

NewsBrief

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

January 2008

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

What is more to the point – a New Year or a New You? Yes, sometimes there are things about 2007 that I am glad are over. But, memories that I treasure were made in 2007. I'd like to keep those. But, when I examine the calendar, it isn't the New Year that I'd like to see as much as a new me.

A great text for New Year's might be Proverbs 27:1 -

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

It is a reminder that we may desire to be different, to be new, but that our behavior can reveal much within even a day. At the beginning of a New Year, a high school principal decided to post his teachers' New Year's resolutions on a bulletin board outside of the office. Teachers gathered around the bulletin board to compare resolutions when a great commotion started. One of the teachers complained, "Why weren't my resolutions posted?" She threw such a temper tantrum that the principal hurried to his office to see if he had overlooked her resolutions. Sure enough, he had mislaid them on his desk. But, as he picked it up he had to chuckle to himself as he read, "I resolve not to let little things upset me in the New Year."

I tend to be more like George he told his friend, "There's nothing like getting up at six in the morning, going for a run around the park, and taking a brisk shower before breakfast." Bob inquired, "How long have you been doing this?" George: "I start tomorrow."

Sometimes it is when we review our lives and our actions that we have an inner desire to change and be different. As I write today I realize that Al Gore is officially receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. Today is December 10 and the Peace Prize is always presented on the 10th of December, the anniversary of the death of their creator, industrialist Albert Nobel.

The whole aware thing was started by reading an obituary. Alfred's brother had died, but the News media had confused the name and thought that Alfred had died. As he read his own obituary, he was horrified to find that he was referred to as the "dynamite king." He was depicted as someone who had spent his life gathering a great fortune from the manufacture of weapons of destruction. When he invented dynamite, he thought it would be an instrument of peace and that no one would want to use such deadly power. But in 1888, when he read his own obituary, he discovered that the world thought far different of him than he pictured himself.

There was nothing in his obituary that spoke of his efforts to break down barriers that separated people. He was merely depicted as a merchant of death. And so he made a new resolution. In his last will and testament, he made his fortune available, resulting in the Nobel Peace Prize, the most valued of awards given to those who have done the most for the cause of world peace.

But, perhaps it is not as we read our own obituary, but the obituary of Jesus contained in the gospels of the Bible, that we see reflected a comparison of how God intended us to live with the way we often prioritize our lives. It is then that we realize that a New You is what God wants for us more than a New Year.

Language has changed over the years and we seldom use words like "thee" except in poetry and hymns. However, there is something about the old English approach that has a sense of respect and honor to it. And, some poetry just can't be accomplished without it. Maybe these verses from Frances Havergal will be helpful to you. You probably know her most famous hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be." But she also wrote:

Another year is dawning, Dear Father let it be,
In working or in waiting, Another year with thee.
Another year of progress, Another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.
Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness, The glory of thy face

Another year of leaning Upon thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting, Of quiet, happy rest.
Another year of service, Of witness for thy love,
Another year of training For holier work above.
Another year is dawning, Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for thee

Prayerfully Pondering Perception and Peace....

As I write this, Robert Goulet's 1963 recording of "Do You Hear What I Hear" is playing in the background. The authors of the tune and lyrics, Noel Regney (1922-2002) and Gloria Shayne wrote this carol in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis as a prayer for peace.¹

Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see?
'Way up in the sky, little lamb
Do you see what I see?

A star, a star
Dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?

A star, a star
Dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing thru the sky, shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?

A song, a song
High above the tree
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know?

A Child, a Child
Shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere
Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people ev'rywhere
Listen to what I say!

The Child, the Child
Sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

During the Season of Epiphany, we remember the three kings' visit to the baby Jesus. They were changed by what they saw and heard while visiting with the Christ child and so are we. From the time the prophet Isaiah spoke of the shoot coming out from the stump of Jesse, God has been telling us that Jesus would "not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth..." (Isaiah 11:3-4)

Imagine yourself learning about Jesus Christ for the first time. This is God with us, Emmanuel, who loves each of us as individuals and will not condemn us for mistakes we have made in the past. Now imagine the response of Jesus to what he sees and hears in our world: our arguments with our colleagues, friends, spouses and children, our political squabbles, our cutthroat economic competition, our racial and social prejudices, our divisive international struggles. Let Christ's righteousness shine some light upon each of our parts in these battles of wills and change our responses to ones that facilitate greater peace.

In this New Year, we have the opportunity to see and hear with the eyes of Jesus. We can do as Robert Goulet's king bids us and "pray for peace, people ev'rywhere".

