

NewsBrief

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

July/August 2007

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

“Repositioning!” I thought about this word when Gerry Mello and I walked the golf course at Oakmont this June at the U.S. Open. It was a blessing to watch these world famous golfers struggle with the incredibly fast greens, jungle like rough, and dangerous sand traps. There is one of these traps called “The Sahara.” Need I say more about its size? Another series of traps is called “The Church Pews.”

These “pews” are a bunker between the third and fourth holes, a sandy expanse, broken up by a series of ridges - rows of grassy berms running straight across. It looks like outdoor seating (outdoor church pews). The Pews have 12 berms, around 3.5 to 4 feet deep, and the "pews" are covered in shaggy fescue. This bunker is 102 yards long, and 43 yards wide at the widest end.

Once you get into the Church Pews bunker you will do penance in your attempt to get out. We watched as a few of the world's best had a “come to Jesus” moment in them. This was one of the places where the word “repositioning” came into play.

If I had been playing on this course I would have needed that indispensable club – the hand mashie. How can you reposition your body, the club, or the ball to have a chance at making appropriate forward progress? On Oakmont's fast greens, even putting was hard. In school I learned the difference between “put” and “putt.” “Put” means to place a thing where you want it. “Putt” means merely a vain attempt to do the same thing.

In a recent book, *Living Life Without Limits*, African American preacher, T. D. Jakes, pastor of the Potter's House, a congregation of over 30,000 makes a case for repositioning. (Time magazine has called T.D. Jakes “America's best preacher.”) Jakes encourages people to confront subtle passivity and poor choices. Jakes accepts the inevitability of change, encouraging us to embrace and expect it rather than fear it. He suggests that as the world changes we need to reposition ourselves in order to live a life without limits. And he suggests five stages repositioning change:

- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Formalization
- Institutionalization

● Crystallization This column is too short to spell all of this out, but we should acknowledge that we are in the process of repositioning here at 1st Presbyterian Church. The Session is studying our vision for the future. Christian Education is preparing a new model for Sunday School (the rotation model). Worship Committee is seeking to make the sacraments more important. Although there is staff changes (in Christian Education and Sanghwa leaving), Personnel is exploring ways to have job descriptions reflect changing program needs. Outreach committee is taking a more direct hands-on approach to mission. We are searching for ways to maintain our traditional and historic faith while repositioning ourselves for a changing community.

We will all reposition ourselves when we face vocational, educational, and health shifts. The summer is a pause for us as we reposition our focus a little away from education to recreation, away from regimentation to impulsivity, away from schedule to flexibility. It will be a time to enjoy the world that God has created. But, I hope that it will also be a time for us to welcome those moments when we are in our church pews, praising God for change, expressing gratitude when the Almighty One lifts us out of the rough and places on those fairways of opportunity to try again. It is a time for the family to change routine and worship together and a time to reposition ourselves for determined faithfulness.

Prayerfully Pondering Summer Satisfactions...

Have you recently been to a class reunion? National Public Radio just ran a story on East High School of Lima, Ohio's 70th reunion. One of the 12 classmates was interviewed and she proudly said at 87 she was not a bit nervous about seeing how everyone else was doing. Her secret to success was enjoying each of her days, loving God, and serving others. That sounds like a winner to me!

As we settle into our summers with altered schedules, vacation plans, and sultry days, I pray we each find satisfaction in our daily activities, our walks with God and our service to others. I thought you would be interested in knowing how some of your ministries through First Presbyterian Church Pittsford are indeed serving others.

As an outgrowth of our Nehemiah Campaign, we have recently given five gifts of \$10,000 each to Cameron Community Ministries, Calvary St. Andrews, Wilson Commencement Park, the Community Microenterprise Center, and Pittsford Youth Services, which provides counseling to our school-age children without charge. Once the remaining \$50,000 is released, we will award \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity and the remaining \$40,000 will be divided between missions outside of Rochester in Pearlinton, Mississippi, the Pollock mission trips, and this summer's senior high mission trip, Jamaican Advantage through Sports for Youth (JASY).

