

# N ewsbrief

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

September, 2002

## From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

Air-Conditioning! Thank you God for Air-Conditioning! This summer we rejoiced that it was in our car and available in our home. I wonder how we survived some of those long family trips in the 50's with our 4-50 system of cooling things...4 windows at 50 m.p.h. Maybe we were tougher then, or didn't know any better. Have you ever noticed how easily we accept conveniences and convert them to necessities, like those automatic door clickers that lock or unlock you car from the key chain? But when the summer is as hot as this one memos are formulated to recommend that the Trustees at First Presbyterian Church ponder the installation of such a technological, internal climate-altering marvel.

But, did the lack of air conditioning deter you people at First Presbyterian Church? No! You were a faithful bunch and the sanctuary was full. We prayed and sweated together this summer and it was great! But as we move into the fall we will be turning from thoughts about air-conditioning to heir-conditioning.

(Rom. 8:15-18 NRSV) For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" {16} it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. {18} I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

We doubt that "the sufferings of the present time" are about our hot summer. Being heirs of God's promise however, does suggest that we will be receiving a blessing. And, as God's children we ought to be disciplined with our prayer and devotional life, our study, and our service. This is the heir-conditioning program that emerges in the fall with LOGOS, Adult and Children's Education, Music Programs, Youth Fellowship, and the work of our boards. We are working to help us focus our relationship with Jesus Christ in the conviction.

(Gal. 3:20 NRSV) And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity for us to be heir-conditioned this fall will be in our Stewardship Program. It will build on the Consecration Sunday focus and include a time of Bible Discovery, especially for adults. We will examine the blessings that God promises to faithful heirs.

A 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher posed the following problem to one of her classes: "A wealthy man died and left ten million dollars. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what," she asked her class, "does each get?" After a very long silence in the classroom, Arnold raised his hand. With complete sincerity in his voice, Arnold answered, "A lawyer!" Actually it was probably a pretty good answer for where there is a will, there is often a lawsuit.

In their book, *Small Miracles*, Yitta Halberstam and Judith Levanthal tell about Tom Stonehill who was speeding through a small town one night looking for a public restroom. Finally, he came to a funeral home. Tom used the facilities, then paid his respects to the deceased. The funeral director, spotting Tom, insisted that he sign the guest register. Tom thought it was a lot of trouble to go through just to use the bathroom, but he did it anyway.

A few weeks later, Tom got a call from a lawyer in this small town. It turned out that Tom had visited the funeral home on the night that the town's richest citizen was being laid to rest. The man had no family or friends. In his will, this man had stipulated that whomever came to his funeral would inherit his fortune. Tom's was the only name on the guest register that night, so he received the full inheritance.

More than attending the funeral, your presence on Sunday in worship declares that you are there to be witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! With your name on the register, you are reminded that you will receive the full inheritance.

(1 Pet. 1:3-5 NRSV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, {5} who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2002 Heir-Conditioning at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford! Be there! Enjoy it! Receive the blessing of it! Share it! Tell others that we are becoming heir-conditioned! A

Bruce



## What's Your Story?

"Receiving the call to serve the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford feels like Christmas in July!" That's what I told the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee on July 21<sup>st</sup> after the congregation voted to call me as the new Associate Pastor.

Perhaps some of you anticipate Christmas the way I always have. The house in which I was a little girl once belonged to my father's grandparents. Among its architectural marvels was its gracefully huge pocket doors separating the living room from the dining room and great entry hallway. These were always closed to my brother, sister and me on Christmas Eve. We waited an agonizingly long time on Christmas morning while the adults showered, ate breakfast, and assembled. It felt as if molasses would have moved uphill faster. Certainly, my

anticipation then was prompted by the goodies I was about to receive. But as years passed and we moved from my childhood home, I found that I always looked forward to Christmas for the palpable sharing that took place on many levels. And it is with that same anticipation I embark upon my ministry with you.

