

# NewsBrief

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

**May 2007**

## **From the Pastor's Pen-Cell**

Imagine!

“Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” This question is asked of all those who are ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA to the offices of Deacon, Elder, or Minister of Word and Sacrament. No doubt any of us makes decisions in life that illicit questions by others whether or not we are using intelligence. Yes, the question of the use of intelligence is not just reserved for the critique of senators and congressmen.

Dee Dickinson is CEO of New Horizons for Learning and coauthor of *Teaching and Learning Through Multiple Intelligences* (Allyn and Bacon, 1998). She itemizes these intelligences as Linguistic, Mathematical, Visual-Spatial, Kinesthetic, Musical, Interpersonal, and Intrapersonal. At the University of West Chester, outside Philadelphia there is a sign on the elevator that reads, “In case of fire do not use elevator, use water.” Rather makes you wonder what kind of intelligence was used, doesn't it?

Even though we have questions about “intelligence,” we pretty much get the picture. Most of us can make sense of serving others with energy or taking the attitude of love toward people and their needs. But, we aren't quite sure what serving with imagination will do.

When preventative medicine is used to ward off malaria in Mozambique and you take those pills to eradicate potential malaria microbes from entering your bloodstream through an inerrant mosquito, the medicine has side effects. It can make you hallucinate. Sermons prepared while on these drugs are, well, more imaginative. While temporarily taking these medical precautions, your mind thinks, “If your imagination runs wild and the next day your legs are sore, does it mean that you are out of shape?” Actually this is not so much a question about imagination, but a question of intelligence. And, if you have read this far you may be questioning the author's intelligence far more than his imagination.

Why all of this imagination talk? Surely it is because on May 5 and 6 we are having an IMAGINING at First Presbyterian Church. Donald and LindaJo McKim will be with us on that weekend and they will help us imagine the future of the church, the future of theology, the future of faith. You will find information in this *NewsBrief* about Don and LindaJo, and specifics about this event. Please put it on your calendar. A team has been working for quite a few months to plan this event for you.

Albert Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Robert Fulghum who told us that everything that is truly important he learned in kindergarten also penned these words, “I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge -- myth is more potent than history -- dreams are more powerful than facts -- hope always triumphs over experience -- laughter is the cure for grief -- love is stronger than death”.

Our imagination is a paradise for the creative among it and us helps us discover new ways to use the gifts God gives.

On a more personal note, let me offer the observation that here at 137 Mill Road we imagine the day when lymphoma will be no more. Martha's teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at French Road Elementary is interrupted every few weeks with chemo-therapy at the Wilmot Cancer Center at Strong. She imagines not having to take sick days for those treatments in the fall and we imagine renewed strength as we move toward the summer. She imagines that medication that brings her a hair-do like Britney Spears' recent buzz or Kojak's will be replaced by something more glamorous – without any gray. (However, I hope that it comes back curly again. I like it that way.) While we concentrate a bit on the imagining, we are grateful for the way you serve God and our family in faith with energy, intelligence, and love.

## Prayerfully Pondering the Mad March of Mission...

As I write this on April Fool's Day, my sister's beloved Gators are about to face Ohio State in the conclusion of March Madness. What better day to think about Paul's reminder to us that we be fools for Christ (1 Corinthians 4:10)?

By the time you receive this missive, Easter's sugary chicks and chocolate bunnies will have been eaten and we will be on the mad Eastertide march to Pentecost (so-named because it is 50 days after Easter). Throughout Eastertide we will be reading the history of the church in the book of Acts. This gripping account reads like a New York Times bestseller (which the Bible in fact is) as the early church seeks to share the Good News of Christ's love, forgiveness, grace, healing and resurrecting hope. Clearly, the early church took its foolish mission – Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) – very seriously.

As we carry on Christ's Great Commission, our mad march of mission is taking us many places. Take a look at our new Mission Milepost in Fellowship Hall. Lovingly crafted by Ray Brown, the Mission Milepost shows many of the different places our congregation is spreading God's Good News. In addition to our well-known mission trips to Mozambique and Pearlinton, Mississippi, we have signs for this summer's youth trips to Jamaica and Pittsburgh. There are also signs for many of our local ministries like Wilson Commencement Park, Habitat for Humanity, and the Community Microenterprise Center. We look forward to adding to the number of signs and places where this congregation is marching – share with us your ideas!

