

# NewsBrief

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

February 2006

## From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

REDEDICATION SUNDAY – JANUARY 29, 2006

8:30am – a time to dedicate the building to God

10:00am service – a time to celebrate the building's completion

11:15am – a party in Fellowship Hall

REDEDICATION OF THE FPC BUILDING will have happened on January 29 by the time we get to February. We hope that you will want to be present as we express our gratitude to God for all those who have been working on this reconstruction project since the lightning strike and fire. It is a time to thank the steering committee; those who have continued to make programming happen despite the adversity of displacement, the contractors and builders, the firefighters who spared the historic walls of our sanctuary.

We probably won't be able to rededicate the church in the middle of January quite the way we had thought we might be able to do it in September. Traditionally the congregation gathers outside the church entrance. At the time the service is scheduled to begin, the doors are closed. The Session gathers inside. Representatives of the presbytery gather outside with the people and the moderator or one appointed knocks three times on the church door and says, "Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord." (Psalm 118:19). Then the clerk of the Session opens the door and hands the keys to the Presbytery commission. As the clerk does so she announces "This house has been built for the glory of God and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

There is movement to a call to worship, "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord". (from Psalm 84)

It is a rare thing in the life of a congregation and the Presbytery to have such a service. Most of the words are familiar. The moment becomes extraordinary as people gather to say, "This building is committed to ministry." We recognize that memories will be formed within the rebuilt structure. The important moments of marriage, baptism, communion, and memorial will be celebrated within the space and it will be good to gather.

Rededication of a building is such a special moment in a congregation's history. But, it is also an opportunity for us to rededicate our lives. We have learned that "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together." Imperfect people are called and gathered to form a fellowship of faith. The church is not a steeple. The church is a people. And so people will come to give thanks.

Martha and I are thrilled to learn that our children will be coming from Philadelphia and Toledo and friends from around the United States will make the trip to Pittsford so that together we can give thanks to God and thanks to those who have made this reconstruction a reality. I hope that you are planning to come. In the service we will say together, "Let this place be a refuge for those who suffer or sorrow, a fortress for those besieged by temptation, and beacon to light the way in darkness." Amen.

## Prayerfully pondering Hearts and Heifers...

I invite you to picture this Valentine's Day card I found at Wegman's: two bell-adorned bovines lovingly licking one another's muzzles as they longingly gaze at one another. The caption inside reads, "I'll love you for heifer." I had to laugh at such a horrible pun.

But then I found some wacky wisdom in the card. Neither of these cows is particularly good looking, and yet they promise one another eternal love. They bear no gifts but themselves. And they aren't afraid to show their affection for one another.

I can only hope and pray that each of us in our own families and in our church family might live by that wisdom. Having just had the marvelous chance to spend the Christmas holidays together, many families have just rediscovered everything they like and dislike about one another. Each family has its own delightful traditions of decorations, special foods, shared experiences, and warm laughter. At the same time, intimate proximity and long-standing relationships are fertile grounds for rolled eyes, raised eyebrows and piqued poses.

Even the most Christ-like families have their stumbling blocks. Consider the story of James and John asking to sit next to Jesus when he arrives in his glory (Mark 10:35-45; Matthew 20:20-28). I bet that went over well with the rest of the disciples! In fact, the gospels tell us they were angry, upset or indignant, depending upon your translation. But Jesus reminds them this world is full of tyrannical kings who lord it over one another. And then he calls upon the disciples to be better than kings. Rather than expecting special treatment from followers, the disciples are to be servants themselves. And in so doing, they demonstrate their leadership in a Christ-like fashion.

Each of us can discern ways our serving others might demonstrate leadership. Consider this one for example: on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship and our congregational meeting, the Sunday School will hold its annual Heifer Fair. The children will have prepared items for sale which will give farm animals to poor families in developing countries so they can be more self sustaining. (see [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) for more details) Giving from the heart is just one way we can show our servant leadership.

Go with God,  
Carrie

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

**Week of Feb 5 – Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11  
I Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39**

**Week of Feb 12 – II Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30; I Cor. 9:24-27  
Mark 1:40-45**

**Week of Feb 19 – Isa. 43:18-25; Ps. 41: 2  
II Cor. 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12**

**Week of Feb 26 – II Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6  
II Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9**

### **NEW Adult Education/ Enrichment Series -**

Starting on Sunday, February 5th, 2006, a new adult discussion series begins with a focus on service programs, and other activities for retired, or nearly retired, members of our congregation. The plan is to "hi-light" issues of interest to senior congregation members that will support independent living, enhance health and well being, educate and, thus, contribute to increased feelings of self-worth and community belonging. Those not yet of retirement age are encouraged to attend to gain added perspectives on "the road ahead" in this complex 21st century.

