

N ewsbrief

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

February, 2002

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

“Wildebeest!” How’s that for a New Year’s word? I just read in *Wild Watch Magazine* that the annual movement of wildebeest and other grazing herbivores across the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem is one of the greatest spectacles in the natural world. Apparently over 2 million herbivores participate in this migration with some 200,000 zebra ahead of, and 500,000 Thomson’s gazelle behind. The main players are one and a half million wildebeest. This phenomenon is determined by the availability of grazing, which is dependent upon rainfall.

There are other factors shaping this seasonal movement, too. But, the most interesting thing about the great migration is the way in which the wildebeest themselves have shaped the structure of the ecosystems upon which they depend. The composition of grass species is influenced by their grazing. Those that tolerate the pressure out-compete those that cannot. Indeed, some grasses only flourish when constantly grazed.

Once intrigued with the story of wildebeest, I read about the migration of salmon and then stories of doves. Releasing them at weddings is now becoming “fashionable” in some parts of the country. Haven’t you wondered about the legends of dogs and cats who have made a 1,000 mile trek or more to find their owners who have moved and left them behind. The dogs and cats and doves make it back home. Something even more spectacular seems to happen with the monarch butterfly.

I’m not a lepidopterist (that is a word worth something in 2002 . . . it means, “butterfly watcher”). However, Sue Halpern in her book, *Four Wings and Prayer; Caught in the Mystery of the Monarch Butterfly* tells how, monarchs migrate from the Eastern United States to a handful of sites in Mexico. There they rest over the winter for their return trip home. But here’s the amazing part; “No individual butterfly ever goes to Mexico and back, yet thousands converge on the same few sites year after year.” These insects know where to go. But, none of them has ever been there before

A monarch born in the Adirondack will fly to Mexico, spend the winter, and leave in March. It will fly North laying eggs on milkweed in Texas and Florida before dying. Butterflies born of those eggs will continue northward and so will their offspring. By August, another monarch, four generations removed from the one that left New York for Mexico the previous summer, will emerge and do the same thing. It will aim for a place it has never been.

At the beginning of this New Year, we no doubt wish we had the unerring instincts of wildebeest, salmon, or especially the monarch. We pursue the kingdom of God over the course of changing seasons. We ride the wind of the Spirit. We have a mysterious instinct for God, generation after generation. Sometimes we try to chart our own course, pursue private spirituality, snatching up religious books with self-help suggestions. (Interestingly seven in ten Americans now say they can be religious without participation in a community of faith, a radical departure from the faith of the scriptures.) We tend to think we can journey through life alone. Interestingly no one monarch completes the journey solo, but always in community of other butterflies.

I like Sue Halpern’s observation, “Christians, like monarch butterflies, are drawn to a home we have never seen before. We fly in faith, carried only by God’s grace, mystery, revelation, and power.” We really don’t quite know where 2002 will take us, but if together we seek to go where God leads it will be all right. We will eventually get to our eternal home. A

Bruce



STU'S SPOT

We have had one presentation by a Muslim woman; Dr. Shafiq, of the Islamic Center on Westfall Road will be with us on January 20; and we will hear from another Muslim woman on February 24, who brings a different culture and history with her experience of her faith. You may be wondering why. With the current global issue of terrorism it is quite easy, but I think not justifiable, to think that this is simply a religious conflict. 9/11 and the connected roots to that terrorism, certainly have religious sources, but I believe it is misunderstood to suggest that the central issue is faiths in conflict or that Islam is only a greenhouse for terrorism.

So we in Adult enrichment, have tried to provide opportunities to learn about another faith system from people who practice that faith. Farzana Islam, our first speaker, teaches religious education much like any of our Church School teachers do. Dr. Shafiq, the Iman – religious leader – of the Islamic Center and a lecturer at St. John Fisher College, certainly has more background than a Christian pastor and could be more easily compared to a seminary lecturer. Our third presenter is simply an able speaker who can tell the story of the branch of Islam she follows with passion and warmth. So we are only introducing the topic.

