

N e w s B r i e f

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

October, 2002

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

A small number of TV stations are available at 137 Mill Road. There could be more, but the choice has been made to spend budgeted resources on a cable modem connection for the computer and the smallest number of stations available for the TV. There are doubts about this decision during football season when the games one desires to watch are not offered on the stations received. At that point there is a little moaning. However, while visiting a home with a greater variety of channels I did get to see a brief portion of a program not available from our selection. The program was Bill Cosby talking with children. They can say the strangest things, as Art Linkletter can also attest. I began to ponder just a few of the things I've learned from children. Tales go this way:

A pastor makes a call on a parishioner. The parishioner makes a request of his daughter, "Please go to the bookcase and get the book we all love so well." The girl trotted across the room and returned with the Sears catalog.

Not only do pastors learn about families from children. I have learned a new set of definitions:

ABSOLUTION	Making sure you are right.
ADULTERY	The sin of lying about your age.
AGNES DEI	A woman composer of church music.
LAVATORY	Where you go first when you die.
LAYMAN	Someone who will lie in bed and not go to church.
SYNTAX	The offerings at church
PONTIUS PILATE	A disease Christians suffered under.

The pastor asked the lad, "Hi Bill! Do you know where little boys go if they don't put their money in the offering plate?" "Uh-huh - they go to the movies."

One Sunday long ago, the Trustees went to the church office to take the offering and prepare it for placing it in the night deposit drop of the local bank. When they removed the money and envelopes from the offering plates they discovered a bow-tie clip. Later that week a surprised mother called to retrieve the tie. Her young son had misunderstood the pre-offering instruction, "Let us give to God our "ties" and offerings."

As we move into October we are moving into a month that contains World Communion, Penny Pincher Sale, Reformation Sunday, and our Stewardship Celebration. Please come! With appropriate syntax we encourage you to bring tithes and offerings! Don't be a layperson. Be a steward of God. Don't just say the Apostles' Creed, live like you believe it. Be absolved of sin. Mature in your faith . . . Bible study is an Adult thing to do. The children will be watching. A

Bruce
PRAYERFULLY
PONDERING...

*Impressions
and
Invitations*

Do you remember your first impression of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford? As I first spoke with members of the Associate Pastoral Nominating Committee (APNC), I asked them to share with me why they joined this church. The most common response was they felt *invited*. One member identified with the other families, another preferred the church's theology, another felt the size was - in good Goldilocks fashion - not too big or too small, but just right.

I have a series of first impressions. Bill and I saw the church under the most auspicious of circumstances – the weekend of the “175th Anniversary of Pittsford Village.” We were warmly welcomed in members' homes and treated royally throughout our visit. As I settled in Pittsford in August, I was graciously treated as a houseguest of Martha Van Zile for two weeks. These are but a few examples of the hospitality I have experienced since being with you. My most recent impression is of holding the most adorable brunette young person on my lap during the Mouse Report when we commissioned our Sunday School teachers. She was so trusting and serene that I nearly wept with the joy of her unconditional acceptance. These individual impressions are instances of seeing the face of God in each of you.

God invites us to see one another in God's light. 19th century French Impressionist painters like Monet, Cézanne and Renoir each captured transitory visual impressions that instantly change with the progressing light. Each of us hopes that others will see us in the best light. It is often harder to extend that receptivity to others.

Jesus tells the parable of the Great Dinner in Luke 14:15-22. Someone invites many to a banquet and expects a sizeable crowd. After stocking up at Wegmans and preparing the home, she calls each invitee to say that all is ready. Several then say they cannot come: one must survey new property on Canandaigua Lake, another must take possession of new durables to improve the business operations, and yet another was just married. Even though each of these is an understandable excuse, she is furious! She tells the caterer, “Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.”

Her invitation – the invitation of Jesus to join him in the kingdom of heaven - is extravagant. Those gathered from the streets cannot possibly reciprocate this marvelous invitation. The first impression Jesus has of each one of us is that we are children of God. The invitation comes without any expectation for us to repay God's gracious hospitality.

I have the privilege of inviting each of you to an Installation Service by the Presbytery on Sunday, October 6 at 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary. This will be a marvelous occasion for all of us, with members of the Presbytery, to celebrate God's calling each of us to ministry.

And I invite each of you to remember how you first felt invited by God. Consider how you might be God's means for inviting someone else to ministry with you. Be impressed as you see this person in God's best light. Who knows what might happen? God's extravagant invitation is to a life more abundant than any of us might imagine! A

Carrie

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

from Sandy Pacyga

Did you ever notice how enjoyable the most mundane activity is when you are doing it with friends? When conversation is happy, when joy passes from person to person in a shared experience, it becomes something we really want to do.

