

NewsBrief

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

May 2006

Prayerfully Pondering Guests...

Guests are coming! We have been anticipating their arrival for many months and they are coming to our worship home now with increasing frequency. Of whom am I speaking? The person sitting next to you in the pew on Sunday mornings could be visiting us for the first time. How can we help them know we want them to return?

Together, each one of us can enhance the welcoming environment cited by each one of the New Members who were received into our family of faith on April 2nd. As Bill and I first discovered, this is a marvelously welcoming congregation well accustomed to making visitors feel special.

But what if we are uncertain if a person is a visitor or a lifelong member? Each one of us can be hesitant to appear foolish or risk offending another person. It will come as no surprise that scripture offers us a clue for our uncertainty. In Peter's first letter, we are encouraged to "be hospitable to one another without complaining." (1 Peter 4:9) One catchy definition for hospitality can be sung as, "Be our guest, be our guest, we'll give you our Sunday best." The best definition I have seen addresses this risk we take.

Hospitality is the attitude and practice of providing the atmosphere and opportunities, however risky, in which strangers are free to become friends, thereby feeling accepted, included and loved. The relationship thus opens up the possibility for eventual communion among the host, the stranger, and God.¹

Each of us practices hospitality when we welcome guests in our home. We want them to feel so personally welcomed they will want to return. As a church family, we aim to project that same warm welcome. One way we might build upon our welcome to visitors is to begin thinking of them as guests at our family of faith's table. After all, we are all gathered around the communion table when we worship. Another way we can make our hospitality feel less risky is making consistent use of our blue ritual of friendship pads found at the end of each pew. Make a point of signing the pad, passing it down your pew, looking at the names of those worshiping with you and greeting one another at the conclusion of service each Sunday. You will notice in each Sunday's bulletin the invitation to sign and pass the pads during the offertory.

With our growing awareness of the many guests in our midst, I offer still other ways and "mays" for each of us to try in the merry month of May and beyond:

- § Have we met? May I introduce myself to you?
- § May I share some donuts and coffee with you in our fellowship hour?
- § May I share this hymnal with you?
- § May I help escort your children to Sunday School following our Mouse Report?
- § May I pray for you and your loved ones?

And in all these hospitable endeavors, may God be with you.

Go with God, Carrie

¹ Steve Clapp. *The First Thirty Seconds: A Guide to Hospitality for Greeters and Ushers*. New Life Ministries, 2000, p.8.

These are the lectionary texts for the month of May. We welcome you to study in advance of their being incorporated into the Sunday worship services.

**Week of May 4 – Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18**

**Week of May 14 – Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8**

**Week of May 21 – Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98; 1 John 4:7-21
John 14:9-17**

**Week of May 28 – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19**



Salutations one and all! I hope that everyone is having a blessed month. At press time, Holy Week is coming upon us rather quickly. It's a wonderful time to reflect on the incredible sacrifice of our awesome Lord. Spring is arriving, which helps us to focus on renewal and new beginnings. And of course, warmer weather!!!

We had a very busy month in the youth ministry at First Presbyterian. The Midnight Madness lock-in at SUNY Brockport was a great success! We had 41 in attendance from our church (many of which were friends of our youth). As promised, I indeed colored my hair pink (many of you loved to comment on it.) Our students had a great time rocking out to Skillet, hanging out on inflatables (provided by First Presbyterian's own Will Irwin of Blue Apple Productions), ice skating, and more. Powell Wright, one of our freshmen, took third place in a video game tournament too! It was a great time of fellowship and fun and getting to know new people.



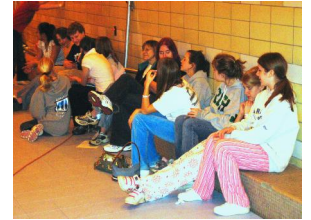
The youth service at the end of March was also a joy filled experience. Our senior high students truly enjoyed serving and leading the congregation in worship. Greg Ferris, Liz Frey, and Julie Purpura gave excellent



sermons that helped us all truly reflect on what it means to deny ourselves and follow Christ.

Right now, our mission trip fundraising and preparation is in full swing. There are 14 students and adults attending our trips this summer to Wilmington, NC and York, PA. Thank you so much for all of your awesome support for these great students! They are all so excited! Be sure to check out the mission board we have set up in Coffee Hour after worship on Sundays to check dates for fundraising or to ask any questions!