Our hope is that the introduction will inform any further reading each of you do. I also hope that it will inform your praying as our global village continues its conflicts between neighbors and not so near neighbors. Finally, I wonder what any of our church members would say about Christianity if asked to present at the Islamic Center, the Rochester Zen Center or the Sikh Temple in Penfield? I have long thought that the Christianity practiced by so many I meet is more rightly described as Western than Christian. So I ask, "Is a given idea (or any detail of my faith) from Jesus and the Judeo-Christian background he emerged from, or is it an interpretive development much more strongly influenced by the culture and community I live in? Whenever I hear a presentation by another religious group, I am invited to see my own faith from a more objective distance. This challenges my position with tough questions. Every time (so far) I have been refreshed with a simpler, clearer image of Christ to follow. How about you? A

Peace,

ADULT ENRICHMENT WINTER OFFERINGS

from Nancy Sprenkle

SUNDAY MORNING - 11:30 AM

Program I - "Old Testament Influences on Faith" - Stu will be presenting a study of Jonah on Sunday mornings in February. On February 3, Bruce will introduce the book and give some background ideas.

Later in the month we will look at hearing and heeding God's call, temper tantrums with the Almighty, and prayer when nothing else is an option. Join us.

Program II - "Toning Up Spiritually- Putting Discipline into your Discipleship!" Are your New Year's resolutions starting to fade? Ready for Lent? Explore the nuts and bolts of personal devotions. The Why? What? How? of daily prayer and Bible reading with John Messenger. Feb. 3 and 10.

SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMS - 7:00 PM

Jan. 20 - Dr. Shafiq from the Islamic Center -

Special Education Program on Islam

Feb. 17 - "Art and the Crucifixion" - Maura Marsh

April 7 - "Who Moved My Cheese?" - Penny Cannon

April 28 - "Family - Transitional Lifestyles" -

Susan Horowitz

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

GETTING INTO THE "ACTS"! - This group is continuing to look at a chapter a week of "Acts". Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch. Join us in room 201 for coffee and study.

ISLAM PART THREE

On February 24, 2002, Noor Haleem will present in Adult Enrichment in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM. She will trace her spiritual roots from Abraham to the specific branch of Islam called 'Ahmadiya Movement of Islam', of which she is a part. Noor is connected to the Bait-un-Naseer mosque here in the city on Merchant Road. She is originally from Pakistan and has been a part of the Women's Interfaith Coalition, where Stu met her. She has served on its board for seven years and as vice president for two years. She also volunteers in the Pittsford School System, in whose district she lives. Although she says she is no scholar, she is prepared to reflect on her views of the situation in Pakistan today, in addition to the overview described above. Please join us. A

March 1, 2002. You can email fte@thefund.org for more information. Or contact the fund at 404-727-1450. A

WEB CLUB

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

7:30 PM

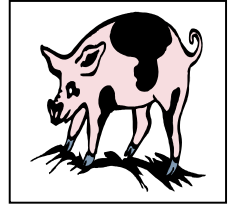
Feb. 13 – “The Red Tent” by Anita Diamant. Home of Tim Smith, 19 Bromley. Please call 586-5735 if you plan to attend.

March 13 – “One Thousand White Women: The Journals of Mary Dodd” by Jim Fergus. Host to be announced!

April 10 – “Larry’s Party” by Carol Shields. Home of Nancy Sprenkle, 103 Stuyvesant Road – 381-8990. A

Come One Come All!

from Roxanne Skuse



to the Heifer Fair on Feb. 3, immediately following the 10:00 AM service! Come to witness the wonderful wonders our crafty youth have created for you! A

Dinner with LOGOS

From Sylvia Fix

Come join us on Ash Wednesday, February 13 at 6:00 PM for dinner. Then go with us to the service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. The charge for dinner is \$2.00. Please phone the office with reservations by Monday, February 11.

The up-coming activities are as follows:

January 23 - Surprise Night. The word is hat.

Get ready.

January 30 - Souper soup celebration. The word is healthy -

Souper Bowl.

February 13 - He's Got The Whole World - The

word is love -

Bring a friend. A

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

from Dan Kulp

You may have noticed some new faces around the Church lately. Most of them are young, enthusiastic college students with a desire to serve our kids. God has really been doing some exciting things by putting together a team of volunteer youth leaders.

The team is made up of Debbie Knight, Mike Higgins (he's not a college student), James Messenger, John Erway and Dave Hein. The Lord has put it on their hearts to minister to teens, help me, and commit in some capacity to the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. This concept has been in the making for three years. I am excited to see what God has planned for both the volunteers and the youth.

