

NewsBrief

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

October 2006

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Insanity is inherited. You get it from your children. That's what it said on the bumper sticker of a Mercury. The message prompted fleeting consideration. Then I heard a political campaign was being rooted in the name, "Stop the Insanity." Just as the letter and invitation to contribute to the campaign was reviewed, the computer dinged with the arrival of Web Mail that offered 20 ways to maintain a healthy level of insanity. Among the suggestions:

- J At lunch time, sit in your parked car with sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at passing cars.
- J Order a Diet Water whenever you go out to eat.
- J Sing along at the opera.
- J When the money comes out at the ATM, scream "I won! I won!"
- J Finish all your sentences with "in accordance with the prophecy."

Prophecy is a challenging concept for us in a day when so many things can be analyzed and verified. We reflect that Biblical Prophecy is considered by many to be the prediction of the future. Most scholars understand that Bible Prophecy actually meant "Telling God's truth." It is forth-telling more than foretelling. It seems that some of the Bible's prophets were able to synthesize news reports of the day and filter them through their spiritual and prayer life. Then, when they declared God's message, they seemed to predict the future.

Will we have peace? Will my children be OK? Will our company be able to maintain its competitive edge? Will our marriage survive? How I wish that there was a way to provide answers with certainty for so many of the questions we have. No doubt the church would be full if accurate play-calling from the pulpit could determine the direction of our world. But, at most, we are limited in declaring what God desires, what God promises, and how God loves. This is forth-telling.

Well, according to the calendar you can see that October is a full month at First Presbyterian Church. What I know is that Gerry Mello is a faithful elder at Central Presbyterian Church who has been a salesman in the food business for many years. He is a good father and husband. He is a great Bible teacher. He believes strongly that personal planning rooted in Biblical principles yields corporate and personal results and fulfillment. I prophesy that your life will be blessed if you spend time with Gerry at the Crown Ministries seminar on Saturday, October 14 and worship with him October 15.

I prophesy that Reformation Sunday will be a blessing on October 29 and that the concert with James Douthit and Harold McAulliffe that afternoon will test our new plaster. I prophesy that the Optimists and others will be inspired by the story of our Mozambique Mission that they will hear on October 5.

I prophesy that the month will begin with World Communion and Peacemaking Sunday and that people will be encouraged to hear about Wilson Commencement Park and then be comforted by the Equinox Concert that afternoon.

I prophesy that our Junior and Senior Highs will find their way out of the corn maze.

And, I prophesy that it will take a miracle for Grove City College to defeat the University of Rochester at Thorne Field (in Grove City) on October 28. I plan to be there. Want to go? You can experience the insanity of the engineering cheer, "Repel them! Repel them! Make them relinquish the obtuse spheroid!"

Prayerfully Pondering A Hearty Hands-on Harvest...

Does it seem as if the commercial world is obsessed with Halloween right now? Are you being inundated as our household is with costume catalogs? I am astounded each night to see the many different ways we could clothe Rachel if we so chose. After I chuckle and circular file these Halloween-happy missives, I remind myself we need no costume. After all, we are all clothed in Christ by virtue of our baptisms.

Being clothed in Christ changes each one of us. And this change is not a Halloween fantasy that disappears as quickly as we change our costumes or our clothes. As Paul tells us in Romans 11:29, this change is irrevocable.

In what way are we changed? Even if we do not realize it, God gives us a continuous chance and a calling to become the persons God created us to be. When we choose to pay attention to that calling formalized in our baptisms, we can find satisfaction in the ongoing process of being a child of God.

Fall is a perfect time to acknowledge the continuous changes happening in all our lives. The leaves are turning spectacular colors, the air is growing crisper, and we are all settling into different academic-year routines. Soon the farmers will be reaping a bountiful harvest from their fields and we will benefit with rich soups, tasty squash, and jolly pumpkins.

But what if the farmers were unable to gather the harvest? Wouldn't we all suffer from the lack of freshness, festivity, and flavor? Jesus encountered this conundrum after healing many and recognizing that many more needed healing. He commissioned his disciples saying, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2)

We are God's laborers. The harvest of people in this world who need to be changed by God's Good News is ready to be reaped. Each of us is given a particular gift for gathering in the harvest. Perhaps one of us sings and can give glory to God through helping others hear the old, old story in song. Perhaps one of us is a woodworker who can beautify our worship space or add

functionality to a handicapped person's home. Perhaps one of us has the ability to transport people to and from worship or the grocery store. Perhaps one of us can tutor children after school. Perhaps one of us can visit people in jail. Perhaps one of us can knit caps for newborns. Perhaps one of us can host a youth event in our homes. We each know the bounty we have and our God-given imagination knows no limit.