During youth group for the past month and a half, we have been looking at the life of Jesus, focusing on certain events and talking about why it is that he can relate to us in our lives. After Easter, we will be checking out the book of Galatians, discussing the fruits of the Spirit. Should be pretty cool. Plus we have some brand new, super fun games! Senior highers meet at 12:15pm each Sunday in the Youth Room and junior highers meet each Sunday (with the exception of mentor night) at 6:00pm in the Youth Room. Bring \$2 for pizza!



The new calendar for May-August is now available each Sunday at our welcome table in the Narthex. Listed are some awesome events we've got going on this summer. Sign up with Niki via email or office phone if you're interested in any! Some of our upcoming events are listed below. Have a superb day and month! Catch you later!

****Upcoming Events****

April 28-29th: 30 Hour Famine...come see Niki or call for details!!! Awesome event to benefit World Vision in its fight against poverty and AIDS in Africa!

May 5th: GUYS ONLY Campout with Matt Wahl and Lucien Rouse...meet at church at 5pm. Call the guys for details!

May 19th: MISSION POSSIBLE: CABARET!!!!...6:30pm-9:00pm...Join us for a silent auction, incredible talent, a magic show, and more! Bring \$ for dinner and snacks, as well as for karaoke! This event benefits our youth attending mission trips this summer!

May 21st: Car Wash...11:30am-2:00pm in Locust Street Lot. All donations benefit our youth summer mission trips!

***No MTC on April 24th or May 21st**

Spring Children's Choirs Have Begun!! It's not too late to join us!!

We meet on Wednesday afternoons starting up after spring break on April 26, from 4:15-5:00 PM in the choir room (upstairs in the east wing). Our time will be spent preparing for the Children's worship service on June 11. This is your chance for some musical fun and perhaps a bit of liturgical dance. If any 3rd -6th graders are interested in ringing handbells, we could ring from 5-5:30 after the vocal rehearsal. Let me know if you are interested. Questions?????? Contact me at 624-4157 or dmh91654@aol.com.

In faith and song, Dede Holmes



The OPTIMISTS will meet SATURDAY, May 6, at 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall. Rabbi Laurence A. Kotok, DD, the senior Rabbi at Temple B'rith Kodesh, will be the speaker. He is currently National Chair of the Association of Reformed Zionists of America. In late winter of 2006 Rabbi Kotok made another of his many visits to Israel. He has been an advisor to national leadership on Middle East and Jewish concerns, and he will bring his perspective to the issues facing the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Please bring items for the Pittsford Food Cupboard, as well as your covered dish and table service. If you have questions, call Sue Suter (381-5297).



Organ Notes
Bob Peet
James Douthit



The new organ project is coming right along. We agreed that we needed to raise \$395,000 by last Nov.1, to get Session's initial authorization. Our congregational pledges met that goal. We have continued to see our pledges increase, going nicely past the \$450,000 needed for the one-manual version of the organ. With the recent addition of a very generous pledge from one of our members and the first couple of our fund-raising events, the Irish Dancers and the Spaghetti Dinner hosted by choir members, our total funds have now risen to about \$539,000. Since Taylor & Boody have quoted the

full, two manual organ at \$550,000, we will be asking Session's authorization to let us tell T & B to proceed with the full two-manual organ. T & B need us to commit to this by May 1, so they can arrange their workload and commitments to other customers properly.

We couldn't be more grateful for the openness and generosity of our congregation to this addition to our new church.

Those who may have held off on planned contributions until the future viability of the organ project was perhaps more certain, may recognize that most any questions are now pretty well settled. We do, of course, still need to raise more funds. We hope that our members who have been uncertain will now feel more comfortable making a pledge.

We also have a series of very fine fund raising events coming up, all of which will be held in our sanctuary.

- The Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (RPYO) will be putting on a benefit performance on Friday night, April 28, at 7:00 PM.
- On Saturday, April 29, the Bach Children's Chorus from Nazareth College will be putting on a gala concert along with a silent auction.
- On Sunday, April 30, Paul Stuart's Equinox Orchestra will be presenting a performance with Anita Boyd, flute, and Nicholas Goluses, guitar, at 3:00 PM.
- The Concentus Women's Chorus will be putting on a performance on Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 PM.
- Several participants in the Howard Hansen Piano Competition will be presenting piano recitals of some of the numbers they have performed, at 7:00 PM on two Friday evenings, both May 12 and May 26. These will include different performers.

