

N e w s b r i e f

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

July/August, 2002

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Why do I do the things I do? Have you asked yourself that question when you have nicked yourself shaving? Forgotten to check for a leak in the plastic bag holding the strawberries? Stumbled over shoes left on the stairs? I really understand what Paul means when he writes:

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. (Romans 7:15)

He even seems to suggest that it is more difficult than this as he adds,

For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. (Romans 7:19).

I struggle just to deal with the foolish things I do, let alone the evil. Dr. Tucker Montgomery, an emergency room Doctor in Knoxville has seen the results of people doing foolish things. He tells about a man who was brought to the ER with serious injuries to his face and teeth. Apparently, while intoxicated the fellow drove around his neighborhood lighting firecrackers off his cigarette and then throwing the firecrackers out the window. He was having a grand old time until he accidentally threw his cigarette out the window and stuck the firecracker in his mouth. ("From Near-death to Dynamite" by Kristi L. Nelson, The Knoxville News-sentinel, E12)

No, we don't usually do anything quite this crazy, but we do ask ourselves, "Why did I eat that last piece of cake? Why didn't I look where I was going? Why did I let him get away with insulting me? Why did I blow up at my son like that? Why did I put off finishing that project until the very last minute? Why did I wait so long to sell that stock? Why can't I be positive and cheerful? Why do I let things get me down? Why did I do that?" Do you feel like this, too, or is it just me?

St. Paul was arguably the second most influential person who has ever lived. While it is true that more than a billion people on this earth follow Jesus, much of what we believe about Jesus we believe because of Paul. He was a man of intellect and insight. He was impassioned and inspired--disciplined and devout--sensitive and sincere. And yet even he acknowledges, "I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do." (NRSV)

Paul is honest. He doesn't blame his parents, his heredity, his environment or the government. He admits that sin is at work in his life. He says that the problem is in his own mind and heart and that it feels like there is a war going on within. Paul agonizes over how he feels and more than wanting to feel better, he wants to become a new person, liberated from all the craziness. Finally at one point he cries out, "Who will deliver me?" And then he answers his own question and writes, "Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (v. 25)

In his book, *A World to Love*, George Knowles says,

We can't save ourselves from sin, or free ourselves from the habits of sin that hold us in bondage. But we can choose to invite Jesus into our hearts, and when we do, a miracle takes place--a process of change begins that continues as long as we allow Him to control our lives.

George Knowles, *A World to Love* (Washington: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1990) p. 68.

So during these crazy, lazy, hazy days of summer remember to use sunscreen, drink lots of fluids, and don't overdo the exercise when temperature and humidity soar. Worship even when at the lake or in the mountains, pray, and enjoy the nature and people God has created and redeemed. Be cautious about the foolish stuff (easier for me to suggest than do) and as for those seemingly uncontrollable, inappropriate urges, choose an invitation to Jesus Christ to provide some help.

A

Bruce



STU'S SPOT

Malawi

It is impossible to tell you all I experienced. I'm surprised to realize, when people ask me questions, the many things I did not observe.

To be in Africa, jetting through Nairobi, Kenya; Lusaka, Zambia and staying in Lilongwe, Malawi will not soon disappear from my memory.

To be building homes for family units that have been stretched by the death of siblings and the acquisition of their orphan children easily ranks as one of the most humanitarian tasks of my life. I can still see the little faces with sparkling eyes, contagious smiles and rippling laughter as we worked in their backyard. I will wonder for years to come, how individuals can carry so much on top of their heads or on the back of their bicycles.

Most of all, the presence of God in our conversations in homes and on the worksite has built my faith in our glorious God.

So much more to tell. A

Peace,

From Sandy's Desk...

There are volunteer Church School teachers who give of their time and return year after year. And as often as I ask them aren't you tired? Do you need a 'sabbatical?' Their response is always: "I'm fine. I love these children of God. I learn from them everyday. They give me so much more than I can give them." Our Congregation has been so blessed with teaching teams that are dedicated and caring. Our enrollment is up and we add new students to our church school all the time. When our children choose to bring their friends or when parents are so pleased with their children's experience that they recommend 1st Pres. LOGOS or Church School to their friends, we know the Lord is leading and we are following in the right direction.