We have an opportunity this fall to formally dedicate our labors to God, to show off our being clothed in Christ and changed irrevocably. On October 8th, cut-out colorful hands will be placed in our bulletins. We invite everyone to discern how God's individual gifts to each one of us can be shared, write that gift on one of the hands, and dedicate this hands-on ministry to be undertaken this year by placing it into the offertory plate. If anyone needs ideas for this dedication, please let me know.

We invite you to consider volunteering some of your time and talent to any one of the many organizations we fund through our mission dollars.¹ We will all learn more about one of these entities – Wilson Commencement Park – on Sunday, October 1, which is World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday. The Executive Director of WCP, Iris Banister, will tell us how the Park empowers single parents to raise their families safely, responsibly, and with new life skills. Perhaps we might dedicate some of our time to filling these families' Halloween celebrations with treats rather than the tricks they have already encountered from the world. Whatever our individual dedications, may we all celebrate our being clothed with Christ and reaping the hands-on harvest God has grown.

Go With God,

Carrie

¹ Cephas, Camp Whitman, Pittsford Food Cupboard, Pittsford Youth Services, East House, Landscape Technicians, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Alternatives for Battered Women, Elderberry Express, Habitat for Humanity, Calvary St. Andrews, Safe Journey, Cameron Community Ministries, ARC House, Good News Prison Ministry, RAIHN, Wilson Commencement Park, Peoples Ministry in Christ

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. 1 – Esth. 7:1-6, 9:20-22; Ps. 124
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Week of Oct. 8 – Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Ps. 26
Heb. 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Week of Oct. 15 – Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps. 22:1-15;
Heb. 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Week of Oct. 22 – Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Ps. 104:1-9, 24,
35c; Heb. 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Week of Oct. 29 – Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps. 34:1-8 (19-22)
Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

CONFIRMATION: COME CLAIM THE CREED!

The Confirmation Classes of 2006/2007 began last month with a great orientation and retreat. 8th grade confirmands and their mentors will begin meeting regularly the first Sunday afternoon of every month (10/1, 11/5, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1) between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM for faith-building exercises and fun! Since Pentecost is early this year (May 27, two weekends after Mother's Day), parents and Session members will be asked to join the mentors and confirmands on Sunday, May 13 for a celebratory time. Mark your calendars now!



GROWING IN HIS GRACE

I AM A NEWCOMER...WON'T YOU PLEASE

SMILE: Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church, during the first few moments I am in your building, and this impression will probably stay with me a long time.

HELP: Help me find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact I will remember your kindness.

SPEAK: Speak to me during the coffee hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business. But I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for "the stranger in your midst".

ACCEPT: If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back...The second Sunday, the third, and maybe forever.

LOGOS – 2006 - 2007

from Sylvia Fix

Putting God First!

September 27 – Fantasy Island - *Bring a Buddy!* – It's Carnival Time out on the lawn. The word is *imagine*.

October 4 – The Greatest Gift – Our Mission "Kick-off" for the year. Samaritan's Purse and Mozambique. The word is *mission*.

October 11 – Planet Earth - SURPRISE NIGHT
The word is *responsibility*

October 18 – On Track – We focus on God
The word is *teamwork*.

October 25 – Halloween Bash – We dress up in costume.
The word is *individual*.

Living Logos – October 4
Canoe Trip



ADULT ENRICHMENT SERIES RETURNS

On Sunday, September 17, Nancy Skelton began our Fall Monthly Enrichment Series with an informative presentation on New York State's Partnership Plan regarding Long Term Health Care. Forthcoming programs will include a presentation on poverty in Rochester (October 8), Estate Planning (Patrick Simpson – Nixon-Peabody Law Firm, November 12), and Eyesight Issues (Nancy Nealon, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, December 10). More information to be provided by posted flyers, the Sunday bulletin and the Adult Education section on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall. All sessions in the second floor Chapel – 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, following "Coffee Hour!". Your comfortable upholstered chair is waiting – come and bring a friend!

Mission Trip Opportunity from Barb & Bill Smith

Plans are underway for mission trips to Pearlinton, Mississippi to help in the rebuilding effort following the hurricane Katrina. We will be making the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Camp our home base. The first trip will be from Oct 28th through Nov 4th, with trips to follow in early Jan and again in Feb during the school break.

Pearlinton is a small, poor, rural community on the gulf coast, about an hour east of New Orleans. Katrina's eye passed right over Pearlinton and the storm surge completely flooded the town with what residents described as a tidal wave. Our previous trips last spring found a state of nearly complete physical destruction. Only a few homes in town were left standing. However, the team also found a warm loving community, which embraced and appreciated their support. Last spring, the team focused their efforts on cleaning out mud and debris from the homes of local residents. The team also took the time to listen to the disaster victims tell their stories, helping them heal from the tragedy. It is expected to be three to five years before Pearlinton is completely restored.