Go With God,
Carrie



Week of Jan. 6 – Isa. 60:1-6; *Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14*
Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12

Week of Jan. 13 – Isa. 42:1-9; *Ps. 29*; Acts 10:34-43
Matt. 3:13-17

Week of Jan. 20 – Isa. 49:1-7; *Ps. 40:1-11*; 1 Cor. 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Week of Jan. 27 – Isa. 9:1-4; *Ps. 27:1, 4-9*; 1 Cor. 1:10-18
Matt. 4:12-23



CONFIRMATION: COME CLAIM THE CREED!

The Confirmation Classes of 2007/2008 began in September with a great orientation and retreat. 8th grade confirmands and their mentors will continue meeting regularly the first Sunday afternoon of every month (1/6, 2/3, 3/2, 4/6) in the Youth Forum room between 12:00pm and 1:30pm for faith-building exercises and fun! We look forward to a great class!

¹ <http://www.answers.com/topic/do-you-hear-what-i-hear-vocal-classical-work>

Christian Education News:

Church School – Another Unit will finish just prior to Christmas. The children learned about the Gift of Jesus. Starting in January, Unit 4 will lead the children into the Heifer Fair, focusing on Sharing and Kindness. Thank you to all the teachers, shepherds and volunteers that make the children's time on Sunday morning so enriching!

Adult Education – Nathan Zampella lead a discussion on the Ultimate Gift and furthered the Stewardship Committee's goal to extend the film's invitation "to approach things from the point of view of receiving gifts, feeling gratitude, and giving gifts to others." It was a nice bridge from the Thanksgiving holiday to the season of Advent where we spend so much of ourselves giving gifts to others.

Thank you to Lucien Rouse for another auditory presentation of Handel's Messiah.

On January 6th, in recognition of Epiphany, Kim Tinder will lead a multi-media presentation and discussion about the Star of Bethlehem. "Was the **Star of Bethlehem** a real astronomical event? A myth created by the early church? Explore the history and science for yourself..."

Then: **Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace**
PLEASE JOIN US on Sunday mornings, 8:30 am January 13, 20, and 27 as we discuss the life and impact of German clergyman and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer who actively opposed Hitler and the Nazis. His convictions cost him his life. Our course will include viewing a video entitled "Bonhoeffer, Agent of Grace" which will cover not only biographical information, but also little-known efforts regarding the German resistance.

Some questions we will be addressing via handouts and discussion are: Why were Hitler and the Nazis able to gain power and lead the world to war? What was the church's response to Nazism and the Holocaust? How should our Christian faith intersect with politics? When is violence by Christians justified?

Questions? Contact Dick Sprenkle at 381-8990. The Serendipity Bible Study offered at 10am on Sundays will continue as normal. Thank you to all that make that class engaging. Also, don't forget about the bible studies on Wednesdays at 9:30am and 7:15pm; the Men's Breakfast, held every Thursday, 7:30am at St. John Fisher College Cafeteria; and the first Sunday of the month Men's Breakfast (next one is scheduled for January 6th at the Messenger homestead).

Please note – there will be no Adult Education offered on Sunday, December 30th. However, children and youth programs are being held.

Men's Book Study – Are you a man? A manly man? Would you like to get together with a small group of other manly men to help each other be better husbands, fathers, employees, etc? If so, shoot Nathan an email so we can

find a time to meet (maybe once or twice per month) and agree on a book to discuss.

Nathan.Zampella@pittsfordpres.org



Crown Biblical Financial Study - a 10-week in-depth study of what Scripture teaches about money and possessions. Graduates have confirmed that marriages are being strengthened and individuals are finding their way out of debt. They are also becoming consistent savers, generous givers, and prudent consumers. Most importantly, people are entering into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ as they learn to apply His Word. Groups meet for 2 hours every week and meetings include Scripture memorization and interactive discussions.

Orientation for the Crown Biblical Financial Study Class at First Presbyterian will be on Monday, January 21st at 7:00pm in room 203. Classes begin Monday, February 4th and will meet every Monday night for 10 weeks. For those interested, please contact Jeff Tyler at 415-5711 or email Jeffrey.tyler@nmfn.com.

Bethel Bible Study –Bethel classes resume on Thursday, January 3rd, but note there will be no classes on January 10th or 24th. If you are looking for a way to fulfill that New Year's resolution to get deeper into God's Word, then you will want to check out the Bethel program. Thank you Pastor Bruce for all the work that goes into preparing for this study. It reaps grand dividends in many lives. Much like ripples on a pond.

Bill Jones Weekend – CE encourages you to register early for a *Storytelling Weekend* to remember Feb 1st-3rd. See the insert for details.

Advent Brunch – Many, many thanks to the team that worked hard at preparing, serving, cleaning up, and creating the children's crafts for the brunch. The following people made that wonderful event happen: Sharon Peet, Claudia Williams, Madge Herge, Roxanne Skuse, Willa Broughton, Colleen Swetman, Harry, Suzanne and Matt Crowley, Martin Appelo, Louise and Tom Thompson, and Ernie Bledsoe.