However, sometimes teachers as well as entire families have to leave us and begin life anew elsewhere. We lost two very special teachers this year through job transfer. Teachers do eventually need to step back and take a break. And we as a congregation are obligated to support them in their well earned rest.

Now it's your turn!!! We need teacher's helpers and teacher support, substitute teachers and skilled teachers. The good news is that this year, we have most of our teachers returning in September, 2002. This is phenomenal and we truly give thanks to God for their gift of themselves. But there are still a few openings for teaching staff that urgently need to be filled. **All teaching positions are team situations.** No one must be "the" teacher. Teams are made up of three or four people who choose to share the load in many different ways. But now, we need your help! Please consider whether or not the Lord is calling you to serve His very youngest members of this body either this summer or in the coming year. No snap decisions, now. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do you know some-one who loves children and loves the Lord? Great. Will you ask that person to pray about being part of team who will be a classroom Christian presence? That's really what its all about. Once you or your friend is open to the possibility of serving our Lord in this wonderful way, call Sandy at (586-5688 ext. 30). Many of our experienced teachers are returning and would love to have partners to assist them.

KUDOS! Many, many thanks to all those dedicated helping hands that made this year's Church School Program such a great success. All our special efforts, Heifer Fair, Pageant, Advent Dinner, Pen Pals Program, One Great Hour of Sharing, Confirmation, and this year especially the Christian Ed. Task Force and the Christian Ed. Commission deserve our heartiest round of applause!!! **YEAYYYYYYYYY!**

PARENTS:

Watch your mid-August mail for Church school Registration Packet. This year the form will be a little different. The packet will include all the information your entire household will need to begin the 2002-2003 education program year. Only your active cooperation, support and response will get our year off to a great start.

*Remember, that our church school is a "parent cooperative" effort. Our teaching volunteers need and expect your support. **THEY CANNOT DO THIS JOB WITHOUT YOU!!!***

Did you know...

That giving of your time or a special skill is the backbone of our Church School Program? Our very special volunteer teaching "team" needs in ways you may not consider. For example this fall, we will desperately need:

- a purchaser of supplies
- before the 10:00 am service a helper to deliver juice and cookies to four classrooms and turn on lights
- share a particular hobby or skill with a class
- teach a class a song
- tell a story or be a puppet show host to enhance a lesson
- for emergencies, we'd like to place your name on a list to be kept on hand for unusual circumstances
- give a ride to an elderly member or to a child to help them get to church 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.E. box in office.

I _____ would be glad to help out in the way(s)



**Christian Education
Committee
News and Notes**

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ The beginning of Summer Sunday School is June 23, coinciding with the beginning of the Summer Church schedule (9:30 AM). Our teachers were terrific, and they need a well-deserved vacation. The Nursery-2 year olds will be combined in the Toddler room. We need volunteers to help watch our wee ones! Junior and Senior High students are welcome, with the help of an adult. Call Madge Herge at 248-3615 if you are willing to help with even one Sunday during the summer. Parent and student (Jr./Sr. Highs) helpers are also needed for the 3's and 4's, and the combined Sunday School of K-3rd. Call Sandy Pacyga at 586-5688 if you are able to help. Many hands make light work! Please consider giving a little of yourself this summer! A

Your Christian Education Committee has been busy with making arrangements for the end of the 2001-

2002 program year, plans for summer Church School and preparation for the program year that will begin in September.

Teacher recognition, graduating H.S. senior recognition, curriculum review, and teacher recruitment have been very productive and now it's time to get everything in order for our start up again in September, 2002.

Some of the new look for September will be a more uniform approach to class schedules. Children will be released from classes at 11:15 AM.

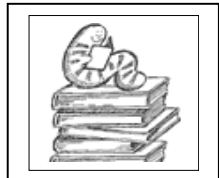
We would like feed back from the entire congregation about having our children (grades 2 through 6) in worship with the full congregation on five specific Sundays: 2 Choral Worship, Confirmation/Pentecost, Easter and Sr. Youth Sunday. That is five Sundays out of 52 regular worship services. Please call or write your opinions to Sandy Pacyga, Ed. minister on staff or Roxanne Skuse, Education Commission Co-Chairperson. Your ideas are so very important to us all.

