

N ewsbrief

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

January, 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

Consecration Sunday is past. I've been doing some thinking. What would First Presbyterian of Pittsford be like if every member was involved in the life of the Church, participating with a time commitment beyond worship attendance. If membership had a requirement of activity, what would you be doing? Our faith calls us to and one of the membership questions asks us if we will. A

Peace.

ADULT ENRICHMENT WINTER OFFERINGS

from Nancy Sprenkle

SUNDAY MORNING - 11:30 AM

Program I - Bible Study - Rev. Buisch

- Jan 13 - Laura Norris Buisch will lead a discussion at 11:30 AM in Room #204. Her topic will be "The sermon and the scripture texts it was based on."

Program II

- Jan. 6 - Women's Perspective on Islam
- Jan. 20 - Mozambique Slide Presentation

SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMS - 7:00 PM

- Jan. 20 - Special Educational Program on Islam
- Feb. 17 - Art and the Crucifixion
- April 17 - "Who Moved My Cheese?"

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY -

9:30 AM. 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. A

SAVE THESE DATES!

The Adult Education Group is having two presentations on Islam in January:

Sunday, January 6 at 11:30 AM a woman from the Islamic Center will discuss "Issues of faith for a woman in the Islamic Community".

On Sunday, January 20 at 7:00 PM, Dr. Shatig, the Iman (spiritual leader) of the Center will present "Islamic issues in our day".

Watch the bulletin for final details.

WEB CLUB

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

7:30 PM

****Please call host if you plan to attend****

Jan. 9 - "Corelli's Mandolin" by Louis de Bernieres. Home of Dianne Brown, 40 Copper Woods - 381-4298

Feb. 13 - "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamond. Home of Tim Smith, 19 Bromley - 586-5735.

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



News and Notes
from Christian Church
School

From Sandy's Desk

Over the past few weeks, the education team has begun a process to take our already good education efforts into an even more successful and brighter future. We expect, Lord willing, to take our education program here at First Presbyterian into a future which will promise growth of community and increased personal faith building for all ages.

Step one is the meeting of individual teaching teams and education groups. "Where we are now and what are the needs." In step two we will form a committee made up of representatives from those groups and any interested members of the congregation. This committee will explore where we want to be five years from now, and what we must do to get there. We will discover what we would like each student to have accomplished at the end of each grade level. We will examine the spiritual growth needs of each age group within our church and explore ways in which we can meet those needs. And finally, we will propose a plan for program and materials needed to move forward.

Interested parent, hungry seeker, passionate about Christian Ed.? Please join us!

Please call Sandy at 586-5688 ext. 30. A

LOGOS

from Sylvia Fix

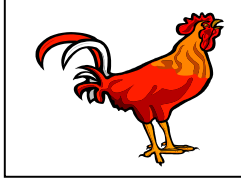
December 12 – Jacob’s Ladder – The word for the week
Heavenly
December 19 – **No LOGOS**
December 26 – **No LOGOS**
January 2 – **No LOGOS**
January 9 – Backwards Night

WHAT’S HAPPENING!

Every Friday at 2:00 PM, a group of interested people gather for Prayer/Bible study and support. Anyone and everyone is welcome. We meet in the library for an hour. A

What is “The Heifer Project”?

from Roxanne Skuse



Heifer Project International (HPI) provides animals and training to poor families in the U.S. and around the world. These families raise the animals, then pass on the offspring to other community families. HPI animals provide a living in these impoverished areas.

As in previous years, each Church school class will choose an animal. Materials provided by HPI teach the goals and idea of the mission. The children make crafts, which will be sold at the annual “Heifer Fair”. This money will be used by HPI to purchase the various animals.

The “Heifer Fair” will be held the first Sunday in February. We will be selling shares for any who wish to purchase as gifts on December 16 after both services. This will be our fourth year with HPI and the children have come to look forward to participating. We thank you in advance for supporting this very important mission project. A

*****URGENT NOTICE*****

THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

From Janette Henderson & Elaine Johnson

The Pittsford Food Cupboard is experiencing a severe shortage of donations. The Outreach Committee will collect your donations of food/paper products at all services on Sunday, December 16 (including at the pageant/Ham Supper) and both services on Sunday, December 23. This is a serious problem particularly at this time of year. Please be generous. A

MITTENS, HATS AND SCARVES
from Tish Paddock and Greta Garman

The staff and children at the nursery school of Calvary Saint Andrews Church were excited by the delivery of this year’s mitten supply. Everyone wins: the staff know their flock will be warm; our church members feel their care for this mission is well received and the families know that folks OUT THERE care about THEM.

There are directions for mittens on the bulletin board, plenty of yarn in the box by the mitten tree, and loads more in storage. The children at Cameron Community as well as the adults will need mittens, hats and scarves when winter arrives soon! A

A REMINDER

Many groups use the refrigerator and freezer. All stored items are to be marked for use by “owner” only. Unmarked items may be used by ones in need. Shelves are marked for specific group’s use. Unmarked shelves may be used by anyone. Please help us. A

MARY/WELLER Circle will meet on Monday, January 14 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Rev. Bruce Boak. If you are not a regular member but would like to attend, please call Betty Hancock 473-3928. Bring a sandwich and your Least Coin. Hostesses will be Nancy Ramp, Gretchen Gmelin, Shirley Lawrence and Fannie Roblin. A

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

From Jim Higbee

There is a need to improve:

- 1 - the prayer request input and confidentiality,
- 2 - the work of intercessory prayer,
- 3 - the response to answered prayer in thanksgiving and praise to our Lord.

We seek your input, suggestions, concerns, intercessory prayer models from other churches and/or your participation. Please contact Pastor Stuart Buisch at 586-5688 ext. 32, Sandra Pacyga at 586-5688 ext. 30 or Jim Higbee at 385-2583.

