

NewsBrief

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

April 2008

Prayerfully Pondering April Awareness...

I have been meditating upon the hymn, *My Song Is Love Unknown*, which we frequently sang during Lent. Verse two says:

Christ came from heaven's throne, salvation to bestow,
But people scorned and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, My Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!

Christ is our model of friendship. In John 15:13-14, Jesus says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."

Friends matter. Friends who follow Christ make miracles happen. Consider the story of Jesus healing the disabled man found in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Seeing the enormous crowds, including Pharisees from far and wide, the disabled man's friends cut a hole in the roof where Jesus was teaching, and lowered him on his mat before Jesus. Only after Jesus noted the faith of his friends, did Jesus tell the disabled man, "Stand up and walk." The friends' aggressive confidence in Jesus' healing power were the spark to the flame.

Many of you have sparked our faith recently. Our daughter Rachel was diagnosed with autism in late February and we have relied upon God's grace, buoyed by this family of faith's witness, to hopefully walk in the light.

April is Autism Awareness Month. It is also the season of Easter when we live in the hope created by the Risen Son and the longer-lingering rising sun. As I think of past Easters, I fondly remember playing with, sending and receiving cards with Easter Seals. I have even greater reason now to appreciate that organization's efforts to expand research into many developmental disabilities.

Given the fact that each of us can point to something painful in our lives in need of God's healing, I propose that we think of April not as Autism Awareness Month, but as Almighty Awareness Month. The friends of the disabled man so thoroughly believed in Christ's healing power that he was able to pick up his mat and go. Sometimes we cannot have that kind of faith ourselves, but those around us can have it for us.

Who can have that faith for you? For whom can you have that faith? I deeply thank each of you for helping us when we needed such faith-filled friends. May you know that faithful friendship here and in your own walk with God.

Go With God,

Carrie

YOUTH PAGE

Good Day to all of you! We are getting into that great time of year, when the snow starts to thaw and the flowers will begin blooming any day now. Spring is my favorite time of year. It's the best time for taking walks and paying attention to how God shows us the renewal of creation.

We had our 30 Hour Famine in February, where our youth raised just over \$3000 to help fight poverty and hunger related disease in many countries around the world. We did a canned food drive and collected over 400 items for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. We even painted one of the walls in the youth room! Plans are underway for our summer mission trips.

Thank you to all who attended and supported and helped us pull off our first Family Fun Night! It was a great time. Keep an eye out for our upcoming fundraisers and thank you always for your support of First Presbyterian's Youth!



Junior High

March 30 - SO-SO! 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
...continuing our video discussion series!
Cost is \$2

April 26 - Mission Madness...8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Cost is \$5...you MUST RSVP by April 6 (due to Spring Break)

April 27- SO-SO! 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM...
continuing our video discussion series!

May 10 - White Water Rafting @
Letchworth Park! 7:30 AM - 2/3:00 PM
Cost is \$35 including lunch & gear rental...
RSVP to Niki ASAP...We have 14 spots
left!

****Upcoming Mission Fundraisers****
April 27 - Bake Sale!

May 18 - Mission: Possible Cabaret
Brunch...complete with baskets for
bidding & more! Looking for musical
performers too!

Senior High

April 6 - Awesome! 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM...
still going with our video discussion series!
Talking about Discipleship...\$2 for snacks

April 26 - Mission Madness...8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Cost is \$5...you MUST RSVP by April 6 (due to Spring Break)

May 4 - Our last Awesome of the
year...talking about Forgiveness from
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

May 10 - White Water Rafting @
Letchworth Park! 7:30 AM - 2/3:00 PM.
Cost is \$35 including lunch & gear rental...
RSVP to Niki ASAP...There are 14 spots
left!

Christian Education News:

Nathan Zampella

New life – the awe of Easter and the hope in springtime. Ultimately, new life is a promise of our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. At First Presbyterian Church, it is the Christian Education Committee's privilege to provide experiences where all can learn awe, hope, and of God's promises to His creation.

As a Christ follower, it is your responsibility to seek out experiences that will help you to grow in awe, hope and in God's promises. None of us can do it alone. Thank you for choosing this church family to walk with in the journey of life.

Sunday School – The Journey to the Cross has led our K-6th graders through the last week of Jesus' life. His death is always difficult to teach to younger ones, but it produced some thought provoking questions from the children: "Why did God make bad people?" "What is heaven like?" "Did Judas feel bad for telling on Jesus?"

Following Easter, there will be two weeks devoted to the Resurrection and celebrating new life.

The next Unit, Pentecost, will begin on April 27th. This will be the final unit of the school year.

If you've been thinking about teaching, or helping out in Sunday School, and your schedule frees up in spring or summer, please let me know ASAP. There are a few positions open for the Pentecost Unit, and we will be rolling out our summer program plans soon.

Adult Education – Lucien has been busy over several of the past Sunday mornings at 8:30, leading discussions on topics of Apologetics and how we can intellectually reason much of what we believe. Thank you to Kim for helping as well.

