



# The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 63 No 9

May 2009



The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation.  
"Song of Moses," Exodus 15:2

**John Calvin turns 500**

## Engaging the World in Love for God and the Stranger

By Rev. Glenn Leupold

July 10, 2009, marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, theological founder of the Reformed branch of the Reformation in Europe. Presbyterians count themselves among the denominations in this branch. Calvin is generally remembered for the austere belief in Double Predestination, which is the belief that some people are predestined by God to have faith and go to heaven and others are predestined by God to damnation: two destinations, thus the term Double Predestination. This belief, however, was championed more by those who came after him than by Calvin himself.

John Calvin worked to turn Geneva, Switzerland, into a model "city of God." This led to some rigid rules for behavior. It is also important to know that Calvin's work wasn't all rigid religiosity. In Calvin's Geneva, as Albany Presbytery member David Moore pointed out recently, "elders were dispatched to inspect homes and fireplaces, and this resulted in a change in Geneva's building code. Deacons greeted refugees fleeing political and religious persecution from surrounding regions, and this led to Geneva's reputation and practice of neutrality. The Reformed and Presbyterian tradition is not just about theology or polity but is also manifest in the ways we organize to engage the world. For Calvin, public life was a way to live out our love for God in our love for our neighbors and the stranger.

"Similar issues exist in Albany County: matters of transportation, health care, the environment, employment, gun violence, and the list goes on. To one degree or another the lives of our church members and the well being of our congregations and communities are affected by such issues." Calvin would have endorsed our work in the FOCUS Ministry and other attempts to make our world a more just, fair, and livable place. He would simply have called it "more Godly." So offer a toast to ol' John Calvin, and ponder where the world would be without those who have tried to make our world a better place. And then offer him the birthday present he would want by getting involved in the work of the church!



Sixteenth-century portrait of John Calvin by an unknown artist. From the collection of the Library of Geneva.

### In This Issue

- Summer Volunteer Opportunity ..... 2
- Discovering the Labyrinth . 3
- Enough for All Creation ..... 3
- Christ is Risen. Alleluia! .4-5
- Road to Emmaus ..... 6
- David Haase, Inquirer ..... 6
- Calendar and Schedules .6-7



**First Presbyterian Church  
Albany, NY**  
Founded in 1763

**Miriam Lawrence Leupold  
Glenn D. Leupold**  
Co-Pastors

**Janet Davis**  
Director of Music

**Nancy J. Frank**  
Organist

**Robert C. Lamar**  
Pastor Emeritus

#### **Elders**

**Gladys Crowder**  
Clerk of Session

Garrett DeGraff  
Freda Gardner  
David Hannay  
Sue Haney  
Lee Helsby  
Judith Mark  
Phillip Riddle  
Leslie Roccario  
Peggy Schalit  
Irving Smith  
William Storrs

#### **Deacons**

**Margaret Zettle**  
Moderator

Rita Austin  
Keith Barber  
Paul Bascom  
Marc Boucher  
Lewis Boxwell  
Jacquelyn Ellsworth  
Richard Gascoyne  
Carol Green  
Fran Kamp  
Heidi Kite  
Yousaf Mathias  
David Nichols  
Beverly Osborne  
Virginia Seelye  
Leslie Westphal  
Albert Wood  
Esther Yomoah

## **Camp Hebron**

### **A Summer Volunteer Opportunity**

The Hebron Center Board is looking for members of local congregations who have expertise in roofing, laying tile floors, painting (interior and exterior), trail whacking, heavy duty cleaning; AND any who are willing to volunteer for any of the following in 2009:

- work with the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Hebron Center Board to organize various work projects needed at Hebron Center (Time line: May and June)
- assist in creating materials lists and getting supplies to Hebron Center (Time line: May-early June)
- work with and supervise a small group of counselors (ages: twentysomethings) to complete these projects (Time needed from volunteers - a block of 2-5 days during the last week in June and the first two weeks of July)

By creating these work-camp type possibilities, the Hebron Board is seeking to fulfill the following objectives:

- To provide additional summer employment opportunities for our faithful counselors. Their passion for and commitment to Hebron Center is vital!
- To fulfill the Board's commitment to carry out major capital improvements.
- To engage the wider presbytery in the ministry of Hebron Center.
- To continue being good stewards of this portion of God's creation.