Children's Christmas Pageant –The Pageant is a ton of work, but it is such a blessing to those that get to see the children acting out the story of Christmas. Roxanne Skuse's management and organization made it all happen again this year. Thanks also go out to her many stagehands that helped in different areas. Sharon Peet, Ruth Hugenbruch, Dede Holmes, Madge Herge, Claudia Williams, Suzanne Crowley, Louise Thompson, Schuyler Skuse, Jim Weick, Chris Zimmer, Kate Nugent, Renate Appelo, Jane Pedersen, Jennifer Murray, Jennifer Peet, Bruce Boak, and Ernie Bledsoe all helped Roxanne make this event a success. More thanks go to the parents who helped the children learn lines and songs. Congratulations of course go to the kids who look so cute in those costumes!



Salutations one and all! I hope your Advent season is going smoothly and that you are enjoying the anticipation of Christmas! This

year, our youth ministry decided to do a SCROOGE (Student Christmas Rush for Oodles and Oodles of Goodies Etc.) party for our junior highers and senior highers. There was a fabulous turnout at both parties and our youth were able to collect almost 700 items for the Pittsford Food Cupboard! As 2007 draws to a close, let's take a look at what's coming up in 2008 for our junior high and senior high youth ministries...(and even something for our college-aged young people!)



Junior High

Jan. 13th & 27th - 7-8:30pm...SO-SO! Join us for some games and great discussion about the crazy world of dating! \$2 for snacks (bring your friends!)

Jan. 18th - DATE CHANGE! 8pm-8am...Jr. High Lock-in w/Cosmic Bowling...\$15 for bowling, food & fun! Bring a friend! Please let Niki know by Jan. 14th if you will be attending!

February 9th-10th - 7pm Friday until 6:30pm Saturday...Join us in the fight against poverty in Africa & Asia! Do the 30 Hour Famine...see Niki for details and a sponsor packet by early January!

Senior High

Jan. 6th & 20th - 7-8:30pm...Awesome! Come and help us figure out what the whole dating thing is about! Should be some great chatting! \$2 for snacks and bring your friends! This is a series you won't want to miss!

Jan. 11th - DATE CHANGE! 4:30pm...Join us in serving dinner for the folks at Ronald McDonald House in Rochester...then stay or meet up with us for our Sr. High Lock-in w/Cosmic Bowling...\$15 for bowling, food & lots of fun! Begins at 8pm and ends at 8am Saturday. Bring a friend! Let Niki know by Jan. 7th if you'll be joining us!

February 9th-10th - 7pm Friday until 6:30pm Saturday...Join us in fighting poverty in Africa & Asia! Do the 30 Hour Famine...see Niki for details and a sponsor packet by early January!

COLLEGE AGE!!!

January 4th - 6:30-9:00pm...Home for break? Hanging out with nothing else to do? Have a night off work? GREAT! Join Niki & some of your Senior High Forum teachers for dinner, discussion, and lots of catching up! Please RSVP to Niki by Dec. 30th if you will be gracing us with your wonderful presence! ☺

Remember...Mission trip info for junior and senior highers is now available! Get your application to Niki ASAP to catch a spot on quite possibly the most awesome and God-inspiring week you'll have this summer! ☺ Packets are in the youth room and 7th and 8th grade classrooms.

Coming soon...Bumper Cars on ice in March...Mission Madness in April...White Water Rafting in May...keep your eyes peeled and your heart open!

LOGOS - 2008

from Sylvia Fix

We want you to join us for a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2 - Dance Party - It looks like a Music/Disco Ball. The word is *Renew*

January 9 - Save our Planet - Who is Gretta Garbage? The word is *Recycle*.

January 16 - Explore - Surprise Night! The word is *Discover*.

January 23 - Roll the Dice - Game Night. The word is *Honest*.

January 30 - Superbowl - Buddy Night - Bring a buddy! Remember to call the office so we know how much food to prepare.

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.

Membership & Evangelism

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

from Trudy Bartleson, M & E Committee

Patrick & Jayne McGuire

We're happy to welcome Patrick and Jayne to our church family. They come to us from Arlington Heights, IL. Patrick is employed by Ryder Systems, Inc. and Jayne, a former nurse, is a stay-at-home mom. They have two children, Shannon, 6 and Timothy, 4. Both Patrick and Jayne enjoy golf and Jayne likes scrapbooking and running. They reside at 21 Hidden Creek Circle, Pittsford 14534. Telephone: 248-2703.

James Messenger

A warm welcome to James, a fine singer with his family quartet and in the church choir. His other hobbies are reading and walking. He is in-between jobs at the moment and resides at 232 Shoreham Drive, Rochester, NY 14618. Telephone: 746-8885.