As we move into April, the 8:30 class is going to *confront the news with Scripture and hope!*

Each Sunday we will look at a topic pulled directly from that week's headlines. We'll look at applicable Bible passages that relate to the topic, and we will reflect and discuss how this news is relevant to us as Christ followers.

These discussions are perfect for those that want to keep up with current events from a Christian perspective, but don't have time to search the Bible for application. Each week will be a new headline!

If you'd like to receive the study prior to our Sunday discussion, I can email it to anyone that gives me their email address. Send me a note at Nathan.zampella@pittsfordpres.org

Logos – Congratulations to the many, many volunteers that contributed to making another great year for the children and youth in Logos. The regular program completes at the end of March, and will resume mid-September. If you'd like to help out next year, it's never too early to express your intention to anyone on the Logos Board.

Educational Offerings at a Glance:

Call the church office or email Nathan Zampella (nathan.zampella@pittsfordpres.org) for details about the following regular events:

Sunday

- 8:30am Adult Education
- 10:00am Serendipity Bible Study
- 10:00am Nursery and children's program for ages birth through 4 years.
- 10:00am Senior High Forum
- Mouse Report during 10am service will release K-8th grades to Sunday School.

Wednesday

- 9:30am Bible Study
- Logos Children's Program (Sept. – Mar.)
- 7:15pm Bible Study

Thursday

- Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
- Bethel Bible Study

Lectionary for April

3rd Sunday of Easter

Week of Apr. 6 – Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

4th Sunday of Easter

Week of Apr. 13 – Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

5th Sunday of Easter

Week of Apr. 20 – Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

6th Sunday of Easter

Week of Apr. 27 – Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21



Remember how much you enjoyed the **Sacred Favorites Concert** in October 2006 with Harold McAulliffe, James Douthit and the Chancel Choir? The **Sacred Favorites**

II Concert promises to be every bit as inspiring on Sunday, **May 4th at 3 pm.** James has created another superb program featuring Harold singing solo and accompanied by the choir. James will again showcase our fabulous Steinway as only he can. The concert will be recorded and CD's will be available soon after the concert. Freewill donations will be accepted for the concert



Spring Choir Opportunities For K-6th grades



Begin Wednesday April 2 and run
Through June 4:

- Wee Kirksingers: K-2nd – will meet from 4-4:45 in the choir room. We'll focus on 'finding' our singing voices, and enjoying music and movement.
- Celebrate Choir Plus: 3rd – 6th will meet from 4:45-5:45 in the choir room. We'll combine our ringing and singing choirs in this time frame.
- Choirs will participate in worship on May 4 and June 8 (Children's Day)
- Questions?? Contact Dede Holmes for additional info at dmh91654@aol.com.

This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation as the new organ will be installed during the month of April.

Our young singers will be able to see the progress as this wonderful event unfolds.



The Secret Super Spaghetti Sauce Supper surfaces on the scene on Friday, **April 11th** from 5-7pm. Purchase your tickets after church on March 28th and April 4th. It's still a bargain at \$8 for Adults and \$5 for kids under 12 years of age. Bring your family, relatives and friends for a special time of fellowship and yummy food.



The **Optimists** will hold their monthly meeting Friday, April 4, at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall.

“ Saving the World on Weekends” will be the topic of our guest speaker, Deborah Naybor. Deborah works to create self-sustainable income for poor villages around the world and in parts of the United States. She has a group of college students going to Uganda in May to volunteer at a school and would very much appreciate it if we could collect some supplies for them to take. Besides bringing your dish to pass and table service, consider bringing colored pencils, crayons, Bandaids, water colors, paint brushes, chalk, colored chalk and pens. If you have questions, or would like to be placed on the calling list, call Kay Weisenbeck, 241-3184.



Who will know... about my problem if I talk to a Stephen Minister? This is a question many people ask. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of Stephen Ministry.



No one knows what is talked about in a caring relationship except for the person him- or herself and the Stephen Minister. If you have a burden you need to share, perhaps a Stephen Minister can help. To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum (385-9807), Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.*

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

*** Project Needlepoint Maintenance
Committee**

Stitching Project

Our stitching project is coming to an end pretty soon. It is time to establish the future care program for maintaining all the beautiful cushions that have been restored and re-stitched since the fire. There are 12 on the Chancel, 12 in the Narthex and 6 on smaller benches in the Lobby. The chancel has missed 2 white petit point candle drops, 1 white petit point bookmark and 1 cushion for the Communion Bench, and we have been fortunate that the white Antependium [Pulpit Fall] was restored early on. Bench cushions should now be the concern of our congregation, just as they were pre-fire. The Needlepoint Chairperson has always set up the Summer Team--April through Sept. as well as the Winter Team October through March.

Over 100 members have stitched and even re-stitched these HERITAGE PIECES to last 200 years IF properly attended to. These Teams of 2 started 2 year terms back in 1987. There have been 12 Teams of Willing Volunteers until the fire. Since 2006 the committee has cared for the cushions. Currently Maura Rouse and Karen Rhodes are the Winter Team. Usually we hope for 2 year commitment, some did 3 or 4 years.

