



Vision

A newsletter of the Troy Larger Parish's First United Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

May 2009

Pentecost Celebration at Oakwood Presbyterian Church on May 31st

Worship begins at 11:00 and a Birthday Celebration Lunch will follow.

There will be NO Faith Education at First United on May 31st.

Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian is located on the corner of 10th and Hoosick in Troy.

The Pentecost Offering 2009 will be received on Sunday, May 31st.

May 2009 Worship Schedule

May 3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Communion Worship

Scripture: Psalm 23; John 10:11 - 18

Adult Ed – 'Inn from the Cold'

CROP Walk

May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Communion Worship

Scripture: John 15:1 – 8; 1 John 4:7 - 21

Children's Choir Sings

Mother's Day

Last Day of Faith Ed Program

May 16

Joseph's House Meal Preparation

May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Communion Worship

Scripture: John 15:9 - 17; Acts 10:44 – 48

Teacher Recognition

Adult Ed – 'The Big' co-authored by Fred Miller

Board of Deacons meets

May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Communion Worship

Scripture: Acts 1:1- 11; Ephesians 1:15 - 23

Maury out of town for a relative's 90th birthday

Todd Sisley

organist / accompanist

Memorial Day Weekend

May 31 Pentecost at Oakwood

Open House at Alexandra's after worship on June 7th.

A Pastoral Note

from Alexandra

On Tuesday, April 28, I had the privilege of being among 2000 persons from across New York state, 11 of whom were from our congregation, who gathered in the Convention Center in Empire State Plaza for Equality and Justice Day, organized by the Empire State Pride Agenda. It was energizing and inspiring to be among a great host of committed and articulate people of all ages and many faiths respectfully making the case for equality and justice for all.

The day began with a warm and enthusiastic welcome extended by Gov. Paterson, Senator Duane, and Assembly members O'Donnell and Gottfried. We then broke into groups and made our way to the Legislative Office Building to meet with our Assembly members and Senators. The balance of the day was an exercise in representative democracy from which we learned a great deal about how our state government works (or doesn't). It was also an opportunity those of us from First United to live out one of the historic principles of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), namely "that there is an inseparable connection between faith and practice, truth and duty." Called to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we were expressing and experiencing Christian love in action.

The primary issue on the minds of participants from this congregation was marriage equality.

We spoke with legislators or their aides about the differences between civil and religious marriage, about the many legal rights available to partners in a marriage that are not available to those currently prohibited from marrying, and about the fact that alternatives like civil unions and domestic partnerships create a separate and unequal system which affords second-class citizenship to LGBT persons.

As a person of faith, I believe that the authenticity and strength of marriage is determined by the quality of the love and commitment that unite two people regardless of their gender. As a person who has experienced the pain of divorce, I feel great respect and appreciation for long-term, loving, mutually

committed relationships shared by two persons regardless of the gender of the persons. As a clergy-person, I want to be free to bless committed relationships between two persons regardless of the gender of the persons rather than to be constrained by legal and ecclesiastical barriers that stand between them and their full personhood as beloved children of a loving God.

Three neighboring New England states – Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont – and the mid-western state of Iowa have passed laws supporting marriage equality. It is my prayer that New York will be the next state to do so.

Save The Date!!!

Sunday, July 26

Church Picnic Following Worship

Our friends from Oakwood and Cornerstone will be worshipping with us this Sunday, and we thought it would be nice to have an All-Church Picnic.

Please bring a salad or side dish to share
(8 servings)

Menu to include:

hot dogs, burgers,
veggie burgers, rolls,
lemonade, iced tea &
make your own sundaes

Cost will be
\$3 per person

to defray the cost of
supplies.



Call Bonnie Kerr at 986-1609 to volunteer to help with this event.

Ministry of Music News

from Maury A. Castro

At the recent Children's Choir Festival in Massachusetts, I came across these words. Let me share them with you!

**Life is a song.
Its music is adventure.
Its rhythm is courage.
Its melody is love.
Its voice is effort.
Its sound is joy.**

RECENT EVENTS:

Peter and the Wolf

On Friday, March 27 at 6 p.m., over 125 children and adults filled the sanctuary to listen to Maury A. Castro perform an organ transcription of Sergei Prokofiev's beloved orchestral work, "Peter and the Wolf." The story was expertly told by Dan Rogers and accompanied by images from the Academy Award winning 2007 adaptation, "Peter and the Wolf." This concert was given as a part of "Troy Night Out."