Well the secret is out. Many of our Church School Teachers and our Logos volunteers AND our other church committee people return time and again because they have found the pleasure of being useful. They have found the excitement of learning in order to help others learn. Why not experience the joy of being an active NOT a PASSIVE member of our community of Christ. WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY? Just call any pastor or staff member and ask how. Pray about it and ASK NOW!! A

From Sandy's Desk...

The Gospel of Matthew (6:19-21) reminds us that wherever our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. Surely what we are to understand from this, is

that the way we spend God's gifts to us of time, energy, abilities and even our very livelihood, makes a statement about what is important to us. Someone once said to me: "What is important to you?" Giving no quick response, my friend said: "If you really want to know, go read the entries in your check book."

Although we don't often think of that little ledger of finances as a mirror of our priorities, it is an astonishing picture!

My grandmother kept an amazing lifelong journal. Before she died, she could look back and tell us just about what had gone on in our family on any one day. How we spent our family times became a warm and loving family remembrance even though the entries were often short and brisk. Our activities and especially our accomplishments and celebrations were duly noted. Who we each were, as members of the family, was clear. Easily discernible was what was important to us. Our actions spoke out from her notes. When one received recognition for a vocal solo, it was there. When siblings quarreled over whose turn it was to do a chore that too was there. A wonderful history.

If our choices and actions tell those around us about our personal priorities, think how much more our Lord knows of the innermost desires of our hearts. In I Samuel 16:7 we are told that "The Lord does not see as man sees, for man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart."

Our brothers and sisters cannot see into our heart as does the Lord. Every hair on our head was known by God "while we were yet in our mother's womb." But, our fellow humans can certainly see, by where we spend our time, energies and all our gifts, what our mouths do not tell them. Is it enough to say that supporting learning and growth are important if we choose not to invite others to learn with us? Or when we choose not to help with Church School classes are we encouraging our youth to know the Lord and God's word by our example? Or when we choose not to participate in Bible Study, Prayer and other growth opportunities, do we show the faint of heart the importance of the Good News of Jesus Christ in our lives? What does your checkbook say about your heart's desires? A

transportation stop you. See Susie 248-3479 or Tricia 388-8315.

Logos starts September 25, 4:00 PM. See you there!!

Registration and sign up following the Service, September 22.

September 25 - Getting to know you

the word: *acquainted*

October 2 - Basement Bash (Penny

Pincher) - the word:

celebrate

October 9 - Together as One

the word: *unite*

October 16 - Apples Galore (bring a

church chum or a buddy)

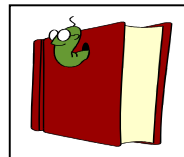
the word: *abundance*

October 23 - Fabulous Fall Festival

the word: *friendship*

October 30 - Haunted Halloween

the word: *sweet*



EB CLUB NEWS ~ September 25, 30 PM

It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life" by Lance Armstrong, Sally

Jenkins (Contributor) People around the world have found inspiration in the story of

Lance Armstrong—a world-class athlete, nearly struck down by cancer, only to recover and win the Tour de France. It's Not About the Bike is the perfect title for this book about life, death, illness, family, setbacks, and triumphs, but not especially about the bike. —Jill Lightner- from Amazon.com. Home of Karin McNamara, 66 Stuyvesant Road. Call Karin at 381-5952 if you plan to attend.

UPCOMING:

Oct. 23 – Palace Walk – Naguib Mahfouz. Home of Tim Smith

Nov. 20 – Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe. Home of Nancy Sprengle.

Jan. 8 – Founding Brothers – Joseph Ellis. Home of Dianne Brown. A

LOGOS

from Sylvia Fix

Having a problem getting to Logos? Let us know. Don't let

Come Pray On Our Team !!!

A new time, a new day... we'd like to see some new faces too! Now our prayer team meets at 4:30 p.m. on Mondays. We receive prayer requests on

the yellow pew cards collected each Sunday and added to those are concerns gathered through the week from conversations and phone calls. Our small group places these prayer requests in a notebook and each entry is lifted in prayer for at least a month. In a second notebook we list the many positive outcomes and resolutions to the prayer concerns received and special thanksgivings.

