



# The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 71, Number 9

May 2016

## Author & Illustrator Day What a Day!!!

By Deb Fagans

The first thing you notice when you come through the door is a sense of chaos! But it's controlled chaos at Giffen Memorial Elementary School, the school that is our partner in tutoring, mentoring, and all sorts of volunteer work.

The students, moms and dads, friends, family, and care givers associated with Giffen's South End neighborhood entered the school through the auditorium lobby and were met by a friendly greeter who handed them a program and a door prize ticket for the drawing at the end of the day. Miss Dawn sat at the greeters' table and asked adults to "sign-in, please." Over 120 adults did so. There you could munch on delicious cider donuts donated by Cider Belly Donuts or pastries donated by Panera and wash them down with apple cider given to us by the Honest Weight Food Co-op. You could also find myriad other refreshments -- cheese, crackers, fruit, juice, and hot coffee and tea.

After being fortified for the adventure, children stopped by the craft table to decorate a cloth book bag that sported Griffen, the 'Gator, (Giffen's alligator mascot) reading his favorite book. And then on into the fray.

Inside the cafeteria, guests were milling around the seven tables filled with books by our authors and illustrators. "Book mentors" talked with children, helped them to pick out books and put in place the stickers that they picked up at the children's sign-in table. Approximately 90 Giffen students came. They got in line to have conversation with the authors and to have them sign their newly acquired books. The hum of activity resounded in the halls. *Continued on pp. 4-6*

Griffen, the Giffen 'Gator, and friends

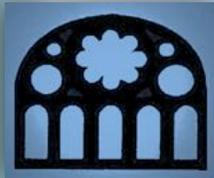
"Let the little children come to me ... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" Mark 10:14

### In This Issue

- Pause Here a Moment ..... 2
- 2016 Pictorial Directory ..... 2
- Peace Resolution ..... 3
- CROP Walk ..... 3
- Web Master Steps Down ..... 3
- Author & Illustrator Day .... 4-6, 9,10
- Muslim Soup Kitchen ..... 7
- Easter Brunch ..... 7
- The Upper Rooms ..... 8
- First Friday in May ..... 8
- Home Repair Project..... 9
- Schedules and Calendars ..... 10-11



# The First Presbyterian



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

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

**Dr. Michael Lister**  
Director of Music

**Trevor Kahlbaugh**  
Organist

**Christy D'Ambrosio**  
Youth Director

**Robert C. Lamar**  
Pastor Emeritus

#### Elders

Keith Barber  
Carol Bullard  
Gladys Crowder  
Richard Gascoyne  
Annette Johnson  
Stephanie Kite  
Harry (Skip) Meislahn  
John Myers  
Phillip Riddle  
Mary Rogers  
Roseline Takor

#### Deacons

**Prudence Iyok**  
Moderator

Diane Cornell  
Lee Helsby  
Ellen Kemp  
Peter Kimuli  
Judith Mark  
Joe Mathias  
Jerry Nathan  
Ron Pettis  
Leslie Roccario  
Peg Schalit  
Gail Scott  
Deb Shoup  
Grace White  
Robert Willower  
Barbara Woodruff  
Margaret Zettle

Pause Here a Moment ...

## The Sacred Voice that Calls Us the "Beloved"

[Editor's note: The following quote is from Henry Nouwen and his book, *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*]

"Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. Success, popularity, and power can indeed present a great temptation, but their seductive quality often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self-rejection. When we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity, and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions. The real trap, however, is self-rejection. As soon as someone accuses me or criticizes me, as soon as I am rejected, left alone, or abandoned, I find myself thinking, "Well, that proves once again that I am a nobody." ... [My dark side says,] I am no good... I deserve to be pushed aside, forgotten, rejected, and abandoned. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved." Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence."

**Get Your Picture Taken**  
**May 22 or June 5**

## 2016 Photo Directory in Progress

The Membership Committee is producing a new pictorial directory for First Presbyterian Church. We have lots of new members and new faces, and we need EVERYONE to be included! Dick Gascoyne and Tim O'Toole took photos of many members in April.

If you didn't have YOUR picture taken, plan to do so after 10:45 service on May 22 and June 5. Affiliate members and regular visitors are welcome to be included; we'll put an asterisk by your name.

Non-member spouses of members are included too. We will also have a master copy of the information we have gathered from you, and we ask that you check it to be sure all is current and up to date for your alphabetical listing in the back of the photo directory.

