



Vision

A newsletter of the Troy Larger Parish's First United Presbyterian Church
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors February 2009

The Season of Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday

February 25, 2009 from 6:15 to 7:45 PM

The congregation will gather in Fellowship Hall for

- ↪ a simple supper of New Orleans-style soups and gumbos, bread, and fruit
- ↪ a brief, reflective service of worship with the imposition of ashes for those who wish and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All ages are welcome for the meal and for worship.

Child care for preschoolers will be available.

Please e-mail (info@unitedprestroy.org) or call the church office (272-2771) on or before Monday, February 23, to reserve your place so that the planning team will know how many to expect for supper.

The Presbyterian poet Ann Weems has written,

“ . . . Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God! ”

May we taste anew the wonder of God's grace as we take this first step on our 2009 Lenten pilgrimage.



A Pastoral Note

from Alexandra

Happy Birthday,
Kay Closson ! ! !

February 22, 2009, is a very special day in the life of one member of this congregation Katherine ("Kay") Closson, for on that day she will celebrate her 100th birthday!!! Kay, who was born in Whitehall and spent some of her early years in Watervliet, lived in Rensselaer County for the balance of her life. She was employed at a local brokerage house for 26 years. Later in life, she shared a lovely home in Castleton with her brother, John, and with her longtime beloved feline companion, Patches. She especially enjoyed seeing the bright yellow finches that flocked to the feeder outside the four-season room at the rear of her house. Kay also has a particular fondness for the area around Grafton, where she spent childhood summers with her aunt and uncle.

Kay has been a member of First United for 33 years, having joined by letter of transfer from the First Presbyterian Church in Albany on September 9, 1976. For a number of years she sang in the choir (she still has a fine voice) and then became one of the storied "ladies five", a group of close friends who sat together in the same pew each week. The others were Helena Waite, Dorretta Ferber, Lena Mann, ~ all so fondly remembered ~ and the warm and wonderful Jean Miller. All of them delighted in the regular presence with them of several of the congregation's children.

Happy Birthday, Kay! We celebrate this special milestone with you lifting prayers of thanksgiving to God for the great joy of your presence among us.

Mission Opportunities:

The Inn From the Cold

The Inn from the Cold is now into its fourth month and will be housed at the Rourke Center on Fourth Street during February and March. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail (alexandra@unitedprestroy.org) or phone (272-2771, ext. 12) Rev. Lusak.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Fast for World Hunger

Our national denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is inviting us to participate in 40-hour churchwide fast days beginning on the first Friday of every month and ending the following day "to empathize with those suffering from hunger and famine around the world.

Violence in Gaza Can you help?

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help those in the Middle East traumatized by the violence of the recent conflict in Gaza, you can make a check out to First United and note "DR000081-F1" on the memo line. You can also donate online at www.pcusa.org/pda .

Bible Study Encounters with Jesus

Led by
Linda Briggs Larson and Alexandra Lusak,
alternately

Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm
and continuing each Wednesday
until Pentecost

Ministry of Music News

from Maury Castro

In the history of humanity, the ability to record music has been very recent. And yet what an impact this has had, especially in churches! For one, with access to a plethora of highly talented vocalists at our fingertips, there is a general embarrassment and fear of letting our own voice be heard in church. Choir members are brave, aren't they?!! Another impact that recordings have is that we don't treasure the experience of live music as we once did. If one's only opportunity to hear organized music was on Sunday morning at church, one would definitely savor it much more than we currently do, where it is but one part of an array of musical bombardments we receive constantly.

But music in church will always remain different. Music in the church is an offering to God that is rooted in our deepest selves that, hopefully, expresses our deepest desires.

Upcoming Events:

PETER AND THE WOLF at TROY NIGHT OUT
Friday, March 27 from 6 – 6:30 p.m.

The March Troy Night Out has been dubbed “Kids Night Out.” In celebration of this event, I will be presenting an organ transcription of Prokofiev's wonderful “Peter and the Wolf,” narrated by Dan Rogers. Put it on your calendar and invite a friend of any age! Free with donations accepted.

SUMMER MUSIC DAY CAMP
June 29 – July 3
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at First United.

I am still working on the details for this week-long event. If you are interested in participating in the planning process, please contact me at the church!

Session News

from Don Drew, Clerk of Session

Session met on February 2 with the Chairs of First United's committees and discussed church organization. What we have been, what we are, and what we should be is not a simple set of issues. We decided to look at church functions (that is, what we do) and work toward organizing around them. We invite you to communicate with us (you can email me at drewd@rpi.edu) about your thoughts and concerns, about what we do, what we are, and what we mean to you.

Can you help with Providing Refreshments?

Please look at the Refreshment Sign-up Board in Fellowship Hall and put your name on one or more Sundays you would be able to be responsible for the refreshments. If you are unable to get refreshments you may also make a monetary contribution and someone else will take care of getting refreshments for you. Thank you. ~Betsy Belle Eddie

Our Record of Faithfulness

Current Active Membership: 138

Pledge Budget for 2009: \$125,000.