I anticipate sharing with you – the Good News of the Gospel, mission work, service to our church and community, quotidian joys and sorrows, stories, table fellowship, witnesses of God's grace, and many other things. And I look forward to speaking with each of you. I would love to know what you care to share – tell me your story! For example, how do you feel about Christianity today? What have you experienced in your faith walk? What questions or doubts do you have? How can we serve Christ together and individually? How has God made God's unconditional love known to you?

Perhaps some of you have already heard part of my own story. I was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan (yes, there is a Kalamazoo) and was baptized in an Episcopalian church as a compromise between my Catholic mother and Presbyterian father. When my father left IBM (yes, I've Been Moved), we returned to my parents' hometown of Wheeling, WV and began worshiping in the Presbyterian Church that my father's grandfather had helped found. I happily participated in choirs, talent shows, Sunday School, confirmation, service projects, worship leadership, and youth activities. After my parents' divorce, I had a hard time reconciling my understanding of God with the pain of my parents' breakup and when I left for college, I left the church.

Twelve years later, I had earned my Master's Degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, served the Federal Government's International Trade Administration as a Presidential Management Intern and had a blast promoting the telecommunications exports of GTE. I took a promotion to the International Headquarters in Atlanta and moved south with the goal of becoming GTE's Vice Chairman for International by the time I was 50. I had a plan. You know the quickest way to make God laugh? Tell God your plans...

While on a weekend visiting my grandmother in Kennett Square, PA, we attended her Quaker meeting together and heard the witness of one of the residents, Jack Shepherd. Dressed in a homespun fashion and sporting a gray flowing mane of hair and a beard, his name suits him. In his witness he said he felt like Jeremiah with a certain "burning in the bones."

## What's Up with Youth Ministry

I meditated on his witness during the entire flight back to Atlanta. Riding the metro from the airport to my car in the suburbs forty-five minutes away, I was suddenly stricken with a fit of tears...I could not stop crying. What I heard God telling me very clearly was, "it just doesn't matter." The "it" was all the worldly measures of success and pseudo-sources of unconditional love that I had been single-mindedly pursuing.

In the weeks prior to this epiphany, I had been "church shopping." I made an appointment with the senior pastor at one church that seemed particularly welcoming. The first Sunday I had visited, the pastor and several members discussed their recent mission trip to Mexico. This was an internationally oriented church: this had to be the place for me! The Reverend Dr. Chris Price did not know me from Eve the day I visited, but by the time I left with grateful tears in my eyes, he had loaned me two books from his personal library. He had also satisfied my request "to do something that would give back to a painful period in my life – the teenage years." I started volunteering as a youth advisor under the guidance of the Reverend Shannon Dill.

The youth led me to recognize my calling to serve Christ. (And it's through the church that I met and married my husband, Bill, – but that's another story!) For as much as my career had driven me, I found that I anticipated spending time with them and serving the church more than serving my own career aspirations. Slowly, I awakened to the realization that I had to make a choice. So I called those I trusted and they affirmed my calling. My youth pastor from Wheeling assured me, "Carrie, relax, God won't let you go." In fact, God has not let me go. God has led me to you. God has been faithful to God's promises.

The Bible is full of stories about God's keeping God's promises to us. This is just one small example of God's faithfulness to me. I bet you have others. Or maybe you have some stories that don't seem to make sense. I would love to hear them. In fact, I anticipate this time with you as much as I anticipate Christmas. So with heartfelt appreciation, let me thank you for this most precious Christmas gift – this call to serve Christ with you at the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. A

Carrie

The summer is almost over and I can't believe it. Time seems to fly by at an ever exceeding pace each year. The youth participated in two incredible trips this year. The first was a mission trip to Cumberland, MD. Eight of our high schoolers helped to build wheel chair ramps, repair porches and put up side railings as a part of the NAILS Mission Program.

The second was a trip to Six Flags at Darien Lake's amusement park for the Kingdom Bound Christian Music Festival. Here, seventeen youth (and one college member) camped, enjoyed music of all types, attended seminars, listened to dynamic speakers and rode an insane amount of rides.

