

NewsBrief

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

November 2007

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Paul Tournier is one of the authors that have most influenced my thinking and preaching. Although he was brought to the Church triumphant in 1987, I reflect on him and his book, *The Seasons of Life*, almost every November.

In 1925 Tournier opened a private medical practice in Geneva. He became increasingly interested in Calvinism and the Reformed Faith and as a result of his interests investigated the relationship between medicine, counseling, and spiritual values. He became a pioneer in person centered psycho-therapy. Here are a few quotes from his writing that I have collected:

- Every doctor, Christian or not, is a collaborator with God. As Ambroise Pare said in his well known words; I tended him. God healed him.
- Health is not the mere absence of disease. It is a quality of life, a physical, psychical, and spiritual unfolding, and exaltation of personal dynamism.
- Nothing makes us so lonely as our secrets.
- Let us not seek to bring religion to others, but let us endeavor to live it ourselves.
- It is an unscientific assumption of materialist philosophy which supposes that material facts (anatomical and physiological) are the cause, and that moral (psychological and spiritual) facts are the consequences, and not the other way about.

Books that have been meaningful to me include: *The Healing of Persons*, *Escape from Loneliness, Guilt and Grace*, *The Meaning of Persons*, *The Meaning of Gifts*, *The Person in an Age of Conformity*, *Secrets*, and *The Seasons of Life*.

The Seasons of Life deals with his Tournier's understanding of human development from childhood through old age. Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter are the seasons he uses to describe each part of the human journey. The Fall Season is one of grace and beauty, acceptance and change. He suggests that it is a season of preparation, thanksgiving and reflection. Is this not a good description of November?

Spiritually the church opens the month by celebrating All Saints Day, but it isn't too long when the Halloween decorations are tucked away in their black and orange boxes and the cornucopial table decorations of the next big holiday arrive. We can tell that Thanksgiving looms when Wegman's replaces its Thanksgiving display at the beginning of October with Christmas trees and ornaments. It is a signal that at least someone is anticipating a big change in upstate New York weather. We look at the fall hues, pumpkins carved to look like the Mayflower and wonder if the pilgrims wore their belts on their hats because they couldn't buckle them around their waists after dinner. At the very least it should remind us that this is a season of gratitude and giving, a season in life for gathering, rejoicing and praise.

But if you are worried that you won't be able to give thanks because you've got to cook the turkey, let me offer these thoughts stimulated by Craig Boldman and Pete Matthew in their book, *Every Excuse in the Book*. If you burn the turkey they suggest that you can replace worry with gratitude because:

1. Salmonella won't be a concern.
2. Everyone will think your turkey is Cajun blackened.
3. Your cheese broccoli lima bean casserole will gain new found appreciation.
4. Pets won't bother to pester you for scraps.
5. No one will overeat.
6. The smoke alarm was due for a test.
7. Carving the bird will provide a good cardiovascular workout.
8. You'll get to the desserts even quicker.
9. After dinner, the guys can take the bird to the yard and play football.

Bruce

Week of Nov. 4 – Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144
2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Week of Nov. 11 – Hag. 1:15b-2:9; Ps145:1-5, 17-21 or
Ps. 98; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Week of Nov. 18 – Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12; 2 Thess 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Week of Nov. 25 – Jer. 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Col. 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43



Did you know that our church has a Prayer Group??? They meet in the church library every Tuesday afternoon from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM. All are welcome (even encouraged) to join us for this special time to pray for any and all prayer requests brought to our attention. A Prayer List is printed each week and placed at the back of the sanctuary between the two double doors in a Lucite holder on the half-moon table. Take one and join us in prayer even if you can't attend the Tuesday afternoon Prayer Group. Sometimes we receive prayer requests where confidentiality is requested and we always honor that. Any questions? Call Kay Saxum, 385-9807.



YOU CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR STEPHEN

MINISTRY... Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum (385-9807), Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.* They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!



OPTIMISTS

Does your family have history that dates back to the early colonies? "Albion's seed—Four British Folkways in America" will be the topic of Cal Graziano's talk at the November meeting of the Optimists. He will discuss the migration to the American colonies that took place by the Puritans, Cavaliers, Quakers and Border People from 1629 to 1775. They were basically Protestant, mostly Presbyterian, and quite a rough crowd, as you will learn.

You are invited to join us Friday, November 2, at 6:15 PM, in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your covered dish and place setting, as usual. If you have questions, or would like to be placed on the calling list, call Sue Suter (381-5297).



NOVEMBER 16 THE SECRET SPAGHETTI SAUCE RETURNS!!