The Plan--Member Volunteers are needed for Summer and Winter Teams each year. Perhaps Cottage people will do Winter--Florida people do Summer ????? or anyone over 18, male or female with young people urged to participate too. New members have an opportunity to volunteer and make a new friend. We are pleased with the work we have done and the compliments we have been told about for our beautiful Lobby, Narthex and Chancel. Not only have they beautified the church but they have enhanced our Worship.

The job is not difficult. No vacuum cleaner is used [James Messenger is our pro and does this every 6 months.] You will have an orientation and hands on training by one of us. While one damp-cleans and dries the bench, the other inspects with a magnifier for flaws, missed stitches, stains or marks in the needlework. Garden gloves are used with the plastic nubbins in them to lightly brush canvas in direction of stitching to remove dust. This technique has been valuable monthly. NO REPAIRS are made by you. Simply phone your findings each to month the person in charge.

WE NEED YOU:

ONCE a MONTH at your convenience, when the church office is open, about one hour of your time--your choice. Please call 586-2480 to learn more.

Thank you for your interest and time to think this over for now, 'or in the future'.

There are 3 Needlepoint books [joined with a rubber band], telling you the meaning of every design on all of the 55 pieces we have stitched. We will have sets on the Welcome Table in the Lobby for you to take and keep. [See Doris, in office if more are needed, or call me.] The Library has detailed scrap books of all 3 programs with many pictures. Doris will access the 2 beautiful 'Memorial Books' for you, if you are interested in them.

Sally Day [Mentor] – 248-5480 for information and/or volunteering



RAIHN

The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) is a non-profit organization of faith communities, that assists homeless families achieve sustainable independence by supporting them with resources of food, shelter, case management and a broad network of caring volunteers. Pittsford Presbyterian Church is currently a support congregation to Asbury Methodist Church. The next rotation for giving our help will be for the week beginning on April 20, 2008. More volunteers are always needed to help cook and serve dinner, help children with homework in the evening or stay overnight. In addition, Pittsford Pres is hoping to become a host congregation at some time in the near future, so volunteers will be needed for additional tasks such as washing bedding, purchasing food/snacks, or helping set up rooms for the guests.

So if you can help the week of April 20 at Asbury, or would like more information about volunteering here in Pittsford, please watch for sign-up in Fellowship Hall after church or contact Barbara Smith at 586-0754 or wsmith4@rochester.rr.com.



Improving Church Communication



from your Deacons' Communications Committee . . .

Communication between the church and its members is an important element of maintaining a church's family of faith. Although church communication has always used the **phone** and **mail services** in the past, it is now apparent that **email** is also a major route for communication. Numerous church members use email daily or regularly and love the speed and availability of this communication mode and the ease it provides to reply if necessary from the comfort of their homes.

For this reason, and in an effort to improve communication services to all of our members, the church will collect one email "contact address" from each of its member families. Your Zone Deacon will be contacting you to obtain your contact email address—if it is available. If you do not have an email address or do not wish to share it, your Zone Deacon will insure that you receive all communication from the church in the usual manner.

The church will assure that proper safeguards are in place to prevent illicit use of the email. The fact that email does not require paper or a stamp helps our church become more fiscally responsible and environmentally conscious.

In the event of a catastrophic event (fire) or a need to cancel church services, etc. (snowstorm), the church will now have a means to instantly alert many of its members as well as by phone, visit, or mail. Please feel comfortable discussing this new method of communication with your deacon when he or she calls.



Pittsford Food Cupboard

You can help. There is always a need for non-perishable food: cereal, fruit juice, canned fruit and vegetables, canned beef, chicken or ham products, pasta and pasta sauce and/or paper products. Our collection bin is in the small room off the main entrance.

Our Website Will be Changing

We are starting a project to re-design our Church's website. The site provides information about our many activities and keeps our members in touch with each other. It is also a way to reach out to new members and the community.

We are starting to define the changes that we'd like to make. If you group would like to have input into this process, please contact Bob Klie at bklie@frontiernet.net or through the church office.



An Invite to All: CE Directors, Youth Ministry Leaders, Ministers and Youth Advisors

"Youth Ministry" a seminar with speaker Robin Olson, a Methodist Minister, who is currently the Protestant Chaplain at Nazareth College. Robin previously led the Youth Program at Asbury First UMC. Robin brings tremendous energy, insights, and gifts to working with youth. You won't want to miss this seminar.

When: Sat. April 19 – 9:00 AM – 12 Noon

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

Contact: Darlene Isaac, Christian Education Director, Christ Clarion Presbyterian Church – 381-5090, email DarHI24@aol.com.

RSVP: by Sunday, April 13

Topic Requests: Robin is interested in what is on your hearts and minds concerning youth and your ministry with them. Contact Darlene by email or phone with any requests you have before the RSVP date.

Sponsored by: Presbyterian Youth Ministry People

We currently meet at 10:00 AM at the Bagel Bin, 12 Corners in Brighton, before the Presbytery's CE Brown Bag. We talk about Youth Ministry stuff and we plan fun, fellowship, faith events! Join us for our next meeting on march 25 at 10:00 AM.