

NewsBrief

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

April, 2006

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Have you ever wondered why the date for Easter changes each year? The date seems to swing through a span ranging from March 22 to April 25. The potential for a frosty sunrise service on one of the early March dates seems realistic in upstate New York. Well, late April isn't out of reason for that, either. It is equally puzzling to watch our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrating the resurrection on even a different date. My easy way to handle this is to have downloaded an Easter Date Calculator onto my Palm Pilot. Why? Because calculating the date of Easter seems so complicated to me.

If you are someone who wants the detailed explanation about this, you can go to the website for *Christianity Today Magazine*. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2004/114/42.0.html>

Would something a little easier help? Easter is celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. The vernal equinox is one of only two times in the year when the sun crosses the celestial equator making the length of day and night approximately equal. Western churches use the Gregorian calendar to calculate the date of Easter and Eastern Orthodox churches use the Julian calendar. Easter doesn't fall on a fixed date in either the Gregorian or Julian calendars. Instead, the dates are based on a lunar calendar, similar to the Hebrew calendar. Since the days of early church history, determining the precise date of Easter has been a matter for continued argument. For one, the followers of Christ neglected to record the exact date of Jesus' resurrection. Duh? Hello! Disciples! From here the matter gets even more complex. But, at least you know a little about this matter. My mind feels nearly fried just thinking about it.

So, in terms of more simple Easter thinking – almost simpleton thinking I offer this compilation of assorted electronic searching:

Some of The Important Things I Need to Learn about Life I Learned From the Easter Bunny!

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
All work and no play can make you a basket case.
Some body parts should be floppy.
Good things come in small-sugarcoated packages.
To show your true colors you have to come out of the shell.



Walk softly and carry a big carrot.
There's no such thing as too much candy.
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
Keep you paws off other people's jellybeans
The grass is greener in someone else's basket.



The Truly Important Things I Need to Learn about Life I Learned from Easter!

✓ Jesus died for me.
✓ Sometimes there is no resurrection without a death – no resurrection from bad habits without laying some to rest, no resurrection of a new work opportunity without giving up one that you have had.
✓ Jesus rose from the dead!
✓ I can be freed from the bondage of my sins because of Jesus' resurrection.
✓ I don't need to think about the resurrection every day, but on days when so many things seem hopeless, it is the one thing I need.

Prayerfully Pondering Welcoming New Life...

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! We will sing these words to the tune, Easter Hymn, on Sunday, April 16th. Another Easter hymn, *Hail Thee Festival Day*, celebrates the “new life Jesus gives to us all.” With Easter bonnets, chicks, bunnies, brass instruments, and bright smiles, we will welcome the Risen Christ and the new life he brings. All this pomp and circumstance reminds me of the celebration we had when we brought Rachel home from the hospital. And then our lives were changed forever!

New life in Christ changes our lives forever as well. That change can happen if we are new to this congregation, new to Christ’s church or newly awakened to God’s latest movement in our lives. At the beginning of April, we will welcome several new members to this congregation. Some have been lifelong Presbyterians, some are new to the area and some are new to the faith. They all have one thing in common: they have affirmed their belief in our risen Lord and are welcoming the change that affirmation brings in their lives.

We can welcome their affirmation and help them with the change this new life in Christ brings. How? See June Mathieu’s article about being a new member mentor family. This is just one of the ways our membership and evangelism committee is enthusiastically strengthening our welcoming capabilities. For example, did you know we have been mailing welcoming postcards to new residents in our area? We can make these available to you if you would like to personally invite neighbors or friends to the church. Watch for other welcoming opportunities in future *Newsbriefs*. Or see if God is calling you to a particular service of helping make our congregation more welcoming to all newcomers. Our membership and evangelism committee welcomes all our ideas. What has made you feel welcome in the past? What do you think we can do to make visitors feel even more welcome in the future?

And what will welcoming new members to this new life in Christ look like for us? One thing is certain: our lives will be changed as well. New people bring enthusiasm, talent, energy, fresh ideas, innovative approaches, and a fulfillment of

the promises God makes to each of us and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Easter hymns affirm, this is a grand reason to shout Alleluia!