With the exception of the starting date of Sunday, February 5th, the plan is to meet on the second Sunday of the month, April to December 2006. (No sessions in July and August) To the extent possible, members of First Presbyterian will be the presenters.

Nancy Skelton, one of our own, will start the series on February 5th. Nancy has been in the insurance business, since 1979, and owns a Rochester based brokerage agency, KAFLL, Inc. (Keep A Focus On Life!) Nancy's presentation will cover all issues involved with the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan D Creditable Coverage, EPIC, and Senior HMOs as well as how to determine which of the 40 plus plans available would be the best "fit."

On March 12th, Ed Kinnen, also one of ours, will talk on the Elderhostel program. Ed, and his wife Ellen, have had considerable involvement with Elderhostel having participated in several of the programs. Watch for future topics such as Estate Planning (April's topic), Alzheimer's, Travel Benefits for Seniors and so forth.

The sessions will be from 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. in the new second floor Chapel, following Fellowship Hall coffee. Comfortable seating and warm surroundings will await you! Come and bring a friend - or two or three. The Chapel is immediately to the right after leaving the elevator. If you haven't been in the Chapel, this will be an experience in itself!

# YOUTH PAGE

Well, the New Year has begun...time for refreshing change, the promise of a new start. We have had some really exciting things going on the past few months in our church's youth ministry. (HUGE shout out to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for their incredible serving job at the Deacon Ham Supper!!!) In the coming months, there will be more new and great events, as well as opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship.



Our Senior Highers recently had their lock-in during December break. It was a fun night filled with tons of food, movies, Sardines, and Finger-blasters. Kudos to Matt Wahl and Dan Harrison for hanging out with us for the night! We were able to find some more really good hiding spots in the church for as well as try out the new Finger-blasters (great little rockets with a rubber band inside that makes them of our young people also "broke in" the brand new X-new projector screen in the youth room. It was evening to remember. Though I have learned that students like to sleep more than the junior Highers (1 hours of sleep rather than 20 minutes.) It was great hope our students look forward to the next one in mid-March (Laser Tag!)



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As some of you know, Senior High and Junior High youth group times have now changed. Senior Highers will now meet on Sundays from 12:15-1:30pm in the youth room. Junior Highers will meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm in the youth room. During the month of January, we will be having discussion about the word "Always" and how it pertains to God using Psalm 139 as a basis. In February, in Junior High youth group we will be talking about boys and girls and questions both genders always seem to have about the other. For example "Why do girls always go to the bathroom in packs?" and "Why are boys fascinated by gross noises?" It should prove to be an interesting chat. With our Senior Highers, we will be chatting about the word "love" and the three different meanings we find for it in Scripture. We will also be having the youth room open on Tuesdays after school for any students who wish to hang out and have a Bible study with their peers.

Our mission trip planning for the summer is underway. Our teams will be formed and fundraising will begin. We will also be having team once a month for both Junior and Senior High groups. students will begin fundraising for summer missions as keep your eyes open in the Fellowship Hall after worship Sundays for ways you can help our students attend trips! Thanks and as always, have a super month! J



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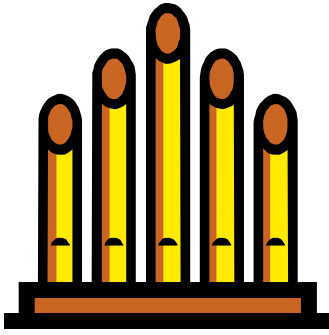
## \*\*Upcoming events\*\*

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**- MTC Hot Tub Night...6pm-8pm...Locust St. Lot

**January 28<sup>th</sup>**- Polarwave Snowtubing...2pm-7pm...\$15...Meet at Locust St. lot

**February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**- Jr. and Sr. High retreat at LeTourneau Retreat Center in Rushville, NY...Cost is \$40 for the whole weekend! We will be discussing 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. We will be meeting at 5:24 pm on February 10 at Locust St. lot, leaving no later than 5:40 pm. We will be returning on February 12 at 11:30 am. If you would like to sign up, email or call Niki and you will get more information. J

\*\*Friends are always welcome!\*\*



## NOTES FROM JAMES

Many thanks to our choirs, instrumentalists, and soloists who provided our music for the Advent and Christmas Season! Hours of rehearsal and planning are involved in assuring the music is presented in a manner that enhances our worship service. The Chancel Choir, Jubilate Choir, Kirkringers, Joyful Noise, and the Children's Choir combined their efforts for the special service of Christmas music on December 18 that will be remembered as a special Sunday for quite some time.

