

# N e w s b r i e f

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

June, 2002

## From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

How about, "The Oh's?" That is the proposition of pastor Siegfried S. Johnson. Well, what can we call the years between 2000 and 2009? We've had the 70's, 80's, and 90's. What can we have next? The 000's!

Some of you were born in The Fifties. Eisenhower. The Cold War. Fallout shelters. Opportunity abounding. Hula Hoops. Drive-in movies. Ozzie and Harriet. These were The Fifties, an easily definable segment of time commencing January 1, 1950, ending as midnight closed the books on December 31, 1959. Then, The Sixties. Another readily recognizable ten-year block of time. Vietnam. War protestors. Hippies. Assassinations. JFK. Dealey Plaza. Texas School Book Depository. Martin Luther King. Memphis. Robert Kennedy. Apollo 11. Neil and Buzz strolling on the lunar surface. These were The Sixties.

"The Oh's" flows, but surely we can do better. Can you imagine, fifty years from now, your grandkids talking nostalgically to their grandbabies? "I remember growing up way back in the Oh's." NOT! None of us wants to see ourselves as a "Zero!" It is so easy to be misinterpreted and misunderstood. We don't need a title like this to draw us off track.

Cross-culturally and linguistically it is easy to be misunderstood. When Martha and I lived in Philadelphia we encountered radio broadcaster Mort Crim who made the preaching circuit because of his strongly held Christian opinions. His home base was the Philly area. He later told the story of when he and his producer were taping a documentary in Cairo, Egypt. Their visit came not long after Egypt's President, Anwar Sadat, had been assassinated. They hoped to include in the documentary an interview with Sadat's widow. The producer made a routine phone call to their station back in the U.S. mentioning that he thought they "had a good shot at Mrs. Sadat tomorrow." Within minutes, the Egyptian police were at their door. Evidently, the phones were being tapped by Egyptian security. Unfamiliar with American slang, the Egyptians had misunderstood the intentions of Mort Crim and he had a lot of fast-talking to do. [Mort Crim, *Second Thoughts* (Deerfield Beach, FL.: Health Communications, Inc., 1997), pp. 91-92.]

A Southern mom was talking with her young son about why all their relatives from the North "talk funny." "They have a different accent," she explained. "Everybody talks in different ways," she continued. "To them, we sound like we talk very slow, and all our words are drawn out." His eyes got big, and he asked, "You mean they hear funny, too?"

Stephen Covey puts it: "We seek first to understand, then to be understood." This is what God did in Jesus Christ. This is a pretty good rule of thumb. But, I suppose that it would also be helpful for us to see each other as God sees us. . . sinners all for whom Jesus died. God doesn't look upon any of us as zeros, but persons who matter. We should listen to each other as God listens to us. Do you suppose God notices the things that we "accent" in our lives – goodness, kindness, gentleness, self-control?

I'm not sure what this era can be called. Steve Perrault, an editor at Merriam Webster says, "There's just no easy way to categorize those ten years by one single word so that everyone understands what we're talking about." [Linda Kuhnan, "Looking Forward To The 'Zilches'?" *U. S. News and World Report*, May 19, 1997.] Maybe it will be best for us to try and make these years count by making our lives count by the purpose we set and establish. *With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.* [NIV 2 Timothy 1:11]

May we have a blessed summer!

Bruce



## STU'S SPOT

Another confirmation class draws soon to a beginning. Yes, it's not a close because twenty of our young people having explored faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in the meaning of membership in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Now they will begin the adventure of church membership.

This year the class has worked together to help one of their classmates get to Sunday School over steps not easily accessible by a wheel chair. In years to come, they will discover the faith challenges that will only cause a warm smile of remembrance for that mission accomplished. There are too many other stories to tell. Talk to those youth and hear their side of the story.

Even more, how has your faith adventure been these last few years? What mission did you recently accomplish for Christ and His Church? Christ is preparing a place for us so let us, with enthusiasm, keep on our faith adventure. A

Peace,



## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

To celebrate the close of the program year, your Deacons are sponsoring an all-church Strawberry Festival after the 10:00 AM service on June 16, 2002.

Please make some time to join your Church family in the Fellowship Hall for delicious treats and conversation before the busy weeks of summer arrive. (A donation of \$1 per serving will be requested to offset the cost of the strawberries and ice cream.)

Call your Deacon for more details. A

MARY/WELLER CIRCLE'S annual picnic will be held at the home of Ginny Cooper at 39 Bromley Road, Pittsford, at 12:00 noon on June 10. (Please note time change). Please bring your own complete brown bag lunch plus a beverage. If you wish, you may bring your own folding chair or blanket. A

NAOMI CIRCLE will meet in room 200 on Monday, June 17 at 11:30 AM for lunch. From there we will go to the Pittsford Food Cupboard in the Old Pickle Factory at 1 Grove Place to see the facility and hear about it from Kelly Gilman, Director.