Jamie and Alan Roberts

A hearty welcome to you both. Jamie and Alan, coming to us from Irvine, CA, with their son James, 9 yrs. old. Alan is employed by ICI, Americas Division, Electronic Materials. They share many activities and hobbies: golf, sailing, fishing, ice hockey, scrabble and Euchre. They reside at 2900 East Avenue, Rochester, 14610. Telephone: 381-1711.

Susan and Nathan Zampella

It is a great pleasure to welcome Susan and Nathan. Nathan is our newly appointed Director of Christian Education. They have three little children, Arianna, 6, Lydia, 4 and Joshua, 2. Their hobbies are scrapbooking, volleyball and golf. They reside at 158 Citation Drive, Henrietta, 14467. Telephone: 359-8713

DATE CHANGE



HAM LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 6



Our Annual Ham Supper has been changed to a luncheon to be held January 6.

Join us after the 10:00 service for a delightful afternoon of fellowship and fun complete with a delicious meal.

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

Money. Credit. Bills.

These three words can express so much heartache. A Stephen Minister can be a caring listener to those experiencing financial problems. A Stephen Minister won't give advice or make judgments—he or she *will* care. 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 Sprengle or Carol Tiemann.* **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**



Introducing: "God's Handy Hands"

Are you in need of assistance and don't know who to call? The need may include helping with routine household maintenance, repairing appliances, assisting with insurance claims, installing storm windows, fixing porches, and the list goes on... Our Church has a new mission – ourselves!

God's Handy Hands is our local mission of God's work with our own members. To volunteer to help with any talent, or to call requesting some helping hands, email to Godshandyhands@aol.com, call George Alger at 381-0893 or the Church office. We are members of our Church ready to help each other.



Extra, Extra, Read all about it: Mozambique Mission 2008

Prestons, Pollocks, McFarlands, Towles, again invite you to join them in Mozambique to build another church to the glory of God. The sad part of this project is our father, Ted Pollock at the age of 95, has decided that he is getting too old to travel the world. However, his passion and desire to serve others lives on in us, his children. We would like to invite as many of you as possible to take part in this project with us. We would love to have 15 of you join us in Mozambique and work alongside the local church. Mark these dates on your calendar now: July 16—August 01, 2008.

For information: Email: Ronpollock@aol.com or call Ron at 455-0000

If you find you cannot come yourself, you can: Pray! Or donate toward the cost of supplies, food, lodging and transportation.

Donations may be sent to the Church office: marked for Pollock Church Project, Quelimane, Mozambique.

Third "Run for Carl": Grows Strong!

Thank you to all those who turned out for the 3rd Annual RUN FOR CARL held on Friday, Nov 23 at Mendon Ponds Park. According to organizer Lindsey Kurnath (SHS, 2000), over 225 people were on hand for the event, which raised more than \$4,000 for scholarships in memory of Carl Lane Metzler. Carl was a 2000 graduate of Sutherland High School who passed away suddenly of heart failure in June 2004.

Participants, decked out in yellow bandanas and LiveStrong bracelets provided by the Memorial Fund, braved the cold Rochester temps to run a 5K run or walk 1K or 3K in the park.

Scholarships will be given to Pittsford seniors who share some of Carl's most-loved characteristics and passions. Further contributions to the fund are welcome. Checks can be made out to the "Carl Lane Metzler Memorial Fund" and earmarked "Scholarship" to: Carl Lane Metzler Memorial Fund, 2400 Chase Square, Rochester, NY 14604.



Camp Whitman Openings for Summer 2008

The Presbytery of Geneva currently has openings for positions at Camp Whitman for the 2008 Camping Season:

Program Manager: Oversees the implementation of the program for Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake and directly oversees the counselors. Minimum requirement bachelor's degree.

Developmental Disabilities Camp

Coordinator: Responsible for the oversight, development and integration of the camping program for those campers with developmental disabilities. Must hold a bachelor's degree in one of the following areas: physical education, recreation, education, social work, psychology, rehabilitation or a related human service field. Also must present evidence of one year of MR/DD experience.

A deep personal faith in Jesus Christ, an active, evolving spiritual life, strong communication skills and an ability to work collegially are all characteristics which will be sought in applicants for these positions. Those interested in applying should send a letter to Rev. Joelle Davis-Moriarty, Executive Presbyter, at Joelle@PresbyteryofGeneva.org by Friday, December 28th, 2007. A job description and application will be sent to those who express interest. Please call (315) 536-7753 with any questions.

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.



THE MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ~ is looking for members who would like to volunteer to be a Welcoming Minister for our Sunday morning 10:00 AM service. Please contact the office or Marj Converse.



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 songs 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.

