

NewsBrief

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

March 2008



Hello & Happy Almost-Spring to you! I hope everyone is doing magnificently with the ever-changing weather. We have had some great things going on over the last few months. Our lock-ins in January were well attended and yielded almost no sleep for anyone. The dating series we did at Awesome & SO-SO produced a lot of thought provoking discussion. At press time, we are getting ready to do our 30 Hour Famine, raising money to help fight poverty in countries all over the world. Here's what's coming up in the very near future...

Junior High

March 9th & 30th- 7-8:30pm...SO-SO! Come and check out the brand new eclectic series we'll be starting! Movie clips that relate to what you want to learn about God, Jesus, living as a Christian, etc.!

Join the crowd for mission & fun, all in one day!
March 15th- 7am-9:30am...Come make breakfast for the families at Ronald McDonald House! \$3 for breakfast...RSVP by March 11th
10am-1:30pm *new time*...Inside Track
Speedway...\$15 (includes lunch)...RSVP by March 9th

In the meantime...consider joining us for our white water rafting trip on May 10th...\$35...see Niki or the youth board for details!

**There are still spots available for our mission trip to York, PA (with a side trip to Hershey Park!)
First team meeting on March 14th**

Senior High

March 2nd & 16th...7-8:30pm... AWESOME! Have questions about God? Are you wanting to learn more in a place that's fun & safe in a way you can relate to? Check out the new series with videos that relate to what you want to learn about God, Jesus, living as a Christian, etc.!

March 8th- 1pm-4pm...MOVIE DAY! Join the crowd for a viewing & chat after watching an excellent movie (choice will be made that day by popular vote.) Snacks & pizza will be served...\$4 for food

Looking for an incredible journey? Join us when we go white water rafting on May 10th...\$35...see Niki or the youth board for details!

There are 5 spots left on our mission trip to N. Kingstown, RI. Our first team meeting is March 9th...Get to Niki ASAP if you want to join the team

Christian Education News:

Sunday School – Journey to the Cross begins on February 24th. Jesus, during the last week he lived on earth, journeyed to the cross in order to show God's powerful love for us. Children will explore these concepts:

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- Jesus came as a king of peace, not a king of war.
- In spite of danger, Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem to teach God's message of love and forgiveness.
- Jesus prayed for strength to complete a difficult job.
- God, through Jesus, offers forgiveness and new life to all people.
- God helps us make faithful choices.

The children decided to divide the accumulated offerings between three local charities: Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN); Cameron Community Ministries; and Wilson Commencement Park.

The 6th Graders collected \$237.99 for the Souperbowl of Caring. They chose RAIHN as the local recipient. Thank you to all who pitched in their dollars and cents. Nationwide, this grassroots endeavor has raised over \$6.6 million dollars from the one day event. That is from 2008 alone. Check out: www.souperbowl.org

Heifer Fair – Over the past few weeks, the children have begun to imagine how a simple gift of livestock can change the world. Through the Heifer project, the children were able to raise \$5,000 - enough money to buy a Gift Ark that provides 15 pairs of animals to change lives! This accomplishment was only possible because of your contributions of time, talent and treasure.

THANK YOU!

The Heifer project offers hope to families who are poor and hungry. Our contributions will help families start on a journey to fulfill a seemingly impossible dream - to secure food and a source of dependable income. Each family who receives livestock will pass on one or more of the animal's offspring to other families who are in need in their community. Every gift will multiply for years to come. Imagine how our gift will change the world. What a wonderful way to share God's love! www.heifer.org

Bill Jones Weekend – From the feedback I have heard so far, the congregation-wide weekend of storytelling impacted many people. Bill not only entertained us with his stories, he helped us to create stories based on the people and places in our lives. Many thanks to Willa, her family and the rest of the volunteers that helped to make the entire weekend so impactful! www.BillJonesStoryteller.com

Adult Education – Sundays at 8:30, prior to Easter, Lucien will be facilitating discussions around a historical and biblical **Case for the Resurrection**. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that a Christian should “...*be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...*” Knowing the facts of what we believe helps to bolster our faith when questions arise, whether from ourselves or from others.

Crown Biblical Financial Study - a 10-week in-depth study of what Scripture teaches about money and possessions. Groups meet for 2 hours every week and meetings include Scripture memorization and interactive discussions.

Orientation for the next Crown Biblical Financial Study Class at First Presbyterian will be on Monday, **February 25th** at 7:00pm in room 203. Classes begin Monday, **March 10th** and will meet every Monday night for 10 weeks. Please contact Jeff Tyler at 415-5711 or email Jeffrey.tyler@nmfn.com. There is homework due for the first class.