Pledge Income Received as of February 8, 2009:
\$20,890.

Thank you!

Faith Education News

from Linda Briggs Larson

Greetings.

Have you ever had those times when you made plans and they came off without a hitch. The weather cooperated, everyone arrived on time, the event met or even surpassed expectations, and all went home wanting more of the same. You have? Well, so have I. Just not lately. Lately it seems that one thing or another has fallen like a log in my path. Things I have looked forward to have required rescheduling, or even cancelling, events have required flexible restructuring and not my well designed plan. I remember the phrase "on a roll" but haven't been able to use it with any truthfulness. I start rolling and run into a wall, or so it seems. I try to consider lilies to keep myself from toil and spinning; to live one day at a time, to keep from worry; to let go and let God, to keep me trusting that all will work out, in the long run. But all those nice thoughts are easier when I am truly "on a roll."

Isn't it often easier to see God in our daily lives when things go smoothly? But the truth is that God is working in our midst ever so closely when we seem to have no control at all. And one day, we will reflect on our rocky road and understand why it had to be so, but for now we must trust.

This time before Lent is a time of growth. Growth can be gradual or sudden, but is almost always a time when we can plan but not predict what will happen next. Faith is indeed trusting God for the outcome.

So let's have faith.

Grace & peace, 

It's Sock Basket Time!!

A warm pair of socks can make a big difference in the life of a homeless person. The Faith Education Committee will be sponsoring our annual sock basket for Joseph's House homeless shelter the rest of

Soup & Shorts

a literary offering in Fellowship Hall
on the 4th Tuesday of each month
at noon on February 24th

The short this month:

What Goes Round, part 2

The soup this month:

Corn Chowder

The Faith Educator's Retreat Rescheduled

Who are Faith Educators? Teachers of adults and of children on Sunday morning. That's obvious. But also parents, aunts, uncles, caring adults in the next pew. Maybe you did teach once, long ago. Maybe you have children in classes and you think you may want to teach one day. If you want to get away for a retreat that can offer you an opportunity to find spiritual refreshment, fun in the snow, good food, and a chance to network with other educators throughout the Presbytery, pick up a flyer and register for the retreat at the

Lamar Lodge at Camp Hebron

March 27 & 28

Registrations go to the

Presbytery office and need to be in by

March 10.

February and all of March. On Sundays, please bring a package of new white socks to fit men, women or children. It is as simple as that! We will be sure that they are delivered to Joseph's House. Thank you for your generosity.

February Birthdays

- 4 Delia Castro (1 year old!)
- 10 John Krumanocker
Bob Rogers
- 11 Martha Juenger
- 12 Marsha Mintz-Botsford
- 13 Carol Harrington
- 14 Kamille Bootman
- 16 Laura Ferris
- 21 Kate Corsaro
- 22 Kay Closson
Bonnie McCaig
- 23 Judy Moyer
Linda Demers
- 27 Zane Krumanocker

A very happy birthday to you all.

Prayers of the People

Healing Prayers

... for John Eadie as he continues his recovery from surgery and he and Betsy Belle decide on the most appropriate course of further treatment

... for Linda Briggs Larson, Coordinator of Faith Education Ministries, as she continues her recovery from a recent hospitalization

... for Jean Miller, as she continues her recovery from a recent fall at home

... for Marsha Cutting, longtime friend of this congregation, who is slowly recuperating from a respiratory illness

Prayers of Comfort

... for Kristine Wohlfahrt, Karen Marbot, and daughter Katherine Lindsay Marbot ('Kate'), upon the death of Kristine's father



... for Lois Lanoue, David, Brendan, and Casey Jean, and Lois' father, Duncan, her brothers Duncan III and David, and sister Kathleen, upon the death of Lorraine Campbell, Lois' mother

... for the family of 16-year-old Cooper, a son of a close friend of the Hussons, who died of muscular dystrophy

Prayers of Support

... for Marion Elms, grandmother of John Savaria, who has been diagnosed with cancer

... for Gardiner MacLeay, father of Laura Rogers, recovering from surgery for squamous cell carcinoma

Prayers for God's World

... prayers for our friends in the many Roman Catholic churches in Troy that are being closed

... prayers for all who are unemployed and seeking work in a difficult and discouraging labor market

*Friends on the move and
corrections for your phone directory*

Cara Rogers

4242 NW 2nd Street, #1109

Miami, Florida 33126

Phone: 786-423-4639

Randy Shuster

PO Box 4

East Greenbush, New York 12061

Heather Hewitt

4750 North Sheridan Road, #811

Chicago, Illinois 60640

Jeff & Dawn Harrington

Phone: 674-8657

Please do not use the email address in the directory for Pat & Euan Somerscales.



