250 Years of History, Mission, and Faith
“A House of Worship for All People”…Isaiah 56:7

Epiphany and Celebration in a New Year - 2013

By Richard Gascoyne

It is a New Year – 2013! We mark our joy with the arrival of Wise Men from far corners of the earth to witness the unveiling of the Christ child in a very earthly environment – the Epiphany, January 6. It is, likewise, a new year for First Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY, the year 2013, the 250th year of its epiphany in 1763 in a humble building on a hill in Albany known as “the gallows,” the current site of the Times Union Center.

On Sunday, January 6, we will begin the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the establishment of our first house of worship. A diorama of the four buildings that have housed our congregation has been refreshed and reinvigorated and will be revealed after the 10:45 worship service in Assembly Hall.

On Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 2 pm, at the Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany historian and long-time State Assemblyman, John McEneny, will place our story in context. The Church will present to the Institute the “Albany Church Penny,” one of the great coinage curiosities of the American colonies and the early federal period, according to numismatic sources. In addition, a subscription list of pledges for the construction of the second building (1795) containing the signatures of Alexander Hamilton and John Jay will be entrusted to the permanent care of AIHA.

Local artist, David Hinchen will present the Church with a new painting of our current building. From mid January to mid April the Albany Institute of History and Art will display an exhibition of artifacts relating to the church and its history. The celebration will conclude with a brief tour of the Entry Gallery and a reception in the Rice House, adjacent to the Institute.

“I am the light of the world, whoever follows me … will have the light of life.”
John 8:12

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Who Filled These Pews in Ages Past?

Eliphalet Nott, pastor (1798-1804), President of Union College, President of RPI, delivered Hamilton’s funeral oration, a condemnation of dueling, a pioneer in gun control legislation.

Alexander Hamilton was first Secretary of the US Treasury, founding father, soldier, economist, and political philosopher.

Aaron Burr, Vice President under Thomas Jefferson, shot Alexander Hamilton in a duel, while still in office.

250 Years of History, Mission, and Faith

“A House of Worship for All People”…Isaiah 56:7

The history of First Presbyterian Church in Albany begins even before the founding of our nation. Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, John Jay, Eliphalet Nott, and a catalogue of governors, politicians, educators, movers and shakers of NY State and the nation sat in our pews. On Sunday, January 27, 2013 we celebrate that heritage at the Albany Institute of History and Art.

Signatures of John Jay and Alexander Hamilton are to be presented to the Albany Institute of History and Art along with the Albany Church Penny, minted by the church in 1790 before US coinage.

Joseph Henry, scientist, was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.
The Epiphany of the Diorama

By Richard Gascoyne

Epiphany, from the Greek to make known, show forth, reveal, come to light, gains new meaning in the Greek New Testament. Western churches generally celebrate the Adoration of the Magi as the incarnation of the infant Christ and commemorate it as the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6.

After the 10:45 worship service on January 6 during coffee hour in Assembly Hall, our official celebration of the 250th anniversary of the building of the First Presbyterian Church in 1763 on Pearl Street will begin with the unveiling of the diorama, which has lurked in the shadows of Assembly Hall for many years.

Recently restored by John Myers, David Hinchen, and Bob Stevens, the original structures were, according to church record, crafted by Mrs. Eugene Carson Blake, wife of the FPC pastor (1935-1940). The four structures are surrounded by background paintings that exhibit considerable skill, in the style, according to experts at the Albany Institute of History and Art, of prolific Albany painter and sculptor, David Cunningham Lithgow. That theory is still being researched.

We invite you to come to the unveiling of the diorama to open the 250th birthday year of First Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY.

Mark your Calendar

• Sunday, January 6, 2013, noon
  Unveiling of the diorama (above) and the beginning of the 250th Anniversary of FPC

• Sunday, January 27, 2013, 2 pm
  Albany Institute of History and Art
  John McEneny, lecture
  Exhibits, presentations, reception

• Saturday, March 9, 2013
  Author / Illustrator Day
  Giffen Elementary School

• Friday, April 19, 2013
  Dinner at Woolfert’s Roost
  A celebration with partners in community service, pastors, and friends

• Saturday, October 12, 2013, 4 pm
  Lamar Lecture – Dr. Thomas G. Long, Emory University

• Sunday, October 13, 2013
  8:30 & 10:45 am – Worship – Dr. Long
  9:30 am – Adult Education – Dr. Long

Watch for more events during this year of celebration.
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!

“All I want for Christmas …” says Dorothy Sperry.

Sophia Pruzek with Mom, Kirsten

Nick and Alexandra Turner with Dad and Mom, David and Kimberly

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!”

