

NewsBrief

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

July/August 2005

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

***Psychic Teen Performs Surgery with Rusty Can Opener
Electrician Attracts Eels***

These are just a pair of headlines taken from those checkout counter papers posing as journalism. Sandwiched between "Farmer Yanks Out Own Teeth with Rusty Pliers" and "Milkaholic Hits the Bottle" I discovered "Bible Predictions for this Year." The creative article details the findings of Dr. Jack Locklin and 24 other professors and religious leaders who met in Houston and determined that Biblical words directly relate to an inevitable earthquake that will devour a huge portion of California and that peace will come at last to the Middle East after a UFO with an alien diplomat lands near Jerusalem.

Whether we impose our own distortions on extracted and disconnected Biblical fragments or let someone else do it for us, we can admit that there is a yearning in most of us for some knowledge about the future. Should we buy or sell? Who will be elected? We don't find comfort in the prognostications of psychics on morning talk shows. We are a people that would rather have just the straight report.

Well, Nicole Brodeur is here to assist us with Youth Ministry. William Wilkinson has helped with worship, taught our Bible Study, and is with us over the summer. Bill and Carrie will soon bring home a newly minted surprise from the hospital. The reconstruction of our historic church building is moving along. These are the facts. These are what we can easily see. But, where are we going? What images are on our horizon as a faith community? Individually?

Even though we are Easter People, we struggle with hope, expectation, prediction, and our faith. I think that this is because we only see what we are prepared to see. And if "What you see is what you get," what we are prepared to see is of some major importance.

I remember helping some Senior Highs try to raise money for a mission trip with a car wash. Early in the morning business was brisk, but by 10:30am, the clouds started to appear. To our dismay, the rain came and began to pour and the customers ceased to come. We all saw that this was a time to pack in the car wash – except for this one fellow who printed a poster on an old piece of wood. It said, “WE WASH!” And with an arrow pointed skyward, “GOD RINSES!” Despite the rain, business boomed. Most of us just couldn’t see it.

A certain king had two servants. To the first he said, “I want you to travel for three months through my kingdom and bring me back a sample of every weed you can find.” To the second he said, “I want you to travel through my kingdom for 3 months and bring me back a sample of every flower you can find”.

Three months later, both servants stood before the king. To the first, the king asked, “Have you carried out my command?” His response was, “Yes, your majesty, and I was amazed to find there were so many weeds in the kingdom. In fact, there is nothing but weeds in your kingdom.” To the king’s question the second servant also answered, “I have carried out your wishes, sire, and I am amazed how many beautiful flowers there are in the kingdom. In fact, there is nothing but beautiful flowers in the kingdom!”

Both found that for which they were looking.

We’ve got a great summer ahead, a time when much of our pace changes. What will we see? Experience? Discover? It will probably depend on what we have chosen to look for in life. Some people only see the negative. One lady tells how, after years of persuasion, her mother was finally talked into having a cataract operation. Returning home from the hospital, the mother was encouraged to sit down in the living room in front of the picture window that looked out on an attractive pond. “Do you notice any difference in the view, Mom?” the daughter asked. “I certainly do,” her mother replied. “Don’t you ever dust?”

We see what we are prepared to see. Wise is the parent who teaches his or her child what to look for in life. May this be a summer where we encourage each other to see what God is doing, what God has done, and what God can do. May this be a summer when we look for those things that make for freedom, discipleship, and hope.

By the way, I am preparing to see you in church!

Bruce

Prayerfully Pondering Pregnant with Praise...

Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime! I pray you and yours have plunged into this wonderful season with joy and anticipation. I know Bill and I are happier this summer than we can remember. Not only are we excited for Rachel Josephine's arrival sometime around July 8, we are daily more aware of the blessings showered upon us by this magnificent church community.

Perhaps you can identify with a few of these blessings. We have had the joy of vibrantly worshipping with you now for three years in different locations. This church has lifted up God's praises in song, instrument, painting, faithful giving, mission, teaching, witnessing, care-giving, and care-receiving. We have witnessed this church community growing in faith through retreats, Bible studies, covenant groups, mission trips, Task Forces, service in leadership, the *Amazing* weekend, and service to others. The church has served as a beacon of hope to this community even amidst our own personal adversity of the fire. Members of the church have graciously allowed others to minister to us and passed on those ministry gifts when we have been able.