Troy Larger Parish

February 9 to March 8, 2009

First United Presbyterian Church of Troy (FUPC) ♦ 1915 Fifth Avenue, Troy 12180 ♦ Reverend Alexandra Lusak ♦ 272-2771

Cornerstone Community Church (CCC) ♦ PO Box 239, Troy 12182 ♦ Reverend Allen Siebold ♦ 235-3851

Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church (OAPC) ♦ 313 Tenth Street, Troy 12180 ♦ Reverend Alfred Siegel ♦ 785-0116

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	February 9	10 7:00 FUPC Vacation Bible School Planning Mtg All Welcome. CCC Council Mtg	11 5:00 to 6:00 FUPC Bible Study	12	13	14 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC 4:00 to 6:00 CCC Spaghetti Dinner
15 2:00 - 3:00 Sunday Dinners CCC	16	17	18 5:00 to 6:00 FUPC Bible Study	19 1:30 FUPC TLP Staff Mtg 5:45 FUPC NEST Benefit Mtg	20	21 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC 4:00 to 8:00 OAPC Mardi Gras Dinner
22 2:00 - 3:00 Sunday Dinners CCC	23 6:30 FUPC Session	24 2:30 Heritage House Worship Rev. Lusak	25 5:00 to 6:00 FUPC Bible Study 6:00 CCC Ser- vice	26	27 Troy Nite Out 6:00 to 6:30 FUPC Peter & the Wolf Free	28 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC
March 1 2:00 - 3:00 Sunday Dinners CCC OAPC Session Mtg	2	3	4 5:00 to 6:00 FUPC Bible Study	5	6	7 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC
8 2:00 - 3:00 Sunday Dinners CCC						

February 9 to March 8

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	February 9 7:15 Faith Ed Mtg	10 7:00 Summer Vacation Bible School Planning Mtg 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	11 5:00-6:00 Bible Study	12 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	13	14 AA Group 
15 10:00 Worship In Fellowship Hall 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed	16 President's Day Office Closed	17	18 2:00 Eddy Worship 5:00-6:00 Bible Study	19 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	20	21 AA Group
22 10:00 Worship In Fellowship Hall 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed	23 Monday Morning Counting 6:30 Session	24 12:00 Soup & Shorts 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	25 Ash Wednesday 5:00-6:00 Bible Study 6:15 - 7:45 Supper & Worship	26 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	27	28 AA Group
March 1 1st Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship / Communion In Fellowship Hall 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed	2 Monday Morning Counting	3 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	4 5:00-6:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship Team Mtg 7:15 Faith Ed Mtg	5 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	6	7 AA Group Joseph's House Meal Prep.
8 2nd Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship In Fellowship Hall 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed	Cornerstone Community Church Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, February 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 570 Third Street (corner of 115th & 3rd) Lansingburgh Take-out and delivery available. For reservations call 892-6706 The cost is \$8 for adult, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children 5 to 12, under 5 are free		Oakwood's MARDI GRAS DINNER Saturday, February 21, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Jambalaya and Other Traditional Cajun Food! Proceeds to benefit Oakwood's Capital Fund Campaign Call Marlene at 235-2295, Hannah at 371-3103 or Linda at 273-5199 for tickets. The cost is \$9 for adult \$5 for children under 12.			

*First United Presbyterian Church
1915 Fifth Avenue
Troy, New York 12180*

The February / March newsletter was sent out on February 10.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors: Where People with Differences Unite in Christ



In this issue:

Ash Wednesday ~ February 25 at 6:15 pm

Soup & Shorts ~ February 24 at 12 noon

From PCUSA: an opportunity to practice the discipline of fasting and more . . .

First United Presbyterian Church Officers for 2009

The Session

Moderator - The Reverend Alexandra Lusak

Class of 2009: Don Drew, Trudi Wybourn, *Bonnie McCaig*

Class of 2010: Terry Durkee, Karen Harpe, Peggy Savchik,
Robin Wheeler

Class of 2011: Don Bowes, Debbie Brown, Jim Corsaro,
Sue Steele

Youth Elder: Patience Zewou

The Board of Deacons

Class 2009: Shirley Bowes, Bonnie Kerr, Courtney Savaria,
Peggy Drew

Class of 2010: Betsy Belle Eadie, Kathleen Roe, Dan Rogers,
Shirley Street

Class of 2011: Martha Juenger, Don Lutz,
Marsha Mintz-Botsford, Pat Rudebush

Youth Deacon: Zoe Krumanocker

Vision Newsletter is published 11 times a year by
First United Presbyterian Church, Troy, New York

Member of the Troy Larger Parish

Alexandra S. Lusak Pastor

Maury A. Castro Minister of Music

Linda Briggs Larson

Coordinator of Educational Ministries

Joani Momberger Administrative Assistant

Carlie D'Annunzio Financial Analyst

Lynne Stevens Housekeeper

Seth Spencer Weekend Maintenance

To Contact Us: you may call **518-272-2771**

you may write to us at

1915 Fifth Avenue Troy, New York 12180

or you may email us at **info@unitedprestroy.org**