theological/Social Issues<br>Bible Study with Connie Tilroe | Hummel Chapel<br>Sanctuary<br>Classrooms<br>Fellowship Hall<br>219/Choir Rm/218<br>Lounge<br>Chapel |
| Mondays  | 10:30 am   | Community Playgroup   | Nursery   |
| Tuesdays   | 8 am<br>10 am<br>7 pm  | Men's Breakfast<br>Treasure Cove<br>Upper Room Study Group  | Four Corners<br>Lounge<br>Library   |
| Wednesdays   | 10:30 am<br>10:30 am   | Bible Study<br>Community Playgroup  | Delmar Place<br>Nursery   |
| Thursdays  | 6:30 pm<br>7:30 pm   | Bell Choir<br>Chancel Choir   | Room 201<br>Choir Room  |
| <u>Final</u> deadline for copy for our next issue is <b>Wednesday morning, November 30</b> |  |   |   |

### Our illuminating ‘Bible Basics’ classes continue in November

Ever wonder about some of those books found in the middle of the Bible? We’ll hold three more sessions of our popular Bible Basics classes in November – two on the prophets, one with an Advent focus. Prior attendance not needed – all are welcome at any of the classes.

We meet in the Library; sessions are offered at our choice of Monday evenings, 7 pm, or Tuesday mornings, 11 am.

During Rev. Iona’s family leave, Rev. Robert J. Zittel will be leading the study. He’s a recently retired United Methodist minister who’s led Bible studies at seven different Methodist churches in and around the Capital District over the years.

**Nov. 7, 7 pm – OR Nov. 8, 11 am**

Daniel 6:1-28, Jonah

**Nov. 14, 7 pm – OR Nov. 15, 11 am**

Micah 3:5-12; 6:1-8; Habakkuk 1:1-2:5;  
Malachi

*Class will not meet Nov. 21 & 22.*

**Nov. 28, 7 pm – OR Nov. 29, 11 am**

Birth Narratives: Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2;  
John 1:1-5

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

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