

NewsBrief

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

November 2006

Prayerfully Pondering Gardens of Gratitude...

A Scottish minister named Alexander Whyte is reputed to have been able to look at the bleakest situation and still find something for which God could be thanked. On a dark and frigid Sunday morning, one deacon whispered to another, "I am sure the preacher won't be able to thank God for anything on a day like this. It's absolutely horrible outside!" The pastor began the service by praying, "We thank Thee, O God, that the weather is not always like this."

The apostle Paul also saw the best in every situation. Even though he was writing the churches from a prison in Rome, he considered himself blessed to be a prisoner of Christ who had the opportunity to bring God's Good News to the Gentiles.

Gardeners seem innately able to be thankful for muddy situations. Those who work with the soil and see the fruits of their labor in food or flower know how all things work together for the good – mud, rain, slush, autumn chill, and winter's grip – all play a part in God's greater plan for this earth and its inhabitants. My grandmother's sampler reminds me daily: "The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the bird for mirth. One is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anyplace else on earth."

I know and love a beautifully special young lady who embodies the truth of the sampler. When life is too overwhelming, she simply goes out into the garden, breathes in the air at any time of year, gives thanks for God's presence beside her and returns inside with a God and garden-graced attitude. She is an inspiration to me. When life is too overwhelming for me, I find it quite easy to grieve. I hold her up in my mind's eye as an example of an attitude of gratitude I hope to adopt anew everyday.

The attitude of gratitude is actually good for our own health. Dr. Martin E.P. Seligman developed a "gratitude visit" to promote strong emotional health. He tells people to think of someone who has made an important difference in their own lives. He asks them to write the story of how that person has helped them, and then to visit that person and read the story aloud. Tests show that a year later the people who had done so were happier and reported fewer episodes of depression. And just think of what it did for the person who was being thanked!

May this season approaching Thanksgiving be one in which you find yourself frequently in God's garden of gratitude.

Go With God,

Carrie

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

Week of Nov. 5 – Ruth 1:1-18; *Ps. 146*; Heb. 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Week of Nov. 12 – Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; *Ps. 127*
Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Week of Nov. 19 – 1 Sam. 1:4-20; *1 Sam. 2:1-10*
Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;
Mark 13:1-8

Week of Nov. 26 – 2 Sam. 23:1-7; *Ps. 132:1-12 (13-18)*
Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37



LOGOS – 2006 - 2007

from Sylvia Fix
Putting God First!

October 25 – Halloween Bash – We dress up in costume.

The word is *individual*.

November 1 – Gigabyte Me – Computer take-a-part.

The word is *memory*.

November 8 – Stars...Starfish. – Make the difference.

The word is *difference*.

November 15 – Feast of Thanks – Thanksgiving celebration.

The word is *remember*.

November 22 – NO LOGOS
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Living Logos – November 1
Visit the Highlands

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 continue meeting regularly the first Sunday afternoon of every month (11/5, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1) between 11:30am and 1:00pm for faith-building exercises and fun! Since Pentecost is early this year (May 27th, two weekends after Mother's Day), parents and Session members will be asked to join the mentors and confirmands on Sunday, May 13th for a celebratory time. Mark your calendars now!



**STRESSED? Lonely?
Discouraged? Sad?
Don't Suffer Alone.
Help Is Available.**

Sometimes we fall into a trap where we think it's sign of weakness to ask for help. So when we're stressed, discouraged, lonely, or sad, we try to keep our struggles hidden and are reluctant to ask for help. However, that's not god's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others-and allow others to care for us in our time of need. *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum (385-9807), Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.*



A FASHION SHOW? In the church, during the Worship Service?? Yes!! Come to the 10:00 AM Service November 12 and see one of our mission projects in all the colors of Joseph's Coat—and more.

Please call me if you have completed a "Guidepost" sweater so it can be included. Kay Saxum (385-9807).

How I Spent My Summer Vacation, Part II

In the September edition of the Newsbrief, I discussed the first part of my trip to the workshop of our organ builders, Taylor and Boody. I discussed our first day of the visit and our trip to see an original Tannenberg Organ. After this visit, we went directly to the Taylor and Boody Workshop. It is located in the Virginia countryside. There's very little around the area with the exception of the Hebron Presbyterian Church located just across the road. The shop looks like an old schoolhouse, though I have no confirmation of that, as it did not enter into the discussion. As I moved into the shop, we got our first glimpse of the new parts being made for our organ. The three bellows had been constructed and the frame that will hold them. I saw the wood that was being prepared for the manufacturing of some of our wooden pipes, and had the opportunity to see the beginning work on the metal pipes. The metal is poured right in the shop. The pipes are formed from sheets of poured metal.