I have been the grateful recipient of twelve weeks of maternity leave so Bill and I can get to know Rachel Josephine and learn what it means to be parents. So many of you have made it infinitely easier for us with your generous gifts, advice, presence, caring and love – we are overwhelmed and thoroughly thankful for God's gifts flowing through this congregation. While on maternity leave, I hope we will be able to worship with you frequently. While I do not know what exactly to expect with motherhood, I do hope to enjoy walking Rachel in this lovely community throughout the summer and would welcome your company.

I am also delighted to welcome our new Youth Director, Niki Brodeur, and our summer intern, William Wilkinson, to ministry with this congregation. Both bring tremendous gifts and a wealth of experience. They began with us Sunday, June 5th and have plunged immediately into the flow of summer ministries and preparations for our return to our own facilities.

We greatly anticipate walking into our renovated sanctuary sometime this fall and celebrating our homecoming with prayerful pomp and Christ-centered circumstance. If you would like to help with these preparations, please be in touch with Faye Casey, our Homecoming Chairperson.

As you enjoy your summer, may you too find many reasons for praising God and many ministry occasions by which you can continue to make God's blessings known to those around you.

Go with God, *Carrie*

Week of July 4 – 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30; Gal. 6: (1-6) 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Week of July 11 – Amos 7:7-17; Ps. 82; Col. 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Week of July 18 – Amos 8:1-12; Ps. 52; Col. 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Week of July 25 – Hos. 1:2-10; Ps. 85; Col. 2:6-15
(16-19); Luke:1-13

Week of Aug. 1 – Hos. 11:1-11; Ps. 107:1-9, 43;
Col.3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Week of Aug. 8 – Isa. 1:1, 10-20; Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Week of Aug. 15 – Isa. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:1-2, 8-19;
Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

Week of Aug. 22 – Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; Heb. 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Week of Aug. 29 – Jer. 2:4-13; Ps. 81:1, 10-16;
Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

SOMETIMES, FOR COMMUNION, you may notice that we serve a different type of bread from what we normally serve. Basically it is an unleavened bread similar to what was used in Jesus' time. The recipe is one of Carol Ross' (chairperson of the Worship committee) grandmother's which had been passed down to Carol's mother. Both Carol's grandmother and mother have made the bread for over 50 years for Carol's home church in Mt. Vernon, Washington, and now Carol is sharing it with us. A

PITTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT & ROAC

(Religious Observance Advisory Council)

present a Summer Series on

AROUND the WORLD- RELIGIONS in our PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This summer series will focus on what each faith tradition teaches to their children and the impact that those teachings and their religious observances have during the school year on our families, students and staff. Twenty-minute Q & A will follow 20-minute presentations by each speaker. (Registration begins at 8:30a.m. for each session)

July 18, 2005 9am-11am

Born in the U.S.A- Some Christian Practices

Nancy Schraver, Christian Science Practitioner and Bishop Jeff Clark of the Pittsford stake of the Church of Latter Day Saints will share the panel with Eric Dellinger of the Pittsford Jehovah's Witness congregation and with youth from these faith communities.

July 25, 2005 9am-11am

Out of India-Traditions

Lakshmi Rao, a speaker from the Hindu Community Center will be joined on the panel by Maghar Chana from the Gurdwara of Rochester (speaking on Sikhism) and Deepak Udani, local representative of the Jain Federation.

August 1, 2005 9am-11am

Middle and Far Eastern Origins

Abu Saeed Islam from the Islamic Center will be joined on the panel by Rachel Johnson from the Baha'i Community Center and Frank Howard, Director of the Amitabha Foundation, the Tibetan Buddhist Center of Rochester.

August 8, 2005 9am-11am

Jerusalem and Judeo-Christian Traditions

Rabbi Amy Sapowith from Temple Sinai, Damian Zynda, Director of Christian Formation at Church of the Transfiguration and Reverend Jeff Hedin, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pittsford will share their faith traditions with student input, as well.

All panel discussions will be held at the Burgundy Basin Inn Conference Center Room A

*Would I believe you when you would say
Your hand will guide my every way?
Will I receive the words You say
Every moment of every day? ¹*

Jeremy Camp's song "Walk by Faith," to which these words belong, was playing just over one week ago as I sat in my bedroom amongst the boxes of things I had accumulated over my life. I couldn't believe in 23 years I *only* had a small amount of stuff (though my step dad would disagree I'm sure.) And I could not believe that the day had **FINALLY** arrived for me to move out to Rochester, NY. There were feelings of sadness, fear, and excitement all rolled into the knots in my stomach. What would be awaiting me in my new life at First Presbyterian in Pittsford?

In the days before arriving here, God seemed to guide my attention to Exodus 3-4. Moses at this point is a shepherd for his father-in-law in the desert. The LORD speaks to Moses through a burning bush, calling him to go to Egypt and deliver the Israelites from the oppression of Pharaoh.

