



The First Presbyterian

Volume 59 No. 10

June 2005

USHER GREETER TEAMS FOR JUNE

JUNE 5

8:30 A.M. – ERIC EISENBRAUN

10:45A.M. – TEAM 8

ELLY RICE, BILL STORRS,
IRVING SMITH, HEIDI ELAD,
MARGARET ZETTLE AND
CATHERINE FLETCHER

JUNE 12

8:30 A.M. – JOHN MYERS

10:45 A.M. - TEAM 1

PHILLIP RIDDLE, MARILYN
RIDDLE, BRIAN FUSS,
HARRIET SEELEY AND DAVE
QUIST

JUNE 19

8:30 A.M. – PETER THOMAS

10:45 A.M. – TEAM 2

LEE HELSBY, JOANNE
GASCOYNE, RICHARD
GASCOYNE, MARGARET
HANNAY AND KRISTEN
MAJKUT

JUNE 26

8:30 A.M. – BARBARA BILLET

10:45 A.M. – TEAM 3

BOB STEVENS, LINDA
STEVENS, BOB JACKSON, LOIS
CAMERON AND TED
CAMERON

DEACONS' FLOWER MINISTRY ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

JUNE 5 – DOWNTOWN,
NORTH ALBANY AREA: BRUCE
BRYNOLFSON, DAVID QUIST
AND TIM O'TOOLE

JUNE 12 – GUILDERLAND,
SOUTH COLONIE AREA:
KRISTEN MAJKUT

JUNE 19 – LATHAM AREA:
ROSELINE TAKOR

JUNE 26 – MENANDS,
LOUDONVILLE AREA: KATHY
EASTMAN

Worship Services In June

On June 5, we will celebrate our musical heritage with music from the earliest days of the Presbyterian Church to the present. The congregational hymns will come from the Genevan Psalter and the choir will offer anthems from various periods of church music.

For the annual observance of the denomination's Gifts of Women Sunday on June 12, we will welcome to the pulpit Dr. Freda Gardner. Freda, now a member of the congregation, is a former Moderator of the General Assembly and was professor of Christian Education at Princeton Seminary.

Come and celebrate our Presbyterian heritage in June.

Parish Register

We welcome into the membership of the church our 2005 Confirmation Class. Chenusa Yomoah and Waaik Collier-Perrin were received by Session on May 1 and made their public profession of faith on Pentecost, May 15.

Pentecost Service

We appreciate the talents of our members that made our Pentecost Service very special. Special thanks to the dancers: Amy Scarlett, who choreographed the dance, Joanne Gascoyne, Annette Johnson, June Klimash, Dawn Knutson, Judy Mark, Harriet Seeley, Roseline Takor, and Esther Yomoah, and to the violinists Britany Orlebeke and Peggy Schalit who accompanied the Chancel Choir.

FOCUS Service on July 3

First Presbyterian will host the first FOCUS worship service of the summer on July 3. The service will be at 10:00 a.m. On July 10, we will move to our summer worship schedule with one worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Deacons' Notes

submitted by Gloria Wood

At the Deacons' meeting of May 10, 2005 the Shepherding committee presented a proposal for the redistribution of some of the flocks and assignment of Deacons to these. We now have eight flocks. Two flocks are served by three Deacons each, and the remaining six have two deacons each. At the retreat on May 21 we will review the Deacons' Handbook. Goals and duties will also be discussed. After the meeting we celebrated Rev. Shook's birthday with a cake.

Educational Scholarships Available for First Pres Members

submitted by Judy Mark

First Presbyterian scholarships are available for those attending college or other higher educational programs during the upcoming 2005-2006 academic year. These scholarships are made possible because of the generosity of past members through various endowment programs. If you are interested please call the church office for an application. The deadline for receiving the completed application is June 30.

Celebrating Graduation

If a member of your family is graduating this Spring, please notify the church office so that we may list your name in the July newsletter.

Special June Event

There will be a calendar planning meeting on Wednesday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join. We will discuss next year's calendar dates.

Men's Bible Study Retreat a Soaking Success!

submitted by Michael Attwell

On the weekend of April 22, 2005, seven men from the First Pres' Men's Bible Study Groups held their first retreat of 2005 at the idyllic Silver Bay conference center in Lake George. Led by BG ("Bible guy") Dwight Smith, fellow BGs Brian Fuss, Irving Smith, Al Easton, Bob Seelye, Brother Greg Spuhler and Mike Attwell formed an eclectic group whose hopes for a spiritually meaningful weekend together were more than met.