The efforts to craft the organ are painstaking and exacting. As Taylor and Boody had restored the Tannenberg Organ in Old Salem, they had access to some original pipes. They brought them to the shop to study as a model for making our instrument. The languid of some of the metal pipes had a rather unique construction, a certain thickness that they were attempting to duplicate. (The languid is the opening in the pipe, through which the air blows to make the sound. It's the crescent-like shape that you can see around the lower portion of the pipe.) Since there are no directions on the making or documentation that has survived, it must be done by trial and error. Many hours had been given to the task of making a prototype of the pipe. Taylor and Boody were planning to take the pipes to an international conference of organ builders in Europe in August, as well as bringing some of the pipes for a discussion at the 2006 EROI Festival in Rochester.

The next day, we traveled to Old Salem to play and hear (and see) the Tannenberg Organ that has served as the primary model for our project. The organ is housed in the

Visitors' Center in Old Salem. The temperature and humidity brought me back immediately to my native roots in North Carolina! As we began to play the organ, visitors would enter the concert hall where the organ is kept, pausing for a rather lengthy period of time to listen as Hans, George Taylor, and I took turns playing the wonderful instrument! Again, the tone of the instrument proved to be exactly what we had in mind for our project, a beautiful, sweet singing tone that will blend well with the congregation in our hymns and worship responses. The organ will also make a wonderful addition to our choral music, allowing our singers a more refined tone with which to blend. As Native Americans heard the first Tannenberg organs, they thought that there were children trapped inside the instrument making the sounds. The organ sound was so beautiful and delicate; they did not understand the mechanism that was actually producing the sound.

One of the groups that stopped to listen was a family with a preteen daughter. They hesitantly approached the front of the hall as we played. I showed them the bellows of the instrument and demonstrated how they worked with either human pumping power or with an electric blower. As they approached the console, Hans asked the young girl if she played the piano. She replied that she did. He asked if she would like to try to play the organ. As the girl sat down to play the instrument it was almost magical. A young girl, playing an instrument that was originally built around 1797, restored in 2003 from pipes found in the attics of houses across Old Salem, brought alive beautiful sound for the rising generation. The family and the girl were delighted. I wish that you could have seen the expression on her face as she played this instrument. It reminded me that our instrument will be the introduction to the organ for a countless number of young keyboard students. Our congregation is quite talented and we have several students who would have the opportunity to study on a magnificent instrument. As I observed the delight of just this one student, it became clear to me that this was the most important reason to have our organ, and it made much of the effort seem like a very worthwhile and important task.

NOTES FROM BOB

With the impact on our upcoming generation in mind, as well as the benefits to our congregation in general, we hope you will participate in the events that support our new organ. Between 150 and 200 people already enjoyed the spaghetti dinner that was held in September. With a lot of the food being donated and with the considerable efforts of many volunteers, we generated right about \$1000 for the organ fund. We were gratified that there were additional contributions made, as well. At this point, we project that we still have about \$40,000 to go, to pay for the fully installed organ.

Harold McAulliffe has volunteered to perform for an event in support of the organ fund. As a result, on Sunday afternoon, October 29, at 3:00 PM in our sanctuary, Harold, along with James, Sanghwa, and the choir, will provide a concert that we hope you will all be anxious to attend.

Then on Friday evening, November 17, at 7:00 PM, we will have another concert provided by Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra ensembles. These, of course, are our next generation of talented musicians, some of which come from our own church.

The Outreach that is achieved by these and our past events is every bit as important a part in our church program as the fund raising. The events have brought in many new people to visit and consider our church. We have had and will continue to have receptions following each of our events. Come meet with some of the new people who visit our church.



Membership and Evangelism

Our members of the M & E Committee want the members of our congregation to have a meaningful Thanksgiving Day. If you or you and your spouse are alone for the holiday, we would like to include you with our families. And we hope that some of our members would enjoy having these people as guests for the holiday. If you fall within either of these categories and would like to participate, please call Doris (586-5688) or Marj Converse (381-3779).

Ministry McNuggets ~Have you ever wanted to minister to somebody else but didn't know where to begin? Do you want to do something, but don't want to make a long-term or large commitment? Know that there are plenty of bite-sized opportunities for hands-on involvement through the various ministries of our congregation. Take a look at just some of the examples listed below. If you would like to know more about any of these possibilities or you can think of something to add to this starter list, please contact Carrie Mitchell at 586-5688 x32.

MOPPETS Nursery Volunteer
ARC Escort
RAIHN Host
Logos Kitchen Crew
Welcoming Minister
Chancel Setup
Communion Serving
Home Communion Serving
Home Visitations
Sunday School Assistant
Grounds keeping
Watering
Summer Fellowship Host
Parking Lot Shuttle
Cameron Community Ministries Hot Lunch Preparation
New Members' Luncheon Service
New Member Mentor
Envelope Stuffing
Youth Volunteer
Tax Assistance
Website Improvement
Concert Fellowship Hosting
Newsbrief Mailing
Habitat House Construction
Habitat REStore Staffing
Prayer Team
Knitting Sweaters and Baby Caps