This fall as our team gathers for one hour each week, to share a Scripture passage, add new prayer requests and lift the concerns of our congregation, our friends and extended families in prayer, we are also praying that the Lord will increase our team in numbers. We hope to make it more possible for anyone who may feel called to join us in this confidential and important ministry. And so we invite ***YOU*** to join us on ***Mondays at 4:30 p.m. in the Library.***

If you have questions about this ministry and would like to know more, please feel free to speak to Bruce Boak or Carrie Mitchell or to Jim Higbee, Kay Saxum, Jane Hunter, Carol Tiemann or Sandy Pacyga. A

Unmixed Choirs sing Mixed Metaphors

from Cary Ratcliff

The men of the Adult and Jubilate Choirs will be singing the old hymn ‘Rock of Ages’ on September 29. You may recall this Sunday’s story of the Hebrews in the wilderness, extremely thirsty, talking death. The Lord instructs Moses to ‘bring water out of the rock for the community’. Moses strikes/cleaves the rock and water gushes forth. Earlier we read that the Lord provides a cleft in the rock of Mount Sinai, so that Moses may hide himself while the glory of the Lord ‘passes by’. The opening line of this old hymn, written during the uncertain days of the American revolution, combines these two images. “Rock of Ages, cleft (split open) for me, let me hide myself in thee”. But then the poet connects them with another image. “Let the water and blood, from Thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure.” Now we recognize the Rock he is addressing is Jesus, himself stricken, out of which flows Water/Blood, saving the community in the wilderness, shielding us from the overwhelming glory of the Lord. Like the best 18th century hymn-writers, our poet has connected several images from the Old and New Testaments into a little theological lesson. Listen as our men sing it on Sunday morning.

Years later Elijah is also talking ‘Lord, take away my life’, while hiding from livid Queen Jezebel in the wilderness. We read the angel of the Lord ministers to him with food, and restores his strength and enough willpower to commission Elisha to carry on his fight. The Women’s Choir will sing Mendelssohn’s depiction of this moment: using the words of Psalm 121, they will sing, angelically, ‘Lift your eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.’ A

Attention ~ people who would like to learn to ring bells. A new group of Genesis is forming and will begin meeting Thursday night, October 24 in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM.



Come on out and have some fun learning techniques and doing some easy reading. Class will last one hour. If you are interested, please call Ruth Hugenbruch at 388-7365. A

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



PENNY PINCHER SALE

from Joyce Drake

Our Annual Penny Pincher Sale is coming SOON. Setup dates are Tuesday, October 1 from 10AM – 7PM and Wednesday, October 2 from 10AM – 5PM. Please bring your good used items to the church during these hours.

- Items we need are dishes, pots and pans, books, linens, antiques, collectibles, sports equipment, tools, working appliances and electronics, furniture and toys. (No clothing please).
- This is the Presbyterian Women’s Association only fundraiser and your generous donations are appreciated. Both women and men workers are needed from October 1-4. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall after church.
- SALE hours: Thursday, October 3 from 10AM – 5PM; Friday, October 4 “1/2 price” from 10AM – noon, “\$1.00 a bag” from noon to 1:30PM.

See you all there! A

OCTOBER CIRCLE NOTES

All church women are invited to meet together with Naomi, Mary/Weller and Anthony Circles to

hear Pierce Day's talk on his boyhood in China, and his return visit in 2001. Monday, October 21, 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

In addition, both Mary/Weller and Naomi Circles will have business meetings the same day starting at 11:30 AM.

Women of the Mary/Weller Circle please bring a sandwich and your least coin. Hostesses are Lorraine Chamberlain, Marj Converse, Mary Jo Hultz and Martha Van Zile. If you wish to attend please call Martha Van Zile at 425-3854. A

Stewardship at First Presbyterian this Fall

from Dan Harrison/Stewardship Commission

For three years we have embraced the Consecration Sunday concept for our Stewardship campaign. The theme behind this approach is the "need of the giver to give rather than the need of the Church to receive". Stewardship in this context includes both financial giving and sharing of time and talents throughout the local community as well as our outreach programs.

This year, our plans are to expand the Consecration Sunday concept by adding an educational component focusing on scriptures which explain Stewardship. To facilitate discussion and personal involvement, we have proposed to Session that these education sessions be carried out in small, zone meetings held between September 22 and October 6.

The purpose of these small zone meetings is to discuss a few of the biblical passages which speak to stewardship and in turn, give families an opportunity to share their stewardship experiences as well as their goals and dreams for our church with each other. The importance of small gatherings of Christians has a long history and a strong affirmation from Jesus' statement "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Each zone meeting will be chaired by a leader from our church. Your Zone Deacon will be scheduling the meeting, inviting zone families to attend, and hosting the meeting itself. The meeting may be held at the church, at the Zone Deacon's home or at the home of one of your zone families. Any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated by the Deacons. Please contact your Zone Deacon if you are willing to help.