Though the weekend was damp – with unceasing rain and a low cloud cover – the weather by no means dampened the enthusiasm of the group. Starting each day out with Morning Prayer and song on Silver Bay's boathouse with the backdrop of a magnificent and eerily misty Lake George giving testimony to God's creation, the BGs spent the weekend in prayer and meditation. Dwight Smith – utilizing material from Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity* – led the groups in meaningful discussions on such topics as prayer, the meaning of faith, and approaching the Bible, while BG Brother Greg – our Roman Catholic connection – provided us with spiritual, meditative exercises as well as with insight on the daily living habits of the "Friars on Willett Street." While these sessions provided important structure for the retreat, we managed to catch some down time for quiet reading, hiking, naps, and yes, even some fly fishing for BGs Bob Seelye and Mike Attwell during the only two hour break in the rain on Saturday afternoon!

With so much spiritual and physical exercise, we made good use of Silver Bay's dining facilities, where the food was plentiful and good, and the company of YMCA Youth Leaders in training spirited and joyful, if not downright noisy at times! All of the men – including BGs who were unable to make this Silver Bay retreat – look forward to the BGs' second retreat at the Weston Priory in Vermont this coming September!

More Light Events in June

submitted by Tara Lindsley

The More Light Committee of Session invites you to the Adult Education hour on Sunday, June 5th when we (and dozens of other Presbyterian churches across the country) will observe the second annual "More Light Sunday." We will view and discuss a new 30-minute video entitled, "Parents, Families and Friends," produced especially for this observance by the national More Light Presbyterians. Bring a friend!

On Sunday, June 12th we will again participate with other area churches in the Gay Pride Parade and Festival. The parade is a colorful and joy-filled mile walk and ends in Washington Park, where we will have a booth with information about our church and its mission while the music and festivities continue. We will meet at the church after the 8:30 service to walk to the staging area for the parade. This year we will be entering a float. If you would like to help design and decorate it, contact Charlie Kite. Please join us to spread the Good News that God's love is for all and to have some fun and fellowship!

Health Care Advisory Committee

submitted by Vaughn Nevin

The Session has approved the formation of a health care advisory committee to act as a resource to the Board of Deacons and to the congregation. It is made up of health care professionals from a variety of fields and representing many years of experience in health care. The broad purposes of the committee are the following:

- Provide education and advice to the Deacons, special care team and other groups in the church expressing a need.
- Provide access information to the services and institutions of health care.
- Provide educational programs re health topics, issues, resources, etc. as needs are identified.
- Assist individuals and families in evaluating responses to illness and care (for example, small group sessions on grieving, loss)

The advice and education is provided within the context of a community of faith and to acknowledge the importance of spiritual well-being in healing. Privacy and confidentiality will be respected. It is important to note that NO DIRECT CARE IS PROVIDED by the committee.

The primary physician or other health care provide remains the sole provider of direct care.

Current members of the Health Care Advisory Committee are: Cris Blanchard, M.S.W., Patient and Family Counseling in Oncology; Al Easton, retired Actuary; Susan Easton, R.N., experience in long-term care; Dr. Arthur Hengerer, retired Gynecologist; Dr. Charles Kite, Medical faculty; Marilyn Riddle, R.N., Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Alice Schrade, retired M.S.W.; Gail Scott, R.N., Hospice Nurse; Dr. Jon Scott, retired Pediatric Radiologist; and Vaughn Nevin, retired R.N. and Nurse Educator. For the present Vaughn Nevin is acting as coordinator and contact person. Rev. Dr. Joseph Shook is ex-officio member of the committee. Please feel free to contact Vaughn or any committee member if you have questions or wish to request a specific educational program.

Congratulations

We congratulate, Richard Hall, named Distinguished Service Professor and Excellence in Teaching at SUNY, and Peter Thomas, named New York State History Day Teacher of the Year.

Lectinary

June 5: Genesis 12:1-9; *Psalm* 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 12: Genesis 18:1-15; *Psalm* 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 19: Genesis 21:8-21; *Psalm* 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 26: Genesis 22:1-14; *Psalm* 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42