WHAT VOLUNTEERS WILL RECEIVE IN RETURN is on-site lodging (as required), all meals while on-site, fun, fellowship, and the opportunity to work for the wider church. If this intrigues you and others you know, please contact Pete Seagle, chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee (788 - 8823).

The Lamar Lodge  
at Camp Hebron



## **Engaging the World in Love for God and the Stranger**

A big thank you goes out from the Christian Education Committee to all those volunteers who helped make the Easter breakfast a big success! Thanks for all those who made egg casseroles or provided other treats. The breakfast made a special morning even more so, and we had a bigger crowd than expected!

# The First Presbyterian

## Walking a Sacred Path

### Discovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool

By Rev. Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold

People around the world are rediscovering the ancient practice of walking the labyrinth. Unlike a maze that has many paths, a labyrinth has only one path which leads to the center. While a maze is meant to trick and confuse you so you will lose your way, a labyrinth helps you find your way. Labyrinths have been found around the world with the most famous one in the floor of the nave of Chartres Cathedral in France. Through the years people have used the labyrinth as a spiritual tool—a path of prayer, a walking meditation.

Join us at the church on Saturday, May 16, from 9:30 to 12:30 as we explore the labyrinth. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, a trained labyrinth facilitator, will present a workshop on the labyrinth. Come, and find

opportunity to walk on a canvas labyrinth. Workshop out more about this ancient spiritual tool, and have the fee is \$3.00. If you'd like to stay for lunch and continued conversation from 12:30-1:30, lunch fee is \$8.00.

Lauren Artress, founder of Veriditas: the World Wide Labyrinth Project, writes, "The labyrinth provides the sacred space where the inner and outer worlds can commune, where the thinking mind and the imaginative heart can flow together... It is non-threatening; all we are asked to do is walk."

Sign up with Sandra in the Church Office (449-7332 or [info@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:info@firstpresalbany.org)). If you have any questions, please contact Miriam at the church office (449-7332 or [mleupold@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:mleupold@firstpresalbany.org)).

## Report on Conference in DC

### Enough for All Creation

By Bob Westphal

*Editors note - A copy of Bob's full report and one by Will McMorris is in the church Library.*

I attended *Enough for All Creation*, the 7th Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days on March 13-16, in Washington, DC, along with other FOCUS Ministry participants, including First Pres member Will McMorris. The goal of the conference was to "strengthen our Christian voice and mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues" and to do so with "our shared traditions of justice, peace and integrity of creation." Although there were other topics, much of the discussion and education focused upon the connections between climate change, migration, and poverty.

This theme connected the opening remarks at the Friday evening worship service to the opening of Saturday's plenary session, and then right through to Monday's day of action, when representatives of the 600 delegates called upon their members of Congress with a very specific recommended resolution on climate change, prepared by the organizing committee.

The Rev. Dr. Janet Parker reflected on how we use fear messages to galvanize action, since we have come to believe it is a better motivator than moral arguments. Fear, she said, is like salt: A little is needed, but too much spoils the recipe. Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't say, "I have a nightmare!" Improvements should not be made at the expense of those made poor by climate change. We should love all our neighbors, Jesus said. Love is not a feeling; rather, it is a commitment, an all-consuming one. Fear turns us inward; love reaches out. Policy-making should thus be the actual institutionalization of loving our neighbor.

With this theme always in the background, the thirty-two additional separate sessions on Saturday, and the twenty sessions on Sunday pursued various aspects of it. Sunday morning also saw an interdenominational worship service and meetings to teach advocacy to all the participants. There were over forty organizations represented with booths, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

Three P.C. (USA) staff members noted that:

- More than 54% of our federal discretionary budget goes to "defense."
- Most Presbyterians (97%) never contact government officials.

*Continued on p. 6*

# The First Presbyterian



**The Easter moon.** Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21/22).

Revs. Jeff Matthews and Deb Jameson lead worship.



Miriam and Margaret Leupold sing and shiver in the brisk, Easter morning air.



**The Easter sun** rises over City Hall, background for the FOCUS Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am in West Capitol Park.

## Focus Sunrise Service

celebrates the Resurrection and continuing life of Christ in the body of the Church. The date of the celebration is based on the sun and the moon and a spiritual reverence that has pre-Christian roots.



A circle of FOCUS congregants gather in worship.