Go with God, *Carrie*



These are the lectionary texts for the month of April. We welcome you to study in advance of their being incorporated into the Sunday worship services.

Week of Apr. 2 – Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or
Ps. 119:9-16; Heb. 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Week of Apr. 9 – Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a
Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 or
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Week of Apr. 16 – Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11 or
Act 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8

Week of Apr. 23 – Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Week of Apr. 30 – Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48



IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN...An

Important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of god’s plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.



So when you are experiencing difficult times, don’t struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders Jane Hunter, Alice O’Dwyer, Kay Saxum, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle and Carol Tiemann. **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**



The Rochester area has incredibly freakish weather. Five minutes ago, it was snowing very hard outside. Now, the sun is shining

brightly through my windows. It reminds me of trends with teenagers. One day, it's very popular to be punk and wearing hot pink and black, the next day all of your clothes should read "Abercrombie & Fitch" all over them if you really want to fit in. It's got to be pretty tough to be a teenager these days. You're accepted one day, you're downed upon the next. I don't remember acceptance being *that* difficult when I was in high school, and that was only (wow) six or seven years ago. This is what I love about being the youth director here: I get to love and teach and spend time with these students, no matter if they're punk, jock, Goth, prep, nerd, whatever. They're all awesome in God's eyes.

Things are constantly picking up speed in our church's youth ministry. We have some exciting things coming up in the next month. In mid-March, we are going to a lock-in at SUNY Brockport put on by 4 other churches. It is attended by many area churches and should be a fun-filled night. Be sure to be in worship on March 26th to see our incredible senior high students do the annual youth service. I've seen some of the planning for the service and I am really excited to see it all put together. These students have some awesome insights to share about our amazing God during this season of Lent.

During junior high and senior high youth group (JYF and MTC) for the coming month and a half, we will be doing a series on Jesus. Jesus was not only God, but he was also a person and went through the same feelings and experiences that we can go through in our own lives. This is only one of the reasons why Jesus was so great. He can relate with us on our level. We'll be looking at a few instances in the gospels, starting from early on when Jesus got left by his parents in the temple. Then we'll finish on Palm Sunday with discussion about what it meant for Jesus to show up in Jerusalem on a donkey amongst palms.

Our mission teams have met together and are getting along great! We still have one more spot on the junior high trip to York, PA and two spots on the senior high trip to Wilmington, NC. (Also, if you are an adult male who would love to attend one of these trips with our teens, please let me know. We are in HUGE need!) Our students have been discussing some awesome fundraising ideas. We will be doing "Dine to Donate" evenings at Applebee's and Uno's, our Mission: Possible Cabaret in May, bake sales, video game tournaments, and more! See the list below of dates set. Also, look for our set up during

Coffee Hour after services and come talk to some of the students that are going this year!

Well, that's all for now. I pray that you all have a safe and peaceful beginning to the spring season (or does that start in June around here?) For the weather record, it is now cloudy and windy outside.

Peace, Niki J

****Reminders****

Sunday, March 26th: Senior high youth services at 8:30am and 10:00am

Tuesday, April 18th: Rochester Redwings Game...6:00pm...\$10...sign up by April 13th

****Missions Fundraisers****

Monday, March 20th: Pittsford Plaza Applebee's...4pm-9pm...you MUST have a coupon for us to get the proceeds!

Sunday, April 9th: Uno's on Pittsford-Victor Road (across from Eastview Mall)...11:30am-3:30pm...you MUST have a coupon for us to get the proceeds!

Friday, May 19th: Mission: Possible Cabaret... Fellowship Hall...6:30pm-9:00pm (if you have anything you would like to donate for a basket for our auction, please contact Niki ASAP)



ADULT LEARNING: A (7) WEEK STUDY OF LUKE

Where: In the Library
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 AM
The Leader: Tim Smith



OPTIMISTS – The April meeting of the Optimists will be held Saturday, April 8, at 6:15 P.M., in Fellowship Hall. That's right, SATURDAY, APRIL 8. This change was brought about in order to bring Muhammad Shafiq to speak to us. Dr. Shafiq was born in Pakistan where he received both a traditional Islamic and western education. He received his Ph.D. in Religion from Temple University and is currently the Executive Director/Imam of the Islamic Center of Rochester and Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialog, Nazareth College. His topic will be "Feasts and Customs of Islam", and he will answer questions following that.

