

# NewsBrief

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

## September 2006

### FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Those of us who follow the Pittsburgh Pirates have had a challenging year this 2006. We look back to memories and to people like legendary Willie Stargell who still holds a number of Pittsburgh Pirates slugging records. Willie brought heart to the game. "I would have played for free," he once remarked. "After all, the umpire says 'play ball,' not 'work ball.' It was never a job to me."

It was Stargell who encouraged the 1979 Pirates to use Sister Sledge's "*We Are Family*" as the theme for the team's togetherness. "We were products of different races, different income brackets," he said of his fellow World Series champions, "but in the clubhouse and on the field, we were one."

"We are Family" is rather how I view the church especially as I write these things today. This afternoon some of us fly to Mozambique to help the people in Ribaué build their church building. Certainly we come from different places, different cultures, and different languages. But when we build together, we will be family, building a structure to the glory of God and for the mission of Jesus Christ.

When we worship with Wycliffe Bible Translators on Sunday in Nampula, we will be reading those same words that you will read from Ephesians this coming Sunday,

*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

We are called together into a family of faith and we ought to seek the unity of that family in the bond of peace by taking on ourselves an attitude of humility and gentleness and with patience, bear with one other in love. Paul's teaching is quite instructive for us as we prepare to head to Africa and it is instructive for us in Pittsford and for the Presbyterian Church USA, too.

Sir Thomas Beecham, founder of the London Philharmonic and the Beecham Opera Company once appeared as the guest conductor in another city. During the first rehearsal he quickly noticed that the orchestra was not well trained. As the rehearsal continued, he became frustrated. Finally, stopping the musicians for a third time at the same place in the score, one of the musicians protested: "Well, just how do you want us to play?"

Sir Thomas looked at him and calmly suggested, "Together." This is the point that author Leonard Sweet makes in his book, *Quantum Spirituality*.

A. W. Tozer, in his book *The Pursuit of God* asks, "Has it ever occurred to you that 100 pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So 100 worshipers together, each one looking away to the Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become "unity" conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.

We will be building a church, but more importantly, in Africa we will be building relationships. But if we wish to build together, we will best do it by humbly, gently, lovingly finding a way to keep our attitudes focused on Jesus. I believe that this will not only work in Africa, but will work in Pittsford and in SUVs and vans where families are traveling together on vacation.

Bruce

## Prayerfully Pondering MOPS...

Does it seem as if everyone is sporting new backpacks, crayons, pencils, iPods, shoes, outfits, portfolios, and pens? It must be back-to-school time. And with the beginning of the academic year comes the renewal of many of the programs in the life of our congregation. This year, we are excited to begin offering a program for mothers of preschoolers and their preschool-age children. The program is called MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) and you can check out more details both on our website [www.pittsfordpres.org](http://www.pittsfordpres.org) or the MOPS national website at [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

The MOPS annual theme for this year is John 10:10b. "I have come that they might have life, and have it abundantly." Jesus came to show us how God intends us to live fully, breathe deeply, and love purely. By providing these mothers a time of hope, encouragement, resources, and support (HERS), we will be showing them a glimpse of that abundant life and helping them share it with others, primarily their families. The national organization of MOPS, which we have joined by beginning this ministry, reminds us that better women make better moms, better moms make better kids and better kids make a better world.

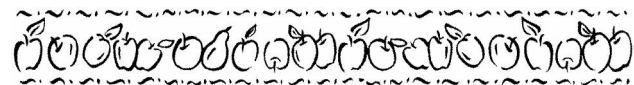
The mothers will gather the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month in our church between 9:15 – 11:00 am. The MOPS year begins September 20<sup>th</sup> and ends May 16<sup>th</sup> for a total of seventeen sessions. While the mothers are sharing food and fellowship, listening to a speaker, breaking into discussion groups, and doing hands-on activities, their preschoolers will be taught by a team of volunteers headed by our own childhood education specialist, Kelly Dietl.