## Alleluia!!! - - - Christ is Risen.



Guests gather at the Easter buffet and in fellowship around the table.



## Children and Youth Host Easter Breakfast with moms and friends in the background!



Katie Fletcher, Esther Yomoah, and Freda Gardner supervise and assist in the kitchen.



Nick Turner entertains his parents and his table at Easter breakfast.

# The First Presbyterian



The Rev. Glenn Leupold takes us into the mind of Peter on the first Easter morning, in his sermon, "Peter Remembers."

The Sanctuary in its Easter glory proclaims the good news.



## Easter Worship at First Presbyterian Church



One Easter legend claims that white lilies sprang up in the morning where drops of Jesus' blood had fallen to the ground in his final hours of sorrow.

Lew Boxwell, Keith Barber and Tom Barry (not pictured) arrange the lilies that Deacons order for the service in honor and memory of the communion of saints.

## He is risen, Indeed! - - - Alleluia!!!



Chris Trombley directs the choir on Easter Sunday.



Members of the congregation join the choir for a rousing climax of the Hallelujah Chorus

## Blast of Trumpet, Power of Organ, Voice of Choir Proclaim the Risen Lord



The skillful hands of Nancy Frank conclude worship with Widor's *Toccata from Symphony No. 5*.



Guest trumpeters, father and son, Anthony and Peter Bellino, announce the resurrection in trumpet fanfare.



# The First Presbyterian

## A new rotation in The Upper Rooms

### The Road to Emmaus

The theme for our Christian education program for children in kindergarten through 8th grade is "The Road to Emmaus." It began April 19 and runs through May 24. The children will be exploring Luke 24:13-35 through drama, cooking, movie, art, computers and games. Teaching this time around is Miriam Lawrence Leupold in Galilee Gallery, Jessica and Seth Kite in Sinai Stage assisted by Jason Scarlett and Ekong Takor, Janna Boucher in Capernaum Café, Chas Kite in Memory on the Mount, Sue Sneeringer in Tower of Scrabble and Leslie Roccario in Jericho Theater.

## In Preparation for the Ministry

### David Haase Enrolls as Inquirer

By Glenn Leupold



At its January meeting, the Session of First Pres voted to endorse member David Haase's decision to pursue ordination and his call to ministry. The Session informed the presbytery of our decision, and David met with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. That committee has now affirmed our endorsement and David's sense of call by formally enrolling him as an Inquirer.

Being an Inquirer is the first phase of the process for anyone seeking to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The second phase is called Candidate, and at the end of that phase a Candidate is ready to receive a call to serve a church, the ultimate confirming of a person's call to ministry. David has about half of his seminary classes behind him at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. David was also a recipient of a Kente Cloth during worship during Black History Month this past February at First Pres. When you see him at church, offer your congratulations and offer your encouragement on pursuing his call to ministry.

Continued from p. 3, **Enough for All Creation.**

- More than 75% of Americans favor progressive immigration policies, but Congress says their mail is 9:1 opposed to immigration reform.
- Current immigration policies break up families in the U.S.
- How will our church respond if 12 million illegal immigrants become legal?
- We have troops in 60 countries around the world and operate the largest training facility for foreign armed services in the world, the "School of the Americas".

About 600 million of the world's approximately 7 billion people live in an area where a 10 meter rise in sea level would physically displace them. What are we going to do, as people of faith to respond to the increase in climate-induced migration, poverty and injustice?

## Ushers and Greeters Schedule

May 3	8:30 10:45	Skip and Merri Meislahn Team 5 - Don Mark, Bob Seelye, Virginia Seelye, Adam Sperry, Sarah Sperry
May 10	8:30 10:45	Peter Thomas Team 6 - J. Melvin Bostic, Fay Fairfax, Alice Schrade, Bill Westedt, Esther Yomoah
May 17	8:30 10:45	John Myers Team 7 - Marc Boucher, Carolyn Garvin, June Klimash, Amy Scarlett, Marc Scarlett
May 24	8:30 10:45	Skip and Merri Meislahn Team 8 - Heidi Elad, Sherry Hall, Elly Rice, Irving Smith, Bill Storrs, Margaret Zettle
May 31	8:30 10:45	Lynn and Jackie Ellsworth Team 1 - Rita Austin, Carol Green, Marilyn Riddle, Phillip Riddle, Harriet Seeley

## Deacons' Flower Ministry

May 3	Latham Area and North	- Esther Yomoah, Virginia Seelye
May 10	Schenectady	- Fran Kamp
May 17	Downtown Albany North	- Rita Austin, Keith Barber, Carol Green
May 24	Delmar Area	- Marc Boucher, Margaret Zettle, Heidi Kite
May 31	Menands, Loudonville	- Richard Gascoyne, David Nichols

The Neighborhood Flock of Guilderland and Colonie South hosts Coffee Hour in May.

