

NewsBrief

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

December 2007

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

It's an incredibly valuable commodity – second only to oil. Americans drink 2.3 billion pounds of the stuff a year, more than any other country. And it's very possible that we at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford are responsible for about half of this consumption. We go through a lot of coffee around this place and if it isn't being consumed during our fellowship time after worship, then it is imbibed during meetings and events when we gather. At least we go through a large number of cups and the order for coffee is frequent. And, if it isn't strong enough here, people slip over to Starbucks or Finger Lakes Coffee Roasters.

We have kept Juan Valdez busy. You have surely seen Juan on television – he's the fictional coffee grower who has been featured in ads for decades now, helping to establish "100 percent Colombian coffee" as an international brand.

Problem is, Juan is getting old. *Fast Company* magazine (May 2007) reports that he has become a bit of a joke, with recent ads showing him surfing – yes, *surfing* – with his faithful mule Conchita. Silly stuff! The National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia saw this, and was very close to sending him off to the old folks' home for advertising icons.

Then a consultant from Portland, Oregon, advised them to hold on to Juan "Juan Valdez taps into a fundamental human truth," said the consultant – "the things we savor the most are the hardest earned." Juan still has value as someone who is dedicated to the hard work of raising coffee by hand. So the federation of coffee growers is introducing a new younger Juan, instead of retiring him, believing that people emotionally connect with Juan because he seems authentic, and authenticity is a priceless quality. If authenticity is important for coffee, it must certainly be important for us.

Companies everywhere are sensing that consumers gravitate toward brands that appear to be true and genuine. Organic foods are flying off the shelves because consumers sense that they are connected to farming practices that are healthy and good. BMW's Mini taps into people's natural desire for joy and authentic freedom on the road. So authenticity is hot. But how do you tell the difference between what is "really real" and what is "fake real"?

We raise the authenticity question because this is the issue John the Baptist raises while locked up in prison for offending King Herod. Remember John the Baptist who seems to emerge every Advent and we will be reading how he sent his disciples to Jesus to have them ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3). John wanted to know if Jesus was the authentic messiah or not.

There were lots of false messiahs running around the region, claiming to be God's one and only. One of these, Judas of Galilee led a bloody revolt against a Roman census in the year 6. Simon was a slave of Herod who became a messianic figure when he rebelled in the year 4. Theudas attempted a revolt against the Romans in the 40s, and was killed. There was no shortage of fake messiahs claiming to be authentic.

So what does it take to be an Authentic Disciple of an Authentic Messiah? Well it probably takes more than exchanging packages and decorating trees. It takes a heart convicted that God so wanted to speak to human kind a divine message of peace and hope, that God concluded that the most effective way to communicate this message was to announce it with angels and come to earth in human form.

I suppose that if we want to be Authentic Disciples, we will need to align ourselves with Jesus and his distinctive, even radical, way of life. "Let your light shine before others", he said, "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (5:16). Perhaps this is where authentic Christmas starts.

But, if you are required to follow those instructions after everyone is asleep that begin with the word, "This is so simple that even a child can assemble it", brew a cup of real authentic, caffeine laden coffee. The fake or decaffeinated stuff just won't carry you through the night.

WEB CLUB NEXT OFFERINGS

All meetings start at 7:30

January 9, 2008 - "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See. Home of Nancy Sprenkle, 103 Stuyvesant Road

Set in remote 19th-century China, *Snow Flower and the Antique Fan* details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends Lily and Snow Flower, their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women and their betrayal by pride and love. The story widens to a vivid portrait of family and village life. Most impressive is See's incorporation of *nu shu*, a secret written phonetic code among women that dates back 1,000 years in the southwestern Hunan province.



World AIDS Day Service of Prayer and Spiritual Healing

Reflection by Rev Robert Arrington Assistant Pastor, Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church - Sunday, December 2, 2007 - 7 PM Chapel Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School - 1100 S Goodman St, Rochester - Enter via Strong Hall



Optimist Christmas Party December 7

Christmas Music by Women of Note
Catering by René's Café in Fairport
Punch 6:15 pm Dinner 6:30 pm
\$9 tickets will be available after each service

November 25 and December 2

(Please remember to bring your own place settings)



The "Women of Note" vocal group will kick off the 2008 Concerts on Sunday, January 6 at 3:00 PM with an Epiphany concert. They will sing song from "Still, Still, Still", "Blow Blow" and "Midwinter" to "Peter Piper's Fugue" a children's tongue twister. Share in the fun these talented women have when they sing. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Notes from Janet Travis Financial Secretary

If you plan on selling stock to fulfill a pledge, please call me at the church office. There are some new instructions effective 12/3/07. And please try to get it to me, or have your broker transfer it as early in December as possible. Thank you.

I have had several inquires re: direct deposit pledge payments to the church. If you are interested in doing this, please call me at the church office and I can give you the account # and routing #.



LIBRARY DONATIONS

from Bev Reeve

Mary Weller Circle has donated books to the church library in memory of two of their circle members. *The Anatomy of Hope - How People Prevail in the Face of Illness* by Jerome Groopman, M.D. was given in memory of Trudy Cayo. *Pearls of Great Price - 366 Devotional Readings* by Joni Tada was donated in memory of Martha Wilmot.

Chris Longyear has donated an updated edition in today's language of the daily devotional, *The Utmost For His Highest* by Oswald Chambers.