On our mission march we will find opportunities as close as our own homes. Some might view a diagnosis of follicular cancer with despair or denial . . . not Martha Boak. She sees it as an opportunity to recognize blessings, to confirm her love of family and her 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and to value friendship, support and connection to wonderful medical care here in Rochester. It confirms for her that God is fulfilling a plan for her in bringing the family to Pittsford so that she

could discover again the significance of Paul's note to the Romans in chapter 12:

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. (Romans 12:2 – J. B. Phillips Translation)

God's plan for her is not just good. It is great! It is a part of God's maturing process for her. She welcomes your prayers and trusts that you will visit her personal website

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/marthaboak> when you want to know how things are going. Her hope is that you will value the importance of your own family and that you will discover how God's giving them to you is God's call to personal mission. Sometimes this personal and intimate mission is the appropriate priority that God has for us. Let us offer gifts of patience, forgiveness, time, and creative expressions of affection to God as we offer them to those we love and those who love us. In this we see that mission begins at home.

In this Eastertide season, we live in the light of Christ's resurrection. Whether at home, in downtown Rochester, or far-away Africa, we all have a chance to share the Good News of Easter. Let us together be fools for Christ shouting, "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia, Amen!"

Go With God,

*Carrie*

Week of May 6 – Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148; Rev. 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

Week of May 13 – Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10,  
21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Week of May 20 – Acts 16:16-34; Ps. 97; Rev. 22:12-14,  
16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Week of May 27 – Acts 2:1-21 or Gen. 11:1-9  
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 14:8-17 (25-27)



### Junior High News

Hey Junior Highers!  
Here's the word on the street for what's going on at FPCP for you and your friends in the coming months...

Living Logos will continue meeting every Wednesday (except May 2) from 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM. See youth board for schedule!

April 22 - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM...Game Night at JYF! Bring \$4 for special food and wear clothes you're okay with getting dirty!

April 28 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM...Mission Madness!



May 6 & 20 - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM...JYF! Come finish up the year with us with games, food, and a 2 part series called "What's love got to do with it?"

Coming soon...

June 1 - Jr. High Girls Sleepover/Jr. & Sr. High Guys Campout...8:00 PM - 8:00 AM...bring a friend or two! Cost is \$6 for the evening!

June 10 - Jr. High End of Year Bash... 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM... Look for your invitation! (open to those who will be in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 07-08 school year)



### High School News

What's up Senior Highers?! Here's what's coming down the slide for you this month...

April 20 - 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM... "Film Fanatics"...We'll be watching "Remember the Titans." FREE popcorn and drinks! Come join us and bring your buds!

May 4 - 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM... "Film Fanatics"...We'll be watching "Bruce Almighty" and talking about God (yes, God.) FREE popcorn and drinks! Come join us with your friends!



May 11 - 8:00 AM - 8:00 AM... Sr. High Girls Sleepover! Chick flicks, ice cream, and more! Cost is \$6 for the evening! Friends welcome!

Come find Niki at Starbucks...3:00 PM on Fridays!

Coming soon...

June 2 - 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM...Sr. High End of Year Bash...Look for your invitation! (open to those who will be in 9<sup>th</sup>-college in 07-08 school year)



Have a talent? Wish to share it? Come talk to Niki about performing in Mission: Possible Cabaret this year! We'd love to hear from you! (Contact Janette Henderson or Niki)

Have anything awesome we can use at our silent auction? Gift baskets, gift certificates, skills you can share, a weekend getaway at your lake cottage (we've got one, but won't mind another!), magician skills...let Niki know by April 24 if you would like to donate something!



Mission: Possible Cabaret is coming!!! Friday, May 18 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Join us with your family for song, dance, comedy, food, fellowship, our silent auction, and more! Tickets will be sold starting May 6 at Coffee Hour.



...*from Sandy's desk*

The community of God, the Body of Christ, was given *a specific job to do*. The work of Jesus the Christ was not over when he was crucified, resurrected and then ascended. As God the Son was no longer among humankind in the physical way, the Spirit of God became the power within each believer to continue Christ's work. The human world still needed to be *taught* about God so that the entire human race could understand and desire to *choose life* with God their creator rather than the darkness of death. ***We are each called.***

A *calling is a ministry*, not a job or a task. And each of us, through our Baptism, our part in community and because of our relationship to God, are called into **ministry**.

A calling stirs deep from within you. You are drawn to it as a moth is drawn to light. You have an ability, an interest, a talent, a concern. A part of you knows that calling and every once in a while it surfaces and you acknowledge it. Sometimes, an opportunity that would use your call arises and you have a choice. Many times we push it aside, thinking "later" or "oh no, not me" or "I would like to but I don't know that I can".