Dan Rogers and Maury A. Castro

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Black Gospel Benefit Concert

On Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m., Men's Choirs from around the Capital District will come together at First United to present a benefit concert to support NEST (Neighbors Establishing Support in Troy). NEST provides a shuttle service for families to visit loved ones in prison at costs far below public transportation. Come hear the exciting music and support a worthy cause at the same time!

Summer Music Day Camp

Do you want to introduce your child to the world of music in a fun-filled environment? Or perhaps you want to strengthen your child's already-developed musical foundation? *Troy Music Day Camp* is for you! This camp, which runs at First United from June 29 – July 3, will give your child a variety of fun-filled learning experiences associated with music such as singing, dancing, introductions to a variety of instruments and composers, field trips, guest musicians, and more. The camp is open to children entering grades 1-6. The program day runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extensions to 7:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in registering, please pick up a registration brochure at church or go to

www.unitedprestroy.org/music.html

to find a downloadable form there.

Faith Education News

Camp E.D.G.E. : Experiencing & Discovering God Everywhere! Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching! This year you will find that there are going to be a few changes and we hope you are as excited about them as we are. Most significantly, we are going to be running an ecumenical VBS. FUPC has teamed up with four other churches: Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, Christ Church United Methodist, St John's Episcopal Church, and Cornerstone Community Church.

We are very excited to be working alongside these wonderful churches as it will allow us to run a larger program and hopefully cater to a larger number of children whom we might otherwise not attract. This year VBS is going to be held at the Oakwood Presbyterian Church which has inviting indoor and outdoor space available. Look for our posters which we will be coming soon.

VBS is going to be held each Wednesday night for 6 nights starting on July 1 and going through August 5th From 6:00pm - 8:30pm. The exact dates are as follows: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Aug. 5.

The curriculum this year is called **CAMP E.D.G.E. : Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere!** Your children are sure to get excited about the various activities that will help them to see God at work in their lives in a whole new way. Everyone is bound to enjoy themselves whether it be through arts and crafts, recreation or listening to Bible stories.

We know this is different from the past and many of you may have vacations planned sometime throughout there, but don't let this

keep you from having your child join us as often as they can.

The Registration fee is \$5.00; however, scholarships are available for anyone in need. We look forward to a fun-filled summer of Vacation Bible School and can't wait to see you and your child there! Invite a Friend!

Blessings,
the Faith Ed. Committee



ARE YOU READY TO MARCH?

Mark your calendars!

The Annual Capital Pride Parade
will be held on
Sunday, June 14 in Albany

There is plenty of time to attend worship
at First United in Troy and
get to the parade in Washington Park.

More details to follow.

Thanks, Shirley Hinkamp



The "Eat Green Food Fair" held on April 5, 2009 was an excellent success! We were glad to have the opportunity to get together to share a wonderful meal after the worship service. The "green" foods and drinks, as well as the baked items, were delicious and plentiful, thanks to the contributions of many volunteer cooks. We were particularly proud of all the children and young people who did a great job throughout. As a result of the food fair we were able to raise a total of \$420.40. \$378.50 of that was raised through food sales while \$41.90 was raised by recycling the plethora of returnable bottles that we received. The children and youth decided to donate the proceeds of the Food Fair to Troy Community Gardens, which helps provide many individuals with fruits and vegetables in Troy. There are so many individuals who deserve our gratitude and recognition for a job well done that it would be impossible to name them all: the coordinators, the set-up crew, the cooks, the clean-up crew, and many more! But we would be remiss if we did not especially acknowledge Robin Wheeler, without whom this event would never have been the outstanding success that it was, as well as all those who came out in support to eat our food and donate bottles. So we say thank you!