Don't you get hungry just thinking about the wonderful sauce, the meat-a-balls, the garlic bread? All the Elders will be there with their families before they go off to their annual Session Retreat. Join them for some great fellowship. Tickets for the November 16 Spaghetti Dinner go on sale in Fellowship Hall on November 4. Adults are \$8 and Under-12 are \$5. Such a great deal for a great meal.



Tony Caramia brings his spectacular jazz piano music to the second of the Fall Concert Series. On Friday, October 26th at 7:30 p.m, Mr. Caramia, an internationally renowned performer, composer, adjudicator and educator, delights audiences with Gershwin and other composers. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Due to conflicting commitments, Sacred Favorites II with Harold McAulliffe, James Douthit and the Chancel Choir has been moved to May 4, 2008.

NOTES FROM JAMES

WELCOME EUNYOUNG KIM

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Eunyoung Kim to our piano bench (and soon to the new organ bench). After a summer of interviews and searching, the Search Committee selected Eunyoung as our organist. Currently a student at the Eastman School of Music, she has completed the coursework toward the Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance and Literature and holds a Masters and Bachelors Degree from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. Additionally, Eunyoung has student church music in Regensburg, Germany at the Hochschule für Katholische Kirchenmusik and holds a Master Class Diploma from the Hochschule für Music in Munich. She has been awarded graduate assistantships at the Eastman School of Music and Yonsei University. She has been a semifinalist in organ competitions held in both Munich and Tokyo. Eunyoung was formerly the organist at Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton and has served as the Assistant Organist at St. Paul's Church in Englewood, New Jersey, and at the Feldkirchen in Munich, Germany.

THANK YOU TO DR. BEVERLY SMOKER AND ALEXANDRA BARBATO

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Beverly Smoker Professor of Music at Nazareth College (Piano) who served as our pianist throughout the summer. Dr. Smoker has been a long time colleague of mine. In 1990, I taught part time at Nazareth College when Dr. Smoker arrived to be the coordinator of the Keyboard Studies. As many of you know, she is a member of our church, and I was delighted that she eagerly agreed to play for us this summer. Dr. Smoker holds degrees from the University of Iowa (her home state) and the University of Texas at Austin. Beverly will present a faculty recital at Nazareth College on Sunday afternoon, November 4, at 3:00 in Wilmot Recital Hall. The recital includes 20th century preludes for solo piano and is open to the public free of charge. Dr. Smoker's husband, Dr. Paul Smoker, is an internationally known jazz trumpet player and her son Evan, a percussionist, is a student at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Alexandra Barbato, who played for the early service during the month of September, is a piano student of Dr. Smoker's enrolled in the Bachelor of Music Degree Program in Piano and Flute Performance. A sophomore, Alexandra is from Pittsford and has an extensive background of work in churches throughout the area.

WELCOME NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

It is my pleasure to welcome Emmy Valet to the soprano section of the Chancel Choir. Returning to the choir loft in the soprano section is Linda Richards while in the bass section James Messenger has rejoined our group. We are always delighted to have new people join our choir. It provides a new energy and excitement to our group. If you would like to sing with us, we welcome new members at all times. This is an exciting time to be a member of the Chancel Choir. We have already read through most of our Advent and Christmas music and will begin serious rehearsals on that literature this week. If you have any questions about joining the group or need a little coaxing, please feel free to contact me via email at jdouthi2@naz.edu.

WELCOME OUR NEW ORGAN

The excitement is building concerning the arrival of our new organ. On Sunday, October 21, after the 10:00 service, I will present an update on the progress of the instrument and answer any questions that you might have regarding the installation. Many of our members have visited Taylor and Boody over the course of the summer, including: the Kinnens, Peets, Tinders, and Murrays. All have reported that the craftsmanship is remarkable, and have enjoyed seeing the pipes, both metal and wood, that have been completed. We hope to have some pictures to show you at the information session. The wind chest is almost complete, in spite of the fact that the person assigned to that detail has experienced some significant medical difficulty. We will be meeting with George Taylor during the upcoming EROI Festival and will have information to share in October. The various Organ Committees have worked diligently for years, and we can hardly wait for the sounds of the instrument to fill our sanctuary!

On November 18, Sunday at 3:00 PM. **Michael Edwards** will present a recital on his classical Saxophone here at First Presbyterian. Accompanied by some of his fellow Eastman School of Music associates, Mr. Edwards is a well-known educator. Freewill donations will be accepted.