This year, teams expect to continue to support Pearlinton residents with their rebuilding. Each trip will be a one-week commitment. This is an opportunity to put your faith to work in a real "hands on" experience. Your prayer and monetary support is also needed. There will be a planning meeting on September 27 at 7:00 in Room 200. Watch for more information in the bulletin and/or see Barb or Bill Smith or Dan Harrison or Jeanette Henderson in Fellowship Hall after church.



OPTIMISTS

The Optimists fall kick-off dinner will be held Friday, October 6, at 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your dish-to-pass and table service as usual. We welcome the seasoned Optimists over 50 and hope new members will join us. If you would like to be placed on the calling list or have questions, please call Sue Suter (381-5297). Our program, "Mozambique, Summer 2006," will feature a first hand narrative and pictures of the mission trip to build a new church.

Sanctuary Audio Systems Public Address System

Overhead speakers, with amplified sound serve the majority of our worshipers.

We provide two options and have a third option planned to assist those of us with hearing difficulties. These options comply with the "Americans With Disabilities Act".

We transmit a limited distance FM signal that carries the same content that is being fed through the PA system.

First Option: Use a provided portable FM receiver, with personal volume control, and a stereo headset. (Channel selection must read 2C). The headset may be used with or without personal hearing aid(s). If this is the option you use and you are a frequent worshiper, we will provide you a personal headset.

Second Option: For those with personal hearing aid(s) equipped with a "T" coil (Telephone Switch) we provide a neck loop to replace the stereo headset. Volume is controlled by the receiver and/or your hearing aid(s). The neck loop replaces the headset. This is the option I am currently using.

Third Option: In Sept. we installed a "T" coil Induction Loop system, for use with personal hearing aid(s) equipped with a "T" and/or loop switch. Option three eliminates the need for receivers and headsets.

Most hearing aids, purchased in the past 2-3 years, have loop and "T" coils controlled by the same switch. The hearing aid processes the signal being received.

SUMMARY

<u>OPTION</u>	<u>REQUIRED</u>
1. No Hearing Aid	Receiver and Headset
1. No "T" Switch	Receiver and Headset
2. Yes "T" Switch	Receiver and Neck Loop
3. October 2006 Yes "T" Switch	Turn on "T" Switch

I have been using hearing aids for 15 years. The above is my understanding of the church's hearing assistance systems. I have some literature and have access to our systems supplier. If you have questions, problems, need help in using or want additional information, please call, Jim Higbee (385-2583)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

from Bob Klie

We hope you will plan now to attend the events of our congregation's Consecration Celebration Weekend, October 14 and 15.

We will have a personal planning seminar rooted in Christian principles, from 2:00 – 5:30 in our Church on Saturday. This seminar is not only about your finances, but your personal growth and life. This seminar will be led by Lay Pastor Gerry Mello, of the Crown Financial Ministries. During the Saturday program there will be children's entertainment and childcare at the Church.

Gerry will also lead Sunday morning worship, during which time we will make our financial commitments for the coming year as part of the worship service. Our Celebration Luncheon will be right after the 10:00 AM service. Reservation cards for the weekend events will be mailed and also available in the Sunday bulletins. We look forward to seeing you there!



COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS

The Commissioned Lay Pastor is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (USA) who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service. The Presbytery of Genesee Valley offers a special two year training program for Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP). CLP's serve as part-time pastors, as a part of multiple church staffs, and as pastoral assistants. CLPs administer sacraments, moderate Sessions, vote at Presbytery Meetings, perform marriages when invited by Sessions. Contact Rev. Robert Hann (HannBob@aol.com) or 594-2971 if this might be of interest to you. You can also speak to Rev. Boak or Rev. Mitchell. Classes for 2007-2008 are being arranged. The following CLP courses will be offered: Reformed Theology, Bible, Pastoral Care, Worship & Sacraments, Preaching, Spirituality, Polity, Christian Education, Ethics, Church Administration, and Church Dynamics.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley is beginning the search process for an executive presbyter for Pastoral Vitality. If you would be interested on serving on the search committee, please contact our church office or Jack Wheeler of the Presbytery Nominating Committee at jwheeler12@rochester.rr.com.



Ten Educators Working Towards Certification

Ten educators working towards [Certification](#) attended the

required 15 hour PCUSA Program and Mission Course in Caledonia, NY. One afternoon, the group took its work to an internet café in the village! Two educators traveled from other states to join Genesee Valley educators.