Some individual calls lead to a community recognition, a more permanent acknowledgement, a community celebration of the gifts of a particular individual – **ordination**.

A *call* cannot be suppressed. And a person can be called to more than one ministry. But the significant fact about this mysterious process by which our God fulfills the plan is that the work of the church, the **Body of Christ living into its corporate call**, can only happen when each member answers their own call, no matter how simple or how complex. And in God's plan, there is no person who isn't called!

The Christian Ed. committee and staff, are entering into a time of year when they will be actively looking for those people who they can see are *called* to have some role in making disciples and encouraging discipleship in this congregation. Be assured, of the many great and small tasks that make our educational programs work there is need for the gifts of many. So if in the next few weeks, you are approached by someone who sees your gift and asks you to prayerfully consider whether or not this is the time for you to commit it God how will you answer?

There are those gifts, concerns, yens too, that you may have successfully hidden. You may have thought, "well if I'm asked...maybe"

Please prayerfully consider too, that you may be called to make known your desire so that others will know of your interest. Don't let your calling go unnoticed hidden under that bushel! God has equipped First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford with those we need to be a healthy, growing, ministering congregation. Each and every person here has been planted just like seeds by the great giver of life for a purpose. What's your calling? Will you use your God given will to answer that call?

### ***Church vs. School?***

So church school...what's the point? A very narrow and self-centered answer might be "to occupy the children so that adults can 'enjoy' worship. As the game show host might say... "**wrong**"!

But the goal of church school, unlike our idea of education in our schools and colleges and universities, is not to impart facts and test for the comprehension of specific content. Here we teach the soul to grow and answer the yearning for a relationship with God. So what do we teach in "God's school"

**Pre-K & K – God loves us.** You are loved here.

You belong here. God's story is the Bible.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>** – we love to learn and know God's story we can **know God and tell the story**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** – we **know the Bible & guide our lives** by God's Word

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>** – living our lives by God's Word

**7<sup>th</sup>** taking the first steps to becoming responsible adult Christians.

**8<sup>th</sup>** preparation and acceptance of adult response

We **model the experience** of God's community.

## CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE ~ That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The

Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? they listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, god's healing love comes pouring through. If you or someone you know is facing a crisis-large or small-and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann*. **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**



## RAIHN IS COMING TO PITTSFORD!

The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN), a non-profit organization of faith communities, assists homeless families achieve sustainable independence by supporting them with resources of food, shelter, personalized case management and a broad network of caring volunteers.

Pittsford Presbyterian volunteers have been supporting Asbury Methodist Church to host displaced families for one week at a time, four times a year. Now we are working toward becoming a host congregation here in Pittsford! Watch for more information after church in Fellowship Hall, in bulletins, and in Newsbrief. You can help by volunteering your time, by giving donations of goods such as bedding or diapers, or by monetary contributions. Think about your church committee or Bible study group working together to prepare a meal as a way of helping.



### OPTIMISTS

The Optimists will hold their monthly meeting Friday, May 4, at 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Deborah Naybor, who works to create self-sustainable income for poor villages around the world. She has discovered a system of linking American communities to those most in need through creating microloans, building schools and clinics and donating clothing and supplies. Besides bringing your dish to pass and table service, consider bringing sewing needles, scissors, zippers and buttons for Deborah's projects. Call Sue Suter (381-5297) with questions, or if you would like to be placed on the calling list.



### HOMES OFFERING ON MOTHER'S DAY

In recognition of Mother's Day on May 13, 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 6 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.

To the guests in the program, a day in the life of RAIHN truly provided shelter from the storm. To the volunteers in the program, a day in the life of RAIHN is truly an uplifting and worthwhile experience.



### CRAFT SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR OUR JAMAICA MISSION TRIP

When you are doing your spring-cleaning and you find all those un-used craft supplies consider donating them to our summer mission trip. We are looking for embroidery thread, yarn, pony beads and other small beads. There will be a drop-box in the Fellowship Hall and we will be collecting throughout the month of April. Thank you for your help!



### CONFIRMATION: COME CLAIM THE CREED!

The Confirmation Classes of 2006/2007 began in September with a great orientation and retreat. 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands, their mentors and parents will meet with the Session for a celebratory dinner May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in our Fellowship Hall before being received into the congregation on Pentecost Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.