2016



2012 Photo Directory

First Presbyterian Church



Albany, New York

## Albany Presbytery Passes Peace Resolution

The following resolution was passed by Albany Presbytery at its April meeting. It was inspired by comments from a visiting Imam and Rabbi, whose names are mentioned in the resolution.

Albany Presbytery April 6, 2016

Whereas our time and culture are fraught with violence and vengeance of heart, word, and deed;

Whereas we recognize that vengeance belongs to God alone (Deut. 32:35);

Whereas “an eye for an eye’ leaves everyone blind;”

Whereas vengeance is not a civil right;

Whereas peace is our mutual goal;

Whereas brothers in the family of Abraham, Rabbi Robert Kasman and Imam Djafer Sebkhauoui have raised awareness about ways in which violence and vengeance are destructive to the human race;

Whereas Albany Presbytery is called to a ministry of reconciliation by Jesus Christ;

At its stated meeting on April 6, 2016, Albany Presbytery resolves that we stand with those who are targets of hate crimes based upon religion, such as Jews and Muslims and people of any religion, ethnicity or condition. Albany Presbytery resolves to continue to raise our raise our awareness, to speak up, and to take a stand against hatred and vengeance in any form.



Sunday, May 1

## CROP WALK 2016

By Annette Johnson

- What does it mean to go to bed hungry and not know when your next meal is coming or where it is coming from?
- What does it mean to walk miles and miles to find safe water and food for your family and yourself?
- What does it mean to be a good neighbor and reach out to help someone to answer that question?

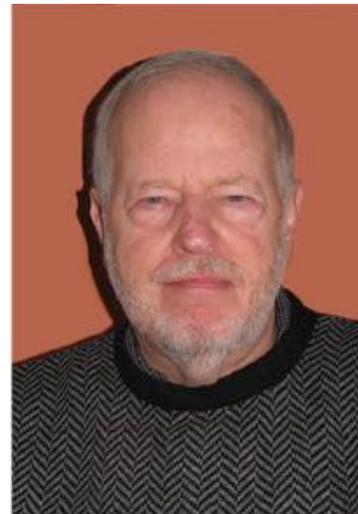
The CROP Walk is one of the oldest campaigns in this area to help fight hunger in our community and around the world. Through our collective efforts we raise funds to help foodbanks and pantries. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from the walk come back to our community to provide these organizations with the resources to help people who are in need of food assistance.

We are looking to reach a goal of \$100,000 for our area this year and your participation will help us reach that goal.



## Thanks, Tim, for a Job Well Done Webmaster Steps Down

A big thank you goes out to Tim O'Toole who has stepped down from serving as the webmaster of our website, [firstpresalbany.org](http://firstpresalbany.org), a position he has held faithfully for 14 years. Tim took over for former member Troy Soka who set up the site and served as the first webmaster. Offer your thanks to Tim when you see him!



# The First Presbyterian

You didn't have to look hard to see our special guests. Mayor Sheehan came to see what was going on. She spent time talking to each and every author. And Griffen, the gator, was on hand to have pictures taken with the children. And then the loud speaker announced – "Go to the lobby to hear the band (or the orchestra or chorus)" – or "Go to the science room now to hear our guest author," and the "organized" stampede to the next author's room was off and running. "No running in the halls!"

Outside we had arranged for a food vendor with truck to provide lunch. "Nick, the Greek," had wonderful Greek cuisine and had lowered his prices to make it more affordable for our South End community.

We've learned something new. We always do. This year it is that the parents want to participate as much as the children in the creative activities of making collages and writing poetry. Next year, if possible, that will be built into the program.

We gave away 318 books free to the Giffen children and sold 185 for a total of 503 books. Some parents of Giffen children bought books in addition to the ones their children received, which, I think, shows that books in the home are becoming more important.

Get the picture? It was quite an active, bustling scene, with many cheery voices and happy faces. But none of it could have happened without the help of many people who worked hard to make it so. The planning team – made up of Giffen staff and First Pres members – who worked through the year to get everything in place. James Ransome, last year's illustrator, joined our team and acquired all our presenters this year. Hooray for James!

In addition to that we had 14 wonderful people who set up Friday night, equally divided between the staff and First Pres. members. The actual day of the event found 59 people on hand to make everything happen – 21 staff and 38 First Pres. members. If you've been counting, that puts the total close to 300 people who came to Author and Illustrator Day at Giffen Memorial Elementary School.