We meet once a week for a team meeting where we devise ways to make our youth program the most exciting in all of the area. We also discuss different approaches to loving teenagers and leading them in a relationship with Jesus Christ. In addition, we pray, fellowship and encourage one another in our own relationships with Christ. Please join me in praying for this new team. Pray that they would not grow weary. Pray that they would do well in their school and work endeavors. Pray that their relationships with Jesus Christ would remain strong. Pray that they would not be tempted by worldly distractions. Lastly, pray that God would use them to impact the lives of teenagers in Pittsford.

I am amazed that they do all of this work for free, simply because they love Jesus. Please help support them with your encouragement. Perhaps have them over for dinner. Buy them lunch. Pay a bill for them.

They are my heroes. A

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP FOR MINISTRY

The FTE (Fund for Theological Education) connected with the Presbyterian Church is offering Ministry Fellowships for students with superior academic ability who are age 35 or younger and will enroll in seminary in the Fall of 2002 to pursue ministry as a career. Benefits include attendance at the FTE Summer Conference held June 20-23 and a \$5,000 stipend for self-designed ministerial work during Summer 2003. 40 Ministry Fellows will be named for 2002-2003. Application deadline is April 1, 2002. Students currently enrolled in college who are undecided about a call to ministry would benefit from applying, also. If accepted they would be provided attendance to the 2002 FTE Summer Conference, a \$1,500 stipend and \$500 to fund mentoring. 70 Undergraduate Fellows will be named for 2002-2003. Application deadline is

it, sign the clipboard and I will put a box out the following week.

Kirkringers is badly in need of **2 more bell ringers**. If you read music and can attend rehearsal on Mondays from 7-8 PM we would gratefully help you with technique and reading.

If you've ever entertained the thought that you would like to try handbells, please, please give us a call, at 388-7365.

Thanks, Ruth Hugenbruch . A

LETS ELIMINATE COFFEE STAINS from your Trustees

The Trustees request that all beverages and food be limited to the Kitchen, Fellowship Hall and Administration Office Area and not taken under any circumstances to the Sanctuary, Narthex, Lobby or Library. There have been coffee stains on the carpets and even one on the wall in the Narthex that occurred when the carrier was opening the door to the east wing. Recently, coffee was spilled on a seat cushion in the Sanctuary during a rehearsal for one of the Christmas events.

There are occasions when lunch is served in one of the second floor rooms. Any items being prepared in the kitchen should be taken up the stairway directly opposite the kitchen door (or the elevator). Likewise, anything going downstairs should be taken by the same stairway.

Children are sometimes sent to the kitchen from one of the upstairs or downstairs rooms to get a cup of coffee for an adult. This creates an unsteady hand with a hot cup of coffee and inevitably causes spills (hopefully not burns). This isn't a good practice. Let's not do it in the future.

Everyone wants to maintain a clean and neat appearance in all parts of the building so let's remind each other that keeping beverages and food in the designated areas is one way we can help to do that. Thanks for your help. A

Offering Envelopes from Janet Travis

Envelope boxes for 2002 are available in the Lobby. If you don't see a box with your name on

ENDOWMENT

As we are into a new calendar year, we have probably made some new resolutions, reviewed our finances and updated our tithing commitment to the First Presbyterian Church.

What we may not have done is considered tithing to our church as part of our estate planning. If we have a will (which everyone should have), we have most likely assured that our family is included. Secondly, we may have included charities, and our favorite colleges or universities. Have we forgotten our church ??

There have been many tax changes recently, and opportunities abound for leaving a personal legacy for our church and taking advantage of tax laws to receive the deduction from our current years tax return.

This would be a good time to review your wishes with your accountant or attorney to see if tithing is possible as part of your estate planning.

Thoughts from-
Your Endowment Committee

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us – we meet each Friday at 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM in the Library.

We are also seeking ways to improve prayer request input while insuring confidentiality. We plan to design an improved prayer request card(s) and procedures for receiving, controlling, using in prayer and follow-up. Your input, suggestions, concerns and/or your participation is welcome. Please contact Pastor Stuart Buisch at 586-5688 ext. 32, Sandra Pacyga at 586-5688 ext. 30 or Jim Higbee at 385-2583.