Please bring your covered dish and table service, as usual, and items for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. If you have questions, call Sue Suter (381-5297).

MONTHLY SUNDAY "SUPER SERIES" CONTINUES

This monthly discussion series continues, through June, with a focus on service programs and other activities for retired members of the congregation and those contemplating retirement. ALL are encouraged to attend and gain added perspectives on life in this complex 21st century.

On April 9th, Mr. PATRICK SIMPSON, from the Nixon Peabody Law Firm, will be the presenter. Patrick is a Nazareth College graduate and earned his law degree, (Magna Cum Laude) from the Albany Law School of Union College. He is a member of the New York State and Monroe County Bar Associations and has particular expertise in Estate and Gift Tax planning and counsels individuals in these matters. He also works with business clients in planning immigration strategy and preparing Visa petitions. Mark your calendars - this will be a very interesting session !

On May 7th, NANCY WATSON, RN, PhD., and "one of ours" at the FPCP, will be the presenter. Nancy is the Director, Center For Clinical Research on Aging - School Of Nursing, University of Rochester. She is also the Director of the John A. Hartford Foundation Community Institute To Improve Nursing Home and Dementia Care. Nancy will be discussing ALZHEIMERS and DEMENTIA to include what we know now, consequences for caregivers, where to go for help and more. Come, and gain valuable insights, on this topic that has impacted so many of our friends and loved ones.

The SUPER SERIES is held in the Second Floor CHAPEL, from 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. . following coffee "hour" in Fellowship Hall. QUESTIONS ENCOURAGED – ANSWERS PROVIDED.



GOLFING HELPS CAMERON ~ Cameron Community Ministries, a project in Rochester supported by the Outreach Committee of First Presbyterian Church is holding its annual fund raising golf outing on Friday, June 9 at eagle Vale in Fairport. If you would like to participate, gather a foursome (in the case of Rev. Boak that would be a fore-some) then contact Kathy Pearce, CCM Director by phone at 254-2697 or email at ccmexec@rochester.rr.com.

Cameron Community Ministries serves the Lyell-Ottis community in the northwest Rochester with a clothing house, hot lunches, kids café, after-school tutoring and work programs

WHO WANTS TO GO TO SUMMER CAMP!?!

Children and youth going into grades 3 through 12 in the fall of 2006 can grow closer to God while having the time of their lives at Camp Whitman this summer!



Camp Whitman, a program of the Geneva and Genesee Valley Presbyteries, has been providing growing experiences to children, youth and developmentally challenged adults for more than 25 years. Camps are small and function as family groups. A nurse is on-site 24 hours a day. Camp Whitman is located on Seneca Lake in the beautiful Finger Lakes and close to Rochester. Scholarships may be available, if needed.

General and specialized camps include music, creative arts, sailing, biking, kayaking, and hiking with off-site camps going to New York City, canoeing in the Adirondacks or along the Erie Canal. Camps are held from July 2 through August 18.

Want more information? Check the display on the youth board in the hall off the kitchen or go to www.CampWhitman.org. Better yet, make reservations for the Famous Chicken Barbecue and Open House Sunday, June 4 from 11:30 am to 6 pm.

Camp Whitman has been a mission project of the First Presbyterian Church for many years. We have had many of our children attend over the years. Let's make it your summer tradition!