The amounts given are designed to reinforce our ongoing hands-on commitment and partnership with the recipient entities and are intended to further encourage greater person-in-the-pew participation in these ministries that are changing the lives of God's children for the better. To that end, we will have our first annual One Great Day of Mission on Saturday, September 15th. Save the date now for a wonderful day of ministry and fellowship with some of these recipient agencies.

Representatives of our congregation are working throughout the year with each of the recipients to further our partnership and ensure the greatest ministry bang for the buck. If any of these ministries sound satisfying to you, please let me

know and I will delightedly connect you with them.

And speaking of satisfying connections, I am delighted to share with you the successful results of our inaugural year with Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS). We have a beautifully strong leadership team of 8 moms that will be shepherding a returning group of at least 16 moms. Out of the 30 moms who inquired about MOPS over the course of the program year, 6 never came, but everyone else who tried us out joined as members for the remainder of the year. This ministry truly has been an outreach into our community: only 8 of our moms came from the congregation! The leadership team is planning an exciting year of speakers, hands-on activities, fellowship, and mutually supportive growth for 2007-08. If you know of any moms who would benefit from this ministry, have them check out our church's website for registration materials for the fall.

Knowing that these and other ministries you support are making a difference in others' lives, may your summer be celebratory, restorative and oh, so satisfying!

Go With God,

Carrie

Week of July 1 – 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Ps. 77:1-2, 11-20
Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Week of July 8 – 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30; Gal. 6:(1-6) 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Week of July 15 – Amos 7:7-17; Ps. 82; Col. 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Week of July 22 – Amos 8:1-12; Ps. 52; Col. 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Week of July 29 – Hos. 1:2-10; Ps. 52; Col. 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Week of Aug. 5 – Hos. 11:1-11; Ps. 107:1-9, 43
Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Week of Aug. 12 – Isa. 1:1, 10-20; Ps. 5:1-8;
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

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

Week of Aug. 26 – Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; Heb. 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

NOTES FROM CHRISTIAN ED

Teachers, Thank You! Thank you for your work during this '06 - '07 program year, this includes Sunday School, Confirmation, Senior High Forum, Adult Education and Bible Study! What an impressive list! Your faithfulness, preparation and tenacity are very much appreciated by all of us. We hope that you will be back by popular demand for '07 - '08 program year.

Next year we are embarking on a new curriculum for Sunday School classes from kindergarten to sixth grades, called the Rotation Model. This model was developed by a Presbyterian, Neil MacQueen, to meet the various developmental needs and learning styles of children. The Bible stories will be taught in a variety of kid-friendly multimedia workshops such as: Art, Drama, Music, Games, Audio Visual, Story Telling, Science and Computers! Each four-week unit will begin with a Gathering of all students where the Bible topic of the unit will be introduced. Each of the remaining weeks, with the guidance of a shepherd, kids will "rotate" to different workshops reinforcing and supplementing the Bible story.

Please visit the website: www.rotation.org for more information. The following is a quote from that website entitled: "Why it Works: The Workshop Rotation Model concentrates on the major stories of the Bible over and over again. The model's philosophy recognizes that kids not only love repetition, but also they need it to develop lasting memory and understanding of content. The multi-intelligences (creative methods) approach in the model isn't a fad or merely kid-friendly, it is calculated to take advantage of our student's God-given thirst for multi-model learning."

If any of you find that this seems familiar, you are correct! This model is very similar to our popular LOGOS program where students move from Bible study, to Games, to Music, to Crafts and Fellowship at Dinner with guidance from adult volunteers. Each week has a theme that is reinforced in each "rotation." Kids Love It! We hope to infuse the joy of LOGOS into our Sunday School program!

Sincerely,
The Christian Education Committee

ALERT FROM YOUR DEACONS ~ The Caregivers Committee of Deacons would like to know if there is anyone who would like to receive Home Communion, given on Palm Sunday and World Wide Communion Sunday in October. Also if there is anyone who would like to be put on the Caregiver's visiting list, please call the church office at 586-5688 and give the information to Doris Goodemote.
Christine Longyear, Chair - Deacons Caregivers



RICHARD AND ELEANOR SITTS ~ We extend a fond farewell to Ellie and Dick Sitts who are moving on Friday June 22, 2007 to St Johns, Michigan. Unfortunately, they will not be in church before then as they have been attending high school graduations for their grandsons. They are moving to be near their daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Phillip Sinder who reside in East Lansing MI with their two sons Ben, a senior at Case Western and Adam who will attend Carnegie Mellon this Fall. Phillip Sinder is a Tuba Professor at Michigan State. Their other daughter Dawn and her husband Ken reside in Chappaqua, NY with their two children, Matthew who will attend Colgate University this Fall and upcoming high school sophomore, Elizabeth. We will all miss Ellie and Dick as they have contributed so much to the music program here at First Presbyterian! In addition, Ellie was a Trustee and both Dick and Ellie are Elders, who served on Session in past years.