For those of you that were thinking about going Christmas Caroling with us on December 9<sup>th</sup>, please remember next year to sign up early! Our bus was almost full as we went to Valley Manor, the Highlands, and the homes of some of our members who cannot attend our service each Sunday. This has been a truly meaningful event for two years. It is such a pleasure to see the smiling faces as our Caroling Choir sings the beautiful carols of the season. This year we were blessed with weather that was a bit warmer, but warm or cold, it is a heart warming experience to share our music with those who are so appreciative.

This past Saturday, our choir had a New Year's Work Day and we moved all of our equipment, both old and new, into the new Music Room in the East wing of the church. On Sunday morning, we held our first "warmup" rehearsal for the 10:00 AM service in the newly equipped room and the choir sounded beautiful. The new room should aid in our music making for many years!

Our new organ project is moving forward with great energy and enthusiasm. The Organ Committee has been gratified with the rather broad support given, so far, to our low key efforts to get the funds needed for the organ. Without resorting to a church-wide campaign, but relying on responses from individuals desirous of adding their financial contributions to the music in our church, we have been able to reach \$452,000 for the organ. This has come from over 150 pledges. It is interesting to note, that many of

these pledges have come from outside our church membership. The new instrument will be a tremendous opportunity to bring our ministry to a broader community and our pledge records are strong evidence of this.

Our efforts appear to be approaching a final push. The price for the new organ from Taylor & Boody is \$550,000. From the responses to date, it is pretty obvious that our congregation has taken on the project enthusiastically and given generously to it. Individual amounts have varied widely and probably reflect the role music plays in the lives of those who have given as well as each person's financial circumstances. Our contributions so far amount to a little over 82% of this goal. This has gone far beyond the interest that I initially thought possible. I feel blessed to serve a congregation that values a strong tradition and contribution of music to its corporate service of worship. If you think the choirs sound good in our new space and the piano sounds beautiful, "you ain't heard nothing yet"! I know that the organ will surpass our expectation and its years of service will last long beyond our lifetime. Ed Kinnen is serving as our liaison to Taylor and Boody and will be bringing information to us on the progress of the building. There may even be an opportunity for us to take a trip as a group to Staunton, Virginia, to see the place where our organ is being crafted one pipe at a time! Over its lifetime, the instrument that's currently being created will serve thousands in the worship service, provide stirring music for many brides to walk down the aisle of our church, console mourners in memorial services, and provide an instrument that will encourage our young musicians to study the organ and in turn, begin to provide music for another generation.

I was able to attend the dedication of the organ at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church. Their Casavant organ was rebuilt and several stops were added. A large crowd of listeners, many from our own church, was thrilled as they heard the marvelous sounds of the newly restored instrument.

Finally, if you made trying a new experience part of your New Year's resolution, why not join one of our choirs? We are delighted to have Pam Flynn as a new member of the Chancel Choir and would welcome any new members regardless of voice part. We're now in the same room every week at the same time, so if you've been waiting for things to settle down and stay in one place, now's the time to come to our fantastic new Music Room to participate in the joyful singing and fellowship!

## **HAVE YOU EVER BEEN PRAYED FOR?**

from Carol Tiemann

I remember reading in our Bulletin one Sunday an invitation to join a Prayer Group that was starting up. It asked: "Do you have a prayer need or concern?" (Don't we all???) – Well, I felt this nudge to go and see what it would be like. I didn't have any huge, compelling need (at the moment), but rather because of events from the past. This was in 2001 and apparently Kay Holzwarth had approached Stu Buisch with this need and request to start a prayer group.

I will tell you one thing that matters very greatly to me. On two occasions I have experienced having to be hospitalized for very pivotal reasons; in ICU for a severe asthma attack, and then for cancer surgery. --When our pastors came to pray for me, I felt incredible comfort, and a sense of peace. --- What sustained me? I knew I was receiving the "prayers of the people". To know that, dispelled my fear, buoyed me, and surrounded me with a sense of hope.