Need some inspiration?

One of our much older (100+ and very proud of it) members has a real passion for the need of every Christian to continue seeking knowledge to strengthen their faith. Education in the church is so important to her in fact, that even though she can no longer attend services here at First Presbyterian, she sends a substantial annual gift, over and above her tithe to be earmarked especially for education.

Ever wonder, if there was more you might possibly be able to give of your time or a special skill you are blessed to have, even if you already give as much as you can monetarily? Our extraordinary but over stretched education “team” could use you in ways you may not have considered. For example:

- / / Love to shop? How about becoming a “purchaser of supplies”?
- / / Have a few minutes free before the 10:00 am service? How about delivering juice and cookies to four classrooms?
- / / Ever considered a “seventh inning stretch” mid service. You might be just the person needed to collect the attendance sheets and children’s collection from the baskets outside classroom doors and take them to the teachers resource center (returning to sanctuary for closing hymn and dismissal, of course.)
- / / Do you enjoy little, one time tasks you can do at home? Maybe you could assemble craft kits for a class.
- / / Do you have a particular hobby or skill that a class might like to learn about? Perhaps you could offer a fifteen minute demonstration.
- / / Do you have some musical ability? Perhaps you could teach a class a song.
- / / Ever done storytelling or puppetry? Teachers could always use a one-time class visitor to enhance their lesson.
- / / Good in an emergency? We’d like to place your name on a list to be kept on hand for unusual circumstances.
- / / Out and about early of a Sunday morning? Ever consider giving a ride to an elderly member or to a child when mom and dad are not feeling well?

Please note this “opportunity” message. You can check off your chosen ministry, sign your name (legibly please) and drop off to C. Ed. box in office.

I _____ would be glad to help out in this way.
(please print or write so we can read it)

Phone _____

A Once In A Decade Opportunity – practically on our backyard!

from Sandy Pacyga

Once a year, somewhere in the USA or Canada, a wonderful conference, offering new life and new ideas to Presbyterians is offered. This conference offers workshops on many areas of church life given by noted teachers, theologians and experts from within the Presbyterian Church, USA and many other venues.

This coming year, February 6-9, 2002, the conference will be held in Toronto, Canada. Over one hundred work shops on all areas of church life, Keynoter, Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll and the chance to interface with Presbyterians from all over the USA and Canada is affordable for us because it's close enough to travel by car pooling. No cross country air fares necessary!!!

We would like to put together a leadership team to attend. This team of three or four people will bring back and in turn offer a mini-conference, with the help of C.E. here. So far those expressing interest in participating and designing a unique experience for First Presbyterian when they return, are members of our congregation with wonderful energy and leadership skills. But they also have family responsibilities that could prevent them from participating. YOU could make it possible for a First Presbyterian to be able to offer a special opportunity that will benefit our entire congregation. COULD YOU: (we must make arrangements by Dec. 20)

- ♥ prepare and deliver a home cooked meal
- ♥ help a child/children with breakfast and getting off to school
- ♥ transport a child/children to and from activities
- ♥ be on call in case of a health emergency
- ♥ meet the bus and stay with a child/children until a parent gets home
- ♥ possibly help with homework

If you can help us with any of these services, or would like to know more about the "Alive by the Breath of God" Conference, please call Sandy 586-5688 or email sandy.Pacyga@pittsfordpres.org



Jazz Epiphany Evensong

from Cary Ratcliff

On Sunday, January 6, 4:00 PM we welcome Deanna Witkowski, pianist & vocalist, and her Jazz Quartet in a Jazz Evensong service, an hour of music for the season of Epiphany, with a simple liturgy of readings and prayers for the evening. You will long remember this afternoon of moving music, of hearing Take My Life and Let it Be like you've never heard it before. Deanna, a native of Webster and graduate of Wheaton Christian College, learned jazz in Chicago and now plays and records it regularly in New York City. Also a church musician, she has combined her faith, her soulful jazz styling, and her gifts as songwriter into inspiring music. All our choirs are excited to be able to join in some of the (serious) fun!

'Witkowski can express soaring exultation as well as sublime introspection' – Free-will offering for Pittsford Food Cupboard.

[If you would like to see more of this combo: Friday night, Jan. 4, they will premiere Deanna's new piece 'Shifting' with the Webster High School's Jazz Choir. Saturday, they play 9-12 at the downtown jazz club Montage Grill. We are hoping some of their fans there will join us for our Evensong]

Senior Pastor
Office Ext. #25
bgb@pittsfordpres.org

Interim Associate Pastor
Office Ext. #32
stuart.buisch@pittsfordpres.org

Phone 716-586-5688, Fax #586-8090
E-mail pitpres@frontiernet.net
Web page www.pittsfordpres.org

Dan Kulp
Director of Youth Ministry
Ext. #31
dan.kulp@pittsfordpres.org

Sandra Pacyga,
Christian Education
Director/Visiting Pastor
Office Ext. #30
sandy.pacyga@pittsfordpres.org

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.

Dede Holmes
Director of Youth Choirs

Sharon Peet
Director of Joyful Noise

Ruth Hugenbruch
Director of Kirkringers

Janet Travis
Financial Secretary
Ext. #23
janet.travis@pittsfordpres.org

Cary Ratcliff
Director of Music
cratcliff0@aol.com

Doris Goodemote, Editor
Secretary
Ext. #22
doris.goodemote@pittsfordpres.org

Ernest Bledsoe
Custodian
Ext. #33

John Sherman
Assist. Custodian

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
21 Church Street
Pittsford, New York 14534

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Pittsford, NY
Permit No. 6



First Presbyterian Church
21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534