Please put the dates for next year's trips on your calendars now. They will be the same weeks as this year. NAILS will be the second week in July and Kingdom Bound will be the second week of August. Your teen will be sure to have an incredible time. For our teens that attended this summer, most not only had the best week of their break, but also had life changing experiences. My desire is that next year, you and your family would be sure to make one or both trips a priority in your schedule. Does this mean that I desire that kids skip summer musicals, driver's ed, sports practices, family vacations, part time jobs and rest time? YES! Absolutely. I hate to sound biased, but chances are that those other commitments will not be nearly as profound or impacting as NAILS or Kingdom Bound. A

In Christ,  
Dan

**WANTED:** Parents that would like to contribute input, time and prayer into the youth ministry. Please consider becoming a member of this year's Parent Board. Dan could really use your help. Call 586-5688 ext. 31.

Logos 2002 - 2003  
Building a Strong foundation  
from Sylvia Fix

Come join us and let's all build that foundation together.

September 8 – Come see and hear our LOGOS announcement. Information and Sign-up table will be in the Lobby and in Fellowship Hall.

September 15 – Logos Choir begins on September 18. See calendar for the times. Information, Sign-up and Registration table will be in the Lobby and in Fellowship Hall.

September 22 – Not too late to get the information and register for LOGOS. LOGOS begins – September 25 at 4:00 P.M. A

Logos choirs begin  
September 18  
Help us build a Strong  
foundation  
from Dede Holmes



Rehearsal times for Wednesday, September 18 are as follows:

Wee Kirksingers: 4:30 – 5:00 PM ~ K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders in the Choir Room

Celebrate Choir: 5:00 – 5:30 PM ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the Choir Room

Jr. Kirksingers: 5:30 – 6:00 PM ~ 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the Sanctuary.

All K-6<sup>th</sup> grade children are welcome. Choir times will be adjusted to fit within the LOGOS framework when the full program begins September 25.

For more information or questions, call Dede Holmes 624-4257 or [dmh91654@aol.com](mailto:dmh91654@aol.com). A

Helping Hands Wanted  
from Margaret Mecredy

From time to time, the Church needs an extra pair of hands.

Anyone interested in helping as a Sanctuary Greeter, with coffee hour on Sundays or with Church receptions will have an opportunity to sign-up at the nametag table in September.

WITH MUSIC IN YOUR HEARTS  
from Cary Ratcliff, Music Director

Come experience the joy of making music together in honor of our God. Learning and getting into a piece of sacred music can greatly deepen your worship of God. The welcome sign is out for ringers or singers, child, teen or adult. This season promises more excellent adventures, as the music team continues to build on foundations of commitment, trust, and good music-making. Create a space in your life for it.

Adult Choir, Cary Ratcliff, director 244-7895 For college age and older, this group meets Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00, beginning September 4, and sings at weekly services. This is a fun and loving and hard-working group. Our rehearsal policy: Attend at least 2 of the 3 rehearsals for each anthem we present.

Kirkringers, Ruth Hugenbruch, Director 388-7365

Joyful Noise Bell Choir, Sharon Peet, Director 388-8788.

Jubilate Choir, Cary Ratcliff, Director 244-7895

LOGOS Children's Choirs, Dede Holmes, Director 624-4157. A

OPTIMISTS will not hold a September meeting, but the October Newsbrief will have an announcement about our first fall meeting featuring Pierce Day with a program on his recent trip to China.

OPTIMISTS 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.

If you think our group would interest you— please come! We welcome all newcomers!! A

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS**

Mary/Weller's annual September morning informal coffee will be held at Valley Manor, 1570 East Avenue at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Because of limited parking we will meet at the sign in Pittsford Plaza at 10:15 for mandatory carpooling. Hostesses are Beverly Fink, Rosemarie Law and Florence Holley, who will meet us at the main front entrance of Valley Manor. A

## New Circle

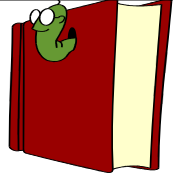
from Martha Boak & Carrie Mitchell

Women in search of an evening out ~ save this date: Monday, September 30.