So, we come each Tuesday at 4:00 pm to lift spirits and pray for the people. --- It is a very compelling time as well as a fulfilling time.

If you feel a "nudge" in your heart to try it, see what it's like, please come and visit us.

We are a "diverse" bunch, with one resounding common goal. And that is to bring people of need before our Lord, in prayer.

Shy or bold, we welcome all. Please come.



### WEB CLUB NEWS

Wednesday Evening Book Club  
Discussion begins at 7:30 PM

#### Upcoming

February 8 - "Devil In white City" by Erik Larson  
March 8 - "Name All the Animals" Alison Smith  
April 11 - "The World Is Flat" by Thomas  
Freidman

## **HEIFER FAIR IS COMING!**

The annual **Church School MissionProject** for the benefit **Heifer Project International** is underway! The **Heifer Fair** has been scheduled for Sunday, **February 12, 2005**, immediately following the 10:00 service and annual meeting. The children are busy in their Sunday School classes learning about Heifer Project's mission to provide income-producing animals and training in animal husbandry and environmentally sound farming practices to people in over 100 countries. Our children will be making animal-related crafts to be sold and planning other fun activities for the Heifer Fair. Please mark your calendars and plan to support our children's celebration of mission!



## **CAMERON WISH LIST – URGENT NEED**

Thank you so much for the great winter clothing that you have donated to Cameron's Clothing House since November. Currently, they are experiencing a shortage of clothing for children ages 5-10 (roughly). Can you please look in your closets again? Could you ask your neighbors to look also? These could be outerwear, underwear, or regular school clothes. Please no shorts, but even summer clothing would help. Kids love to layer! Also, they can always use baby clothing and care items, large size diapers (5&6), and hygiene items (travel size or regular). The Cameron box is now in Fellowship Hall so you can place your items there for pick-up. Call me with any questions. Liz - 223-3052

Thanks again. Cameron thinks Pittsford Presbyterian is wonderful and so do I!

## AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS

UPDATE: In regard to the following former Newsbrief Invitation, it would be so kind of you to read it again and to call if you can spend a few hours [weekends of your choice] to volunteer on one of the Candle Committees. Unfortunately, the appropriate work and storage areas are not ready for us to train you. Knowing you are interested would help our future planning. A chat with you could better explain the details. We are pushing training into March at this time.

A new plan, to use a team of 6 volunteers in the Winter, "November" thru April" and another 6 volunteers in the Summer, "May thru October" for the mission of preparing Candles for Sunday Morning Services and hanging of the special Needlepoint pieces for individual Sunday Services would lessen the task from 2. It is a special task!!!! Taking pride, participating in Chancel preparation.

Each person would contribute their time by coming in on Saturday [I will provide a key if needed] so as to prepare for both 8:30 and 10:30 Services the next day. [About 1 hour.] On Sunday, after the 11:00 Service, again, put Candles and Needlepoint away. [About 1/2 hour.] 8:30 attendees may participate, as one of us will put away for you after 11:00 o'clock on Sunday. Our Volunteers will be fully trained prior to assignments. You may even prefer doing a full month at a time and then go on our substitute list.

There will be a new procedure. Each person will have a thorough orientation and a written procedure to fall back on. And, one of us will be with you the first Saturday and Sunday you do this alone. Now, our plan is to train in March.

In that we are not ready for you in February, Pierce and I will continue doing this until training Volunteers of the new system can be accomplished.

We have a new Candle Chairperson who has already accepted the challenge when I will be passing the Scheduling on to her in May. That will be Bonnie Dunn. Margaret Mecredy, also a valued Volunteer for the past Summer with Bonnie and 4 others, found the Team effect to be very helpful. Talk to them or call me.

Please consider a 2 year commitment on either the Winter or Summer Teams. It is a pleasing task to prepare our beautiful Chancel for worship. Any questions??? please call me.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Sally Day—248-5480--Chairperson of Candles and Needlepoint



### LOGOS

from Sylvia Fix

**Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!**

**January 18 – SURPRISE NIGHT**

The word is *wonder*.

**January 25 – Ultimate Movie Making**

The word is *original*.

**February 1 – Heavenly Hero**

The word is *repent*.

**February 8 – Mr. Potato Head**

The word is *creative*.

**February 15 – Live, Love, Laugh**

The word is *express*.

**February 22 - NO LOGOS**

**HAPPY WINTER BREAK!**

**LIVING LOGOS – February 1 – trip to Open Door Mission**

See you there!