The commission has decided to continue the Heifer Fair mission project for the coming year and has reshaped the C.E. calendar to include special project Sundays in order to make our Church School program year more uniform and more manageable for our volunteer teachers and their helpers. A

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK

CLUB 7:30 PM – July 27 ~

"Seabiscuit" by Laura Hillenbrand. The true story about how a great race-horse and 3 men captivated the world – competing in the



cruellest years of the depression. "This is more than a fine piece of writing about the sport of racing; it is also about our history."

– Stephen Ambrose

Home of Nancy Sprengle – 103 Stuyvesant Road, 381-8990.

REMINDER

Next Newsbrief deadline is August 18

What's Up with Youth Ministry

from Dan Kulp

In less than three weeks, seven of our young people along with Brian Hutchinson and myself, will be traveling to Cumberland, MD to work on homes for folks who are much less fortunate than we are. I would like to thank everyone involved with this venture. Several people have helped to contribute to this project already.

A perfect example of this is the Cabaret Dinner Theater fundraiser. From the servers to the performers, the kitchen help and decorators, to everyone that contributed by buying a ticket. All of you helped raise \$860.00!

This money will be used to help reduce the cost of the trip for the high schoolers, pay for supplies, food and rooming. Thank you so much to all that helped.

The \$860.00 will not pay for the changed lives of the teens. No amount of money will inspire a youth to read their Bible more. Nothing can be spent to ensure spiritual growth. We cannot pay for them to run and seek Jesus more fervently. These are the things we pray for.

So..just as you helped by raising money, please now contribute by praying for the kids that are going. Pray them meet Jesus.

In Christ,

Matthew 25:37-40

MITTEN REPORT

from Tish Paddock & Greta Garmon

Over the past decade, our congregation has supplied over 400 pairs of mittens to the nursery school at Calvary Saint Andrews Church. We hope to send our usual 44 pairs for the children (one pair for each of 40 students and 4 extra for the ones they lose). Cameron Community also receives hats, scarves and mittens, many for adults.

Look over the generous supply of yarn in the Fellowship Hall box, take some and be as creative as you wish. A

THE OPTIMISTS are beginning to plan next year's program. If you would like to join the planning group, please call Ellen or Ed Kinnen (586-9053) before June 30. A

PENNY PINCHER SALE

From Joyce Drake

As you clean out your cupboards and basements this summer, remember to sort and save good useable items for the annual Penny Pincher Sale. Dates this year are: drip off and set up, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 1 & 2. Sales dates Thursday and Friday, October 3 & 4. A

PITTSFORD VILLAGE TO CELEBRATE 175TH ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday, July 4, 2002, the Village of Pittsford will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its incorporation in 1827. Details of the many varied activities of this celebration will be covered in the Brighton-Pittsford Post.

Our church has provided spiritual strength and guidance from the time of the early settlers in the community, up to the present day. Founded in 1809, this encompasses the entire 175 years since the incorporation of the Village of Pittsford in 1827! A

MUSIC FEST AT VALLEY MANOR will be held in the summer on the lawn.

August 20 – Opera Performed by the Rochester Opera Theater

August 21 – Chamber Music Performed by the Eastman School of Music

August 22 – Big Band Music Performed by the Johnny Matts Big Band

On April 25, Valley Manor Apartments celebrated the grand opening of the new Seniors First Assisted Living Residence. Valley Manor is a part of the Presbyterian Homes program of Rochester.

MARY/WELLER CIRCLE will not meet during July and August. Instead of a regular meeting in September, there will be an informal morning coffee hour – check your September Newsbrief for further details as to time and place. A

A NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER'S CLASS will be held on July 31 at the home of Rev. Bruce Boak at 7:00 PM. New members will be received by the Congregation on August 4. If you are interested in attending the class, please call the office at 586-5688. A

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