

# NewsBrief

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

## July/August 2008

### From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Thank you for your help! It has been humbling to participate in a project where so many of our 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Pittsford family provided \$12,000 for the support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society if I completed the Century Bike Ride around Lake Tahoe.

Our Western New York-Finger Lakes Team made all connecting flights and arrived in South Tahoe. We put in a 30-mile test ride to Emerald Bay and then enjoyed a pasta dinner in the showroom of the Montbleu Casino Lounge. Yes, our hotel was in California, but directly across the street was Nevada and the casino had the space to host the 1800 of us Team-in-Training folk riding the 100 miles the next day. As I walked passed the rows of slot-machines on my way to dinner (one-armed bandits I call them) there was a fleeting thought about 10% tithing of the things.

There had been much to learn about new research in Leukemia and Lymphoma that day. Although there would be 3500 riders, 1800 of us had brought a combined commitment of \$7.5 million for completion of the ride. Then after the facts, the research of new medicines, and the histories were shared, a large screen flashed pictures of those who had inspired us on this venture, and there was Martha's picture.

The ride got under way at 6:30am the next morning. To identify the seven of us from Rochester who had joined the 9 from Buffalo, we all wore small rubber buffaloes on our helmets. (People from Pittsburgh wore Heinz ketchup bottles, Napa Valley riders had wine glasses, Atlantans had peaches – all areas of the country were represented.) However, I was unique in that I sported the only buffalo with a view of where he had been. All went well for the first 40 miles or so, even the climbs. Then seeming disaster came on the ride into Truckee, CA when a pot hole threw me and the bicycle to the ground at about 24 mph. The fall shredded clothes and skin and mangled the bike. A fellow riding behind inquired, "Are you going to be OK?" I stammered, "I think so, but I doubt that my wife and I are going to have children again."

Band-aids, rubber gloves and strips of cloth were pressed into service and the bike got a 3 mile lift into Truckee in the back of a Honda Civic. A wizard-mechanic retread wheels, rebuilt brakes, derailleur, levers, and handlebars. It wasn't pretty, but it was rideable. I stuffed ice cubes into plastic bags and stuffed the bags into my bike shorts to reduce swelling and was back on the ride, leaving the remaining 60 miles.

Word had traveled via cell-phone that I was back on the road and focused on the eight mile climb up to Spooner Lake overlooking Lake Tahoe. It was glorious to reach the summit and discover our entire team in a hugging reunion that we had all made it together. "It must be like this in heaven," I thought, "so many to welcome others." Maybe the trip wasn't perfect, but the wonder of accomplishment brings joy, not just to the one who gets there, but to all. Then together, we rode the next fifteen miles to the finish line and celebrated the beautiful

ride with medals, photos, and a bottle of Champagne. I even got to open the bottle, removing the cage, twisting bottle while holding the cork. The cork rocketed like a 4<sup>th</sup> of July display. (It could have damaged someone if the bottle had not been pointed upwards.)

Thank you for the memories, the reminders, and the support. I will be in Avalon, NJ on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, conducting a wedding on the 5<sup>th</sup>, leading worship on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Martha will be back in Pittsford having returned home from the Wilmot Cancer Center accompanied by my sisters, Bonnie and Betsy. Martha's treatment plan begins the day after the school year ends at French Road Elementary. There is a month of chemo-therapy, about 20 days of stem-cell harvesting from her blood and marrow (a stem-cell match was not found), another month of intense chemo, and then about 3 weeks of infusing her with her cryogenically rescued stem-cells. Much of the time she will be at Strong.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all knew the outcome of everything and the outcome would always be good? If we could look into the future and actually see that God was going to be faithful in guiding our children on the right path. If we could look through a telescope of time and know that we were going to be financially secure. If we could know that the problem that seems so big now would work itself out. Wouldn't that be great? We could go off the blood pressure pills and throw away the anxiety medication. We could put our feet up and sail through life.

But that is not how life is. That certainly was not how it was for Abraham. God called him to leave his family and his home and travel to a strange country. He had no idea where he would settle, what it would look like or how events would resolve. The only thing God told him was to go and that God would be with him.

There is a mariner's chart, drawn in 1525 on display in the British Museum in London. It outlines the North American coastline and adjacent waters. The cartographer made these notations on areas of the map that represented regions not yet explored: "Here be giants," "Here be fiery scorpions," and "Here be dragons."

Eventually, the map came into the possession of Sir John Franklin, a British explorer. Scratching out the fearful inscriptions, he wrote these words across the map: "HERE IS GOD."