SAVE THE DATE: Once again “Shop til You Drop” will take place the Monday after Thanksgiving, November 26, 6-9 PM at Pittsford Plaza. Participating stores are: One World Goods, blueground, Color Me Mine, and Hands On and Beyond. Dine first at Camille’s Sidewalk Café! For the second year in a row, One World Goods is donating 20% of the proceeds. The others and Camille’s Sidewalk Café are donating 15% of the evening’s proceeds. Help RAIHN while accomplishing some of your Christmas and holiday gift giving needs. Last year this evening’s tally was \$2,300 for RAIHN! Join the fun.



NOTE FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As we begin the new program year with SO many things going on in our building, the Trustees would like to give this friendly reminder. When you leave the area you are using, please make sure all the lights that can be turned off are turned off. Make sure to check the restrooms, too, as they are often forgotten! Lights on overnight only add to the utility costs. The person who unlocked the outside door needs to make sure the door they unlocked is locked again. If a door is left unlocked when our security system is turned on for the night, the alarm sounds and one of the Trustees must come to the church at midnight or later to make sure the alarm is a false one. Think of our building as your church “house” - save money by turning off lights and make sure it is secure before leaving. Thanks!

PARKING PRUDENCE ADVISED ~ There can be negative consequences when not heeding the warning signs and parking in the ESL lot across from our church building during business hours (normally Monday – Friday during the day 9-5, and Saturday in the morning). **Parking there on Sundays, later Saturday and most evenings should be trouble free.** So here are the consequences we have observed:

- A. Having your car “booted” – cost \$54 for boot removal
- B. Having your car towed – cost \$108 to obtain it from towing company
- C. Having the Monroe County Sheriff follow you into the lot against the arrow from Church Street – a ticket (Better to enter the lot from State Street).

Parking is possible in the Great Northern Restaurant lot on Sunday mornings until 11:30am. There is public parking most anytime in the public lots behind Hicks and McCarthy and in the public lot behind CN Bank and the Pittsford Library. The church building is a short walk through the ESL lot.



Some of the wooden pipes for the new organ are very big, some are small. This picture, taken by Phil Tinder on their recent visit to Taylor and Boody, shows some 6 inch pipes.



Hi junior highers!!! Hope everyone is having an amazing fall with the gorgeous weather we've been blessed with! Here's our happenings coming soon to a crisp autumn day near you!

Oct. 28th- 7-8:30pm...JYF here at church! We'll be continuing our series on Philippians. Bring \$2 for snacks. (We will no longer be serving dinner at JYF.) Come at 6pm to help us out with raking! We'll give you dinner. Sign up with Niki! Make sure you bring a rake, flashlight, and dirty clothes!

Nov. 3rd...Super Fun Mission Opportunity! Soup kitchen at St. Joseph House of Hospitality. Meet at church 9am. We'll be serving until 12:30pm. Stay for lunch and chatting at church for \$2 until 2pm! (SIGN UP by Oct. 24th)

Nov. 11th & 25th- 7-8:30pm...JYF here at church! Still trekking with Paul & the church in Philippi...Bring \$2 for snacks.

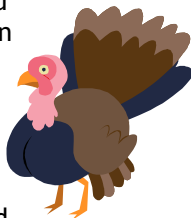
Nov. 17th- 1pm-4pm...Rock Ventures! Cost is \$10...bring a bud & let Niki know by Nov. 10th if you'll be joining!

Keep your eyes open for the mission trip info packet...We're going to York, PA!

Parents...if your son/daughter is considering our mission trip next summer to York, PA...please contact Niki ASAP. We will be doing a fundraiser on Nov. 18th (Bake Sale) and are in need of baked goods to sell. Thank you lots!



Hi senior highers!!! I am betting all of you are loving hanging out with your friends in the great autumn air and enjoying Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte. In the meantime, bring your friends here for some fun too!



Oct. 21st- 7-8:30pm...Awesome is here and going strong! We're still going through Philippians. Bring \$2 for snacks (we will no longer be serving dinner at Awesome.) Come at 6pm on the 21st to help us out with raking! We'll feed you dinner. Sign up with Niki! Make sure you bring your rake, flashlight, and wear dirty clothes!

Nov. 3rd...Super Fun Mission Opportunity for you! Soup kitchen at St. Joseph House of Hospitality. Meet at church by 9am. We will be serving until 12:30pm. Stay for lunch and discussion at church for \$2 until 2pm! (SIGN UP by Oct. 24th)

Nov. 4th & 18th- 7-8:30pm...Awesome! Still learning from Paul & the Philippians...Bring \$2 for snacks.

Nov. 10th- 12:30-4pm...Inside Track Speedway! Indoor Go-Karting is a blast! Come try to beat Niki on the course! Bring a friend...Cost is \$15 and includes lunch and tokens for games.

