

# N e w s B r i e f

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

November, 2002

## From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Sometimes insensitive people in an attempt to chat around a banquet table would ask her, "And what is it you do, my dear?" Usually her husband was announced as an author, professor, lecturer . . . important sounding responsibilities. At this time in their lives, his wife was devoting her time to her two children. She felt the sting of an attitude that conveyed to her that this was an insignificant contribution to society and so she devised a unique response for such occasions. In machine gun fashion, she would reply, "I am socializing two homo sapiens into the dominant values of the Judeo-Christian tradition so they might be transformers of the social order into the kind of eschatological utopia God willed for us from before the foundation of the earth." And then she would smile and ask, "And what is it you do?"<sup>2</sup>

We understand most of her words, except perhaps that big one, "eschatological." Theologically this is a big one. The eschaton is the end of time; it is the primary target of the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible. Eschatology is that branch of theology and doctrine that deals with death, resurrection, judgment, and immortality. The kind of eschatological utopia God willed for us from before the foundation of the earth is one where there is no more pain, no more tears, and people are forever praising God before the Almighty's throne. Scripture defines it this way,

(Rev. 7:16-17, NRSV) They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

While most of us are throwing out the moldy pumpkin from the front porch and packing away the Halloween costumes, a few are preparing for a November that highlights eschatology. Even though one of the holidays we celebrate the best is in the middle of the month, it is book-ended by . . . eschatology. All Saints Sunday comes on the first Sunday of the month and Christ the King Sunday comes at the end. On All Saints we remember all those for whom Jesus died who live eternally with him. On Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the year in the Christian Calendar we honor the risen Christ as the one enthroned in glory, the one to whom we pledge our allegiance, the one who gets our vote, our sovereign, our redeemer, and Lord. Since it is so near Thanksgiving we might reflect that this month the year ends with ThanksgivKING! And why worship or participate in Bible Study on All Saints, Thanksgiving, Christ the King . . . indeed any Sunday . . . "so that we can be socialized into becoming true homo sapiens who live the dominant values of the Judeo-Christian faith in order that we might transform the social order into the kind of eschatological utopia God willed for us from before the foundation of the earth." In other words, in order that we might live out the prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come, on Earth as it is in heaven." (Jesus really had a way with words.)

BGB

PRAYERFULLY

**Giving thanks gives  
on and on...**

PONDERING...

<sup>2</sup>Tony Campolo, *Carpe* (1994), pp. 39-40.

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." (Romans 1:8) Paul had a habit of starting his letters with a salutation and a lengthy prayer of thanksgiving. In our world of emails, instant messages, voice mail, FedEx and courier services, it is hard to imagine taking the time and space to add gratitude to everyday actions. And yet, think what a change that might perpetuate!

Grammy taught me at a young age that thank you notes had to be in the mail by the third day after receiving something. As much as I grumbled, procrastinated, and felt at a loss for words when actually writing, I eventually came to value Grammy's discipline. Writing the letter afforded me an opportunity to think of the giver, recall any special circumstances in that person's life, and build an association between the thing given and the love with which it was given.

As Bill and I unpacked in August, I sailed down memory lane with each piece I unwrapped. Family and friends long since departed or flung to the far corners of the world were suddenly in the family room with me sharing in the unpacking. It made the house resonate with love.

Bill and I are enormously thankful for the family of faith and the loving home we have found here at the First Presbyterian Church. You have demonstrated your welcome to us in countless ways.

Canadians, as Bill's family in Stratford, Ontario reminds me, celebrated their Thanksgiving on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and ours will shortly be here as well. I find Thanksgiving to be one of the most gratifying holidays of the year because the day is devoted to giving thanks in the company of family and friends.

Amidst the chorus of, "Wow, that was delicious!" and "Oh, I ate too much!" each of us can take a moment to reflect on those things for which we are thankful. Or perhaps we might make it part of our Thanksgiving prayer: invite each person at the table to give thanks for something as the prayer progresses around the table.

We are already familiar with giving thanks to God by offering our time, talents and treasure. Consider another way: giving testimony. No, we are not being put on trial, but we can witness to others our thankfulness for God's bountiful gifts in our lives.

That witness or testimony can take on many forms. The marvelous hymn, *Now Thank We All Our God*, encourages us to thank God "with heart and hands and voices." We witness by giving heart-felt compassion on someone who is ill. Or we testify to God's gifts in our lives by using our hands to bake pumpkin pies. Or we give voice to our experience of mission work as Jim Taylor, Halle

Reed, Jim Weick, Marty Tiemann, Allan Reeve, and Bob Avery did on Consecration Sunday.

Whatever the form, our testimony is a way of giving thanks to the God "who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."