Wherever you go this summer, whatever you do – be it at Keuka Lake, the Adirondacks, listening to a twilight concert of the RPO, riding your bicycle along the Erie Canal for ice cream – it may be enough to know that God is with you. Oozing through your subconscious, this Biblical message, affirmed in our corporate worship may trigger resolve and confidence sufficient to help you make good decisions or to know that although we commemorate the Declaration of Independence, our true freedom is found more in our interdependence with each other and our dependence upon God. Indeed we admire those original signers who concluded their declaration with similar dependence and interdependence when they wrote:

*with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*

I have felt that you have done that with the Boak family. Together we have relied on divine providence. We have pledged our lives, our resources, and our honor – riding around Tahoe, rebuilding a church, sending others to Mozambique to represent us when we can't go, sending notes of sympathy, praying together, hugging and drinking coffee and lemonade, singing familiar and new hymns, laughing and crying.

*Bruce*

Week of July 6 – Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
*Ps. 45:10-17 or S. of Sol. 2:8-13*  
 Rom. 7:15-25a  
 Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

Week of July 13 – Gen. 25:19-34; *Ps. 119:105-112*  
 Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

Week of July 20 – Gen. 28:10-19a  
*Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24*; Rom. 8:12-25  
 Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

Week of July 27 – Gen. 29:15-28; *Ps. 105:1-11, 45b*  
 or *Ps. 128*; Rom. 78:26-39  
 Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

Week of Aug. 3 – Gen. 32:22-31; *Ps. 17:1-7, 15*  
 Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21

Week of Aug. 10 – Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28  
*Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b*  
 Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

Week of Aug. 17 – Gen. 45:1-15; *Ps. 133*  
 11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28

Week of Aug. 24 – Exod. 1:8-2:10; *Ps. 124*  
 Rom. 12:1-8; Matt. 16:13-20

Week of Aug. 31 – Exod. 3:1-15;  
*Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c*  
 Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28



Greetings all! It's been a great school year for 2007-2008. We've had some great times throughout the year. Our Mission Moms organized many local mission projects that had high participation and provided great ways to serve right here in our own backyard. Youth group for both junior and senior high has been wonderful as well. Our students went through the book of Philippians together in the beginning of the year and closed with a series looking at movie clips that illustrated great topics having to do with their faith.

This summer we'll be busy with mission trips, Kingdom Bound, and our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt & Gutter Sundae in August. Our first mission trip will be June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 5<sup>th</sup> in N. Kingstown,

Rhode Island. Our senior high youth will be doing painting, building, and landscaping for needy residents in the area. Please pray for our group in our travels and reaching out to others. Those attending are Maddie Ashworth, Niki Brodeur, David Churchill, Brandon Cooper, Brendan Goldrick, Erika Herge, Libby Jones, Stacy Leyland, Cam Rossington, Colleen Rouse, Kelsey Swetman, Paige Thompson, Jamie Tyler, Sky Skuse, Kelsey Swetman, and John Watt III. Our junior high team will be heading to York, PA from July 20<sup>th</sup>-July 26<sup>th</sup>. Those attending are Cammie Bibens, Niki Brodeur, Taylor Frank, CeCe Frey, Nathaniel Kim, John Messenger, Erin Thompson, and Sarah Tinder.

Keep in mind these super fun things coming up!

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>-August 31<sup>st</sup>** ...Each Sunday (except for July 13<sup>th</sup> when Niki is preaching!) in Forum from 9:30-10:30am we will be going through "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" together...the book AND the movie! During the summer, Forum is open for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (and our college kids!)

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**- Kingdom Bound! Cost is \$180...There are 14 spots open. Please register by July 27<sup>th</sup>! (open for incoming freshmen to graduating seniors)

**August 20<sup>th</sup>**- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt & Gutter Sundae

\*\*Keep an eye out for next year's youth calendar on our website in the near future...great things in store for next year!

\*\*If you are interested in going on our senior high mission trip to Jamaica next summer (June 27<sup>th</sup>-July 6<sup>th</sup>) see Niki ASAP. \$100 deposit to secure your spot (non-refundable after September 30<sup>th</sup>.) We have 18 officially signed up so far!

## Christian Education News:

by Nathan Zampella

**Sunday School** – The summer children’s program has begun! Here is the modified format for June 22<sup>nd</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Nursery rooms will be available. We are working to staff them with volunteers to care for your infant/toddler while you attend worship. If we are unable to do that, then the rooms will be available for your child to play under your supervision, and you will be able to listen to the worship service via the audio feed from the sanctuary.

3-4 year olds will be in their room with Miss Trudy.

Grades K-3 will gather together downstairs in Room 2 (also the Kindergarten room) after the Mouse Report. Grades 4-6 will meet in Room 7, directly under the Sanctuary. These groups will be learning about Sharable Parables and how to Follow the Leader, through fun activities and bible study. Here are descriptions for the curricula units:

### ***Sharable Parables***

Jesus told parables to teach people about the kingdom of God, but they’re also great stories for kids to share with others! Kids learn about the sower and the seed, the wise and foolish builders, the great banquet, the lost son, and the good Samaritan—and what those parables mean for us today.