# The First Presbyterian

## May 2009

### 1 Friday

11:00 – 2:30 Church Women United  
Potluck Lunch

### **3 Sunday**

8:30 am Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am Education for all ages  
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:45 am Worship (Communion)  
11:45 am Fellowship Time  
1:00 pm CROP Walk

### 4 Monday

6:30 pm Heldeberg Music  
7:00 pm AA

### 5 Tuesday

7:45 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm AA  
5:30 pm Membership Committee  
Mission Committee  
Property Committee  
Worship Committee  
7:00 pm Dinner  
7:30 pm Christian Ed. Committee  
Communication and  
Technology Committee  
More Light Committee

### 6 Wednesday

9:30–10:30 am Heldeberg Music  
7:00 pm Epilepsy Group  
7:15 pm Small Group A

### 7 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30 – 10:30 am Heldeberg Music  
5:30 pm AA  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm AA  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **10 Sunday**

8:30 am Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am Education for all ages  
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:45 am Worship  
11:45 am Fellowship Time

### 11 Monday

6:30 pm Heldeberg Music  
7:00 pm AA

### 12 Tuesday

7:45 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm AA  
6:45 pm Deacons

### 13 Wednesday

9:30 – 10:30 am Heldeberg Music

### 14 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30-10:30 am Heldeberg Music  
12:45 pm Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm AA  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm AA  
7:00-8:30 pm Teacher Training  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### 15 Friday

Deadline for June Newsletter  
6:00 pm Potluck Supper

### 16 Saturday

9:30-12:30 Labyrinth Workshop

### **17 Sunday**

8:30 am Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am Education for all ages  
9:45 am Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal  
10:45 am Worship (Communion)  
11:45 am Fellowship Time

### 18 – Monday

6:30 pm Heldeberg Music  
7:00 pm AA

### 19 Tuesday

7:45 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm AA  
7:00 pm Session

### 20 Wednesday

9:30 – 10:30 am Heldeberg Music  
6:00 pm Save the Pine Bush

### 21 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30 – 10:30 am Heldeberg Music

5:30 pm AA  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm AA  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **24 Sunday**

8:30 am Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am Education for all ages  
9:45 am Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal  
10:45 am Worship  
11:45 am Fellowship Time

### 25 Monday

Memorial Day - Office Closed  
7:00 pm AA

### 26 Tuesday

7:45 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm AA  
7:00 pm Movie Night

### 27 Wednesday

9:30 – 10:30 am Heldeberg Music  
7:15 pm Small Group A

### 28 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30-10:30 am Heldeberg Music  
1:30 -3:00 Extra Helpings set up  
3:00-5:45 Extra Helpings  
Distribution  
5:30 pm AA  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm AA  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **31 Sunday**

Pentecost  
8:30 am Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am Education for all ages  
9:45 am Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal  
10:45 am Worship (Communion)  
11:45 am Fellowship Time

Note: *Italics indicate outside groups.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
362 State Street  
Albany, NY 12210

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALBANY, NY  
Permit No. 63

# The First Presbyterian

## Lectionary

- May 3**     **4th Sunday of Easter** - Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
- May 10**    **5th Sunday of Easter** - Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
- May 17**    **6th Sunday of Easter** - Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
- May 24**    **7th Sunday of Easter** - Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
- May 31**    **Pentecost** - Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15



Office hours  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Secretary                      Sandra Marr

Phone                             518-449-7332

Fax                                518-449-3104

Web                                [www.firstpresalbany.org](http://www.firstpresalbany.org)

E-mail                            [info@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:info@firstpresalbany.org)

*The First Presbyterian Newsletter*  
is published 11 times a year.

Editor                            Rev. Glenn D. Leupold  
Layout                            Richard C. Gascoyne

Please notify the church office of  
any change in address.

Recordings of the worship service  
are available from the Church  
Office.