A copy of Chet Nothard's memoirs, *The Good Old Days* has been added to the church library collection. It includes growing up during the Depression and his three years in the Army Air Force flying bombing missions in Europe during WWII.

Ted Pollock has donated two *Talking Bibles* to our church library. Throughout his years as a mission builder in Africa Ted was involved with making scripture available to non-readers in hundreds of translations. Initially hand-cranked recorders were used, and were later replaced with battery operated and solar powered types. Today, with the *Talking Bible* there is a simple, easy-to-operate, plastic listening device that looks like a Bible, is run on batteries or an adapter, and contains the entire New Testament. It would be particularly useful to those with impaired vision or who are blind, and those who are ill.



ANNUAL HAM SUPPER ON DEC. 16TH



Tickets go on sale Sunday morning,
Nov. 25th (after each service)
for the Annual Ham Supper to be held Dec. 16.
The supper immediately follows the Christmas
Pageant presented by the youth of our church.
Join us for a delightful evening of fellowship and
fun complete with a delicious meal.

Tickets will be on sale Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and
Dec. 9.

Don't forget to buy yours soon!

Ticket prices are: \$6 – Adult \$3 – Child



SINCE THE FIRE ~ Pierce and Sally Day,
James Messenger and Maura Rouse have done
the inspection and cleaning of Needlepoint
Cushions on the Chancel, in the Narthex and in
the Lobby. With Ernie's tremendous help, these
cushions are protected from activities on
Wednesdays, during Logo's, the Penny Pincher
Sale crowds etc. It is time for us to ask your
help!!!!!!

I am delighted to announce that KAREN
RHODES has volunteered for our "Winter Team"
and she needs another Volunteer for this Team.
Could this be you?????? [I will be calling for
"The Summer Team" of 2 Volunteers to help in
April] For us to properly care for these Heritage
Pieces--they will last 200 years and the past 23
years proves our success in their care, despite
the fire 2 years ago.

Call Sally Day--248-5480. Hands on teaching,
requires 2 monthly volunteers for 1 1/2 hours--or
less, work together or individually, your choice of
time. Supplies given at time of instruction. Enjoy
meeting a new friend, fellowship in doing a
short-term volunteer job for enhancement of the
Needlepoint during Worship. Men, women, age
18 and up. I will look forward to your call.
Thank You.

Sally Day--Mentor of Church Needlepoint
Judy Johnson--Chairperson,
Martha Crawford -- Co-Chairperson

*On Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 pm support
the **Christmas Mission Concert**. The concert
will feature music by some of the very talented
youth of First Presbyterian Church, the
Allendale Columbia Girls Choir and the
Allendale Columbia Brass Band with Martin
Appelo.*



The case of our organ is now taking shape! This is a
recent photograph taken at the Taylor and Boody
shop in Virginia. Most of the empty spaces seen in
this picture will be filled with face pipes, those that
will be visible.

At the time the overall construction of the organ is
about 60% complete. This includes the individual
pipes, which will be placed inside the case shown
here, and the wind chests that can't be seen from the
front of the organ.



**IN ORDER TO HELP WORSHIP SERVICES
BEGIN ON TIME**, we are implementing a change of
policy concerning announcements. If an
announcement is printed in the bulletin, it will not be
repeated orally. Any spoken announcements will
begin promptly at five minutes prior to the Worship
Service. Announcers should be standing in the
chancel, ready to speak one minute or less. Requests
to give a spoken announcement should be made
to Rev. Boak, no later than the previous Friday.

Membership & Evangelism

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

from Trudy Bartleson, M & E Committee

Willa Broughton and Michael Goldrick.

We're delighted to welcome Willa and Michael who come to us from Seattle, WA. Michael is employed by WHEC Channel 10. They have three children; Brendan 15, Emma 12, and Connor 8. They reside at 10 Park Forest Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534. Phone number 385-2818.

David and Joanne Churchill

A warm welcome to David & Joanne who are joining our congregation. David is an Information Technology Consultant and his interests include computers, scuba diving and spending time with his family and three dogs. They reside at 1031 Wegman Road, Rochester, NY 14624. Phone: 730-8310

Jean Groff

It is a great joy to welcome Jean, a special friend, into our church family. Jean is a retired Kodak employee and prior to that a Fairport High School teacher. Her interests have been photography and watercolor painting and she has given many slide shows of her travels. She resides at Valley Manor, 1570 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610 Phone: 442-8138.

Paul Bryon and Kamlin "Katherine" Hill

It is a pleasure to welcome Paul and Kamlin to our church. He is employed at Professional Financial Strategies, Inc. and their hobbies include financial research and writing and travel and reading. Their mailing address is PO Box 1010, Pittsford, NY 14534 and phone: 586-3006 (work) and 210-9080 (work), 737-8000 (cell).

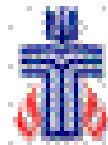
Are You Experiencing the Christmas Blues?

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum (385-9807), Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.* **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**



NAME TAG ORDER FORM:

To order a new church nametag with bigger print or to replace a lost or damaged name tag, please fill out the form below (enclose a check to cover costs payable to Norma Ryther) and mail both the check and form to:



Norma Ryther
22 Cambric Circle
Pittsford, New York 14534

Your Name

1. PRINT NAME TO BE ON NAME TAG:

(First) _____

(Last) _____

2. Circle type of name tag: **PIN(\$4.80)**
CLIP (\$4.80) MAGNET (\$7.00)

3. Enclose check to cover costs and mail to N. Ryther.