Keep your eyes open for the summer mission trip info packet...We're going to Rhode Island!

Parents...if your son/daughter is considering our mission trip to N. Kingstown, RI next summer, please contact Niki ASAP. We will be doing a bake sale on Nov. 18th and are in need of baked goods to see. Thank you lots!



LOGOS KITCHEN NEEDS YOUR HELP! ~ We are looking for a few people to help with the shopping, cooking and cleanup for our Wednesday night dinners at LOGOS. Shopping can be done anytime prior to Wed afternoon, cooking starts around 4:30pm and cleanup starts around 6:15pm. The evening ends around 7:00pm, just in time for evening Bible study or choir. The program generally ends in late March and weekly commitment is not necessary! Please consider joining us for this time of fellowship and service to our youth. Contact Louise Thompson at church on Sunday, by phone at 264-9233 or email at tlthompson5@aol.com. Thank you!



The 3rd Annual **RUN FOR CARL** will be held on Friday, Nov. 23 at 10:00 AM at Mendon Ponds Park, Steward Lodge. Last year over 125 people were on hand for the event, which raised more than \$3800 in memory of Carl Lane Metzler. Carl was a 2000 graduate of Pittsford Sutherland High School who passed away suddenly of heart failure in June 2004 at the age of 22.

Rain or shine – come out and join other PCSD alumni, family & friends of Carl to either run 5K or walk 2.5K in the park.

There is no registration fee, however all donations made to the Carl Lane Metzler Memorial Fund on “Run” day will be awarded in college scholarships to SHS/MHS senior who share Carl's most-loved characteristics of teamwork and passion for the outdoors.

Lindsey Kurnath
SHS class of 2000
Run_for_carl@hotmail.com

Join Us for Lunch!

“Us” means the senior and junior youth groups at First Presbyterian Church. “Lunch” means the meal that we’ll be serving at St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality at 402 South Ave. on Saturday, November 3, 2007. There are so many ways to give to others and to our surroundings. The venue in November will be cooking, serving and cleaning up at St. Joseph’s. The Stiles family have been volunteering there each month for the past five years and wanted to reveal to others the joy of literally serving others. Everyone participating should arrive at church by 9:00 AM and then we will caravan to St. Joseph’s so that we arrive by 9:00 AM to help unpack the groceries which will have just arrived. Then, we’ll each chop, cook, cut, spread, mix, pour,chat,.... Stir, set up,chat....for the next hour plus. The regular volunteers will be there to help train our group. At 11:15 AM, we’ll open the door from the living room/lounge into the dining room to let our guests enter.

St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality serves lunch each day and operates a men’s emergency shelter. Here, men can find clothing, a shower, a place to wash clothing, or make a phone call free of charge. There is a weekly ecumenical service on Tuesdays. Helping and advocating for those who are homeless or on the brink of being there, is the focus of this agency. We will be a part of that helping hand. It would be fairly easy to simply cook and prepare the meal, while having fun together among ourselves, but the real spirit of the day is when we serve the food to our guests, and look them in the eye.

At around 12:30, after cleaning up, we’ll head back to church for our own light lunch (we’ll be starved by then!) and more fellowship. Thanks, in advance, for helping us help others. Let Niki or the church office know if you will be there with us.



NAME TAG ORDER FORM:

To order a new church nametag with bigger print or to replace a lost or damaged name tag, please fill out the form below (enclose a check to cover costs payable to Norma Ryther) and mail both the check and form to:



Your Name

Norma Ryther
22 Cambric Circle
Pittsford, New York 14534

1. PRINT NAME TO BE ON NAME TAG:

(First) _____ (Last) _____

2. Circle type of name tag: **PIN(\$4.80)** **CLIP (\$4.80)** **MAGNET (\$7.00)**

3 Enclose check to cover costs and mail to N. Ryther.

4. Name tags usually take less than two weeks and are placed on the greeting table in the entry foyer of the church. Call if you have questions: 385-6952.

November 7, 2007

Dear Friends and Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to help disaster victims of Hurricane Katrina. Since February 2006 we have sent seven teams of volunteers to the small rural town of Pearlinton, MS to offer relief to our neighbors in their time of need. As time has passed, the total number of volunteers in Pearlinton has decreased. However, the needs of the residents have definitely not diminished. Many of these poor people owned their homes and property, which was passed down from generation to generation. However, most of them could not afford insurance for this hurricane prone area. Many of the locals still are living in small travel trailers hoping to eventually rebuild their homes and their lives. Our neighbors in Pearlinton may be poor, but they have a great many lessons to teach us - lessons of patience, lessons of persistence and an unfailing faith in a loving God. As we soon learned, our participation in this mission work not only served these wonderful people, but also served ourselves. We learned that our neighbors extend far beyond the borders of our own community and that indeed, helping these Mississippi neighbors in their time of trouble was one of the most uplifting activities any of us has ever experienced. Mission work is the closest many of us have come to truly serving Christ; showing the love for humanity that He called us to share.