~ Faith Education Committee



Session Notes

from Don Drew, Clerk of Session

- **APPROVED** a request for baptism of two young children
- **ELECTED** Elder Don Bowes commissioner to the May 26 special Presbytery meeting
- **RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE AND APPROVED** the invitation to celebrate Pentecost in worship with the congregation of the Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church at Oakwood
- **APPROVED** the proposed Summer Worship schedule for the churches of the Troy Larger Parish
- **ELECTED** Peg Drew co-chair of worship and Peggy Savchik chair of FaFinStew.
- **APPROVED** formation of a task force to evaluate our ministry of welcome
- **Was notified** of the receipt of a bequest from estate of Hildegard Medicus
- **APPROVED** establishment of a line item in the Deacons' budget designated 'Medical Assistance Fund'
- **RECEIVED** a summary of plans for summer ecumenical Vacation Bible School
- **unanimously APPROVED** the use of funds from several recent bequests to partially cover shortfall in revenue available for exterior masonry repairs

Deacons News

from Shirley Bowes & Peggy Drew
Co-moderators

Do You Like Barbecue?

Then join us

May 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

for a Honky Tonk

Barbecue Pot Roast Dinner

to Benefit the Medical Assistance Fund*

Besides the pot roast,

the menu will feature coleslaw, corn bread,
key lime pie, lemonade and iced tea to drink

It won't be spicy unless you want it to be spicy.

Reservations are DEFINITELY REQUIRED,

by calling the church office at 272-2771 or
Martha Juenger at 434-1910 **by May 12th.**

We will be pleased with a donation of
\$15 per person, but are suggesting \$20,
and will take larger amounts too.

It would be great to raise \$1,000.

***Medical Assistance Fund**

It has come to the attention of the Board of Deacons that with these difficult economic times a need has arisen to be able to help members of First United's Congregation with medical expenses. We have set up a Medical Assistance Fund line in our budget. All are welcome to make a contribution to this fund as we have not allotted any money for it in our present year budget. Please label your contribution for this fund so it will be correctly placed. We would like to be prepared if and when a request comes in. As a way to get the assistance started and we are planning a fund raiser on May 16th (see ad above). All requests for assistance can be made through Reverend Lusak to the Co-Moderators of Deacons who will maintain confidentiality.

Would you like to know the value of your Antiques?

The Deacons are sponsoring an
Antique Appraisal fundraising event on

**Saturday, June 20th
from 10:00am till 2:00pm**

The fee for an appraisal will be
\$5 for 1 item or \$10 for up to 3 items.

We have Charles Flint, an antique appraiser from Lenox, Massachusetts coming to our Fellowship Hall to provide an opportunity for you to bring an antique item(s) to be appraised. Mr. Flint does not appraise dolls or trains. Mr. Flint is donating his time and expertise so the Deacons will receive the funds raised for their work within our church and community. Light Refreshments will also be available for purchase as many people like to sit and watch the different antiques folks bring in to be appraised. This event will be open to the public so pass the word to your friends. Extra parking will be available at the Gurley Building on Fulton between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Any questions, call Shirley Bowes at 283-5427 or Peggy Drew at 274-9966.



Feast



Everyone is Invited!

**Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
at Troy Area United Ministries
392 Second St., Troy**

*FEAST, a smorgasbord of food, entertainment and
fun and a major event to support
the programs and ministries
of Troy Area United Ministries is coming soon!*

*Don't miss it! There will be great food,
entertainment, and a live and silent auction.*

To bring donations of food, silent auction items, and volunteer,
please call TAUM offices at 274-5920, ext. 201
for more information.

**The cost of the dinner is
\$15 in advance, with a maximum of \$35 per family or
\$18 at the door with a maximum of \$40 per family.**



392 Second Street, Troy, NY 12180
(518) 274-5920 or visit us at: www.taum.org



"I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:36

Gospel Community Concert
to benefit the NEST prison shuttle project

Featuring Men's Gospel Choirs from:

Metropolitan NTM Mission Baptist Church

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Bethel Baptist Church

Duryee AME Zion Church

and

The Troy Larger Parish Community Choir

May 29th at 7:30 PM

Dessert reception follows. Requested donation \$10.