THANK YOU to all of you who helped and who lent your support to the program!!

## Author & Illustrator Day

Giffen Memorial Elementary School



# The First Presbyterian

## Author & Illustrator Day

Giffen Memorial Elementary School



### Four Author "Bios"

**Jerry Pinkney** is the illustrator of over one hundred children's books. As his children were growing up, he found that they were interested in books, but few books had representations of people of color. His love of art and painting led him to a career of inviting readers into his imagination and celebrating African-American culture. Over the course of his career, Jerry has been the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and book awards, the most recent being two lifetime achievement awards: the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for his contribution to literature for children, and the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for books that "explore cultural differences and ethnic identity." He has had one-man exhibitions and group shows internationally. His art has been featured in newspapers, magazines, and TV shows. He has held many art school professorships, and is the first African-American illustrator invited to design postage stamps. In 2001 Jerry designed the White House Christmas Program for the Visitors Center, and one of the 49 White House Christmas trees was decorated with miniature versions of Jerry's books. Jerry and his wife Gloria live in Westchester County, NY.

**Nina Crews** is a critically acclaimed children's book author and illustrator. Children respond enthusiastically to "real" pictures, and Ms. Crews uses photographs and photo-collages to create energetic children's stories. She enjoys updating classic children's tales and has created imaginary adventures for urban children. She has found that children love hearing about the children in her pictures - names, ages and where they live. Nina lives in Brooklyn with her husband and son.

**Pat Cummings** was an "army brat" and her experiences of moving all over the country and the world fed her interest in drawing. Her earliest projects were for art clubs and posters for school events. While her family lived abroad, Pat fell in love with fantasy. Visiting castles in Germany and observing Okinawan village people carrying bundles of sticks on their backs, her imagination ran wild. She attended



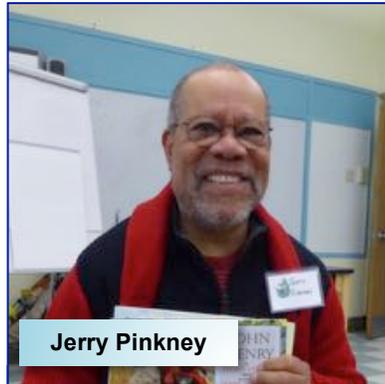
# The First Presbyterian

Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, and while there she did freelance work for children's theaters. She did magazine and advertising work but always knew that she was meant to draw for books. She tries to stimulate young readers' imaginations by putting surprises into her pictures. A fifth-grade teacher advised Pat to write about what she knew, and she adopted the practice of always "knowing" new things. Pat and her husband live in Brooklyn.

**Renée Watson** is the author of *This Side of Home* (Bloomsbury 2015), which was nominated for Best Fiction for Young Adults by the American Library Association. Other honors include an NAACP Image Award nomination in children's literature and A New Voice for 2010 in middle grade fiction. Renée loves using the arts to help youth cope with trauma and discuss social issues. She facilitated poetry workshops with children in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and produced a picture book, *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen* (Random House, 2010). Renée teaches creative writing and theater in public schools and community centers across the nation. She is involved in a number of distinguished writers organizations and teaches courses on writing for children at University of New Haven and Pine Manor College. In 2015 she was honored with the STEAM award for her work in arts education by Inner City Foundation of New York, Inc. Renée grew up in Portland, Oregon, and currently lives in New York City.

## Author & Illustrator Day

Giffen Memorial Elementary School



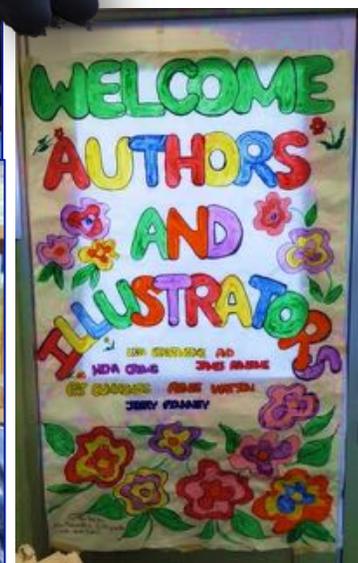
Jerry Pinkney



Nina Crews



Pat Cummings



Renée Watson



# The First Presbyterian

## May Potluck Friday, May 20, 6:00 PM **The Muslim Soup Kitchen**

By Robert Stevens



Uzma Popal, Capital District Coordinator for the Muslim Soup Kitchen Project, will give a presentation on the Muslim Soup Kitchen here in the area. The primary goal of the Muslim Soup Kitchen Project (MSKP) is to aid

homeless and low-income people, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, by serving them free food on a regular basis.