Other events are being scheduled.

Given the response, the socialization, and the general camaraderie that has accompanied the couple of events held to date, Outreach to our community seems to be every bit as much a part of these events as the fund raising.

In his communications with Taylor and Boody, Dr. Hans Davidsson reports that they have started making the bellows and the keyboards and will be finished with the initial design work in the next few weeks.

Membership & Evangelism

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS from Trudy Bartleson, M & E Committee

Elisabeth Elm

We are happy indeed to welcome Elisabeth with her cheery smile to our church family. She has come to us from Lincoln, Nebraska and has three grown children, Joe, Peg and Kas. As a retiree she loves music, reading and scrapbooking. She resides at the Highlands, No. 229 Hahnemann Trail, Pittsford, NY 14534. Telephone: 248-5713

Jill and Mike Mallaber

We're delighted to welcome Jill and Mike, two teachers from Fairport. On or about July 2nd they will be three, a blessed event. Jill teaches 5th grade at Northside School, Fairport and enjoys running, horseback riding, travel and soccer. Mike also enjoys travel, golf and coaching basketball. He teaches AP American Government and Social Studies at Fairport High School. They live at 13 Fencewood Lane, Fairport, 14450. Telephone: 381-0366.

Melissa Monahan

We warmly welcome Melissa who comes from Allentown, Pennsylvania. She is employed by Xerox and in her free time is a member of the Chancel Choir, and loves reading, bike riding and aerobics. She resides at 242 Dartmouth St., Roch., NY 14607. Cell phone: 610-662-5889.

Kerry Pierson

It's a pleasure to welcome "Kelly" to our church family. She is a school counselor at Greece Athena High School and in free time enjoys boating, camping and pottery with her husband, Jake. They reside at 166 South Main St., Fairport, NY 14450. Telephone: 223-5906

Jennifer Pucci

We're glad to welcome another Fairport resident, who has two young boys, Tyler, 2 years and Sam, 4 months old. She lives with her husband, Jamie and works at the Regan/Compar Inside Sales. Her activities understandably are "my kids" and sports. She lives at 39 Sugar Mills Circle, Fairport, NY 14450. Phone 223-6176.

Jacqelyn Roblin

A warm welcome to Jacqelyn, whose husband, Lee, is a member. She has three grown daughters; Malynda, Meredith and Kelly and is employed in the Pittsford Schools. Her hobbies are paddle tennis, gardening and walking. She and Lee live at 1833 Jackson road, Penfield, NY 14526. Telephone: 377-1327.

HOMES OFFERING ON MOTHER'S DAY

In recognition of Mother's Day on May 14, we will once again collect an offering to benefit Rochester Presbyterian Home and Kirkhaven. Both Rochester Presbyterian Home and Kirkhaven are continuing to redefine elder care in our community with innovative programs, more home-like environments, and greater choice and flexibility.

Please plan on hearing Jim Devoe tell us on Sunday, May 7 about some of the new programs that, in part, were sponsored by our contributions last year to the Homes Offering. Jim is president and CEO of Seniorsfirst Communities & Services, the parent corporation of our Presbyterian related organizations Valley Manor Apartments and Kirkhaven. He is also a member of Summerville Presbyterian Church.



Sunday "Super Series". On Sunday, May 7th, Nancy Watson, RN, PhD. and the DIRECTOR, Center For Clinical Research on Aging at the University of Rochester School of Nursing, will discuss **Alzheimers and Dementia to include what we know now, consequences for caregivers, how to get help and more. Valuable insights will be provided on this topic that has impacted so many of our friends and loved ones. (CHAPEL - 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.)**

Sunday, May 21st, our Stephen Ministers will present a class designed to inform everyone of the "SILENT MINISTRY," - a ministry fostering "quiet" and confidential "one on one" relationships for those experiencing the inevitable hard times in life: Divorce, Bereavement, Financial Concerns, Illness, Relationship Challenges and so forth. Information will also be provided, in a "no strings attached, non-pressurized" way for those wishing to learn how to become a Stephen Minister. The class includes a short video, overview of the program and time for questions (CHAPEL - 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. - May 21) Can't stay after church? No problem! An identical class will be given on **Sunday, May 7th - 8:30 A.M.- Second Floor Forum Room** - please join us at either session - your seat is waiting!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRSV).

