



The First Presbyterian

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CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders

Susan Haney
Clerk of Session

Michael Attwell
Barbara Billet
Christina Blanchard
Edward Cameron
Garrett DeGraff
Catherine Fletcher
Roger Green
Lee Helsby
Ray Henrikson
Jack Holmes
Tara Lindsley
Judith Mark
John Myers
Phillip Riddle
Alice Schrade
Susan Sneeringer
William Storrs

Deacons

Bruce Brynolfson
Moderator

Kathryn Eastman
Marian Eaton
Heidi Elad
Brian Fuss
Frances Kamp
Charles (Chas) Kite, Jr.
John Knutson
Kristen Majkut
Yousaf Mathias
Vaughn Nevin
Timothy O'Toole
David Quist
Gail Scott
Rachel Smith
Sarah Sperry
Roseline Takor
Peter E. Thomas
Gloria Wood

I am an avid fan of Garrison Keillor and his Writer's Almanac that is carried on radio each day. A few days ago, I missed the program and this poem, but my daughter, Claudia Beth who lives in Dallas, called it to my attention. Let me share it with you.

"The Calf-Path" by Sam Walter Foss Public Domain

One day through the primeval wood
A calf walked home as good calves
should;
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail as all calves do.
Since then three hundred years have fled,
And I infer the calf is dead.
But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs my moral tale.
The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him, too,
As good bell-wethers always do.
And from that day, o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was
made,
And many men wound in and out,
And dodged and turned and bent about,
And uttered words of righteous wrath
Because 'twas such a crooked path;
But still they followed—do not laugh—
The first migrations of that calf,
And through this winding wood-way
stalked
Because he wobbled when he walked.
This forest path became a lane,
That bent, and turned, and turned again.
This crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with his load
Toiled on beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles in one.

And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of that calf.
The years passed on in swiftness fleet.
The road became a village street;
And this, before men were aware,
A city's crowded thoroughfare,
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis;
And men two centuries and a half
Trode in the footsteps of that calf.
Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed this zigzag calf about,
And o'er his crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent.
A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.
They followed still his crooked way,
And lost one hundred years a day,
For thus such reverence is lent
To well-established precedent.
A moral lesson this might teach
Were I ordained and called to preach;
For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done.
They follow in the beaten track,
And out and in, and forth and back,
And still their devious course pursue,
To keep the path that others do.
They keep the path a sacred groove,
Along which all their lives they move;
But how the wise old wood-gods laugh,
Who saw the first primeval calf.
Ah, many things this tale might teach—
But I am not ordained to preach.

I wonder what we might learn from these words about the paths in the villages of our minds.

*Faithfully,
Joseph W. Shook, Interim Pastor*

**Pastor Nominating
Committee**
submitted by Sheryl Sheraw

Here is an update. The Church Information Form (CIF) has been completed and approved. You will find it on our own website (www.firstpresalbany.org). Take a look. We have received 30 Pastor Information Forms (PIF's) from the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection System as a result of the matching process. We are also receiving PIF's directly from pastors who are aware of our search. We have begun reviewing and evaluating these PIF's. Let us share with you one section of our CIF.

Gifts, Skills and Experiences the congregation possesses to fulfill its mission: There is a spirit at First Presbyterian that binds us together as a congregation; it has been called a network of grace. It creates unity from the diversity of our congregation.

We have an educated and inquiring membership. We are diverse: we include Africans, African-Americans, Caucasians, Asians, Hispanics, and Middle Easterners. Blind and wheelchair bound individuals worship with us regularly. We draw from a broad geographic area; some of our members drive 20 miles, past many Protestant churches (some Presbyterian), to reach our building. We have an energetic group of seniors and a number of families with young children, but fewer members in the 23-44 age group. Women and men participate equally in worship and church governance.

The many talents of our members and our diversity are reflected in our lay leadership. We participate actively in the PC(USA): there are two former General Assembly Moderators, a former Moderator of Presbytery, and the current Vice-Moderator of Presbytery in our number. We have ties to Presbyterians in Guatemala and Cameroon.

Our music program is a source of joy and pride. It focuses on classic choral performance and provides special music services, with a small orchestra, for Christmas and Easter.

We are progressive and socially active, yet embrace tradition. We seek not to retreat into our faith and away from the world, but, rather, we ask how we can embody and practice our faith in the world. Please continue to keep us and our work in your prayers.

**Summer Worship and
Education Schedule**

July 3rd – First Presbyterian will host the first FOCUS worship service of the summer on July 3. The service will be held in Washington Park directly across Willett Street at **9:30 a.m.** Following the service, we will join with our friends for a potluck picnic. **Bring perishable food early and place it in our refrigerators. We will supply beverages and tableware.**

July 10th we will move to our summer worship schedule with one worship service at 9:30 a.m.

August 7 and September 4 are also FOCUS Worship Services. On August 7 the service will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church with the Metropolitan Community Church as the host congregation. On September 4 the service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Parish Register

Our best wishes are extended to Katie Roark and William Schipano on the occasion of their wedding on June 18. The Rev. Donna Elia, former Associate Pastor of the church officiated.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Rosamond Sophia Soka, child of Troy Soka and Whitney Phelps on June 26 at the 10:45 worship Service. The Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Shook, Interim Pastor officiated.

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to William Storrs and his family on the occasion of the death of Bill's father in Lockport; to Joyce Bascom on the occasion of the death of her mother, in New Hampshire.

Sunday Church School

Sunday Church School for all ages will be in recess during the summer from July 3 through September 11 our Homecoming service.

Graduation Congratulations

We extend our congratulation to Addie Blabey who graduated from the law school of Syracuse University; to Katie Vail-Roark who graduated from SUNY Albany with honors and will be going to graduate school next; to Carolyn Sneeringer who graduated from Lehigh University with High Honors in Industrial Engineering.