We hope that the addition of small zone meetings to our Consecration Sunday program will help to foster a better understanding of stewardship

amongst the members of the congregation. We also hope that it serves to familiarize zone members with their Deacons as well as with each other. A

Local Mission-----Industry School and OATKA

From Elaine Johnson and Sally Day

We extend the congregation's appreciation to all of the Cookie Bakers and Cookie Run Teams for doing another wonderful job through this year. The boys at Haneayah Cottage and Unite 77 (OATKA) continue to enjoy and look forward to these treats, made with love, from our church family members.

We will have approved shopping list "Flyers" on the Welcome Table, beginning October 20, followed by the Christmas boxes to receive your gifts, starting on October 27. As a reminder, we service three groups of individuals:

Haneayah Cottage at Industry – boys 15 – 17

Unit 77 at OATKA – boys 10 – 14

Residents of Kirkhaven – our Presbyterian Nursing Home on Alexander Street

Please keep in mind that we are often the only source of giving to the boys at Christmas. You are so important in their lives, providing not only their Christmas gifts, but witnessing Jesus' love for all of humankind!!!!

Reminders will follow in future NewsBriefs and in the bulletins. A

OPTIMISTS – Because the Penny Pincher Sale involves the first Friday in October, our first Fall meeting will be the second Friday, October 11 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be presented by Pierce Day (a member of our Church) on his trip "Back to China" in May 2001.

We are an enthusiastic mixture of singles and couples 50 years and older, who get together usually the first Friday of each month (October through December, and March through June) for a potluck supper, good fellowship, and an interesting program. We bring a dish to pass, our own table setting, and take turns with the kitchen chores. A fee of \$2.00 per person is charged for coffee, speakers, catered affairs, etc. We welcome all newcomers!!

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

PROJECT NEEDLEPOINT

from Sally Day

A Brief History

In the spring of 1985 the chairperson of the Board of the Presbyterian Women of our church asked if I would chair a program to beautify our Chancel, Narthex and Lobby with needlepoint pieces. A committee was formed and the stitching was done by 111 volunteer church members who were taught at weekly "sit and stitch" sessions in Fellowship Hall.

There were three separate phases of the Project. Phase I took two years and 26 pieces were dedicated June 21, 1987. Phase II, six cushions for three new Deacon's benches were stitched and dedicated February 19, 1989. Phase III, dedicated October 27, 1994, included 19 needlepoint pieces for the Chancel and four cushions for another new Deacon's Bench made from scratch to match the original antique benches in the Narthex.

Our most treasured needlepoint pieces were stitched for three antique Chancel chairs and a wedding kneeler.

To Learn More

There are two scrapbooks in the Library with summaries of each program and pictures of stitchers who took part in the program. In the church office ask to see the two beautiful Memorial Books with large color photographs of each piece, descriptions of symbol meanings, the dedication and who worked on the stitching for that piece.

You are welcome to take home the Project Needlepoint booklets (there is one for each project phase) on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

Let us all take responsibility – adults, teens and children – for the general daily upkeep of our beautiful Heritage Pieces.

Families, please teach your children and monitor them, singles and couples too.

Suggestions for you to think about. **PLEASE:** No food or drinks in the Lobby, Narthex or Sanctuary and no walking through with food or drinks in hand.

Remember our carpeting and pew cushion are new also.

Benches are made for sitting and putting on boots! Book bags, heavy books, shoes and boots, bags or boxes of food for kitchen, changing baby (nursery available), and climbing on benches are all hard on the stitching. Our needlepoint will last 200 years if you help!

THANK YOU!

Thanks to our SUMMER TEAM who have completed a two year commitment on the

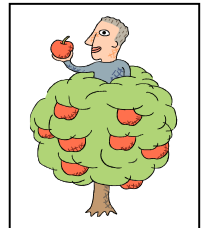
Needlepoint Maintenance Committee. GEORGIA and BILL TROLLEY have done their job faithfully each month, May through September. Their volunteer hours have been a valuable asset to this project and to our Church. Care of our Heritage Pieces is mandatory in preserving them for our future generations.

It is very exciting to have our younger generation volunteering to be our WINTER TEAM, October thru April for the next two winters. Welcome to LIZ FREY and COLLEEN HUTCHINSON. Their enthusiasm and energy are surely assets to our endeavor. Thanks to each of you.