**First United Presbyterian Church,
1915 Fifth Avenue, Troy, NY**

April Birthdays

- 4 Pat Carlson
- 7 Julia Rivers,
Kate Maguire's
granddaughter
- 10 Courtney Savaria
- 13 Bill Jaffarian
Charlie Welcome
- 17 Maury Castro
- 19 Stephanie Thach Miracle
- 25 Tami Colwell
Alyssa Jaffarian
- 26 Zoe Krumanocker
Garrett Hamlin
- 30 Rachel Kerr

May Birthdays

- 3 Donna Elia
- 5 Miriam Russell
- 6 Mark Abbott
Lois Jensen
- 11 Trudi Wybourn
- 15 Iliana Harpe
- 18 Mark Duggan
- 20 Jane Husson
- 21 Heather Hewitt
- 26 Sarah Shuster
- 28 Alexis Hooten
Lois Lanoue
Mary Magnan
- 29 Kylie Kerr
Alice Kirstein
- 30 Aidan Strayer

A very happy birthday to you all.

Prayers of the People



Prayers of Joy

... for John and Jane Husson as they celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary

... at the news that Phong Thach, Bane's son and Stephanie's brother, will be married on July 4

... at the news that Stephanie (Thach) and Jay Miracle are expecting twins in early October

... at the news that Keren and Maury Castro are expecting their second child in November

... at the return of Linda Briggs Larson and her improving health

Healing Prayers

... for Mark Abbott's cousin as recovers from aortic valve replacement surgery

Continuing Prayer Support

... for Robin Wheeler, Bonnie McCaig, and Don Newell

... for Bob Kerr, Bonnie, Rachel, and Kylie

... for Dana Crobok, Gavin and Breanne

... for John and Betsy Belle Eadie

... for Alyson Turner

Prayers for God's World

... for the people of L'Aquila, Italy, recovering from a devastating earthquake

... for the residents of Binghamton after the shooting deaths of 13 persons at an Immigration Center there

Prayers for the Presbyterian Church (USA)

... following the defeat of Amendment 08-B which would have replaced Section G 6.0106b of the Book of Order



Troy Larger Parish

May 3 to June 6, 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
<u>May 3</u>	4	5 6:00 OAPC Session	6	7	8	9 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC
10	11	12 6:30 CCC Council	13	14	15	16 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC
17	18 6:30 FUPC Session	19	20	21	22	23 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC
24	25  Memorial Day	26 2:30 Heritage House Worship	27	28	29 7:30 NEST Gospel Benefit	30 9 to 11 TLP Food Pantry OAPC
31 Pentecost Celebration OAPC	<u>June 1</u>	2	3	4	5	6

May 3rd to June 6th

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>May 3</u> 10:00 Worship / Communion 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed 1:00 CROP WALK	4 Monday Morning Counting	5 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	6 5:30-6:45 Bible Study 6:30 Worship Mtg 7:15 Faith Ed Mtg	7 4:00 FaFinStew Mtg 6:00 to 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	8 	9 AA Group
10 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Worship / Communion 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed Mother's Day	11 Monday Morning Counting	12 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	13 2:00 Eddy Worship	14 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	15 	16 AA Group 9:00 Joseph's House Meal Prep Medical Asst Fundraiser Dinner 5:30 - 7:30
17 10:00 Worship / Communion 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Last Day for Faith Ed 12:30 Deacons 3:00 Children's Choir Field Trip	18 Monday Morning Counting 6:30 Session Mtg	19 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir 5:30 MLMT Mtg	20 2:00 Eddy Worship / Communion	21 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	22 	23 AA Group
24 10:00 Worship / Communion 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed	25 Office will be closed.  Memorial Day	26 Monday Morning Counting 4:30 Special Mtg Presbytery 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	27 5:30-6:45 Last Bible Study	28 6:00 TAUM Feast 6:00 to 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel	29 7:30 NEST Gospel Benefit	30 AA Group 10 to 2 Labyrinth
31 11:00 Pentecost Worship at Oakwood & Birthday Luncheon No Faith Ed	<u>June 1</u> Monday Morning Counting	2 3:00 to 5:00 Children's Choir	3 	4 6:00 to 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	5 	6

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

The May newsletter was sent out on May 5.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



In this issue: *Pentecost Celebration at Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, May 31*
 NEST Gospel Benefit , May 29
 Vacation Bible School ~ Six Wednesday Evenings in July and August
 Antique Appraisals ~ June 20 *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
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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 Sunday 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**