In addition you will get to hear Uzma's immigrant story, her experience with emigrating to the U.S. and her successes while growing up in the Capital District.

We know that immigration has been a hot topic during this presidential primary season and have heard many differing views on the topic. This is an opportunity to hear from someone involved in our community who is making a positive difference.

Make your reservation with the Church Office (449-7332) by Wednesday, May 18, and tell what you will bring to share.



## Youth Fund Raiser **Easter Brunch**

Thank You!

By Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

Every Easter the Youth serve brunch between services. The food is donated by youth families and the congregation, and the youth and their families work the brunch, preparing food, replacing empty dishes, and cleaning up during and afterwards. This year the brunch was well attended, with lots of terrific edible contributions. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the meal and made donations.



# The First Presbyterian



## First Friday, May 6, 5:30 PM Capital City String Quartet and Sacred Art

The First Friday concert on May 6 will feature our former soloist Will Hayes and his ensemble the Capital City String Quartet. They will perform clarinet quintets by Mozart and Brahms featuring their guest clarinetist Tom Gerbino. We look forward to hearing this guest ensemble in performance, and hope you can join us for our next-to-last concert of this season!

In the Gallery gallery: Joel Cornell – **Photographs of Russian and Greek Style Icons of Sacred Figures**; Albert Gnidica – **Cathedral Views** (see below); and David Hinchey – **Photographs of Churches and Cemeteries of Paris**.

## The Upper Rooms The Great Commission

A new rotation in The Upper Rooms (our Christian education program for children in kindergarten through grade 5) begins May 1 and runs through May 15. This rotation's theme is "The Great Commission." The children will explore Matthew 28:16-20 through a movie, drama and worship. The last rotation of the school year begins May 22 and will be "One Said Thank You." The children will explore Luke 17:11-19 through games, a movie, drama and art.

Students in grades 6-8 are using a middle school curriculum called *Journey to Adulthood* with teachers Ellen Eisenbraun and Amy Robinson.

If you are interested in teaching for two Sundays, please speak to Pastor Miriam Lawrence Leupold for the fully prepared curriculum and materials. It is a great experience and a chance to meet and interact with the young folks in our church family.



# The First Presbyterian

## Author & Illustrator Day

Giffen Memorial Elementary School



## Home Repair Project Receives Grant

A \$5,000 grant was awarded for materials to continue work in the South End and Arbor Hill. Bethany Pignatello-Cornier, at the Schenectady Home Depot, helped the Home Repair Project group apply for a Home Depot Foundation Grant.

Upcoming projects include porch and wheelchair ramp construction in the South End; painting and front step repair in Arbor Hill.



It's just starting to warm up and the year is young, so who knows what other projects we may complete this year. Thank you Home Depot Foundation for making it possible!



Now it's time for you to step up to the plate and help the Home Repair Project help others in the South End. See Eric Fagans (371-0131) or Christy D'Ambrosio (423-4763) for details, and join the fun!



# The First Presbyterian



Come Meet

Illustrator  
**Jerry Pinkney,**

Author/Illustrator  
**Nina Crews,**

at Ciffen Memorial Elementary School's  
**Author & Illustrator Day**  
on  
Saturday, April 9, 9:30AM to 2PM

\*author presentations  
\*books! (3 free books for Ciffen students, others available for purchase at 20% discount)  
\*book signings  
\*craft projects  
\*musical performances by Ciffen students  
\*refreshments

Author  
**Renée Watson,**

and  
Author/Illustrator  
**Pat Cummings**

## Ushers and Greeters

- May 1** 8:30 am John Myers  
10:45 am Team 7 – Carol Bullard, Joseph Mathias, Alice Schrade, Deb Shoup, Ann Songayllo
- May 8** 8:30 am Bruce Brynolfson  
10:45 am Team 1 – Ben & Maddy Eisenbraun, Lydia Green, Arthur & Daniel Iyok, Lauren Kuo, Sophia Pruzek, Mia & Maggie Robinson, Akap Takor
- May 15** 8:30 am John Myers  
10:45 am Team 2 – J. Coley, Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay, Margaret Hannay
- May 22** 8:30 am Ellen Eisenbraun  
10:45 am Team 3 – Keith Barber, David Haase, Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens, Harriet Seeley, Cynthia Winter
- May 29** 8:30 am Jackie and Lynn Ellsworth  
10:45 am Team 4 – Jeff Durgée, Ray Henrikson, Prudence Iyok, Rachel Smith, Barbara Woodruff