Now, Moses is probably ready to fall over from shock right now. A bush that is consumed by flame but not becoming ashes? And there's a voice claiming to be God speaking to him? He even asks God "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11) God is amazing and assures Moses that He will be with him, and to tell the Israelites that when asked who sent him, Moses was sent by "I AM," the God of their fathers. You can read the rest of Moses' story in the book of Exodus.

God calls each one of us to certain places and roles in our lives. We can approach these new roles with extreme fear and run from them kicking and screaming. Or we can meet them head on with joy and anticipation, ready to do God's will, wherever and whatever it may be. Luckily, Moses stuck around to see what was going on with the burning bush.

I have been overwhelmed by how welcome and accepted each person has made me feel here. I already consider myself to be part of the family. Thank you everyone for helping to make First Presbyterian in Pittsford my home! A

Blessings,

Niki

Psalm 139

* Updates...There are still 12 open spots for Kingdom Bound July 31-August 3rd! Contact Niki in Church Office for details...I am very interested in forming a Parent Board for the Youth Ministry. If this sounds like a team for you, please contact Niki in Church Office...Keep your eyes on the calendar for a Parents meeting in September and Youth events in the coming months...Great to be here with you!!! A

¹ Jeremy Camp "Walk by Faith"

PRESBYTERY NEWS

3 RISK-FREE TRIAL ISSUES OF *PRESBYTERIANS TODAY!* Discover for yourself why regular readers of *PRESBYTERIANS TODAY* testify that each issue brings something of personal and spiritual value. If you want to receive 7 more issues of the magazine pay the \$15.95 invoice (20% off the regular subscription price). Subscriptions can be ordered at www.pcusa.org/today or by calling 1-800-558-1669. Try the website at <http://www.pcusa.org/today/subscribe/individualforms/trial.htm>. A

RICK UFFORD-CHASE, MODERATOR OF THE 216TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO VISIT OUR PRESBYTERY JULY 5 & 6. There are three opportunities to meet and learn about what is happening in the church across the world with Moderator Ufford-Chase. Tuesday, July 5 from 9:00am – 3:00pm visit VIVE in Western New York. Tuesday Evening, July 5 from 6:15 – 9:00pm, Summer Supper with Rick at the Gates Presbyterian Church and Wednesday, July 6 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Camp Whitman in Geneva.

VIVE is a faith-based organization for refugees fleeing war and oppression all over the world and seeking a new life in the United States or Canada. Contact Jan Tyson – JanT@pbywny.org if you would like to attend Tuesday morning.

Rick will share his answer to the question, “What are the key theological issues currently facing the church and society, and how do they shape your ministry?” at Gates on Tuesday evening. Buffet supper is served at 7:00pm. Cost is \$10 per person (in advance only). Contact Carol Keeler, ckeeler@presbygenval.org or 585-242-0080.

The meeting on July 6 is especially for high school and college youth, young adults, advisors and pastors. Rick will speak on “A Voice and Ministry in the Church.” Stay for a taco lunch and enjoy boating, swimming and the low ropes course in the afternoon. Lunch is free, but reservations are necessary. Contact Karen Jensen – kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org, 315-536-7753.

VIVE
50 Wyoming Ave
Buffalo, NY 14215

Gates Presbyterian Church
1049 Wegman Road
Rochester, NY 14624
247-5292

Located west of Rochester off I-490 and Route 33

Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake
150 Whitman Road
Dresden, NY 14441
315-536-7753

Rick Ufford-Chase has been working on the U.S./Mexico border for more than 15 years. He is the co-founder and director of BorderLinks, a binational organization that provides experiential education on issues related to our borders. You can learn more about Rick at www.pcusa.org/whereisrick. A

VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE RESOURCE CENTER – Tuesday, August 9 from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Lunch is included. Paint ceilings, clean windows, weed books, build displays. RSVP to Susan Orr @ 242-0099. Presbytery of Genesee Valley could use office volunteers. Volunteers prepare bulk mailings, copying, collating, and other office duties. If you would be available to offer an hour or more per month, please contact Sharon Hann, Presbytery of Genesee Valley, 1190 Winton Road South, Rochester, NY 14618 or email her at shann@pbygenval.org. A

Mission Possible Cabaret

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Mission Possible Cabaret. Thanks to your support, the event was a great success and \$2200 was raised. These funds will be used to support our youth mission trip this summer to New Jersey.