While some of us have been fortunate enough to experience mission work first hand, many others show their faith through prayer, encouragement and financial support. We hope to return with many stories about our experiences for these fellow missionaries. Without your support and encouragement, we would not be able to undertake this vital and rewarding work. Through your participation, we hope that you too can share in the pride of our accomplishments and in the joy of helping good people recover from this disaster. We can also observe our youth grow into well-grounded Christians with a clear sense of their God given gifts.

Consistent with our church's mission of spreading the Gospel and equipping people to use their God-given gifts, our goal is to continue to help rebuild - in conjunction with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - this Katrina-ravaged community, one family at a time. We have one team in Pearlinton this month and another trip planned for December 26, 2007 to January 2, 2008. We hope that you will once again consider supporting our mission work by signing up to be a prayer partner, by making a financial contribution or by contributing to our work with your time and talent. If you are interested in joining us for a trip to Pearlinton, please visit our table in Fellowship Hall after church each Sunday or contact Dan Harrison/Janette Henderson (248-9386), Bill/Barb Smith (739-4728) or Ron/Bev Pollock (248-8096).

Yours in Christ,

Dan Harrison and your 1st Presbyterian Mission Commission

Christian Education News:

The first unit of our rotation model for Sunday School is complete. Comments from the kids, parents, and teachers show it was a tremendous success. The teachers enjoyed teaching the material in fun new ways and the children were extremely enthusiastic with the new activities. The theme, **Creation**, was presented through terrariums, painting “on the ceiling”, cooking, bible study, and games to name a few of the activities.

Our current unit explores the **Noah's Ark** story through crafts, science, music, drama, cooking, and computers. The following unit will consider the **Gift of Jesus**. In between these two units the kids will participate in activities focused on missions.

If any of this sounds exciting to you and you'd like to help out in any way, please talk to Kim, Sylvia or Nathan. There are lots of needs that require various gifts.

More teens have been attending Senior High Forum this fall! We are grateful that this group continues to investigate what faith means in their daily life.

Adult Education offered a one-day survey of the Old Testament, **Walk Thru the Bible**. As a result of the positive feedback, a survey of the New Testament is scheduled for September 2008.

The many Bible studies that are offered throughout the week are seeing encouraging growth. Find one that fits your interest and schedule. Here is a current list:

- Sunday 8:30am – History of Reformed Confessions in the library.
- Sunday 10:00am – Serendipity Study Bible in the library.
- Monday 7:00pm – Crown Financial Ministry study in room 203.
- Tuesday 7:30pm – Walking the Bible in room 203.
- Wednesday 9:30am – Lectionary Bible Study in room 200.
- Wednesday 7:15pm – Lectionary Bible Study in room 200.
- Thursday 7:30am – Men's Breakfast at St. John Fisher Cafeteria.

- Thursday 7:30pm – Bethel Bible Study in the Chapel.

Veggie Tales has a new movie called “The Wizard of Ha's” based upon the story of the Prodigal Son. We would like to offer a showing of this movie as a way to reach out to friends that may prefer an alternative to celebrating Halloween. The evening will begin at 5:30 PM with some children's activities followed by dinner at 6pm. After dinner there will be more activities for the younger children and a pre-show for the older ones. The feature presentation will play from 7:00 til 7:45. Please look for a sign-up in Fellowship Hall. You are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Preparation is underway for the December 16th Christmas Pageant. If this fits your gift mix, stay tuned for parent meetings and lead role try outs in the next few weeks.

Lots of exciting opportunities for learning and growth are coming up this fall for all ages. There is always room for new ideas. The message of Jesus' truth and love doesn't change, but the methods we use should change so Christ's ways can reach broader and deeper. Please mention your thoughts, ideas or suggestions to someone on the Christian Education Committee, or to the new Director, Nathan.

LOGOS - 2007 from Sylvia Fix We want you!

October 24 - Halloween Costume Party - The word is *Unique*.

October 31 - No Logos - HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

November 7 - Pajama Jam and TV Dinner - The word is *Relax*

November 14 - Giving a Thanksgiving Celebration - The word is *Thankful*.

November 21 - No Logos - HAPPY THANKSGIVING

LIVING LOGOS

November 7 - Laser Quest