Please bring a sandwich and mug. A

THE OPTIMIST PICNIC will be June 7 at the Lodge in Eyer Park, East Rochester, starting at 5:45. Tickets at \$5 will be available after both services on May 19, 26 and June 2. The final day for ticket purchases is June 2. Tickets are also available at the church office.

Paper table service will be supplied. If you prefer, you can bring your own service. Everyone over 50 is welcome; come and enjoy the season's first picnic and picnic fare.

Log Cabin Restaurant is the caterer.

After dinner, we'll listen to and sing along with Fred Vine – songs of the 40s and 50s.

Eyer Park: Go north on Lincoln Road in East Rochester. Just before the railroad underpass, turn right on East Chestnut Road and proceed to the park. A

APNC UPDATE – The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to make progress toward its goal of recommending a permanent successor to our Interim Associate, the Rev. Stuart Buisch. In the past few months, we have reviewed dozens of resumes, checked references, and conducted telephone interviews. We are now scheduling weekend visits with the most promising candidates. We appreciate your continued patience, because even if all goes perfectly, there are several further steps to this process, and the most attractive candidates are also the most sought after. We ask for your continued prayers, both for our committee and for the candidates we are considering, that the outcome may truly be God's choice and not merely our own. Please pray as well for Stuart Buisch as he proceeds with his own search. A

Dear Friends,

Your beautiful cards these past several months have been precious gifts to aid in my recovery. So many, I cannot reply to each one. My thanks to each of you for keeping me in your prayers and for all these cheerful cards and notes.

God bless. A

Sincerely, Betty Davis

THE GIFT OF BEING PRESIDING ELDER

from Anne Francis

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse..and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it".

Being the Presiding Elder (responsible for setting up and overseeing the Sunday services) isn't my (or most people's) idea of fun. However, upon awakening for the appointed Sunday, I thought how grateful I was that Ernie would be there at the Church when I arrive with that big smile of his and that the doors would be unlocked and the "cones placed in the parking spots." Indeed as I drove in, his white SUV was parked and Ernie was drinking coffee in the kitchen, laughing with the Deacons who had arrived early to set up the coffee hour table. And he was smiling. Thank you God for that gift.

After turning on the sanctuary lights, I listened as Bill Start was practicing his solo with Tom Harris. "The Holy City" was a favorite from my high school choir days. As I installed the microphones, put out the offering plates, and put up the hymn numbers, I hummed (or sang) along with Bill. Those beautiful words brought such beautiful memories. Thank you God for that gift.

The Fellowship Hall was buzzing with the tables for the Deacon Fair. Why, how could they have known that the Stewardship Commission was planning on reminding people that the Church needs their time and talents as well as their "treasures"? I stopped by to look at the materials and had a wonderful conversation with several of the Deacons. Thank you God for that gift.

Throughout the service, familiar and favorite hymns were sung. I sang robustly (though not in anyone's ear) and was filled with the joy of the words of the hymn. As Bill sang his anthem, I started to cry as I realized that the anthem was about the New Jerusalem of Heaven. A dear old friend had been praying for God to take her for months and yesterday He heard her prayer. She was now in that Holy city. Thank you God for that gift.

There were many more gifts through the rest of the morning – the "hellos" and handshakes, the smiles, the chance to watch the children leave the sanctuary, the cool breeze through the open window. What a gift to be Presiding Elder! A

Thanks to all who have given flowers to beautify our Sanctuary on Sundays. For many special reasons: anniversaries, birthdays, to honor someone, in memory of loved ones, and as an expression of faith. They have brought joy to all who have worshipped at First Presbyterian.

These gifts of flowers may come from a florist, your yard, your neighbor's yard (preferably with permission), the supermarket, or a roadside stand.

The donors may take them home after the services. The family may indicate that they would prefer to have them taken to shut-ins. If you have any questions, you may call Ann Kunkel (248-8847); Sharon Peet (385-8788) or Mary Jo Hultz (586-6666); the Flower Committee, Presbyterian Women. A

**TO THE HELPING HANDS!**  
from Greta Garman & Tish Paddock

The recently donated bag of beautiful warm items for Calvary St. Andrews Nursery School and Cameron Community are the beginning of a fall delivery to both places.

Keep on making hats, gloves and scarves for adults and children. Please check the yarn box in Fellowship Hall for yarn donated for projects. There is much more waiting in the wings.