What are the gifts of talents that God has given you? Each of us serves God in different ways, but we all function together to become the body of Christ. God has given us the incredible gift of salvation through Christ. Please prayerfully consider ways in which you can give of your time and talents. We are forming the teaching teams for our fall Sunday school classes, and can definitely use more help with this. We also need help with church school during the summer. We are excited to have Vacation Bible School this summer where we will be exploring the world of Narnia. If you can help, please contact Sandy Pacyga. If you would be interested in serving as an elder, deacon, or trustee, please contact Sylvia Fix who is chairperson of the nominating committee. Presbyterian Women offer multiple ways to serve. If your talents are musical (certainly not MY gift), you can contact James Douthit. The list goes on and on. **GET INVOLVED!!!** Thanks, Lucien Rouse.



Ribaue Work Trip 2006

Ted Pollock, Ed Pollock, Ron Pollock, and Penny Pollock are helping organize a volunteer work trip to Mozambique to build a church. We are working with the group called SERVE (Sending Experienced Retired Volunteers Everywhere) and the Pittsford Presbyterian Church.

WHO: Anyone who would like to come for at least two weeks to work on the building. We need all skill levels including ditch diggers, brick layers, cement mixers, carpenters and roofers.

WHAT: This is a chance for you to get to know other volunteers, to have an adventure in another country, to see parts of the world that are new to you, to share God’s love and kindness, to have a good time and get sore muscles.

WHY: The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique has asked us to come and help. In the 80’s and

90’s they went through 17 years of civil war and now they are at peace. The people from the Town of Ribaue have been asking, for more than 10 years, if someone could come and help them build a sanctuary. This will be the 4th church building that American volunteers have built in Mozambique. If you decide to come it will be a life changing experience and you will marvel at the children you will meet there.

WHEN: AUGUST 5, – SEPTEMBER 10, 2006 (which will be the dedication Sunday). Please sign up for at least 2 weeks but if you can stay longer that will be great. We will travel from Rochester, New York, Pittsburgh, Pa and Baltimore, Md. to meet in Johannesburg, South Africa. We fly on to Maputo, Mozambique and Nampula. You will be met by a friendly face in Nampula and they will take you to the train for Ribaue. It takes at least 3 days to make these connections.

WHERE: Mozambique is on the Southeast coast of Africa. Ribaue is in the northern part of the country west of Nampula. It was a Portuguese Colony before Independence so Portuguese is spoken there along with their native languages.

COST: Each volunteer needs to raise enough support to pay their own transportation costs. This will be approximately \$2500 – \$2800. This includes a plane ticket from your home city to Johannesburg, South Africa to Maputo, Mozambique to Nampula, Mozambique. This may include a motel room for one or two nights to make connections – (25 to \$40,) and 2 or 3 meals. Many people get their local congregations to help raise money for their trip. You will need to get a passport \$67 and a visa \$30 - \$50. You will also need a tetanus shot and anything else your doctor recommends. **ALL FOOD AND HOUSING WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. SCHEDULE:** We will work 6 days a week for a full day 7:30 – 12:00 and 1:00 to 5:00

QUESTIONS: Ted bcreeve@aol.com;
Ron ronpollock@aol.com;
Ed edpollock@juno.com;
Penny jdmcfarland@comcast.net

RAIHN UPDATE ((Some rain drops and/or an umbrella here would be great – do you have anything?))

Volunteers from our congregation continue to support Asbury Methodist for hosting families who need temporary housing. Thanks to you who have served meals, provided hospitality in the evening or stayed overnight and started the morning coffee. We can use more volunteers so think about giving sometime to this worthy cause. This may be one of those situations where you gain just as much as you give!

Also the 2nd Annual Dinner will be held on May 23rd at Transfiguration Church, Pittsford. The speaker will be Jean Howard who is retired from Wilson Commencement Park. Tickets will be \$35.

Please see Barbara Smith to volunteer or for information.