## Deacons' Flower Ministry

- May 1** Guilderland-Schenectady – Grace White, Ellen Kemp, Peg Schalit
- May 8** Albany West – Judy Mark, Lee Helsby, Bob Willower
- May 15** Delmar - Barbara Woodruff, Margaret Zettle, Gail Scott
- May 22** Albany East – Joe Mathias, Jerry Nathan
- May 29** Latham-Loudonville – Prudence Iyok, Ron Pettis, Peter Kimuli

**The Latham - Loudonville  
Neighborhood Flock hosts  
May Coffee Hours.  
Fair Trade Market is Sunday, May 8.**

## May 2016

### 1 Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship (Communion)
- 9:30 am Education for all ages
- 9:30 am Confirmation Class
- 9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:45 am Worship (Communion) and New Member Recognition
- 11:45 am Fellowship
- 1:00 pm CROP Walk

### 2 Monday

- 6:00 pm *Music Together*

### 3 Tuesday

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm **Committee Night**
  - Membership
  - Outreach & Mission
  - Property
  - Worship
- 7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm • More Light

### 4 Wednesday

- 12:00 pm JI/JO
- 7:15 pm Small Group B<sup>3</sup>

### 5 Thursday

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 am *Music Together*
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### 6 Friday

- 5:30 pm First Friday Art Gallery
- 6:00 pm First Friday Concert

### 7 Saturday

- 9:30 am–3:30 pm Session Retreat

### 8 Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship (Communion)
- 9:30 am Education for all ages
- 9:30 am Confirmation Class
- 9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:45 am Worship
- 11:45 am Fellowship & Fair Trade Market

### 9 Monday

- 6:00 pm *Music Together*

### 10 Tuesday

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:45 pm Deacons meeting
- 7:00 pm Session meeting

### 11 Wednesday

- 6:30 pm Small Group B
- 7:30 pm Dads' Small Group

### 12 Thursday

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 am *Music Together*
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### 13 Friday

- 12:00 pm Newsletter deadline

### 15 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
- 1:00 pm *Vintage Pride*

### 16 Monday

- 6:00 pm FOCUS board meeting at First Church Reformed
- 6:00 pm *Music Together*

### 17 Tuesday

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study

### 18 Wednesday

- 12:00 pm JI/JO
- 7:15 pm Small Group B<sup>3</sup>

### 19 Thursday

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 am *Music Together*
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### 20 Friday

- 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

### 22 Sunday Confirmation

- 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
- 11:45 am Photo Ops

### 23 Monday

- 6:00 pm *Music Together*

### 24 Tuesday

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 am Clergy Gathering

### 25 Wednesday

- 6:30 pm Small Group B
- 7:30 pm Dads' Small Group

### 26 Thursday

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 am *Music Together*
- 12:00 pm Newsletter folders
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### 29 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

### 30 Monday - Memorial Day office closed

- 6:00 pm *Music Together*

### 31 Tuesday

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study

#### AA Meeting Schedule

- Daily 5:30 pm
- Wed 10:00 pm
- Thurs 7:30 pm

#### Get Well Group

- Wed & Fri 7:30 pm

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 1 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:9–15                      Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5      John 14:23–29 or John 5:1–9
- May 8 Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:16–34                      Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21      John 17:20–26
- May 15 Day of Pentecost**  
Acts 2:1–21 or Genesis 11:1–9      Psalm 104:24–34, 35b  
Romans 8:14–17 or Acts 2:1–21      John 14:8–17 [25–27]
- May 22 Trinity Sunday**  
Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31                      Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1–5                      John 16:12–15
- May 29 Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Kings 18:20–21 [22–29] 30–39                      Psalm 96  
Galatians 1:1–12                      Luke 7:1–10

See the Newsletter on line and in color at  
[www.firstpresalbany.org](http://www.firstpresalbany.org)

Also see us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Wagemark certified

**WAGEMARK**



**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

**Office Manager**                      Sue Bartle

**Phone**                      518-449-7332

**Fax**                      518-449-3104

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

**Facebook**                      [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

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

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

**Editor**                      Rev. Dr. 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.