If you would wish to make a Remsen blanket, take a labeled bag with rug yarn and use #10 needles. Cast on 3 stitches and add 1 stitch at the beginning of each row, until the end of 3 skeins. Then decrease one stitch each row until yarn is used up. Bind off. Good luck! A

**A NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER'S CLASS** is forming for this summer. The class is designed to welcome families and individuals in Christian fellowship, provide information about the Christian Faith, and to discover the uniqueness of our journey with Christ. The class is for anyone who is seeking membership in our Church or for those just seeking. It is a time to explore and see if this might be a good place for you to call your spiritual home. If you are interested, or you know someone who is, please call the Church Office at 586-5688. A

**FLOWERS, FLOWERS, FLOWERS!!**

**WORSHIP IN A DIFFERENT KEY**

from Cary Ratcliff

Jazz pianist and composer Deanna Witkowski will join us for our morning worship services on June 2. Those who attended our January Jazz Evensong will remember the special tone this artist brought both to prayer and praise. We will be invited to sing along in 'a new key'. A

## FIERY MUSIC

On Sunday, June 9, the Jubilate Choir will finish its season by singing the story of Shadrack, Meshach and Abendnego, and their survival of King Nebachadnezzar's fiery furnace. This parable, dressed in quasi-historical clothes by a writer who lived around 200 years after the 6c. BC Babylonian captivity, could give encouragement in its day to stand firm against enforced idolatry and assimilation. This 1941 American jive song remained popular after WWII I've been told; this is ironic, given the emerging understanding of the fate of so many 'Hebrew children' in furnaces. (Benjamin Britten's response, on understanding what had happened, was to write a very somber church opera on The Fiery furnace: it is not kid's stuff). Our working understanding in Jubilate Choir is that the song challenges us to have the strength of Shadrack in not giving in to even the greatest pressures from our culture, its lead-voices and our peers, when they demand that we abandon God and 'bow down' to false idols and false values.

## MUSIC OF SUMMER

I am beginning a schedule of musical offerings for summer services. Please contact me if you are interested in contributing in this way. Cary Ratcliff 244-7895.

## JUNE 9 IS TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

*Each week these dedicated individuals give the gift of time to help our children grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Please take a minute of your time to express your appreciation by completing a thank you card (located at the end of each pew) for your favorite teacher(s) and placing it in the basket located in the Narthex.*

*We'll make sure your "Thanks" is heard on June 9.*  
**2001-2002 Sunday School Teacher Roster**

### Nursery

Madge & Whitney Herge  
Janice & Lauren Loss  
Susan & Ashley Piper  
Nadine & Alison Wahl  
Mark & Cindy Lawson

### Toddler Two's

Laura Fox  
Jan Conners  
Patty Davis  
Aimee Jensen  
Linda Ashworth  
Colleen Swetman  
Madge & Curtis Herge  
Marcia, Julie & Holly Hunsinger  
Claudia & Evan Williams

### 3s & 4s

Trudy Dublin  
Kim Tinder  
Marcia Watt  
Wendy Amborski

### Kindergarten

Kim Tone  
Kim Kennedy  
Susan Whitaker  
Katie Watkins

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Michele Shone  
Chris Zimmer  
Diane Adams

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Karen Jeung  
Laura Hamilton-Frank  
Tricia Ackerman  
Judith Overslaugh

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Gayle Stiles  
Louise Thompson  
Pem Tyler

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Diane Horton  
Renee Shaffer  
Roxanne Skuse

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Lee Fox  
Amy Taylor  
Betty Wells

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Barb Caroselli  
Jane Van Zile-Doran  
Marge Scahill  
Karin Stuart

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sylvia Fix

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Janette Henderson  
Dan Harrison  
David & Anne Ferris  
Doug & Barbara Peters

### 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

Jan Kearns  
Dan Kulp (staff)  
Joe Kurnath  
Ron Pollock  
Dwight Burnham

### Additional Subs

Becky Olsen (nursery)  
Martha Boak  
Pat Frey

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

Starting on June 23, we will begin our summer hours. Sunday morning service will be at 9:30 AM. Office Hours will be from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Friday.

## NEWSBRIEF DEADLINES

The next Newsbrief Deadline is June 16. Because there will not be a Newsbrief sent in July any notice you would like in our letter for July or August should be submitted next month.

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Senior Pastor

The Rev. Stuart Buisch  
Interim Associate Pastor

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**WORSHIP WITH US**

Please join us for Sunday morning worship.  
Services are 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM  
9:30 AM Summer Service starts on June 23  
Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month.

**First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford**  
21 Church Street  
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