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!

Jason and Lidia Boucher with friend, Garrett DeGraff

P.J. and Patrick Finch with Mom, Pam
Christmas Greetings!!!

We join as a church family, making Christmas ornaments, learning the meaning behind some of the symbols we see represented, and, of course, enjoying a time of fellowship. An ADVENTure!!!
The Upper Rooms

The Ten Commandments

A new rotation in The Upper Rooms (our Christian education program for children in kindergarten through grade 8) begins Sunday, January 13, and runs through February 17. The children continue their journey with the Israelites in the wilderness culminating in the Ten Commandments. Cindy Winter and Diane Cornell will be teaching in Jericho Theater, Pastor Miriam in Sinai Stage, John Myers in Memory on the Mount, David Nichols in Galilee Gallery, and Sarah Sperry in Tower of Scrabble.

Inquirer Classes

Have you been visiting First Presbyterian Church? Are you interested in learning more about us and in learning about becoming a member? If so, please plan to attend the Inquirers’ Classes on Sundays, January 27 and February 10, from 9:30-10:30 in the Church Library.

Come and explore with Pastor Miriam church membership, the nature of the commitment that it entails and your hopes and dreams for what you most want your church to be. Those people who decide to join will be recognized in worship on Sunday, February 24. Register to attend by calling the church office (449-7332). If you have any questions contact Pastor Miriam at the church.

Secret Santa Party

SSSSHHHH...... Don't tell anyone, but we had a party instead of class on Sunday morning, December 23.

If you heard Christmas music and laughter, and smelled hot cider brewing on the second floor, it was not an illusion. The high school Christian Education class exchanged gifts and spent the hour enjoying each other's company and some tasty snacks and drinks. We get back to work next year, Sunday, January 6, 2013, the Epiphany.

Sunday, January 13, 2013

Winter Picnic

By Don Mark, Membership Committee Chair

For the past several years, we have had a Winter Picnic at First Pres. early in January. This occasion gives us an opportunity to gather together at the end of a busy holiday season that has included Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and marks the beginning of a lull in the Christian year before we start thinking about Lent, and then Easter and Pentecost.

This year’s picnic will be held on Sunday, January 13, after the 10:45 am service, and at that time we will also have an opportunity to honor and celebrate the Ordination and Installation of Officers which will take place during the 10:45 worship service. We, on the membership Committee, with the help of others, are responsible for the picnic, and we are joined by Session, the Board of Deacons and the pastors in cordially inviting members and friends to come and enjoy this event. This is also a good time to introduce friends to First Presbyterian Church for worship and fellowship as we begin the new calendar year together.

We hope to see you there on January 13.

Here We Go a-Caroling

By Christy D’Ambrosio

On Sunday evening, December 16, the youth of First Pres joined the youth around the corner at Trinity Methodist for caroling and supper. This was the first of what Jeff Matthews, Pastor of Trinity Methodist, hopes will be many combined activities in the future.

Did You Know . . .

... that First Pres was part of a successful fundraiser in November for the Cornerstone Campus Ministry at UAlbany? Students from the UAlbany Interfaith Center made and sold baked goods at various area churches and raised $1,540 for their ministry.

... that back in December of 2001, Nancy Frank had two pieces from a recital used by Pipedreams, an American Public Media program, which was broadcast on public radio? It is listed on their website (pipedreams.publicradio.org) under December 17, 2001. The program aired locally on December 23 of that year.

... that our Mayan Hands sale in November netted around $1,400 in sales? The purchasing of crafts by needy artisans helps bring badly needed income to impoverished communities.

... that on January 6, 13 and 20, the Rev. Alexandra Lusak will be leading the 9:30 Adult Education class? She will be sharing what she saw and heard during her visit to Israel and the Occupied Territories this Fall. The recent fighting and the ongoing dispute in the Holy Land should be of interest to us all.

... that the antiquated phone system in the church was upgraded in December?

... that you should put the First Friday event for February on your calendar now? February 1 is the first Friday, and there will be a concert and art exhibit in the early evening. Full details will be in the Sunday bulletins and at www.firstpresalbany.org.

FOCUS Worship and Annual Meeting

The FOCUS Ministry churches will unite for worship on February 3, 2013, at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State Street, at 10 am. The service will be followed by a brief Annual Meeting. Your attendance at both events is encouraged. There will be no worship or education hour that Sunday at First Pres.
Committee Takes to the Streets

Get Money Out of Politics

By Carol Bullard, Outreach and Missions Committee

There is generally an air of excitement on Election Day and certainly that was the case this year when a small group of individuals from the Outreach and Mission Committee, reinforced by other activist-minded citizens, spent November 6th collecting petition signatures in support of a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. The location for our drive was none other than Willett Street in front of First Presbyterian Church, which for many years has served as a polling site.

