

NewsBrief

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

March 2007

“The Imagining”

We are pleased that on May 5-6, 2007, First Presbyterian will be honored by the presence of Rev. Donald K. McKim and his wife, Rev. LindaJo McKim. Donald McKim is one of the foremost Theologians in the United States today and LindaJo is a widely recognized Hymnologist – having researched many of the hymns in our Presbyterian Hymnal. The occasion for their being with us is a Christian Education opportunity titled “The Imagining”. This will be similar to, but not as extensive, as “The Amazing” which many will remember from two years ago.

On Saturday, May 5, “The Imagining”, through formal presentation, worship and discussion groups, will consider such questions as “What do we Imagine for First Presbyterian Church?” “Where do we Imagine the Church of Jesus Christ to be heading in our culture?” And “Does John Calvin have anything to teach us for this millennium?” The overall theme of the week-end will be “Looking Back with Thanksgiving and Looking Ahead with Hope” – something that will embrace our almost 200 year history. A Continental breakfast will be served and lunch will be provided for a nominal registration fee. On the Communion Sunday of May 6, the McKims will lead us in worship.

Donald McKim has written and published widely. His book, “Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers – Exploring Christian Faith” has been given to members of the Session and will be given to new members of our church. Many members of the congregation also have the book. Other publications include “Presbyterian Beliefs”, “Introducing the Reformed Faith”, “Theological Turning Points” and the “Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms”. LindaJo has lead a number of music workshops throughout the country and recently, did one that dealt with traditional churches’ handling of more contemporary worship music.(Presbyterian Conference Center in Montreat, NC).

Please plan to be part of this Christian Education opportunity and note the dates of May 5-6 on your calendars.

“The Imagining” Committee – Bruce, Carrie, Sandy, Niki, Kim Tinder, Faye Casey, Jeff Tyler, Barbara Coe and Jack Holzwarth.

Prayerfully Pondering Building up the Body of Christ...

The next time you happen to be upstairs in our Education Wing, take the time to look at the bulletin boards in the various classrooms – they show a great deal of the personality of the teachers, students, committees, and classes that meet there. At last night's Session meeting in Room 201 (where our Deacons and our 5th and 6th graders also meet), I noticed our Adult Education Mission statement: *To Equip, Empower and Encourage lifelong learning for the building up of Christ's kingdom.* The statement is based upon Paul's reminder to the Ephesians that everything we do is, "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)

And we do! This congregation is marvelous at identifying needs and taking concrete steps to edify God's children or rectify an unjust situation. Two areas of our ministries together make vivid examples: outreach and Christian Education.

Our Outreach Committee recently completed a weekend retreat in which it prioritized the recipients of the \$100,000 raised for mission from our Nehemiah campaign. The amounts to be granted will 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.

The amounts to be donated will be in three buckets: the first bucket of 20-30% is for mission 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 second bucket of 60-70% is for downtown Rochester agencies like Habitat for Humanity, Cameron Community Ministries, Calvary St. Andrews, Wilson Commencement Park, and the Community Microenterprise Center; the final bucket of 10% is in support of the agency this church founded, Pittsford Youth Services, which provides counseling to our school-age children without charge. Representatives of our congregation are working with each of the recipients to further our partnership and ensure the greatest ministry bang for the buck. If any of these sound interesting to you, please let me know

and I will delightedly connect you with the people directly building up the body of Christ.

Our Christian Education program continues to promote lifelong learning. The most obvious aspect of this is our wonderful nursery through high school Sunday School programs and youth groups. Over the past few years, adult education has made a triumphant resurgence in our congregation. You might not realize it, but we have had an unbroken string of adult education offerings every Sunday since the fall of 2004 while we were at Nazareth College. A dedicated group of volunteers on our Adult Education Task Force graciously and magnificently led by Jack Holzwarth capitalized on the momentum they gained from our winter 2004 event, The Amazing, to satisfy the demand for Bible Studies, spirituality retreats, fellowship groups, coffee-hour forums, and breakfast gatherings. By rooting ourselves in God's Word, more and more of our congregation are whetting their appetite for lifelong learning and I applaud the upward trend!

As Bill and I approach the fifth anniversary of our ministering with you, we too are doing our small part to build up the body of Christ. We expect Wilson Edward Steven Mitchell (named for his grandfathers and a great-grandfather) will be born sometime around Labor Day. Seeing all the vibrancy in this church, we anticipate continuing to raise our family with yours and celebrating the many ways God calls us together to build up the body of Christ.

Go With God,
Carrie

Week of Apr. 1 – Luke 19:28-40; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Isa. 50:49-51; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Week of Apr. 8 – Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 65:17-25
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Week of Apr. 15 – Acts 5:27-32; Ps. 118:14-29 or
Ps. 150; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Week of Apr. 22 – Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps. 30
Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Week of Apr. 29 – Acts 9:36-43; Ps. 23; Rev. 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

CONFIRMATION: COME CLAIM THE CREED!

The Confirmation Classes of 2006/2007 began in September with a great orientation and retreat. 8th grade confirmands and their mentors will have their last regular monthly meeting Sunday April 1st in the Youth Forum room between 11:30am and 1:00pm for faith-building exercises and fun! We look forward to a great class! The confirmands, their mentors and parents will then meet with the Session for a celebratory lunch May 13th before being received into the congregation on Pentecost Sunday, May 27th.