Educational Offerings at a Glance:

Call the church office or email Nathan Zampella (Nathan.zampella@pittsfordpres.org) for details about the following regular events.

Sunday

- 7:00am Men's Fellowship and Prayer – 1st Sunday of the month.
- 8:30am Adult Education
- 10:00am Serendipity Bible Study
- 10:00am Nursery and children's program for ages birth through 4 years old.
- 10:00am Senior High Forum
- Mouse Report during 10am service will release K-8th grades to Sunday School.

Monday

- Crown Biblical Financial Study

Wednesday

- 9:30am Bible Study
- Logos Children's Program
- 7:15pm Bible Study

Thursday

- Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
- Bethel Bible Study

Calling all youth (and kids at heart!)
 Spend some time getting to know other Presbyterian youth in our area! February 29th, we will be doing a "Progressive Dinner," traveling to a couple other Presbyterian churches in Penfield & Victor. We start here at First Presbyterian @ 6:30pm for soup & salad, then move on to Penfield for dinner and Victor for dessert. Cost is only \$5. RSVP to Niki by February 25th!



LOGOS - 2008
 from Sylvia Fix

We Want You! We Welcome You!
See You There!

February 20 – President's Break – NO LOGOS

February 27 – SURPRISE NIGHT. Winter fun. The word is *invite*.

March 5 – Bits & Bytes – Computers. The word is *memory*.

March 12 – Shopping – Home Sweet Home. The word is *giving*. Kindergarten through 2nd grade will go off site shopping.

March 19 – Kids Choice Awards – Laugh! The word is *vote*. Living Logos – Special project for Ronald McDonald House

March 26 – Finale – Family dinner. The word is *reflect*.

Have a great Spring and Summer! See you in September!!

Easter again. Everyone around you is celebrating this joyful season. But in your life it is still Lent. Will you ever overcome these feeling of pain and sorrow? A Stephen Minister would like to be there for you, to listen and to care as you sort through your feelings.



Lectionary for March

4th Sunday in Lent
 Week of Mar. 2 – 1 Sam. 16:1-13; Ps. 23; Eph. 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

5th Sunday in Lent
 Week of Mar. 9 – Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 130; Rom. 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45

Passion/Palm Sunday
 Week of Mar. 16 – Matt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
 Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27 or
 Matt. 27:11-54

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord
 Week of Mar. 23 – Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6;
 Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43;
 John 20:1-18 or Matt. 28:1-10; Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 114
 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

2nd Sunday of Easter
 Week of March 30 – Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16;
 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31



Spring Choir Opportunities
For K-6th grades



As the Logos program year draws to a close, it's time to look ahead to Spring. Our Children's choirs will continue to rehearse on Wednesday afternoons from April 2 through June 4. The children will be participating in Worship on May 4 and on children's Day, June 8.

*K-2nd *Wee Kirksingers* will meet from 4:00 – 4:45 in the choir room.

*3rd -6th *Celebrate Choir Plus* (singing & ringing) from 4:45 – 5:45.

Consider joining us this Spring! Stay tuned for details. Questions?? Contact Dede Holmes @dmh91654@aol.com.

THE PITTSFORD COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL ~ still has openings for the 2008-09 academic year. Call today to enroll your child and start them on an enriching academic and social journey. The school currently is enrolling children who will be 3 or 4 by Dec. 1 in 3- and 4-year-old preschool classes. The 3s meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and the 4s meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. PCNS is located in the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. The entrance to the school is on Locust Street. For more information, visit www.pittsfordcooperativenurseryschool.org or call 381-1390. Call to set up a tour of the classrooms, activity room and playground, or to get more information about the school's excellent professional teachers and its outstanding reputation.



ATTENTION OPTIMISTS! ~ The March meeting will be held the SECOND Friday of the month on March 14. "Building a New Organ: From Swell To Great!" will be the topic presented by Dr. James Douthit, our director of Music. The organ-building project is expected to begin in late March/early April. His talk will focus on the historic significance of this particular instrument (Taylor and Boody, Opus 57) as well as the process of designing and building a new pipe organ. We will view photos of the organ currently being constructed and will have the opportunity to hear a recording of the historic organ that is the model for the new instrument.

You are invited to join us Friday, March 14, at 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your covered dish and pace setting as usual. If you have questions, or would like to be placed on the calling list, call Kay Weisenbeck, 241-3184.

