

NewsBrief

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

October 2005

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Awful, Artificial, and Amusing! Those are words that describe the reconstruction of our church building. Please, before you become disturbed and upset, read just a little further. Sometimes it is our culture, our expectations, the change of language – indeed change, that alters our perception of things.

Sir Christopher Wren was a great English architect of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. One of Wren's best-known designs was for London's St. Paul's Cathedral. When the medieval St. Paul's was destroyed in the great fire of 1666, Wren was engaged by the Crown to entirely rebuild it on a new plan. The building got started in 1675 and went on for some 35 years until the great rotunda and dome were completed in 1711. Proud of his work, Wren had the honor of personally guiding the English monarch, Queen Anne, through the cathedral.

At the conclusion of the tour, Wren asked something on the lines of, "Well, how'd you like it?" After a long pause, the Queen replied that she found the Cathedral "awful, artificial, and amusing." Wren sunk to his knees...and then kissed the Queen's hand in gratitude and joy for her enthusiasm for his design. "Awful, artificial, and amusing"? What's to be grateful for?

Here's the reminder of how words change their meaning in common use over time. Queen Anne meant what she said. The Cathedral provoked awe, wonder, and appreciation for its grandeur. It was artificial, the product of artifice — of artistry of design and skill of craftsmanship. It was the work of a master. And it was amusing, a delight to the senses, encouraging of deep concentration, of musing itself. This was high praise indeed! And those of you who have visited St. Paul's may very well agree with Queen Anne's assessment.

Although it is still taking shape, our rebuilt church, also reconstructed after a fire is awful, artificial, and amusing in the best sense of these words. It is a building whose reconstruction has been overseen by amateurs. See, there you go again, jumping to the wrong conclusion. The word amateur springs the Latin root for "*amo*." Those of you who took Latin will remember doing the declensions of *amo*, *amas*, *amat* – all forms of "to love." An amateur is one who does what he or she does because they love what they do. They don't do it because they are paid, they do it for the sheer love of it.

You have been blessed with members who have poured countless hours into the reconstruction because of their love for this old church, their love for you, and their love for their Lord. We have other amateurs at work at First Presbyterian Church, too. We have amateurs in mission and in Christian Education. They teach not because they are paid, but because they love children or adults. They cook at LOGOS, not for compensation or because there is now a new dish washer, but because they love to have fellowship and to be of service to others. Those who play in the hand bell choir do so because they love to make music for the Lord (indeed, one of the things about hand bell ringing is that a special skill like playing a violin or creating wind for an oboe is not necessary. Most anyone can do it).

We should be a whole congregation of amateurs. We have amateur pray-ers, amateur singers, amateur cooks. Please use what you like and love for the Lord. For what you like you will surely succeed at and master. Certainly you will be much more likely to be successful than in what you do not like and find uninteresting or even drudgery. And, in the end, by being successful at what you like, the largest number of doors will open to us all and that will point us to fulfillment. If I were to say, "That is a bad suit," (I would be suggesting that your dress is handsome and attractive in some parts of this country today.) Language changes. You are an awful, artificial, amusing group of people – in a 16th century way. And you serve an awesome God, a God who never changes, whose love is unending.

Bruce

**2005 AN 'advent'ageous and
advent'turous Year!**

As we look forward to our return to our facility and classrooms, plans are taking shape for an exciting Advent season. Watch for news about our Advent Potluck and Craft Night on November 30. On Friday, December 16 we will again by bus and car caravan go "a-caroling". Join us to help our shut-ins and eldercare residents celebrate a joyous Christmas season. Plan now to attend the professional musical **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT** on December 18. While we will not have a pageant this year, following our annual Ham Dinner, we will, as a First Pres. Contingent, attend this wonderful show at the Auditorium Theatre. Tickets will go fast and will be available only on a first called for, first served basis, so call Sandy (586-5688 ext. 30) to reserve tickets or for more details. All tickets will be sold by October 20. These Broadway quality tickets, while expensive, won't last long. Set yours aside NOW!