We will be meeting Friday, February 1 at 3:00 PM in the Library to design the request card and procedures – PLEASE JOIN US.

CHURCH CALENDAR from the Office Staff

Lately there have been some meetings that were either scheduled, canceled or moved without the Office knowing about it. This creates a number of problems: one, it goes into the bulletin incorrectly and someone either misses a meeting or comes for one that has been rescheduled or cancelled; two, sometimes every room is already taken and there is no room.

We are a very busy Church and there are evenings when there are four or five meetings going on at the same time. **We**

really need to be mindful of others and check with the office before scheduling any meeting.

Thank you for helping us out!

It is exciting for me to report on the wonderful giving at Christmas from our members:

KIRKHAVEN Nursing Home: We delivered 5 huge bags full of presents and hundreds of Christmas, Birthday and blank cards for their use.

HANEAYAH COTTAGE at INDUSTRY: 25 boys ages 15 thru 17 received 68 wrapped gifts from the congregation and 18 dozen cookies baked by our Circle members. In addition, the Presbyterian Women of our Church provided 25 Stocking Stuffer Bags containing 2 tablets, 50 envelopes, pens, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant., and a 2002 Calendar. 400 stamps used for mailing Christmas cards [you provided] as well as for future letters to family and friends during 2002. \$125.00 in a gift certificate for Circuit City allows their Supervisor to upgrade electronic equipment needed. Also a Christmas card from you.

UNIT 77 at OATKA; 36 young boys ages 10 thru 14 received 78 wrapped gifts from the congregation and 30 dozen cookies baked by members. In addition, the Presbyterian Women of our Church provided 36 Stocking Stuffer Bags containing 2 tablets, 50 envelopes, 1 word puzzle book and a calendar. Along with their Christmas card from you there was attached a little dog or a teddy bear sitting in a small basket--which they loved! 600 stamps used for mailing Christmas Cards [you provided] as well as for future letters to family and friends in 2002. We added 10 new Dictionaries for use in the Library or to give to new boys as their own. \$172.00 in a gift certificate for Circuit City allows their Supervisor to upgrade electronic equipment needed.

Large 'year at a glance' calendars delighted the Supervisors who shared extras with other cottage's staff personnel. Boxes of click top pens-not allowed for residents, were distributed throughout the facilities for staff members and greatly appreciated. Thank you to the donor!!!

An experience to share and one we will never forget. We have gained so much and learned once again, that amid the 8 foot fences with 2 scrolls of barbed wire, there are kind and caring people teaching the boys at Industry and Oatka despite the regimented life style they must lead.

Pierce and I, along with Elaine Johnson, delivered the above 2 car loads of goodies on a cold and windy day, December 22nd. We had a wonderful tour of Haneayah Cottage on the

Industry Grounds and found an orderly and spotless home where boys have responsibilities in keeping their rooms in order, homework done and their common rooms clean and in order. We

saw the library where the books you donate go and it is in great need of simple 3, 4 or 5 shelf bookcases. If any of you can donate used ones that will fit in our cars, they certainly need them. Past donations of beautiful encyclopedias are frequently used. Also the beautiful Pool Table [given about 5 years ago] has been recovered, and is kept in excellent condition." A favorite pastime." A delighted staff member helped Pierce and Elaine unload and couldn't say enough for the dedication of our church members and their love and generosity. This was their only donation for the Christmas/Holiday celebration.

Moving on to the adjacent [but entirely separate] facility, we toured Unit 77 at Oatka.

Notably set up for younger children it was decorated fully in the main rooms with a Christmas tree full of home made ornaments, colorful paper chains draped everywhere possible, including the ceilings.

Again, an impressive visit with delighted staff who whisked all these goodies into a special room and were just overwhelmed by your love and generosity. What we sent is all they received. Our thanks to each of you who made it possible and for those of you who baked for the Ham Supper--any left over cookies were taken to both Industry and Oatka facilities where they were given to those cottages that had NO donations of any kind. So grateful for your generosity.