We are tremendously excited about our program because it includes a ceramicist, Deputy Dan from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, a Wegman's demonstration chef, a nutritionist, a child psychologist, a yoga instructor, a sex therapist, a Pittsford Youth Services counselor speaking about child discipline, a humorous pastor (thanks Bruce!) speaking about relationships just before Valentine's Day, a financial expert, a women's health expert, a missionary, a graduate of Wilson Commencement Park, and a comedian.

All the important behind-the-scenes work is enthusiastically being accomplished by a phenomenal group of women in our church: Jill Crooker, Lynn Cos, Kelly Dietl, Ruthe Douglas, Bev Henning, Sue Kievit, Sharon McCabe, Bev Reeve, and Carolyn Werner. Our Session decided MOPS should be created at its 2005 planning retreat and several Session members have been active supporters of our efforts this year: Dianne Brown, Greg Conners, Trudy Dublin, Sylvia Fix, Anne Francis, Curt Herge, June Mathieu, and Kim Tinder. If you have any questions about MOPS, don't hesitate to ask any one of us!

If you know a mother of a preschooler (you can readily identify us because our hands are always full, we think spaghetti is a finger food, and we tend to say "bye bye" to everyone – trust me, I know!), please let her know registration is currently open and we are waiting to help her breathe some fresh air and live life to its fullest. I guarantee she will thank you and give you a sense that you are breathing fresher air too.

GWIG,  
Carrie



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

Week of Sept. 3 – S. of Sol. 2:8-13; *Ps* 45:1-2, 6-9  
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Week of Sept. 10 – Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9; *Ps*. 125  
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17;  
Mark 7:24-37

Week of Sept. 17 – Prov. 1:20-33; *Ps*. 19; James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

Week of Sept. 24 – Prov. 31:10-31; *Ps*. 1  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

## ...from Sandy's desk

Over the past three years I have been pursuing, with your help, lay-professional certification as a Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The question, "why" may have occurred to you. Now that I am on the last lap of this race, you may also be interested in just what it means to be a PCUSA *Certified* Christian Educator.

My ministry, my call to serve God, and the gifts I have to assist clergy and laity in areas of education, hovered in the back of my mind for nearly 15 years. I ignored it for the most part and continued my public school teaching and later work with Cornell U. Extension 4-H Adolescent Programs and the oversight county of 4-H clubs. But as I became more involved in church youth work and education, I began to answer requests to teach workshops to other educators and to be more involved in larger venues outside my volunteer church ministries. As my own children grew older and I became more involved, I began to see that I wanted to know more in order to be a better lay-minister. To that end, I completed a Master of Divinity degree in 1998 and a master of education (which I started much earlier) in 2003.

In the late 1990's, while serving as a national education consultant for the Episcopal Church USA, I became aware that the one protestant denomination that prized education as much as I, was the Presbyterian Church. I began attending the national annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and when hired by you to be your Christian Educator, I began to encourage some of our 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. Church educators to experience APCE's hands on learning and opportunities to recoup energies and bring back to this congregation fresh ideas too. It was through APCE that I learned that this church, nationally, prizes education so much that it offers a certification program for lay-professionals in education. And I began the process. The process required that, along with two masters, I also needed to take six other graduate courses and complete a lengthy exam composed of several parts. One component is the creation, teaching and evaluation accompanied a paper analyzing the premise, format and focus of a course to be offered in no less than six hours of teaching time.

With your continued prayer support, I will have completed all the requirements and be eligible to be one of the first Certified Christian Educators in the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley by the end of this year. Ours is a gracious and wonderful God and with the empowerment of the Holy spirit and the love and example of Jesus Christ, I will continue to serve you in all areas of Christian

Education and life-long learning for many years to come. Blessings to you all. AMEN!

## LOGOS – 2006 - 2007

from Sylvia Fix  
**Putting God First!**

**September 13 ~ Choir - Registration**

**September 20 ~ FULL SWING**

The word is *reunion*.

**September 27 – Fantasy Island**

The word is *imagine*.

*Bring a Buddy!*

**October 4 – The Greatest Gift**

The word is *mission*.