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN FOR EASTER LILIES ~ after church services today, March 2, and March 9. Each lily ordered will be \$7, checks made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Two dozen lilies will be purchased for display during the Easter service. The remaining money collected will be donated to support the Presbyterian Women's mission outreach from our church. While purchasing your lily, you will have the opportunity to honor or remember friends and family by filling out a form. A listing of all those remembered and honored will be available at the Easter Sunday service. Questions? Please call Ann Haefele at 425-4277.



Dear friends in Christ:

Hello, this is Jamie and Alan Roberts - we are 40 year old "wandering Presbyterians" (we've wandered around North America with corporations) who are thrilled to have recently become a part of the First Pres. Family. Thanks to all of you for welcoming our ten-year-old son, Jim, and the two of us.

In our travels around we have gained an appreciation for two big opportunities in the church today - style of worship/fellowship and the role of small groups. Worship and fellowship style is a great challenge/opportunity for many grand and long standing churches: how to sustain the people who have long built and sustained the church with more traditional interactions, while painting new pieces of the canvas to welcome and nurture new blood into the family. Logos is one success story of this growth at First Presbyterian. I'm sure many of you have also had your own thoughts and ideas on how to build on the Logos story.

Small groups are no strange concept to Presbyterian churches either - many circles abound in First Pres., and we understand that there are other lively and informal groups, previously built around new member classes coming into the church. Small groups take a lot of time and work to launch, but done right, the fruit borne to the members and church at large is boundless - giving new generations connection and true ownership of the larger community of faith.

Given that the church has received many energetic new members over the past couple of years, and also recognizing the large group of young to middle-aged (perish the thought!) families already enjoying and growing the Logos program, we would like to agitate and engage you about the potential to create a new small group for say the 25 - 45 set. OK, we won't check birth certificate like Little League does, and if we get 30 households involved we will call it a "medium group", but you get the point.

In discussions with some of the folks we already know among you, we have heard similar needs and thoughts expressed, and a level of interest worthy of taking the next step. (Thanks for the encouragement, gang.) We hope you share this interest and some energy to try it.

First, a few ground rules:

A. This is more of a "flash mob" concept than a Session sponsored committee to study the rotation of Pluto during the year A.D. 1872. Translation - we're not sure what we want to do yet, we just know we want to try to do something good with the good people of First Pres. There will be minimal bureaucracy and likely no treasury. We will try some things that fail miserably, and hopefully have a few modest or even significant successes. The point is - you have the opportunity to define what this group should be and do.

All joking about bureaucracy aside, we are obviously brought together by love of Christ and strong love for and affiliation with First Pres., and we will happily note that this is a First Pres. group. We want to make sure all attendees of the church who have similar interest in our (to be) agreed mission feel welcome to join us.

B. As this group will focus on "youngish" singles and couples, with or without families, the first point of connection will be fellowship and fun - dinners, bowling, game nights, skating, sailing, road rallies, all that silly stuff to be defined and selected by the group. However, just as a couch potato doesn't feel very fulfilled after watching an 8 hour "Love Boat" marathon on TV Land, we imagine a group which simply has dorky Presbyterian parties won't accomplish all that it can and should. We would therefore suggest we discuss how to get an eventual balance of fun and purpose in the group. Purpose could include volunteering where it is needed in Rochester, filling an unmet need in the church,

and yes, the occasional attempt to show we know the difference between the book of Genesis and the 1970's British band with the bald lead singer.

As a first step, we would like invite all of you to an evening of food and fellowship on Friday, March 28th from 6:30-8:30pm. At that time we will discuss what this group can and should be. If needed, child care will be provided. Please indicate this need with your RSVP. And please do come with smiling faces, empty bellies and your thoughts on the following questions:

1. What should this motley crew be called? (Best answer gets their choice of Munchkins or Timbits.)
2. What day and time would work best? Does once a month work?
3. Should this group include children in events? Adults only, with or without child care? A mix?
4. Should we meet in home or at the church? A mix?
5. What kind of fun things would you like to do with other youngish folks in the church? Sports? Games? Events? Dinners out or in our homes?
6. What kind of volunteer work should we twist each other's arms and get on with? Habitat? Wilson Commencement Park? Food/clothing/missions? People in crisis? Others?
7. Frequency and approach to the occasional book or Bible study: how do we tell the difference between II Corinthians and "rich Corinthian leather"?
8. Any other thoughts/opinions/schemes that would help build this bunch.

We hope you can make it. Please RSVP to Jamie Roberts by March 23rd. By all means please call or email us or Carrie Mitchell (586-5688 x32) with any questions, comments or snappy show tunes before the meeting.

In Christ,
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