INTERESTED IN ADMINISTERING HOME COMMUNION? ~

Saturday, March 25, 2006 - 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Betty Minemier, Elder, Dansville Presbyterian Church

For all elders and deacons of the congregation. In our *Book of Order* (G-6.0304) . . . *specific Elders may be authorized . . . to administer the Lord's Supper* (G-11.0103z). And, *The serving of the elements may be extended, by two or more ordained officers of the church, to those isolated from the community's worship, provided . . . it is as a direct extension of the serving of the gathered congregation . . .* (W-3.3616 e1.) and they have been *trained in the doctrine and administration of the Lord's Supper*. This brief yearly training will prepare ordained laity to administer this sacrament to shut-ins, members in nursing facilities, or hospitals when a clergy person is not available. Elders and Deacons, including those previously trained, will find the training useful. It is an important ministry and a joy to extend the sacrament to others.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday, March 23, 2006. Please contact SUSAN ORR at 242-0099 or sorr@pbygenval.org

Organ Notes

Bob Peet
James Douthit



The first of a series of events meant to bring new people from our community into our new church and to raise additional funds for the new pipe organ was held on Sunday, March 5. Approximately 60 people from our congregation and the community in general attended a delightful display of Irish dancing in Fellowship Hall, with a reception following. This attendance was in addition to the dancers and their parents, themselves. We were quite pleased with this first event combining both Outreach and the Music program.

Our next event is a Spaghetti Supper, again in Fellowship Hall, being put on by the Chancel Choir. It will be from 5 PM to 7 PM, on Friday evening, March 31. Tickets will be on sale after church services in Fellowship Hall and will be \$7 per adult, \$4 per child under 12. Come find out how good our choir is at making spaghetti! Who knows, this might become a second career for them.

Paul Stuart's Equinox Symphony will present a recital on April 30, at 3 PM featuring Bonita Boyd, flute, and Nicholas Goluses, guitar, in the Sanctuary. On May 7, the Concentus choral group will perform in our Sanctuary. You might well want to mark your calendars for these upcoming events, now.



Important news about the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING special offering

Be on the lookout for an important letter being sent to you shortly that will contain information about the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. Included with the letter will be an envelope to make your contribution, which will be formally received on Palm and Easter Sundays, April 9 and 16 respectively.

Contributions to this offering support the work of The Presbyterian Committee for the [Self-Development of People](#), [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#), and the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#)

The letter will contain special mention about the important support PDA provided for our volunteers who recently went to Pearlinton, Mississippi to assist families devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Please note the great news that once again a member of our congregation has graciously offered to match dollar for dollar all contributions made to this offering up to \$10,000!

If you cannot attend church on either Palm or Easter Sundays, contributions can be made any time up to May 7. Your generous contribution to God's children in need, which will be doubled by the matching gift, is so important- and greatly appreciated.

Membership & Evangelism

I recall back to the summer I was 7 years old. My mother decided that I was old enough to go away for two weeks to an overnight camp for girls. Now my mother was always my champion and she knew that I might be a little homesick and have some trouble adjusting. So she arranged for her friend Jean's daughter Georgie to look out for me while I was there.

Off I went to Camp Shewanika and really all I remember about the camp is the time that I spent with Georgie. Every morning she would pick me up at the 7-year-old cabin and I felt very grown up walking with the older girls down to the dining hall. At night, I sat with them by the campfire and I also recall her showing me the different paths through the woods leading to various parts of the camp.

All of this comes to mind as we are looking for individuals, couples and families who would be willing to "look out for" or mentor our new members coming into our church. Your obligation would be only for a short time span – 4- 6 weeks. If you have been looking for a way to serve the church without a long time commitment then this is for you! Our Membership Committee would arrange for the New Members and the Mentors to meet just before church. You could sit together in church or not depending on your situation. You could meet after church and have coffee in Fellowship Hall. All the while you would be introducing them to all your friends and acquaintances in the church. You could tell them about the different groups you have enjoyed and generally share your world at First Pres. It may be that your interaction extends further into lunches and or dinners but it doesn't have to be anything more than Sunday mornings for this short period of time.

If you would like to be a new member mentor, a go-to person just like Georgie was for me, give a call to June Mathieu 670-9492 or Doris in the church office.



Have the Experience of a Lifetime Join 93-Year-Old Christ's Globetrotter Ted Pollock For a Summer Mission Trip

There are plans to build a church in Ribaue, Mozambique from August 6 – September 10, 2006. Volunteers are needed for part of or all of the five work weeks. Contact Ron Pollock 248-8096 or ronpollock@aol.com to express interest or for further information.