**ADULT ED. This fall offers a diverse
menu.**

(plan now to get your spiritual plate filled)

Beginning on September 25, our very successful 8:30 AM adult study and discussion will resume with a presentation on RAIHN. Just as last year, at Nazareth, this will be held in room 133. Throughout Sundays in October, John Messenger is presenting a multi-part series on Christian Living in the 21st Century. An Advent study, based on video presentations called "Following in The Footsteps of Jesus" will be an enlightening Scripture study offered by Dick Sprenkle. PLEASE NOTE – starting time will be 8:45 AM and will stop in time for Fellowship and 10:00 AM Worship.

On Sundays, at 10:00 AM, George Alger will facilitate a Serendipitous Scripture study and discussion to be held in the lower level Nazareth classroom #21. Coffee and...will be available.

These Sunday morning offerings will continue once we return home and other opportunities will also continue. Choose from a Serendipitous study led by Dave Jenks to be offered concurrently with our junior high (5:00PM) and senior high (7:15 PM) youth meeting. There will be a contemporary alternative worship service held each Sunday between the two youth times, to which all ages will be welcome.

If you have interests and concerns about parenting today's teenagers, a series of video led discussions will be presented by Sandy Pacyga and Anne Hanretty beginning Sunday night, October 16. This series of six will be presented first at 5:00 PM on Sundays to accommodate the parents of our JYF (junior high teens). A similar series of six sessions will be offered to our MTC (senior high) parents for the following six weeks). We hope to have you join us. Watch for sign-ups for these opportunities.



LOGOS
from Sylvia Fix
WE'RE HOME

Hooray! We are home! Looking for you!

Come in the office door on Church Street. Here's what we are doing—

September 28 – Fall Carnival

on the Masonic Temple lawn.

BUDDY NIGHT – bring a buddy. Remember to phone the church office by Monday so that we can plan for your buddy.

October 5 – Mingle, mingle, mingle

The word is *memory*.

October 12 – SURPRISE NIGHT

The word is *generous*

October 19 – Loving the leaves

The word is *colorful*

October 26 – Costume cruising

The word is *inventive*

LIVING LOGOS

Living Logos – October 5 – Canoe through the narrow channels in Irondequoit Bay.

OPTIMISTS

WE'RE BACK HOME!! The first Optimists meeting this fall will be October 7 in Fellowship Hall. Many things will be the same. The time is 6:15 PM and you will bring your casserole, salad or dessert, as well as your table service. The kitchen may not be fully operational, so plan to bring your dish ready to set on the table. And we will have PIE again! Enter Fellowship Hall by way of the side office door off of Church Street.

"Treasures of the Heart" will be the title of our program, presented by Isabelle Doran Jensen of the Cornell Cooperative Extension. She will delve into the sensitivity of passing on family possessions and heirlooms. She does it with humor and understanding of some of the important decisions that must be made and options that are available.

Won't it be fun to see everyone again? We welcome the seasoned Optimists over 50 and hope new ones will be joining us. If you would like to be placed on the calling list or have questions, please call Sue Suter (381-5207).



LOOKING AHEAD TO WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 2 will be World communion Sunday. For the past twenty-five years, we Presbyterians have linked this observance with the Peacemaking Offering and Jesus' affirmation of those who accept the call to be peacemakers. As we prepare to observe World Communion Sunday, it is fitting for us to think about those with whom we will share communion on that day and how we best can be peacemakers ourselves.

Through the work of the Peacemaking Program, we share the Table with many around the world, and not only on the first Sunday in October. We share the Table in discussions about what needs to be done to bring about a vision for God's peace in our world. We share the Table in making decisions and providing tools for self-determination with dignity. Let's extend the Table to all through generous giving to the Peacemaking Offering.

More specific information on the October 2 Peacemaking Offering will be included in Bulletin Inserts and in a letter you should have received.

Escorts Needed for 10 AM Worship

Each Sunday, three adult residents of our church-owned A.R.C. House at 19 Church St. attend our 10:00 AM worship. Members Judy and Kathy joined our church in March 1993. They look forward each week to church service and refreshments afterwards. Friend John also chooses to attend our worship and join us for refreshments.

Our church has eight dedicated individuals and couples and one substitute who escort 19 Church St residents while in church. Some of these volunteers have worked in the capacity since 1990. With 12 months in each year, some Escorts are serving two or more months every year.

Our goal is to recruit enough Volunteer Escorts to cover each month of the year. Can you volunteer for Feb. or Sept. or Oct. ? We'll be happy to help you get started with 19 Church St. residents and the regular procedures they expect.