Many of our own members—well over 100 in fact—had signed the petition in October at various coffee hours. From this we knew that there was a lot of interest in signing and doing something that would help to undo the harm caused by the supreme court’s decision that now permits unlimited amounts of money to be given to elections by giant corporations and super-wealthy individuals. Our petitioning experience on Election Day further re-enforced the great interest on the part of the general public in getting money out of politics: by the end of the day we had collected 447 signatures! According to Public Citizen, one of the public-service organizations that is leading the effort nationally, this figure represents the single largest number of names collected at any polling site in NYS that day. Great thanks to Alice Schrade, Debbie Shoup and Stephanie Kite for helping to carry out such a successful day of petitioning!

The next big push will be made on January 19, 2013 when organizers around the country will use the third anniversary of the signing of Citizens United v. FEC the special occasion to bring attention across the country to the growing support for a constitutional amendment. Rallies, teach-ins, media drives, and more petition signing events will take place—so stay tuned. And if the issue interests you enough to want to get personally involved, please contact me: 463-8256. The future looks bright for moving the process along!

Behold the Christmas tree paired with the baptismal font. Christmas music under the direction of Dr. Michael Lister defined this year’s Christmas season. Baptism opens the Advent season with John the Baptiser foretelling of the “one to come,” and then God’s announcement, “This is my beloved son” as Jesus presents himself for baptism.
Giffen Elementary School
Building Enthusiasm Event

By Eric Fagans, Outreach and Missions Committee

On December 6th, 33 students from Giffen Elementary gathered in the school library at the end of the day. It was, as you might imagine, a mildly boisterous time -- the noisy but happy sounds of 33 students talking in animated fashion all at once. Actually more had signed-up, like 42, but the library rooms really had just enough room at the tables and computers for those who came.

When all had arrived, Jennifer Salvaggio, the school librarian, and her friend and fellow-librarian, Chinasa Seyse, introduced the afternoon’s activities -- a Book-Centered Scavenger Hunt. Groups of 5 and 6 students, assisted by 7 of us from First Presbyterian - Jessica Mathias, Deborah Shoup, Cenzi Brynolfson, Ann Songaylo, Glenn Leupold, Debbie and Eric, and Joanne Snover from Brunswick Presbyterian - raced from book to book and clue to clue to solve their four-step puzzles, followed by a decoding activity, which led to a bingo activity (using vocabulary from the books in their Bingo squares) and jelly beans as "markers" on them. ("If I eat 7, I think I'll still have enough to cover any squares that are called," was heard from each table.) This, too, was mildly out of control, but respectfully so. It was the noisiest, most chaotic time any of us could ever remember experiencing in a school library.

As the games were being concluded, Ann Songaylo and Keith Barber prepared the pizza, fruit and fruit juices for distribution. And just about this time, when it appeared that everyone would finally settle down to eat, parents began to arrive to pick up children and the chaos returned, with students balancing their meals, book-gifts, coats and backpacks in preparation for leaving. More than a few students took extra slices of pizza home for siblings. Needless to say, a most wonderful time was had by all -- a wonderful gift from God.
Ray Henrikson exhibited his photographs at the December First Friday Event. In the sanctuary the musicians of First Presbyterian Church preformed some holiday favorites featuring Michael Lister, Fiona McKinney, Deb Rocco, Chris Trombley, and the Chancel Choir. First Fridays will resume on February 1.

#### Ushers and Greeters Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Bruce Brynolfson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Team 1- Jamie Kim, Araglin Kite, Liam Kite, Margaret Leupold, Mackenzie Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Margaret and Elizabeth Leupold</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Team 2 – Richard Gascoyne, Joanne Gascoyne, Cathernie Fletcher, David Hannay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Jackie and Lynn Ellsworth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Team 3 – Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens, Mary Rogers Ryther, Amy Scarlett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>John Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Team 4 – Jeff Durgee, Mary Durgee, Ray Henrikson, Rachel Smith, Roseline Takor</td>
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#### Deacons’ Flower Ministry

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Rensselaer</td>
<td>Paul Bascom, Sue Attwell, Cynthia Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Guilderland-Schenectady</td>
<td>Lee Helsby, Mackenzie Robinson, Marian Eaton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Albany South</td>
<td>Fay Fairfax, Barbara Speck, Annette Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Delmar</td>
<td>Margaret Zettle, Margaret Leupold, Jessica Mathias</td>
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Coffee Hour for January is hosted by the Guilderland-Schenectady Neighborhood Flock. Fair Trade Market is on Sunday, January 13.
### January 2013