**October 11 – SURPRISE NIGHT**

**October 18 – On Track**

The word is *teamwork*.

**October 25 – Halloween Bash**

The word is *individual*.

Be sure to register. Information is in your  
Back to Church mailing.

**I'll be there! Will you?**

**LOGOS Choirs** will be starting soon. As you read this I'll be halfway around the globe helping the people in Ribaué, Mozambique build a church. It also seems strange that one has to travel to Africa to find cooler temperatures! I'm hoping to learn some of their favorite songs to share with you this fall.

Please join Us!

Vocal Choirs begin:

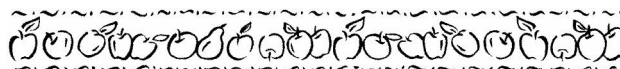
Wednesday, September 13

K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade meets from 4:30 – 5:00 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade meets from 5:00 – 5:30 PM

Bell Choirs will begin on September 20.

Hope to see you there! *Dede*



**O SOLE O MIO!**

**The Secret spaghetti Sauce Returns!**

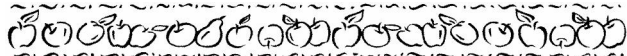
Join the fun and fellowship at this special dinner on Friday, September 22 from 5-7 p.m. We'll see you right here!

## ADULT ENRICHMENT SERIES RETURNS

The Fall "kickoff" of this popular program returns on Sunday, September 10th, when we'll welcome back Nancy Skelton, from the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. Nancy will be speaking on the critical topic of Long Term Health Care with a focus on New York State [Partnership Plan](#). Important changes have been made in this plan and these will be addressed.

Nancy has been in the insurance field since 1979 and owns a Rochester based brokerage agency, KAFL. The agency provides life, disability and long-term health care insurance and medical products nationally. She is a Certified Senior Adviser and has presented at numerous seminars for both adults and clients.

Nancy initiated the Enrichment Series last February, speaking on Medicare Prescription Drug Plan D, and quickly established herself with a dynamic, knowledgeable and professional presentation. Her **Long Term Health Care** presentation, on Sunday September 10th, is one not to miss! (Second floor CHAPEL - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM following "coffee hour..") Mark your calendars NOW.



### CONFIRMATION: COME CLAIM THE CREED!

The Confirmation Classes of 2006/2007 begin this month with a joint parent/confirmand/mentor orientation for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday, September 17 between 11:30am and 1:00pm in our Fellowship Hall. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to attend and all current eighth graders are invited to select a mentor. If you have not yet selected a mentor, ask Janette Henderson or Carrie Mitchell for suggestions before that day.

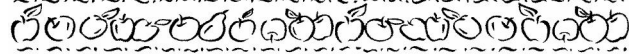
Sunday School classes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation begin that same Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and continue through Pentecost Sunday when the students are confirmed. 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands and mentors will also meet the first Sunday afternoon of every month (10/1, 11/5, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6) between 11:30am and 1:00pm for faith-building exercises and fun! Since Pentecost is early this year (May 27<sup>th</sup>, two weekends after Mother's Day), parents and Session members will be asked to join the mentors and confirmands early in May for a celebratory time. Mark your calendars now!

## Ever wonder what Presbyterians really believe?

Join us at 8:30 am Sunday September 17 in the Adult Enrichment Room 204 as we begin a 4 week discussion of a fascinating book by Donald K. McKim entitled "*Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*". Key topics will include our Presbyterian history and heritage, the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, Worship, and the Christian Life. In short, we will be exploring our Christian Faith.

The book will be available for \$ 8.00 on September 10 in the Fellowship Hall and in the church office beginning September 11. If possible please read at least the first three chapters in preparation for our September 17 session.

See you then for what should be the start of some very interesting and educational discussions about what it means to be a Presbyterian! If you have any questions about this program, please call Dick Sprenkle at 381-8990 or Sandy Pacyga at 586-5688 X30.