Carrie Mitchell and Martha Boak are starting an evening circle. Come to the organizational meeting in room 201 at the Church on 9-30-02 from 7-8:30 p.m. Hear our ideas and share yours.

Interested but can't come? Call Carrie (586-5688) or Martha (383-8928).

WEB CLUB  
THE WEDNESDAY EVENING  
BOOK CLUB



August 28 - "Plainsong" by Kent Haruf.  
"Ambitious, but never seeming so, Kent Haruf reveals a whole community as he interweaves the stories of a pregnant high school girl, a lonely teacher, a pair of boys abandoned by their mother, and a couple of crusty bachelor farmers. From simple elements, Haruf achieves a novel of wisdom and grace—a narrative that builds in strength and feeling until, as in a choral chant, the voices in the book surround, transport, and lift the reader off the ground." FROM THE CITATION FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD. We will meet at the home of Mary McCarty, 4300 East Avenue. Please call Mary if you plan to attend at 381-6373.



**PENNY  
PINCHER  
SALE**  
from Joyce Drake

The Women's Association's annual Penny Pincher Sale will be coming up in October. Drop off dates and set up are Tuesday, October 1 and Wednesday, October 2, Sale dates are Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4. We ask the congregation to donate good, clean, useable items. Needed are appliances, antiques, collectibles, dishes, electronics, furniture, linens, sports equipment, tools, toys, kitchenware. **No clothing.** A

CAMERON COMMUNITY MINISTRIES  
Clean Out Your Closets  
from Liz Mehalso

As the weather changes in the next few weeks, so do the clothing needs at Cameron's Clothing House. It's not too early to start sorting through your fall and winter clothes and setting aside those that you probably won't be wearing any more. The folks in the Lyell/Cameron neighborhood can make good use of them. There is a list of items currently needed on the table in the lobby that includes clothing, household, hygiene, and food supplies. Please take one home and help us support this worthwhile mission. Don't forget your travel soap, shampoo, etc. These small items help a lot since they can't be purchased with food stamps. Our Hot Lunch Team will deliver to Cameron on the first Saturday of the month, so please try to drop-off your donations as close to that date as possible, starting with September 7. We will collect seasonal clothing throughout the fall and winter. Look for the Cameron bin in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Liz Mehalso – 223-3052.

**OPERATING BUDGET**  
**Second Quarter 2002**  
from Cal Graziano, Treasurer

|                | 2001           | 2002           | Change           |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
|                | <u>Pledges</u> | <u>Pledges</u> | <u>2002/2001</u> |
| No. of Pledges | 408            | 395            | -13              |

Operating Budget Actual receipts & Expenditures  
2001 vs. Budget 2002

|                          | Budget        | Actual        | \$Change       |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                          | Jan-Jun       | Jan-Jun       | Jan-Jun        |
|                          | <u>2002</u>   | <u>2002</u>   | <u>Act/Bud</u> |
| Pledge Income            | 279,000       | 294,540       | 15,540         |
| Other Income             | <u>29,500</u> | <u>38,230</u> | <u>8,730</u>   |
| Total Income             | \$308,500     | \$332,770     | \$24,270       |
| Operating Expenses       | 259,700       | 261,470       | 1,770          |
| Per Capita *             | 25,800        | 25,760        | -40            |
| Contribution to Outreach | <u>35,850</u> | <u>35,850</u> | <u>0</u>       |
| Total Expenses           | \$321,350     | \$323,080     | \$1,730        |
| Surplus or (-Deficit)    |               | \$9,690       |                |

\* Assessed by Presbytery at \$19.41 per church member in 2002 in order to fund Presbytery, Synod & General

Assembly functions. Member contributions to the Per Capita Assessment are an important part of the INCOME Budget



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**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  
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