Paul witnessed by offering his prayer. In thanking God for the faithfulness of those touched by Christ, Paul was spreading that Good News to other readers and eventually to us. May we boldly find ways for our hearts, hands and voices to do the same.

Thanks be to God! †

Carrie

## LOGOS

from Sylvia Fix

**This is our up-coming schedule.  
Looks like fun:**

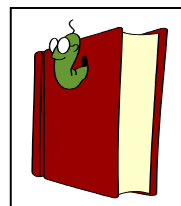
**October 30** – Haunted Halloween  
the word: *sweet*

**November 6** – Tongue Twister Terrific.  
wear red, white and blue.  
the word: *language*

**November 13** – Movie Maddness  
the word: *enjoy*

**November 20** – Bingo Blast  
the word: *winner*

**November 27** – NO LOGOS –  
Happy Thanksgiving.



## EB CLUB NEWS ~

**November 20, 7:30 PM**

*Things Fall Apart* – Chinua

Achebe. **Home of Nancy Sprengle,**

**103 Stuyvesant Road.**

**Jan. 8** – *Founding Brothers* – Joseph Ellis. **Home of Dianne Brown, 40 Copper Woods.**



**Youth Christian Education  
News and Notes**  
from Renée Shaffer

We all kicked off the new Church School year with prayers, ice cream and laughter.

- ♥ Sunday school teachers were introduced to the congregation. Thank-you teachers – much time and effort is involved each week!
- ♥ Third grade students received their Bibles.
- ♥ Parents, please make sure you send in your child's registration form into Sunday School.
- ♥ A special thank-you to Kelby & Carin Ash for providing us with delicious homemade ice cream!!
- ♥ Fourth grade parents, please be sure to sign your child up to be an acolyte. This time honored tradition builds self esteem, and exposes children to Church traditions and their Church family.
- ♥ Fifth grade students may participate if needed.
- ♥ It is important to note that teachers are trained to utilize a multi sensory approach to teaching classes. If your child has an Individualized Education Program, 504 plan, medical condition or any other adaptation, please alert the teacher. We have special education teachers on staff.
- ♥ Please sign up to volunteer in your child's classroom. We need volunteers, and children love when their parents help out.
- ♥ Logos kicked off a new exciting year on September 25. We are always interested in new members. If your child wishes to participate, but has a transportation issue, see Suzie Wahl or Larry Cooper. Please read our Logos' Sunshine Board – it is filled with fun photos, information and artwork.
- ♥ Remember, your church family needs you to make these programs a success. Please participate and join the fun. You are welcome and needed. †

**Pen Pals for our Church School  
Classes**

For the second year, Lucien Rouse has made it possible for our Church School students to communicate with children from many different places in the world. Our children get the opportunity to "put a face" on the ministries of mission and outreach. They gain a better understanding of the lifestyles and needs of the people served through the Christian Children's Fund and they learn the stories of far away people and can tell their stories, too. This year our:

- 1<sup>st</sup> graders will be writing to Jose Manuel Pinepa Ulloa of Honduras
- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be writing to Jayanthi Pushra Kumari of Sri Lanka
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be writing to Santos Kumar Ratak of India
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be writing to Marilyn Rosario Cardova Lopez of Guatemala
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be writing to Sheena Mae Tumampos of the Philippines
- 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be writing to Alexander Quiroga Silvestri of Boliva
- 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be writing to Augustina Augustus of Dominica in the West Indies
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be writing to Mwewa Mulolah of Zambia

YOUTH FORUM will be writing to Ivo Silvia De Morais of Brazil

Lucien arranges these communications and currently provides some financial support for these children as a personal ministry. Each class may also collect money for a small gift for "special times" throughout the year. Individuals in the congregation are also invited to help the classes assume the cost of sponsorship. We thank Lucien for including the Church School in this ministry. Interested individuals can contact Dr. Rouse for more information about this worthy program. †

Submitted by Sandy Pacyga

## ***GATHERING ON Adult Education Yields several possibilities:***

Those members of the congregation present on October 15, discussed the state of Adult Education here at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. Agreeing that despite the many obstacles to successful programs, there are several good possibilities. The in-depth discussion of who we are as a people, the needs and the barriers to including everyone in a process of 'LIFE LONG CHRISTIAN GROWTH THROUGH SEEKING KNOWLEDGE', ended with a short list of encouraging ideas that are very possible. Staff and those interested in pursuing a healthy congregational and Biblically based lifestyle would like to pursue the following:

- A House Cell Program. Monthly Fellowship w/potluck dinners and discussions using a staff designed format
- 4 Forums a year to coincide with Fellowship time following the 10:00 am service
- A once a year "Spiritual Emphasis Weekend" for the entire congregation
- Several 4 week basic Bible "how to" and "where's it at?" workshops to encourage us all to know the Bible better and to be able to apply it to our lives
- A 'Current Movies/Find the Christian Theme' Series

Discussion among participants and staff agreed that the current Wednesday Morning and WEB club as well as brief Scripture musings with prayer at the beginning of any organizational meeting, is to be highly supported but those times and worship are simply not enough. There was mutual agreement that without you, none of these or any other offering can be successful. Please let us know your thoughts. As a people mandated by Christ Jesus to be his disciples so that we may fulfill his charge to be his apostles to the world, we must as an entire congregation, seek to increase our understanding of our God always.