### ***Follow the Leader***

The Bible is full of leaders, but they’re never the kind of people we’d expect. The stories of Moses, Gideon, David, and Esther show how God chose people who were flawed, hesitant, and powerless to be leaders and to save his people, but that in Jesus God sent the perfect leader to save us once and for all.

We are asking for volunteers to sign up for one week during the summer months to either teach or assist in a classroom. Summers are full of re-creation, family and fun, and rightly so. I will minimize your preparation time and the lessons will be fun and engaging. Check your calendars and be blessed by serving in Sunday School at least once this summer. I tend to learn as much as the children do ☺. Sign-ups will remain in Fellowship Hall until filled.

Grades 7-8 are invited to join Senior High Forum for the summer. They will be viewing, reading and discussing *Narnia*.

**Adult Education** – Save the Date for the next Adult Education Seminar. We will walk through the New Testament on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The participants from last year’s walk through the Old Testament had energetic and animated stories to tell. You won’t want to miss it this year!

The Wednesday evening Bible Study continues to meet through the summer. You’ll get laughs and learning at 7:15 in Room 200.

I pray that you have a summer full of memories, and that you will stay safe in your adventures both within, and outside of, your neighborhoods.



## **There’s still work to do in Pearlington**

Mission trips are being planned in October for adults and December 27 to January 3 for adults and teens. There’s room for those making a return trip and for those going for the first time. Save the dates and watch for more information in upcoming NewsBrief articles and after church in Fellowship Hall. See Barb or Bill Smith for the October trip and Ron or Bev Pollock for the December trip.

## Mozambique Update

Beginning on July 16, the Pollock family will lead several teams of volunteers to Mozambique to help a local congregation in Beira build a Presbyterian Church. This is the project Ted was working on when he past. Sixteen members of First Presbyterian will be participating.

Needless to say, the cost of building materials alone is very high - our current estimate is **\$26,260**. In addition each volunteer will have to raise around \$2,300 for airfare, visas, vaccinations etc. Due to the generosity of the Outreach Committee, Presbyterian Women and many individuals, we are well on our way to our financial goal. However, we are still around **\$9,000** short for building materials. As a fundraiser we are “selling” items needed to build the church. Please look over the list and consider what you can afford to donate. If you haven’t already contributed, won’t you please mail a donation to the church in memory of Ted Pollock?

6 mm rebar (235)	\$ 2 each
10 mm rebar (145)	\$ 4.50 each
Bag of 10 roofing screws (50 bags)	\$ 5 each
12 mm rebar (36)	\$ 6.50 each
10 truss plates (23 sets)	\$ 7 (for 10)
Creosote (5 cans)	\$ 7 each
Construction buckets (6)	\$10 each
Shovels (6)	\$10 each
Sack of cement (320)	\$10 each
Sack of lime (60)	\$15 each
Ridge cap (20)	\$16 each
Varnish (7 cans)	\$12 each
PVC pipe (8)	\$15 each
White paint (7 buckets)	\$30 each
Hardware for windows (16)	\$30 each
Roofing sheets (56)	\$35 each
Wheelbarrows (4)	\$55 each
Single window (4)	\$185 each
Double window (12)	\$265 each



### RECYCLING FOR HABITAT

You may have noticed the Habitat recycling bin display near the Outreach bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Bring in your used printer cartridges (inkjets, lasers, maintenance kits, drums and fusers), cell phones & PDAs. The proceeds will go into our Habitat House Fund to help pay for the next house that we will help build in the city.

We are cooperating with Imagine it... Fundraising through Recycling. Check out:  
[www.imagineRECYCLING.com](http://www.imagineRECYCLING.com)

## WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD RECEIVE THE CARE OF A STEPHEN MINISTER



- A man like **Adam**  
who was cut off from all that gave meaning to life and needed someone to remind him of God's promise.
- A man like **Noah**  
who witnessed the destruction of everything around him and needed someone to wait with him for a new day.
- A man like **Abraham**  
who had to leave everything he knew and loved behind him and needed someone to journey with him to a new life.
- A man like **Moses**  
who faced great opposition and needed a companion to support him and speak on his behalf.
- A man like **David**  
who grieved the death of a wayward child and needed a shepherd's care.
- A man like **Isaiah** who though he was all alone and needed a still small voice to encourage him.
- A man like **Job** who lost everything and needed someone to silently endure his pain with him.
- A man like **Peter**  
who found himself "in over his head" and needed the strong hand of a faithful friend; whose pride led him to initially resist having his feet washed by the Lord when the Lord came in the form of a humble servant but willingly received this ministry when he honestly confronted his need.
- A man like **Paul**  
who knew the unending distress caused by a thorn in the flesh and needed someone to rejoice with him when he rejoiced and to weep with him when he wept.
- A man like **JESUS**  
who knew disappointment, sorrow, grief, rejection, loneliness so intense that He sweat blood and needed an angel of Good to minister to Him.
- A man like you.

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprengle or Carol Tiemann (223-1466)*. **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**