FRIDAY EVENING SERIES
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Invites You to Join Us

Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
Ensembles
Friday, April 28 at 7:30 PM
Donations to Support the Organ Fund and the
RYPO
Meet the Musician reception Immediately
following the Performance

Howard Hanson Piano Award Winners
Friday, May 12 at 7:00 PM
Five Fabulous Pianists will perform their
favorites for you!
Donations to Support the Organ Fund
Meet the Musician Reception Immediately
following the Performance

Howard Hanson Piano Award Winners
Five More Fabulous Pianists will perform their
favorites for you!
Friday, May 26 at 7:00 PM
Donations to Support the Organ Fund
Meet the Musician Reception Immediately
following the Performance

SATURDAY EVENING
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Invites You to Join Us

Bach children's Chorus
Spring Gala, concert and Auction
Saturday, April 29 at 6:00 PM
Special guests: Rochester Chinese School
Dancing Group
Finger foods, Desserts and Beverages will be
served

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERIES
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Invites You to Join Us

Bonita Boyd, Flute & Nicholas Goluses,
Guitar, in a Benefit Recital
Sunday, April 30 2006 at 3:00 PM
World-renowned musicians Bonita Boyd, flute
and Nicholas Goluses, Guitar, along with
members of the Equinox Symphony Orchestra
will
Perform several Beaser Mountain Songs, a
world premier by Sessler,
A Mozart Flute Quartet and a Vivaldi Guitar
Concerto.
Meet the Musician Reception Immediately
following the Performance
For more information on Equinox visit:
www.equinoxsymphony.org
Our Mission: To feature American
masterpieces and rarely-performed historical
gems in intimate venues, and to provide
opportunities for select students to work with
professional musicians.

CONCENTUS WOMEN'S CHORUS

Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 3:00 PM
Directed by Gwendolyn Gassler, the choral
group will perform a capella and accompanied
by piano, pieces ranging from Medieval sacred
chant, to lush harmonies of Mendelssohn, Fauré
and Debussy, to charming 20th century settings
of familiar folk tunes.
Donations to Support the Organ Fund
Meet the Chorus Reception Immediately
Following the Performance
For more information on Concentus visit:
www.concentus.org

NARNIA "Movie Night"

Family Friends Food Fun!!!!

WHO? Families and friends of 1st Pres. Church
WHEN? Friday Night, June 2 at 7:00 PM
WHERE? In our own Fellowship Hall
WHAT? Enjoy a family night out.

- * See THE NARNIA CHRONICLES together
- * Enjoy popcorn, punch and prizes
- * How many bible connections can your family find?

Enjoy a night out with ASLAN and C.S. Lewis!



Family Dates to Remember

June 2 - Family Movie Night – Narnia
June 4 - Pentecost and Confirmation
June 11 - Church School led Worship
W/Teacher Recognition
June 18 - Graduating Seniors recognition
June 25 - Summer church School begins
June 31 – August 4 – Summer adventure in Narnia
4 - 7PM daily

Haven't been able to enjoy our children?

**Maybe you've been singing in choir.
Been busy planning worship?
Presiding elder? Preparing coffee and...?**

Well, there is good news!!! You have the opportunity to be with our church school children for one or two summer Sundays. You can choose the age you are most comfortable with – Nursery, Pre-K/Kindergarten or 1st-3rd grades.

- ~ Our children need to get to know you!
- ~ Our dedicated teachers need a summer break!
- ~ for more information see Sandy or plan to sign-up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning

MISSION POSSIBLE

2000

**Youth Cabaret
Fund Raiser for
Summer Mission
Friday ~ May 19 ~
6pm – 9pm**

PIZZA	DANCING	
MAGIC SHOW	SNACKS	LUSCIOUS
KARAOKE	PERFORMERS	DESSERTS
MUSIC	COMEDY	
JAZZ	BEVERAGES	

SILENT AUCTION INCLUDES THINGS LIKE

- ✓ Time share in Orlando
- ✓ Event Tickets
- ✓ Restaurant Packages
- ✓ Theme Baskets
- ✓ Jewelry

AUCTION ORGANIZATION

Claudia Williams (586-8259) and
Madge Herge (248-3615)

**COME – BRING FRIENDS – BRING \$\$ FOR
MISSION – BE ENTERTAINED
DONATE TO AUCTION – SUPPORT FPC
YOUTH – FEEL GOOD FRIDAY**



THE SCOTTISH HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

Invites you, your family and friends to

The "Kirkin' O' The Tartan"

Sunday, April 30, 2006 – 10:00 AM

Pipers from The Rochester Scottish Pipes and Drums Band
Mary Lester – Harp and Voice
Presentation of Clans and Tartans
Dedication and Blessing

Come and be a part of this beautiful and commemorative service.

Reception and refreshments following service.

Members are encouraged to bring typical Scottish treats, e.g., scones, cookies, breads, etc. Wear your plaids and tartans. Bring your Clan banner if you have one.