Presently, A.R.C. of Monroe Co. (Assoc. of Retarded Citizens) hires an A.R.C. driver to take Judy, Kathy, and John to Nazareth Chapel each Sunday. A.R.C. arranges this to enable the three 19 Church St. residents to participate in their chosen weekly community activity. The driver sits in a back pew with John, just in case he wishes to use the lavatory. Later, she helps Volunteer Escorts serve refreshments. Hence, only Kathy and Judy are requiring worship supervision by Church Volunteer Escorts.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Diane Graziano (586-4466).



Volunteers needed the second Saturday of the month.

Where: Cameron Community Ministries-downtown.

To do: Help prepare lunch, or setup, sort bread and clean up for the lunch hour.

Need: Helpers for part-time and substituting for others. Can you spare one Saturday or more though out the year? If interested and want to find out more, call Bev. Pollock at 248-8096 and Thank you for caring and calling.

Stewardship Corner

from the Stewardship Commission

DID YOU KNOW?

2004 Church Budget (before the fire) was \$666,000.

This translates to \$666/member or \$1665/family pledging unit for 2006, assuming a 3% cost of living escalation per year.

The cost to educate a child in our Christian program is \$450/year.

Outreach and mission represents 15% of our budget or approx. \$100/member or \$250/family pledging unit.



Consecration Sunday – October 30

Our Consecration Sunday worship will be October 30. Dr. William Jackson, former director of religious affairs at The Chautauqua Institute will deliver the message for the day. Dr. Jackson is currently the interim pastor of The Presbyterian Church in Sewickley, PA.

Consecration Sunday is the worship service in which we all show our gratitude to God for the many gifts given to us. It is our opportunity to use these gifts to further the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. During the service, each person will be asked to complete an estimate of giving card. This act of worship symbolizes our need to return to God the gifts, which He has so graciously given to us.

Following the 10 AM Consecration Sunday service, an All Congregation lunch will be served during our fellowship hour. All members are invited to “break bread together”. In order to plan for the lunch, we ask that all members of the congregation respond to the invitation for the luncheon. You may return the postcard, which you will receive in early October, sign up during the October services, or call the church office. If we do not hear from you, we will be contacting you to find out if you can attend. As in the past, there is no charge for the lunch.

October is the time for our congregation to reflect on our many gifts and to consider the giving of our time, talents, and treasures. The stewardship committee encourages each member prayerfully consider their gift to the church, recognizing the many and abundant gifts which we have received and recognizing that these gifts are ours to use wisely as stewards.

Picnic KUDOS!

Thanks to many helping hands, our 2005/2006-year got off to a roaring start on Sunday, September 11. So many people made our celebration possible, but special Thanks goes to Ron Pollock and the Men's Breakfast crew for the fantastic grill and yummy hot and hamburgers. So much thanks goes to Tom and Louise Thompson for terrific organization and logistics arrangements and three cheers of thanks for Jim Weick and the Pittsford Masons for the use of the Temple building and lawns. It was truly a fine time of games, worship, tours of our soon to be completed facility and we hope this day is an example of the many gatherings in our community future.



“Bringing Faiths Together... ...Keeping Families Together”

The Pittsford Presbyterian Church Session, through the Outreach Committee, has recently recommitted our congregation to becoming a support-church in the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, RAIHN. Our church will be partnered with the Asbury United Methodist Church in Rochester.

Volunteers in RAIHN provide homeless families with basic human needs: shelter, safety, and sustenance with a spirit of warmth and hospitality. Our team will be asked to contribute a few hours, four times each year...a little bit of work...every once in a great while. That is the beauty of RAIHN. Many churches, many hands doing a great work together, each doing a small part. We invite adults and youth to sign up as a RAIHN volunteer at the tables in the rear of the Sanctuary each Sunday, or speak with Barbara Smith, our RAIHN Coordinator, or Dianne Brown, Chairperson of the Outreach Committee.

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

**Week of Oct 2 – Exod. 20:1-4, 12-20; Ps. 19
Phil. 3:4b-9; Matt. 21:33-46**

**Week of Oct 9 – Exod. 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23
Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14**

**Week of Oct 16 – Exod. 33:12-23; Ps. 99
1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22**

**Week of Oct 23 – Deut. 34:1-12; Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46**

Week of Oct 30 – Josh. 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12