Participants left to right back row: Sandy Pacyga, Jane Carden, Darryl Stanek, Martha McDonald (Indianapolis!), Susan Orr, Darlene Isaac. Front row: Dawn Wirth, Jeanne Dixon (Tallahassee!), Debbie Carter, Robin Woodams (standing)



MEALS ON WHEELS needs volunteer to deliver hot meals and warm smiles to elderly and homebound individuals. Routes are available in many areas of Rochester and Monroe County and delivery only takes an hour or so at lunchtime. Volunteer either weekly, monthly, or seasonally. Call 787-8236. Meals on Wheels is overseen by the Visiting Nurse Service of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc.

AUGUST 17 HAD AN IMPACT ON TRADITIONAL AND ROTH IRAs

On August 17 President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006. among its provisions, this Act allows traditional and Roth IRA owners, age 70-1/2 or older, to make tax-free rollovers of any amount up to \$100,000 to public charities like First Presbyterian Church.

Under the old rules, any lump-sum distributions from an IRA (whether as a charitable gift or not) would have been included in your adjusted gross income (AGI) and, therefore, subject to taxation. The corresponding charitable contribution deduction for a gift to First Presbyterian would have been limited to 50% of your adjusted gross income. The new law effectively creates a "wash" – the distribution for your IRA is not included in your AGI but does not result in an up-front income tax deduction.

Also under the old rules, IRAs were subject to mandatory distribution rules after age 70-1/2. Under the new law, the Joint Committee on Taxation has indicated that a qualified IRA charitable rollover to FPC will fulfill part or all of a donor's required minimum distribution from an individual retirement account.

This provision expires on December 31, 2007, so rollovers can only be made in 2006 and 2007 at a maximum amount of \$100,000 per person per year.

I recommend that you seek your own legal and tax advice in connection with gift and estate planning matters. This is not in any way to be considered legal or tax advice. It is intended to be an information alert.

Pastor Bruce



STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CARE-GIVERS, GOD IS THE CURE-GIVER ~ The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: To learn more talk with a pastor or a Stephen Leader: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PITTSFORD NAMETAGS

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 to:

Norma Ryther
22 Cambric Circle
Pittsford, New York 14534
(Questions? Call Norma at 385-6952.)

Nametag Order Form

1. Please PRINT name to be on nametag:

_____ (First Name)

_____ (Last Name)

2. Circle type of nametag: PIN (\$4.80) CLIP (\$4.80) MAGNET (\$7.00)

3. Enclose this form with a check for amount listed (there is no additional tax) and mail to Norma Ryther. Nametags should be here in less than two weeks.

Parents Corner: We're beginning a new feature for our church families. This parenting issues page will feature topics sometimes in question and answer form for Parents.

Let us know what you think!

Dear Dr. Ray,

My kids are always complaining that I expect too much. In fact, my rules are tighter than most parents', and I believe I expect more than most parents expect. Sometimes I feel like I'm swimming upstream. — *Too different?*

A core law of life is: The harder you work at anything, the less company you have. In other words, you move farther away from the average. The more important parenting is to you, and the more you work at it, the less you will be like other parents.

Your standards are high. You don't talk a good game, or stand by and hope it happens. You actively pursue good parenthood. Your kids have to be mannerly and courteous, or else they don't get the benefits they want. They do help more around the house than ninety nine percent of kids their age. It's your way of teaching appreciation and a solid work ethic. You strictly limit television, mostly to PBS and select programs, because you don't like the high level of trash and low level of morals today's television relentlessly preaches. Your preschooler doesn't even know what "derelict, monstroid, karate kids" are. You attend parent-teacher conferences through high school, and at that level you have the teacher mostly to yourself. Your son is right: You are the only family in his class who has a nightly reading hour. And yes, you refuse to purchase all the latest gimmicks, fads, trends, and labels.

Because you are different, your children will be different. Being different is not bad. Unfortunately, nowadays, it's often a better way to be. In the short run, your kids may experience some extra bumps growing up, even some temporary isolation from the flock. In the long run, they will emerge much sturdier than those who need group approval to feel value. Not only are you giving your children independence and resistance to narrow minded and immature opinions of others. You are giving them extraordinary values that will carry them through the rest of their lives.

To walk apart from the parenting crowd takes enormous courage and stamina. Having high expectations for children has become somewhat out-of-fashion. There's a mindset today that says parents don't have the right to ask children to live up to their potential for fear of not allowing them to be kids, or "over-stressing" them, or asking too much of them. My experience is that, in general, our children are capable of much more—in the way of cooperation, self restraint, respect, academics—than we ask of them. Humans become strong by striving and reaching for their best. When those humans are children, parents must set the conditions for healthy striving. You say you feel like you're swimming upstream. You most likely are swimming upstream. God bless you for it. You will be rewarded many times over. So will your kids, even more so.

Dr. Ray Guarendi is the father of ten, a psychologist, a speaker and an author.

So, what do you think? We welcome your thoughts. Respond to the question. Critique the Dr. or share your own experience. This is Parent's Corner...a place to chat about the common issues affecting all our households.