Respectfully submitted by SANDY PACYGA  
Staff support for Christian Education  
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[sandy.pacyga@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:sandy.pacyga@pittsfordpres.org)

Christmas Pageant 2002 ...Coming December  
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## **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

Experience It Live! Experience It With Your  
Family! Experience It Yourself!

from Renée Shaffer

Find out what it is like to be lifted out of your seats and carried away on a journey through the timeless story of God's love. Follow the steps of Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem and re-ignite your sense of wonder at the birth of Jesus. The call has gone out from Caesar Augustus for a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire, and everyone must register at their hometown. Don't miss being counted! Don't miss the caravan! Don't miss the great miracle! You are part of God's family! Reunite this Christmas season on the JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM.

And ... don't miss your opportunity to participate in bringing the journey to life. Our church's production features separate scenes, each of about four minutes, depicting life along the road to Bethlehem. The audience will be guided along a journey visiting each scene as the excitement builds to reach the nativity. Each scene is independent of the others allowing for an unprecedented opportunity to volunteer your time in smaller, more focused chunks. Have you always wanted to try your hand at directing or acting but didn't have time to take on an entire pageant? You now have the opportunity to direct or act in just one four-minute scene! All age groups: children, teens, and adults welcomed and needed! Talents of all types: actors, directors, stage craft, organizers, and cheerleaders! This holiday season give the gift of some of your time to bring a great experience to your family and your extended family in Christ! For more information contact Sandy Pacyga at 585-5688 or Karin Stuart at 586-6973. †

## **Music Notes**

from Cary Ratcliff, Music Director

A House Divided? The Jubilate Choir has been rehearsing in two overlapping groups, the high-schoolers and junior-highers. As the average age of these singers gets older, I am trying to lay some special challenges on each age group. The high-

schoolers (nicknamed Jubi-double-latté choir) will sing by themselves this month for the first time in a beautiful poem that asks "how do God's creatures say 'Awe'?" Both groups will still sing and party together most of the time, and promise to laugh at each other's jokes, even if they don't get them.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving one can expect some hymns of thanks for our bounty and freedom, but that Sunday, also called Christ the King Sunday, has the gospel reading where Jesus speaks of a judgment wherein people are separated on the basis of their charitable deeds: visiting the sick and imprisoned, feeding and clothing the hungry. The Adult Choir will sing one of the few anthems I know of that deals with this towering text: "Jesus makes me think, take them eat, and take them drink; there are children at the door..."

Who is that smiling man at the organ? For many Sundays this fall, Dr. James Douthit has been our substitute organist. Midweek, he is a Music Professor at Bloomsburg University in central Pennsylvania, but on weekends lives in Pittsford with his wife, who teaches at the U of R, and his two sons, one a freshman at UR, and one a junior at Pittsford-Mendon HS. A native of western North Carolina, he studied at Northwestern and Eastman Music Schools. We welcome him, and appreciate his fine contribution to our worship.

### Looking

Mitzie Collins, Roxanne Ziegler and Glenda Dove will be our guests at this year's Carols by Candlelight: A Christmas Carol Sing-along for the whole community. Mark your calendars now, and invite your neighbors to this magical and fun event. We will sing as many favorite carols in an hour as we can. Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

### Ahead:

This year's Choral Worship, Sunday December 22, will be a program of Christmas Carols and celebratory music combining all of our singing choirs, driven by a 4-handed piano team. †

## MISSION PROJECTS

from Tish Paddock and Greta Garman



During this past scorching summer, many of our flock made winter wear for others who will be happy to have people think of them. There are, in the collection, mittens, hats, scarves, afghans and little one's sweater and hat sets.

This is a great start on our donations to mission projects later this fall. Whatever suits you, suits us! Just keep up the good work and make use of our yarn supply in Fellowship Hall.

