

N ewsbrief

♥For the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford ♥

April, 2002

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Siegfried S. Johnson, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Fordyce, AK has written about the importance of names. He notes that some places got their names by accident or error. Correct, Indiana, for example, is incorrect; its residents wanted their town to be named Comet, but someone misread the "m" as two "r"s.¹

Names. Everyone has one. Dale Carnegie said years ago that the sweetest word people can hear is the sound of their own name. Not many four-year-olds are quoted in national news magazines, but last year after the tragic events of September 11, Newsweek magazine featured a suggestion by four-year-old Laura Beth Kulbacki on how to deal with terrorists who hate a country full of people they don't even know. Laura Beth said, "Why don't we just tell them our names?"²

L. Frank Baum, author of *The Wizard of Oz*, had finished the outline to his famous book, but he hadn't come up with the name of the enchanted land where Dorothy, the Tin Man, Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion sought the help of the Wizard. As he gathered up his files, Baum's eyes fell upon a drawer in his filing cabinet marked, "O-Z." And thus he came up with a land called "Oz." There's nothing peculiar about Peculiar, Missouri, Frank Gallant learned in researching a book about unusual American place-names. In 1868 the town's first postmaster proposed names that Washington, D.C. kept rejecting. Exasperated, he wrote the Postmaster General asking him to take over the job: "We don't care what name you give us so long as it is sort of peculiar." And so it was.

Why these thoughts as we enter April? Well, I realize that I still struggle to know people's names and I suspect that others in the life of our parish do, too. Perhaps you were attracted to the TV series *Cheers*. I always thought it had a terrific theme song. The song was the best part of the show for me.

Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got.
Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.
Wouldn't you like to get away?
Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.
You wanna be where you can see,
our troubles are all the same
You wanna be where everybody knows
Your name.

Did you go to see the Disney movie, *Monsters, Inc.*, too? At a key moment in the movie, a little girl enters the closet world of the monster, Sully, the most famous monster at Monsters Inc.. Sully is a most prolific producer of children's screams . . . the energy from their screams being bottled. At first terrified, because he was taught to be terrified of children, he slowly learns there is nothing to be afraid of at all in this child. Sully actually begins to like the little girl. And then, at a wonderful moment in the movie, Sully gives the child a name, "Boo." As far as his monster friend, Mike, was concerned, (continued on page 2)

¹ *National Geographic*, August 1998

² "Perspectives," *Newsweek*, November 19, 2001

that was a bad mistake. "Oh no," he says, "Not a name! When you give it a name, that's when you get attached to it."

If you have been reading ahead in the Common Lectionary for Sundays, you've encountered that passage where Jesus says,

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Although I am fearful that God knows me and my motivations this intimately, it is comforting to consider that God loves me just the same. It encourages me to be among God's people and to worship. Certainly it would be good for us to show God's love to others and not be fearful of wearing name tags, but work to make First Presbyterian Church a place where people are reminded that God knows our name, a place where our worries are given a break, for it sure would help a lot, a place where everyone's always glad you came. A

Bruce



STU'S SPOT

April is fast upon us and while some years that means Easter is coming, this year on April 1, Easter will be behind us. Well actually only Easter day; Easter vigils and all of holy week are past. The reality of resurrection will only just be renewed in our hearts and spirits.

Are we as a church a resurrected place? Do we look back at the deaths of the past year and have confidence that our loved ones are in the eternal mercy of God? Moreover, as we face difficult situations, life threatening health reports, violence in our world, do we have confidence in the power of the resurrection, that Paul writes of, in our every day?

At one memorial service I attended, spring bulbs were given to every member of the congregation. Each spring, gardens proclaim a new kind and a new chapter of life. In some fall gardens, resurrection lilies surprise the passer-by with their colorful presence of petals where green leaves long before had died away.

This April my prayer for you is Philippians 3:10, 11. A

Peace,



Youth Christian Education News and Notes

from Reneé Shaffer

- ☺ Attention Senior High Students! We challenge you to drop in on Sunday nights at 7:45 PM to Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF). Hot topics of discussion: "in the beginning", "boy meets girl", "party-on dude", "the gift worth waiting for", "apples vs. onions", and outrageous games. See Dan Kulp for further details.
- ☺ LOGOS ends late March with the children voting on their favorite: theme, dinner, game, craft, music, Bible story and Surprise night. Next year we want to increase membership so more children can experience the fellowship, laughter and joy of LOGOS. LOGOS is forming a new "branch" called Living LOGOS. See Amy Taylor or Susie Wahl for details.
- ☺ Our Sunday School Open House was a huge success! Collectively we thank parents and members of the congregation for taking the time and effort to see our children proudly display their work.
- ☺ Sunday school teachers are needed for the 2002 – 2003 year. Parents - this is a wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually along with your child. Children love when their parents help. Even if you have forgotten some of your Bible stories, the beauty of teaching is that you learn along with the children. See Sandy, Roxanne or Reneé for details.
- The Christian Education Task Force has been formed and awaiting implementation. Some of the goals are:
- ❖ enhancing life long learning and adult study.
 - ❖ standards at each grade level in Church school; looking at what is working here and how we can improve; implementing a new Church school curriculum in 2003; teaching and utilizing multiple intelligences so each child can benefit; discussing the 10 best things about our church; and as always, improving communication. A