If you would like to keep in touch with the Sitts family, their new address is as follows: 1103 South Scott Road, # 310, St Johns, Michigan 48879. Thank you Ellie and Dick for all your time, talent and resources that you have brought to our church family. We send our love and good wishes to you both in your new home!



WANTED: Administrator, First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford Mission Commission. ~ We are seeking an individual with available time to take on administrative responsibilities for mission trip planning and coordination. If you'd like to make a difference in the world and are looking to find a local position with worldwide impact, we have a job for you. Travel is optional and compensation includes, hugs, everlasting gratitude and the feeling of contentment on a job well done. Please apply for this volunteer position by contacting Dan Harrison, Bev or Ron Pollock.

The Concert Series will continue Sunday September 30th at 3 PM with "Luminescence".

This vocal trio performs jazz classics and popular tunes from the 1930's, '40's and beyond, from George Gershwin and Cole Porter to Manhattan Transfer, in the style of the Andrews Sisters. The trio consists of Alexandra Bermel, a research scientist (chemist) at Eastman Kodak, Glenda Brayman, attorney working for the New York State Judiciary, and Heather Hutton, an English teacher and head of the English Department at Allendale Columbia.



On Friday October 26th at 7:30 PM, enjoy the return of Harold McAulliffe and James Douthit, with the Chancel Choir, as they present Sacred Favorites II. They will offer beloved psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. The concert will be recorded. For each \$12.00 donated to the organ fund, the donor will receive a copy of the CD. Many of you enjoyed Sacred Favorites I in 2006, so mark your calendars now for the second of these enormously popular and moving concerts.

All freewill donations will go to the Pipe Organ Fund.



Don't Miss the Boat! Act Now if You'd Like to Be Part of the Next Stephen Minister Training Class!

Time is running out if you want to be part of First Presbyterian Church's next class

of Stephen Ministers, which will begin the last week of September. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to grow in faith, develop stronger relational skills, and bring Christ's love into the lives of hurting people. To be part of this class, you will need to pick up a copy of the Stephen Minister Application from Carrie Mitchell in the church office. Fill it out and return it to Carrie. We will then schedule a time during the first two weeks of August when you can meet with a couple of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about the training and so we can learn more about you. If you have any questions, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum (385-9807), Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.*

SUMMER SUNDAYS ADULT ED

Please join us, starting June 24, 8:15 in the Library. We will study a variety of topics, having just completed "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers".

Starting off, we will be using the Serendipity Bible for study and lively conversation.



PENNY PINCHER SALE

from Joyce Drake

In your spare time this summer, remember to sort through your cupboards, rooms, workshops, and garages for items for our Annual Penny Pincher Sale.

Needed donations from the congregation for the sale in clean, usable condition are: small appliances, antiques, books, collectibles, dishes, electronics, furniture, jewelry, kitchenware, linens, sports equipment, tools and toys. All electrical items must be in working order.

We will **NOT** be accepting the following: exercise equipment, skis, poles, boots, typewriters, computer monitors (all computers must be complete and in working order) and no clothing. The dates in October are set-up and drop-off– Tuesday and Wednesday, October 2 & 3. Sale days – Thursday and Friday, October 4 & 5.



Church Summer Hours:

June 24 - September 2

Church Worship: 9:30 AM

Fellowship following service in Fellowship Hall

Church Office Hours:

June 11 - September 4

Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

SHOP AT TOPS? ~ Willing to do so to support youth missions? Purchase your shopping gift cards from us and 5% of the proceeds come back to the youth of our church for our summer missions. To purchase your card, please call Niki at 586-5688 ext. 31.