

NewsBrief

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

September 2005

From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

The world is flat. Just writing those words makes me feel like Henny-Penny saying that the sky is falling. What an amazing, if not alarming, summer discovery from a book picked up in Border's.

In some ways space shuttle collaboration seems to give some support to this worldview. This is the conclusion of Thomas Friedman in a book by that title (*The World is Flat*) that attempts to look at the convergence of technology and events that have allowed India and China (and other countries) to become part of the global economy on a grand scale. As they become competitors in the global economy it seems like we need to run faster in order to stay in place.

Friedman looks at the extraordinary change that has taken place in international communication and although he offers "ten forces that flattened the world" they all seem to boil down to the development of Microsoft Windows and the ability to use computers to speak around the globe. It permits us to do things digitally, virtually, "mobilely."

Jonathan Sacks, philosopher, theologian, and Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth (UK) has penned *The Dignity of Difference* that takes the observations of Friedman and catapults his observations ahead 15 years to the year 2020 and hypothesizes that the dangers of overpopulation have been removed. Genetically modified crops have made starvation a thing of the past. The latest in education curricula reach the most remote African villages via the Internet. Low-cost medical treatments have brought AIDS, TB and malaria under control. International agreements have put an end to the injustices and tensions, the inequity and exploitation that characterized the first years of the 21st century.

Sacks offers a far less hopeful possibility when he says OR ... the world has just been rocked by the latest terrorist attack on New York. A so-called 'dirty bomb' has spread nuclear waste over a wide area centered on Manhattan. ... in a coordinated attack on the subway systems of London, Paris, Munich and Rome, canisters containing deadly chemicals have been released in crowded stations. ... The global economy is in a state of collapse; unemployment is at a record high. Throughout the West, city centers have become 'no-go zones' with vagabond populations of drug addicts, the homeless and violent." Freak weather kills thousands – the result of global warming. Pollution is unimaginable. It is a depiction of the world "in the midst of a new dark age."

If "the world is flat" then we are more interconnected today than ever before and there is greater need now for cooperation and compassion. There is a need to be consistent in the world regarding respect, relationships, responsibility, and reverence – which are all prominent components of our Christian faith. Sacks even suggests that it is our connection to God and to one another that can inspire a collective vision that will build bridges, strengthen community, increase care, bring virtue and promote peace, even when so much of the world's energy seems to be devoted elsewhere.

In a world that has gone flat, a world deflated by resurgent tribalisms, insensitivity, violence, and even a lack of civility, the Christian faith comes with potential to bring hope and change. Together, let us draw upon the resources of God's word, the "pneuma" of God's spirit and the love of God's incarnate optimism to help put more lift into our own lives and the world Jesus died to redeem. What a great opportunity this fall we have to offer God our praise, our study, our preparation, our desire for ministry! And to think, God will bless us this fall with a renewed building in which to explore this opportunity. Let us offer to God our renewed resolve.

Bruce

Prayerfully Pondering New Arrivals with Praise...

We are excited to announce the birth of our first child, Rachel Josephine Mitchell!

She was born at 7:50am on Sunday July 17 at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. The tale of the tape: 8.0 pounds; 21.5 inches. She has a full head of dark hair.

Carrie and Rachel arrived at Strong the evening of the 16th to prepare for induction on the morning of the 17th, but Rachel had a slightly different plan. At 3:30am on the 17th, Carrie was awakened by labor, and a little more than 4 hours later Rachel had arrived the natural way.

Rachel was very quiet her first day and had a very long sleep; however, she has emerged from her rest with a very healthy appetite! We thank everyone for their generosity and support through the pregnancy, and look forward to introducing Rachel to you in the future.

Love and best wishes,

Carrie, Bill and Rachel ♥

Week of Sept. 4 – Exod. 12:1-14; *Ps. 149*; Rom. 13:8-14
Matt. 18:15-20

Week of Sept. 11 – Exod. 14:19-31; *Ps. 114* or
Exod. 15:1b-11, 20-21; Rom. 14:1-12
Matt. 18:12-35

Week of Sept. 18 – Exod. 16:2-15; *Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45*
Phil. 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-16

Week of Sept. 25 – Exod. 17:1-7; *Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16*
Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32

Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, RAIHN, training during the Adult Education Forum after the second service on September 25, 2005 (following the Apple Crisp Celebration).

RAIHN NEEDS A NEWER OFFICE PC

Do you have a PC that you're about to replace and can donate your older PC to RAIHN? We need a "newer" PC for our office system. We'd like to get one that is: Pentium 4 (anything faster than a Pentium 2 running at 300 MHz) running Windows XP (anything is better than Win-98 service pack1). ♥

HABITAT SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

We are putting out the word to our faith-based partners regarding our summer-long School Supplies Collection Drive to aid our Habitat homeowners in the fall. A PDF flyer is attached. Any and all donations are most appreciated, especially backpacks, 3-ring binders, composition books (non-spiral notebooks) and calculators.

Thank you for passing this along to anyone who might be interested in helping.