Six Cents-A-Day
submitted by Brian Fuss

What in the world can be done with six cents a day? Well, it adds up to \$430.01. That is the amount of money that was raised during our latest Making a Joyful Noise onto FOCUS. It amazes me how very little God needs to make big things happen. The Mission committee extends a par on the back to everyone at First Pres. Church. God is truly glorified by YOUR selfless giving. The Mission Committee stands amazed at your generosity, love and support to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and set captives free from their bondage of poverty in Albany. The Mission Committee humbly THANK YOU.

Remember while your having your picnics and cookouts this summer to continue to put the six cents into the cans. Total, just through six cents a day, we have received \$964.89. It goes to show that God's hand is in every aspect of our personal and corporate lives.

**Trisha Seaburg
Leaves our Staff**

We are sorry to say goodbye to our church secretary, Trisha Seaburg, who has left our staff to accept a full time position. Trisha has been with us since last winter and has been a real asset to our church. We wish her the very best.

We welcome Julianne Loughran to the staff as part-time church secretary. Julianne is a student at The College of Saint Rose where she is majoring in Childhood Education with a concentration in English.

Garden Tour a Success

Despite the heavy rain on June 16, the 2005 House and Garden Tour presented by the Center Square and Hudson Park Neighborhood Associations and Historic Albany Foundation was a tremendous success.

For the first time, First Presbyterian Church was on the tour and we opened our doors to the community and gave our neighbors a good orientation to our windows and history of the congregation. Over 300 people walked through the sanctuary and assembly hall where they were offered cookies and lemonade. A special thanks to Judy Mark who organized two shifts of volunteers who made our guests feel welcome. Those who volunteered: Roger Green, Marilyn and Phillip Riddle, Claudia Shook, Linda Stevens, Judy and Don Mark, Katie and Ray Henrikson, Fran Kamp, Dwight and Rachel Smith, Joyce and Paul Bascom, John Myers, Elly Rice, and Sherry and Dick Hall. Our Gardeners prepared the garden and Merri Meislahn put the finishing touches on it during a rain storm Thursday afternoon.

Worship Plans for Summer

The Worship Committee decided last month to seek organists for some of the worship services this summer. We have usually used a piano for the services during July and August, but many have missed hearing the beauty of the organ. Ms. Harriet Deardon will be with us for the four Sundays in July following our service in the park on July 3. Ms. Deardon has degrees from Vassar, Eastman School of Music, and Julliard.

Organ Contract Approved

Session approved a contract for the additions to the sanctuary organ at the meeting on June 21. The additions are one of four parts of the Special Funds Campaign that was begun two years ago and will be complete in June 2006. The other three components are the window project that included repair of the Lamb window on Willett Street, replacing the discolored coverings on the sanctuary windows and repairing window sashes on the second and third floors of the education building; contribution to our endowment fund; and the establishment and funding of a mission fund.

The sanctuary window project is completed and it is hoped that the organ work will be completed by this October.

CROP Walk

The successful 2005 CROP Walk was held on the first Sunday of May. Walkers from FPC included Lily Eastman, Erin Engstrom, Katie Fletcher, Annette Johnson, Charlie Kite, Dawn Knutson, Fiona Lewis, Annabel Lewis, Helen Lewis, Tara Lindsley, Katie Myers, Anne Myers, Elizabeth Naismith, Alice Schrade, Claudia Shook, Esther Yomoah and Chenusa Yomoah. We do not as of yet have a total of the amount raised on the walk, but there was no surprise to learn that Katie Fletcher was the top fundraiser with over \$1200.00 pledged to her.

Deacons' Flower Ministry Rotation Schedule for July and August



July 10 – Rensselaer and East Area:
Rachel Smith and Gloria Wood

July 17 – Schenectady Area:
Marian Eaton and John Knutson

July 24 – Albany South Area:
Chas Kite and Joe Mathias

July 31 – Delmar Area:
Gail Scott, Peter Thomas and Sarah Sperry

August 7
FOCUS Service at Emmanuel

August 14 – Downtown, North Albany Area: Bruce Brynolfson, David Quist and Tim O'Toole

August 21 – Guilderland, South Colonie Area: Kristen Majkut and Brian Fuss

August 28 – Latham and North Area:
Roseline Takor and Heidi Iyok-Elad

Usher Greeter Teams for July/August

July 3 FOCUS Service at First Pres.
9:30 a.m. – Team 4
Rachel Smith, Ray Henrikson, Roseline Takor, Fran Kamp and Bob Kamp

July 10
9:30 a.m. – Team 5
Bob Seelye, Don Mark, Virginia Seelye, Adam Sperry and Sarah Sperry

July 17
9:30 a.m. – Team 6
Esther Yomoah, J. Melvin Bostic, Kathy Eastman, Alice Schrade and Gail Scott

July 24
9:30 a.m. – Team 7
Marc Scarlett, Amy Scarlett, Carolyn Garvin, Marc Boucher and Janna Boucher

July 31
9:30 a.m. – Team 8
Elly Rice, Bill Storrs, Irving Smith, Heidi Elad, Margaret Zettle and Catherine Fletcher

August 7
FOCUS Service at Emmanuel

August 14
9:30 a.m. – Team 1
Phillip Riddle, Marilyn Riddle, Brian Fuss, Harriet Seeley and Dave Quist

August 21
9:30 a.m. – Team 2
Lee Helsby, Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, Margaret Hannay and Kristen Majkut

August 28
9:30 a.m. – Team 3
Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens, Bob Jackson, Lois Cameron and Ted Cameron

The July and August newsletters are combined. The September newsletter will be published at the end of August. The deadline is Friday, August 19th.