Please personally thank and support the following merchants who donated to our silent auction:

Applebee's	Kuts for Kids
Bill Wahl's Ice-cream (Kelby and Carin Ash)	McDonald's
The Black Sheep	Perfect 10 Salon
Bowl-a-Roll	Plum Garden Restaurant
Buffalo Bills	Pontillo's Pizza
Close to my Heart (Randi Rhinehart)	Possibilities at Pittsford Plaza
Ted Collins	Port of Pittsford Gifts
Dolce Salon	Red Barn
Duncan Studio	Simply Crepes
Elaine's of Pittsford	Snow Country
Forsythe's Jewelers (Matt and Sue Wahl)	Red Wings
Great Northern Pizza	Regalia
Hallmark at Pittsford Plaza	Tony Wells Agency
Julian's Florist	Woodcliff Lodge Resort and Conference Center

WEB CLUB NEWS

Wednesday Evening Book Club
Discussion begins at 7:30 PM

July 13 - "Reader's Choice" Discuss a
current book you are reading or
one you read recently.

Home of Nancy Sprenkle - 103 Stuyvesant
Road

Please call Nancy if you plan to attend at
381-8990

Our Church Needs

YOU!

Would you like an opportunity to meet new people from our congregation while helping to accomplish the many tasks required to keep Pittsford First Presbyterian running smoothly? The nominating committee is looking for future deacons, trustees, and elders to begin serving in January 2006. If you have an interest in serving, or have a suggestion of someone who might serve on one of the above church boards, please contact a member of the nominating committee, or send the information to the church office. For questions on what constitutes the duties of a deacon, trustee, or elder, any member of the nominating committee would be glad to speak with you. This is an exciting time to be a member of a church board, as we will soon begin to worship God in our beautiful new home.

Nominating Committee Members: June Mathieu, Sylvia Fix, Margaret Mecredy, Jim Hotaling, Andy Ashworth, and Ann Haeefele.

If the spirit is nudging you, please fill out this card and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

Name _____

Phone # _____

Possible area of Interest (Deacon, Trustee, or Elder)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

from Trudy Bartleson, M & E Committee

Ed and Kate Nugent – We are delighted to have Ed and Kate join our church family. They had been living in Philadelphia and have two children, Abigail 8 and Caleb 4. Kate is a stay-at-home Mom who enjoys family activities, gymnastics and squash. Ed works for Hammer, Lithograph. Their address is 32 Wood Home Rise. Pittsford; 264-0528.

Nehemiah Campaign Update

Our Nehemiah campaign has collected nearly \$940,000 toward our goal of \$1.5 million. We'd like to thank the many generous contributors who have given so far, and remind you that pins are available at the "Nehemiah" table in the lobby outside the chapel entrance, to all those who have made their pledge. Please wear them to help spread the "word" about the campaign. For those of you who haven't made a pledge yet, pledge cards are also at the table, along with campaign booklets to help answer any questions you might have.

We estimate that only about half of our congregation has made a pledge to date. While we tried to reach the entire congregation on May 22, we came up short and apologize to those who didn't receive a personal call. We will be following up with everyone in the coming weeks, but please feel free to pick up a pledge card or call the church office at 586-5688 to send in your pledge.

The rebuilt church is quickly taking shape and we hope to begin services again on September 11. It is our hope that well before that date, every member of the church will have had an opportunity to join us in this campaign and that our goal of \$1.5 million will have been reached. The size of your gift doesn't matter – but participation is the key. As the church approaches its 200th birthday, there can be no more fitting gift to give than the legacy to our children and grandchildren of a strong, vibrant church in a thriving community. Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions and God Bless you all for your support.

In Christ,

Rick Taylor & Jeff Tyler
Nehemiah Campaign Co-Chairs

I want to express my deepest thanks to the cast and support staff of the recent musical *The Troubbabel of Zerubbabel*. The talents and gifts of our children never cease to amaze me and the fruits of their labor were evident last Sunday in spite of the sweltering heat. It is no wonder that Jesus so welcomed the children. He understood their creative energy and connection to the spirit. May we all be as blessed.

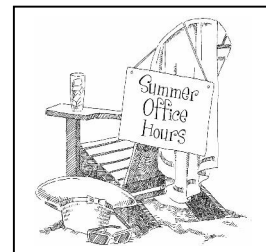
In Christ,
Dede Holmes

Church Summer Hours: June 20 – September 4

Church Worship: 9:30 AM – Nazareth College

Church Office: Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



The church brokerage account is now Banc of America Investment Services (formerly Quick and Reilly). THE OLD ACCOUNT # IS NO LONGER VALID. Please call me at the office and I can give you the new brokerage Account Number. Thank you, Janet Travis.