Diane Walker

Communications Manager

Flower City Habitat for Humanity

585.546.1470 X304

Fax 585.546.1549

Website www.rochesterhabitat.org. ♥

A BIG THANK YOU

Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Bonnie) Wetzels have generously donated a wheelchair to our church in memory of Jean McDonald, Bonnie's mother. We thank them for their generosity!

ADULT EDUCATION

Have you ever wondered how we know what we know, why we believe what we believe, and what we can do to make sense of it all in this crazy mixed-up world? If so, mark your calendar and plan to join John Messenger and a few fantastic flipped friends in an Adult Education course called "Turtle Soup!" For five Sundays during the month of October we'll explore some basics of, and barriers to, belief in a Christian worldview in 21st century America. ♥

HOORAH!! COMING HOME!!

Reaching Out!

Registration – September 14

September 14 – Choir and Registration

The word is ***commit.***

September 21 – **LOGOS BEGINS!!**

The word is ***flock.***

September 28 – Fall Carnival – **BUDDY**

NIGHT – The word is
excitement.

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

October 5 – Canoe through the narrow
channels in Irondequoit Bay ♥

ORGAN SELECTION STATUS

In June, Session reaffirmed its decision to purchase a pipe organ for our sanctuary.

Since that time, the Organ Selection Committee has continued to look for an existing organ. The Committee has also met with organ builders who could supply a new organ.

After extensive searches in the U.S. and contacts in Europe, it seems quite unlikely that we will be able to find a suitable existing organ that would meet the limited height of our new balcony.

One very attractive opportunity for a new pipe organ has been identified and was discussed with Session at its August meeting. The Committee did not make a recommendation or ask for a decision at that meeting.

The next steps are to complete the evaluation of this opportunity and to finalize the organ details for future presentation to Session. The approach to funding is under development.

As the Organ Selection Committee continues its work, we would ask for your prayers as we look to support the vision for an even stronger ministry of music in the years to come. ♥

ORGAN VISITATION TASK FORCE

We presented our report to the Session on June 20. Prior to that, we reported to the Organ Selection Committee.

We traveled to Pennsylvania where we visited two digital companies and three pipe organ builders.

As a result of the information presented, a motion was made and approved to purchase a small interim tracker pipe organ for approximately \$30,000 including installation in the balcony. The interim instrument will not be purchased with insurance proceeds. The Session also reaffirmed the original recommendation of the Organ Selection Committee to purchase a pipe organ suitable for our sanctuary as a permanent instrument.

A copy of our organ information is available in the office.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the congregation.

Faithfully, Sylvia Fix, Chair, Jim Hotaling,
Ed Johnson, Sanghwa Lee, Liz Mehalso,
Alison Wahl ♥

Deacon Fall Apple Festival

Plan on joining us on Sunday, September 25, for the Fall Apple Festival sponsored by the Deacons. After the 10:00 service, delicious apple treats will be available for all to enjoy. Here is your opportunity to get caught up with those friends you may not have seen in the summer and partake in the splendor of the fall season.

Fun, food, and fellowship will be abundant!
See you there. ♥



**“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. Asbury will be the host church, providing the space and facilities for up to five families, or fourteen people, for a one-week period, Sunday-Sunday, four times per year. During that week, we, as the support church team, will assist with sleeping area set-up, meal preparation, evening hosting and activities, overnight hosting, and morning send-offs. The guests in the RAIHN program all have their routine weekly activities established, being bussed to school, going off to work, job searches and other family life activities.

We at Pittsford Presbyterian Church have know what it means to have to leave our home. The fire which forced our church to find temporary shelter in several congregations and other settings over this past year and a half gives our members a special understanding of what it means to have been offered the hospitality of Christ Clarion, Third Presbyterian, and Linehan Chapel at Nazareth College, among others.

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.

In preparation for Pittsford's first week of service in the RAIHN program, October 16-23, 2005, we will be having a volunteer training program during the after-church adult education session on September 25, 2005. Ms. Erica Vera, the Executive Director of RAIHN, will lead that educational session.

Barbara Smith, RAIHN Coordinator
Dianne Brown, Outreach Chairperson
Dr. William Wilkinson, CRCDS Ministry
Intern ♥

CHRIST'S GLOBE TROTTER

In 1997 Ted Pollock and Beverly Reeve started writing Ted's missionary experiences that span more than half a century. *Christ's Globe-trotter*, the 488 pg. hardcover book (including an 8 pg. color insert and more than 80 illustrations) has recently been delivered from the publisher and is now ready for distribution. (\$25.95) If you would like to receive a copy email Beverly at bcreeve@aol.com or call 248-9229. Thanks to all of you who are on Ted's team and support his mission! ♥

Beginning September 11

8:30 & 10:00 AM Worship
9:30 AM Adult Ed.
9:30 & 11:00 AM Fellowship
Office Hours Beginning Sept. 6
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Mon.-Fri.
Janet's Hours Mon, Tue & Thurs.
7:30 AM – 2:00 PM



REMINDER: Next NewsBrief Deadline is September 11. Please send articles to doris.Goodemote@pittsfordpres.org or drop a hard copy off to the office.