What's Up with Youth Ministry

from Dan Kulp

Congratulations to Kristen Shaffer for winning the Skittle-out-the-nostril contest at SYF, as well as the balloon pop! Kristen, you rock! A

ADULT ENRICHMENT SPRING

OFFERINGS

from Nancy Sprenkle

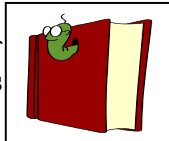
SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMS - 7:00 PM April 7 - "Who Moved My Cheese?" -

Depending on your perspective, change can be a blessing or a curse. "Who Moved My Cheese?" proposes that we can come to see change as a blessing, if we understand the nature of change and the role it plays in our lives. **Join us for this interactive evening led by Penny Cannon.**

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING

BOOK CLUB -

7:30 PM April 10 - "Lar Party" by Carol Shields
Home of Nancy Sprenkle,
103 Stuyvesant Road,
381-8990.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9:30 AM & 7:30 PM

Stu will begin a new series on April 10, looking at theological themes in the context of World Scriptures. On April 10 we will discuss salvation and atonement. Our goal is to better understand what we understand salvation and atonement to be in Christianity. Placed against a backdrop of other religious texts, I hope our view becomes clearer.

On April 17 and 24, Bruce will present studies on a few of the one-chapter books of the Bible while Stu is on vacation. A

NEXT NEWSBRIEF DEADLINE

from the Church Office

Next month's deadline for articles for the May Newsbrief is Sunday, April 14. Thanks to all who have so diligently kept to this deadline.

Naomi Circle's April meeting is planned for Monday, April 15. We will meet at Pittsford Plaza at 11:00 AM to car pool to The Gables, which is

the bed and breakfast in Palmyra operated by Halle Reed. A

Mary/Weller Circle will be cooking for the freezer at our April meeting, Monday the 8th. Please meet at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY TIME. Lunch will follow so bring a sandwich plus your Least Coin. A

OPTIMISTS will hold their next meeting on Friday, April 5 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy being entertained by the "Women of Note" - a Rochester group composed of 14 voices singing a mixture of different types of music.

If you are not already a member but would like to attend or want further information, please call Sue Suter at 381-5297. A

FLOWERS



from Presbyterian Women's Flower Committee

Presbyterian Women are responsible for Altar Flowers and we ask the congregation to participate in beautifying the sanctuary.

There is a weekly sign-up sheet on the easel in the narthex. Flowers may be given In Memory OR In Honor OR (birthdays, new babies, wedding anniversaries....or just because).

Flowers may come from your garden, plants, arrangements from florists, etc.

For more information please contact:

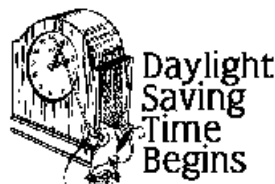
Ann Kunkel - 248-8847

Sharon Peet - 385-8788

Mary Jo Hultz - 586-6666 A

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

3/28 Thursday	Maundy Thursday Communion	7:30 PM Worship
3/29 Friday	Good Friday Worship Sanctuary Open	7:30 PM Worship 12 noon to 7:30 PM
3/31 Sunday	Easter Sunrise at Canal Park	7:00 AM Worship
3/31 Sunday	Easter Celebration	8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship



The Rev. Bruce G. Boak
Senior Pastor
Office Ext. #25

REMINDER

Turn your clocks ahead
on April 7.

The Rev. Stuart Dunsen
Interim Associate Pastor
Office Ext. #32

bgb@pittsfordpres.org

stuart.buisch@pittsfordpres.org

E-mail pitpres@frontiernet.net
Web page www.pittsfordpres.org

Dan Kulp
Director of Youth Ministry
Ext. #31
dan.kulp@pittsfordpres.org

Sandra Pacyga,
Christian Education
Director/Visiting Pastor
Office Ext. #30
sandy.pacyga@pittsfordpres.org

Dede Holmes
Director of Youth Choirs

Sharon Peet
Director of Joyful Noise

Ruth Hugenbruch
Director of Kirkringers

Janet Travis
Financial Secretary
Ext. #23
janet.travis@pittsfordpres.org

Cary Ratcliff
Director of Music
cratcliff0@aol.com

Doris Goodemote, Editor
Secretary
Ext. #21
doris.goodemote@pittsfordpres.org

Ernest Bledsoe
Custodian
Ext. #33

John Sherman
Assist. Custodian

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
21 Church Street
Pittsford, New York 14534

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First Presbyterian Church
21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534
Phone 716-586-5688, Fax #586-8090