We are now in need of VOLUNTEERS for the SUMMER of 2003 and 2004. Talk with the Trolleys about this 1 ½ hour commitment, once each month, with a schedule you decide on. It would be wonderful to have this pre-arranged before April. See or call Sally Day at 248-5480. A

Deacons welcome everyone

back to the fall program with their Deacon Fall Apple Fest. Stop by Fellowship Hall after the 10 AM service on September 29 and enjoy seasonal delights such as Apple Cobbler, Apple Betty, Apple Crisp and every combination in-between. Ice cream too!



Bring the whole family and get to know your congregation better. While you are there, visit the Deacon exhibits and find out what it's like to serve on the Deacon Board. We have openings for people of all ages and with a variety of talents and interests. Never been on a Church Board before? This is the place for you. Don't miss it.

STOCK DONATION

from Janet Travis, Financial Secretary

The Church has received a donation of Cisco stock, unfortunately, our broker, Quick and Reilly, can't identify the donor. Please call me at the Church office to identify yourself. Thank you. A

Do you have an ice bucket you no longer need? Parish Life could use it for Memorial Receptions. If you have one, please call Betty Willert at 381-8983. Thank you. A

Stephen Ministry Corner
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 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.

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

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.

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.

New Member Class
from Martha Crawford

A new member class is forming that is designed to welcome families and individuals in Christian fellowship, provide information about the Christian Faith, and to discover the uniqueness of our journey with Christ. These sessions are for people who are seeking church membership and for those who are

just seeking. It is a time to explore and see if this might be a good place for you to call your spiritual home.

October 13 and 20 at 9-9:45 AM at Church.

Welcome to our New Members

John Skuse – He and his wife Terry, already a member, have two sons, Brian and Jeffrey, students at Syracuse University. John is the owner of Marshall Boxes, an industrial packaging company. He enjoys spending time in the Adirondacks, shooting, sporting days, golfing and reading. He and Terry reside at 32 Chatham Woods, Pittsford, NY.

Trish Knisley – comes from Greenville, South Carolina with her husband, Jeffrey and son John 9, a 4th grader at Mendon Center. Trish is a paralegal in a downtown law firm. Jeffrey is in the sales department of Pratt, a packaging company. Family interests include hockey, gardening and charity work. Trish’s husband Jeffrey grew up in Pittsford and the family reports being very happy to be here with all the family activities and wonderful neighbors at 32 Bishop’s Court, Pittsford.

Can You Help?

Retired female minister needs assistance with light housekeeping chores in her Fairport home. If you could help her for three hours every other week, please phone her friend Ruth Dreste at 924-7678 for more information.

My care-receiver was so appreciative of the fact that you were willing to take this step on her behalf. Hopefully there is someone in the congregation who would be happy to have this opportunity to help.

Thanks again so much. I’ll wait to hear from you.

You are invited to the Presbytery Resource Center’s HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, October 19. Drop in between 9am-noon. The Resource Center is located at the north wing of Twelve Corner’s Presbyterian Church at 1190 Winton Road South. Browse around, go on a scavenger hunt, enjoy cider & donuts, plus there will be door prizes! While you’re here, check out the USED THEOLOGICAL BOOK SALE where you will find great prices for good books. Bring a friend, and children are welcome, also!

The Rev. Bruce G. Boak
Senior Pastor
Office Ext. #25
bgb@pittsfordpres.org

The Rev. Carrie Mitchell
Associate Pastor
Office Ext. #32
carrie.mitchell@pittsfordpres.org

Dan Kulp
Director of Youth Ministry
Ext. #31
dan.kulp@pittsfordpres.org

Sandra Pacyga,
*Christian Education Director/
Visiting Pastor*
Office Ext. #30
sandy.pacyga@pittsfordpres.org

Dede Holmes
Director of Youth Choirs

Sharon Peet
Director of Joyful Noise

Ruth Hugenbruch
Director of Kirkringers

Janet Travis
Financial Secretary
Ext. #23
janet.travis@pittsfordpres.org

Cary Ratcliff
Director of Music
cratcliff0@aol.com

Doris Goodemote, Editor
Administrative Assistant
Ext. #22
doris.goodemote@pittsfordpres.org

Ernest Bledsoe
Custodian
Ext. #33

John Sherman
Assist. Custodian

First Presbyterian Church
21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534
Phone 716-586-5688, Fax #586-8090
E-mail pitpres@frontiernet.net
Web page www.pittsfordpres.org

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
21 Church Street
Pittsford, New York 14534

**Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Pittsford, NY
Permit No. 6**