**1 Tuesday**  Office Closed  
**2 Wednesday**  
3:30 pm  250th Anniv. Campaign Committee Mtg.  
7:00 pm  Epilepsy Group  

**3 Thursday**  
7:00 am  Men’s Bible Study  

**6 Epiphany Sunday**  
250 Years of History, Mission and Faith  
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  250th Birthday Party  
Unveiling of Diorama  

**7 Monday**  
12:00 pm  PEO  
6:30 pm  Musical Rehearsal  

**8 Tuesday**  
7:45 am  Men’s Bible Study  
5:30 pm  Committee Night  
- Membership  
- Outreach & Mission  
- Property  
- Worship  
6:45 pm  Deacons  
7:00 pm  Dinner  
7:30 pm  Christian Ed. Committee  
- More Light Committee  

**9 Wednesday**  
7:30 pm  Dads’ Small Group  

**10 Thursday**  
7:00 am  Men’s Bible Study  
6:00 pm  Chancel Choir Potluck  

**13 Sunday**  
8:30 am  Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am  Education for all ages  
9:45 am  Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:45 am  Worship  
10:45 am  Ordination/Installation  
11:45 am  Fellowship  
12:00 pm  Fair Trade Mart  
1-5 pm  Indoor Picnic  

**14 Monday**  
5:30-6:30pm  Heldeberg Music  
6:30 p.m.  Musical Rehearsal  

**15 Tuesday**  
7:45 am  Men’s Bible Study  
12:45 pm  Staff Meeting  
7:00 pm  Session  

**16 Wednesday**  
9:30-6:30  Heldeberg Music  
7:15 pm  Small Group B  

**17 Thursday**  
7:00 am  Men’s Bible Study  
9:30-11:30  Heldeberg Music  
12:00 pm  Endowment Subcmte.  
6:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm  Chancel Choir Rehearsal  

**18 Friday**  
Youth of Albany Pres. MLK YAP Weekend  
6:00 pm  Potluck  

**19 Saturday**  
Youth of Albany Pres. MLK YAP Weekend  
10-12  Rainbow Mtg.  

**20 Sunday**  
Youth of Albany Pres. MLK YAP Weekend  
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  Annual Meeting  

**21 Monday**  
12:00 pm  PEO  
5:30-7:30 pm  Heldeberg Music  
6:30 pm  Musical Rehearsal  
Afternoon  UN Trip Orientation  

**22 Tuesday**  
7:45 am  Men’s Bible Study  
4:00 pm  Presbytery Meeting at Brunswick Presbyterian Church  

**23 Wednesday**  
9:30-6:30  Heldeberg Music  
7:15 pm  Small Group B  

**24 Thursday**  
7:00 am  Men’s Bible Study  
9:30-11:30  Heldeberg Music  
6:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm  Chancel Choir Rehearsal  

**27 Sunday**  
8:30 am  Worship (Communion)  
9:30 am  Education for all ages  
9:30 am  Inquirers’ Class  
9:45 am  Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:45 am  Worship  
11:45 am  Fellowship  
2:00 pm  250th Anniversary Celebration at Albany Institute of History and Art  

**28 Monday**  
5:30-7:30pm  Heldeberg Music  
6:30 pm  Musical Rehearsal  

**29 Tuesday**  
7:45 am  Men’s Bible Study  
4:00 pm  Presbytery Meeting at Brunswick Presbyterian Church  

**30 Wednesday**  
9:30-6:30  Heldeberg Music  
7:15 pm  Small Group B  

**31 Thursday**  
7:00 am  Men’s Bible Study  
9:30-11:30  Heldeberg Music  
6:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm  Chancel Choir Rehearsal  

Note:  Italics indicate outside groups  

**AA Meetings Each Month**  
Mon  7:30 pm  
Tue  5:30 pm  
Wed  5:30 pm  
Thurs  5:30 & 7:30 pm  
Fri  5:30 pm  
Sat  5:30 pm
Lectionary

Jan. 6  Epiphany of the Lord
       Isa. 60:1-6    Ps. 72:1-71 10-14
       Eph. 3:1-12   Matt. 2:1-12

Jan. 13 Baptism of the Lord
       Isa. 43:1-7    Ps. 29
       Acts 8:14-17   Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
       2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
       Isa. 62:1-5    Ps. 36:5-10
       1 Cor. 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

Jan. 27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
       3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
       Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10    Ps. 19
       1 Cor. 12:12-31a   Luke 4:14 21

See the Newsletter on line and in color at www.firstpresalbany.org