There are even more people to thank: Circle cookie Bakers, Congregation Cookie Bakers, Cookie/magazine/ book/card Drivers, Circle Wrappers for Haneayah Cottage Stocking Stuffers, JYF for wrapping Unit 77 Stocking Stuffers, and everyone for their continued contributions and support of this Mission. More than 90 of you participated this year. Thank you each one. And to my husband, Pierce, thanks for years of unending support and assistance in this project.

Elaine Johnson will carry on now with my role changing-- as her Advisor.

from Sally Day

Just as the gift of mittens, short eight pair, was to be delivered to the nursery school at Calvary St. Andrews Church, a bag of mittens with thirty pair arrived. A friend of the congregation, but not a member, remembered our project again and provided a Christmas miracle. A shopping bag of hats, gloves and scarves for adults and some mittens for children is on its way to Cameron

Community just in time for winter. Bless all of you for you help all year! A

Naomi Circle will meet Monday, February 18 at 11:30 PM. Because of the Presidents' Day holiday we will meet at the home of Beverly Reeve, 12 White Briar. Rev. Bruce Boak will speak on the Faith of the Presidents. – Ellen Kinnen

Mary/Weller Circle's February meeting on Monday, February 11 at 11:30 AM in FH will feature the video "Mary's Boy – The Life of Jesus From the Eyes of His Mother" courtesy of Beverly Fink. Hostesses are Marty Keller, June Wilson, Kay Weisenbeck and Ruth Wilson. If you are not a regular member and would like to attend, please call Betty Hancock 473-3928. Bring a sandwich and your Least Coin.

We're looking for a few good women... If you don't belong to a circle and find that you can make the time, Anthony circle may be the group for you! Anthony Circle meets on the second Thursday of the month, at the church or at a member's home. We are the "young" circle and welcome children or babysitting can be provided. This year we have adopted a family of four (a mom and three children) and we were fortunate to be able to provide a Christmas for them. (Thanks to Dan Kulp for donating CD's!) Our February project is to get "gently used" clothing for the family. If you have clothes to donate in sizes: women's L/women's M (for a teen age girl), boy's 12-14/men's XL (for a teenage boy) and want to make sure they go to a great home, please:

1. leave them in the box marked Anthony Circle in Fellowship Hall, or
2. call Judy Messenger (473-1048) for pickup.

If you want to know more about Anthony Circle, please call Judy or stop by the Church on Thursday, February 14 (9:30-11:00am) for a valentine and fellowship. A

ATTENTION COUPLES! Looking for a great way to have some fun with your friends from First Pres? Well, put on your bowling shoes and come join us on Saturday, February 2 (Groundhog's Day) for our inaugural Couple's Mixer at Oak Hill Country Club. Time, 7:30 – 'til ? \$10 per person covers unlimited bowling plus coffee and dessert. Cash bar will be available for adult refreshments.

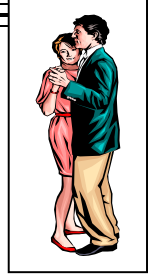
Special games, music, prizes and lots of laughs are promised for everyone—particularly beginners and non-enthusiasts. Sorry, only kids

21 and older are welcome. Please RSVP by January 31, 2002. Your hosts—Jim and Amy Taylor (586-1041).

Third Annual Valentine Dance:

Back by popular demand! The New Horizons Dance Band returns with their 17-piece ensemble to play your Big Band favorites from the 40's and 50's. Grab your sweetheart and come swing to the hits by Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Count Basie and all the greats.

The party is set for 7:30 – 10:30 pm Saturday, February 9, 2002 in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 per person and will be on sale Sundays January 13 thru February 3 after each service. Call your deacon for more details.



LENTEN DATES TO REMEMBER

February 13 ~ Ash Wednesday
7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service right after LOGOS.
March 24 ~ Palm Sunday
March 28 ~ Maundy Thursday –7:00 PM Service
March 29 ~ Good Friday – 7:00 PM Service
March 31 ~ Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service
Easter Services

Musical Instrument Quiz

Complete each of the following by filling in the blank with the name of a musical instrument. (In some cases there may be a slight variation from the exact spelling, but the idea is there).

6. The woman was murdered because she was a part of a love _____.

Answer to last month's question. When Mom comes home with a new dent in the family car, my dad puts his hand on his forehead and says Oboe.



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WORSHIP WITH US

Please join us for Sunday morning worship.
Services are 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM
Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month.

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