## LOCAL MISSION – CHRISTMAS GIFTS

from Sally Day and Elaine Johnson

Gifts for the boys at Oatka and Haneayah Cottages, as well as for the residents of Kirkhaven, will begin to be collected October 27. Flyers listing approved gifts for the boys at Oatka and Haneayah Cottages are on the Welcome Table. Drop boxes for the gifts are labeled and in the rear of Fellowship Hall. Please bring your gifts wrapped and labeled. You can use the colored flyers as labels for your bags of gifts, or simply label each gift. Oatka boys are 10 to 14 years of age, and Haneayah boys, 15 to 18. We will collect these gifts until mid-December.

Kirkhaven gifts will be collected through December 1. Please gift-wrap and label each gift with the name of the item (e.g., men's socks).

We are also ready to collect 2003 calendars and cards for the Oatka and Haneayah boys. These include new Christmas cards and envelopes, greeting cards, blank note cards, etc. Please bring your Christmas cards by November 17, at which time they will be delivered to the boys with stamps from the Presbyterian Women's Board, for mailing. This is a good use for those unsolicited cards you receive by mail for the holidays.

Thank you for your generous contributions to these local mission recipients. †

**NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, November 18, at 11:30 AM. Our speaker will be Colleen Knauf, director of Saint's Place at St. Louis Church in Pittsford. After the presentation, we plan a visit to Saint's Place.

**OPTIMISTS** will meet again on Friday, Nov. 1 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We're looking forward to hearing Anne Salter of the Rochester Historical Society speak to us about "Treasures of the Rochester Historical Society."

If you are not already a member of the group but would like to attend or want further information, please call Sue Suter at 381-5297.

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR ROCHESTER MINISTRY

from Your Outreach Committee

The People's Ministry in Christ (PMIC) on Dewey Avenue invites you for whom God might be opening a missionary experience, to consider them. They are offering a short-term (3, 6 or 12 months) missionary experience in an inner-city setting. Perhaps you would like to work with children, help with the music ministry, be part of the prayer ministry or neighborhood outreach. The missionary experience would include a minimum of two Sundays per month at PMIC for service, participation at special events, and an occasional meeting.

Our church has been and continues to be a supporter, both financially and through volunteers, of PMIC. The Presbytery also continues to support PMIC through encouragement, direction and supplies.

If you think that God may be nudging you, or someone you know towards this type of experience, please pray, and then contact Ann McCrossen (342-2641) or contact her at [peoplesmin1@aol.com](mailto:peoplesmin1@aol.com) or 534 Dewey Ave., Rochester, 14613. †

what he APPOINTS. Never mind about tomorrow; one day at a time is enough. Try it TODAY, and see if it is not a day of strange, almost curious PEACE, so sweet that you will be only too thankful when tomorrow comes to ask Him to take it also.

*Frances Ridley Havergal*

Revelation 3:20, says – “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Perhaps you have seen the drawing, portraying the scene of a person standing on one side of a door and the Lord on the other.

The Lord stands waiting, as a gentleman; waiting for us to invite Him in – I am finding in my life's walk with Him that it is needful to renew that invitation daily, even hourly, sometimes.

*The Lord gives His blessing, when He finds the vessel empty.* – Thomas Á. Kempis

In Genesis 22, the story of the offering of Isaac, is fascinating to me. Notice the mind-set of Abraham when speaking to his men that were helping them make the journey. He said, ‘Stay here with the donkey and I and the lad will go yonder; and WE will worship AND RETURN TO YOU!’

Then, when Isaac asked his father, “where is the lamb for the burnt offering,” Abraham said “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son”.

One of God's names is “Jehovah – Jireh”, meaning “The Lord Will Provide”.

So, emptying ourselves of our own agendas, and putting total trust in His, will make possible for God's provisions to always be greater than our problems. †

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

From Trudy Bartleson

**Carol and John (Jack) Parker** who have transferred their membership to us from Third Presbyterian Church. They are retired and have three grown children, Stephen and wife; Philip; and Jeffrey and wife, as well as four grandsons. They both like to travel, enjoy the RPO, and their friends in Rochester and Florida. They play golf, tennis, walk and bike ride. They reside at 17 Connemara Drive, Pittsford, NY. †

## REMINDER

Next month's Newsbrief's deadline is November 17. Get your articles in on time for our December/Christmas issue.

My thanks to many of you who work so hard to get your articles in on time and to those who send them via e-mail. Many e-mail articles are able to be copied right into the text, saving time and the chance of an error.

## Stephen Ministry Corner

(correction to last months article)  
Musings from Carol Tiemann

BEGIN at once; before you venture away from this quiet moment, ask your KING to take you wholly into His SERVICE, and place all the hours of this day quite simply at His disposal, and ask Him to make and keep you ready to do just EXACTLY

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**WORSHIP WITH US**

Please join us for Sunday morning worship.  
Services are 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM  
Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month.