### JOIN US IN CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION TO MINISTRY!

Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24 is a two-day event at Third Presbyterian Church highlighting women's ordination to being deacons (100 years in 2006), elders (75 years in 2005), and ministers (50 years in 2006). Nationally known women such as Katherine Rhodes Henderson, the Executive Vice President of Auburn Theological Seminary; Linda Loving, actress and pastor; and Deborah Block, pastor and recent candidate for Moderator of the PCUSA's General Assembly will help us praise God and thoughtfully reflect on the growing leadership role of women in our denomination. Carrie Mitchell and Anne Gardner (recently approved by our Session to pursue ordination to ministry – yeah!) are planning to attend Sunday's 10:45am worship service – would you like to join us? Or perhaps you'd like to know more about the events on Saturday including a one-woman theatrical presentation of Julian of Norwich, the fascinating medieval mystic? Contact Carrie for more information 586-5688x32.

## ORGAN NOTES

### "How I Spend My Summer Vacation" James Douthit, Director of Music

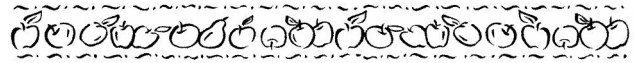
On June 24, I had the opportunity to fly with Hans Davidsson, our organ consultant from Rochester to the Roanoke, Virginia area to visit with John Boody and George Taylor. The trip provided many exciting moments that I hope to share a presentation following one of the services in September. In a quick summary, we arrived in Charlottesville, Virginia around noon on Saturday and drove immediately to a Lutheran Church in Madisonville, Virginia. As we approached the church, there was nothing in the area of the church with the exception of a single house and a cemetery that belongs to the church. The small white church, standing alone on the gently sloping hillside, looked like a still frame from Little House on the Prairie. Flanking three sides of the church were three white platforms. I had to ask what these small white platforms were. John and George laughed knowingly and explained that these platforms were used in the late 1700's for parishioners to dismount their horses as they arrived at church on Sunday.

Moving to the inside of the church, I quickly discovered the reason for the journey to the church. Sitting in the choir balcony in the back of the church was a beautiful white organ, a genuine Tannenberg Organ, actually built by David Tannenberg himself! The organ was built in the late 1700's and remains in playable condition today. Aside from a small maintenance project in the 1970's, the organ has had no major work since its building over 200 years ago. Just think of the number of Sundays the congregation has been led in song by the organ, not to mention the weddings and memorial services that have been accompanied by the beautiful sound of the instrument! Hans and I were able to play the instrument. The tone was a lovely, round sound that blends perfectly with the singing voice. This was the first confirmation I had that we had made the right choice for our instrument. We opened the back of the organ to observe the care and painstaking detail that had gone into the making of the instrument.

After spending a couple of hours with this beautiful instrument in an idyllic setting, we traveled to the Taylor and Boody Workshop. While there we were able to see the bellows that have been constructed for our instrument, three large units that will provide air for our pipe organ powered either by electricity or by human power pumping the hand bellows. The carefully prepared wood that has been curing for about 10 years has been cut into boards that will be used to make the wooden (flute) pipes. We examined the area where the metal pipes are poured and shaped. Some of the metal pipes have been made. As our instrument will be a historic reproduction of the Tannenberg Organ in Old Salem, Taylor and Boody have worked to reproduce every detail. The metal pipes of the Tannenberg Organs had some unique features that have become the latest mystery in the organ-building world, as to how they might be reproduced. Taylor

and Boody are planning to ask, their colleagues from around the world about this issue during a trip to a conference focus on organ building in Sweden, and in October, they will bring some pipes to the EROI festival so that the organ builders present can play their own version of CSI!

The highlight of the trip was visiting the reconstructed Tannenberg Organ in Old Salem. In the next Newsbrief, I'll discuss that visit and the tremendous experience of playing and sharing the instrument with tourists who wandered into the Visitor's Center where the organ is housed.



### COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

Though the liturgical calendar is not aligned with our modern academic calendar, each fall as school year begins there is the excitement of returning to our traditional church schedule. All of our ensembles welcome new participants as we start a new year. Each ensemble provides participants an opportunity to learn and grow in their musical skills as well as deepening and strengthening their faith and relationship with fellow church members. All of our choirs are filled with friendly faces with a variety of musical backgrounds and skills. We have some musicians who have studied music professionally and others who simply enjoy the opportunity to participate in the music leadership of our church services. Though we have a variety of backgrounds, we blend together as one group to provide anthems, service music, and meaningful music background to each service. I hope that you will consider joining us in our efforts. We are well aware that every participant cannot attend every rehearsal or service, but we simply ask that all involved do their best to serve our church in the valuable contribution of liturgical music to services of worship.

The Chancel Choir rehearses each Wednesday from 7:30-9:15. (Yes members, I'm taking you up on the offer to extend rehearsal another 15 minutes!) The Jubilate Choir with singers from 7th Grade through High School will rehearse on Sundays at 11:20 after the 10:00 service. Kirkringers, the adult bell ensemble directed by Ruth Hugenbruch meets on Monday evening. Joyful Noise, the middle and high school bell ensemble directed by Sharon Peet meets on Wednesday evenings before Chancel Choir. The Children's Ensembles rehearse as part of the Logos schedule on Wednesday afternoon.

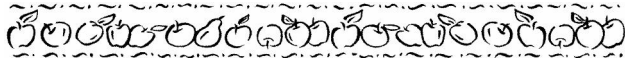
The musical talents of Sanghwa Lee assist all of ensembles. Sanghwa, our organist playing the piano each Sunday, will be with at least through November, when she plans to return to Korea to continue her musical career and leadership.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email me at [jdouthit@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jdouthit@rochester.rr.com). I hope that we will see at least a few new faces in each group this fall.



**Our Stephen Ministers  
Are Ready to Care for  
You!**

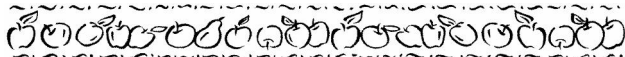
Stephen Ministers are member of First Presbyterian Church who have been through extensive training and provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide weekly support for you as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Kay Saxum, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprengle or Carol Tiemann.* Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.



**Church Notice**  
from your Trustee Board

The church locks will all be changed on August 24 and 25 and, existing keys will no longer work after that time. New keys are available now from Dan Murray or bob Huot.

In order to limit the number of keys, the trustees have approved a policy for who should have them. If you feel you need a key, but are not covered by the key policy, please communicate your need to a trustee. The board of trustees will consider your request.



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR WILSON  
COMMENCEMENT PARK**

Please consider picking up a few extra items to donate (notebook paper, pocket folders, glue, scissors, etc) while you are doing your back to school shopping. There will be a collection box by the church office. The donations will be delivered to WCP the last week of august. Any questions, please call Madge Herge (248-3615) or Claudia Williams (586-8259).

**Looking Ahead to World Communion  
Sunday**

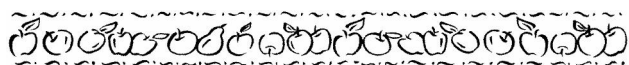
from your Outreach Committee

October 1 will be World Communion Sunday. For the past twenty-six 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.

Congregations retain twenty-five percent of the Offering for their own peacemaking efforts, such as our work in Mississippi, Mozambique and, of course, Rochester. Twenty-five percent is directed to presbytery and synod peacemaking work, and the remaining fifty percent supports the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

The Newsbrief Insert – "Exploring the Ways of Peace" – tells the story of how eight ministers in Texas got together to discuss how their presbytery would direct its portion of the Offering. Thirteen months after the first meeting, the group had grown to over fifty participants. Please read the insert to see how they came to support the "Oasis of Peace", a community of twenty-six Israeli families and twenty-six Palestinian families midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

More specific information on the October 1 Peacemaking Offering will be included in the October NewsBrief, in Bulletin Inserts, and in a letter to be mailed out about the third week of September.



<u>Beginning September 10</u>		
8:30 & 10:00 AM	Worship	
9:30 AM	Adult Ed.	
9:30 & 11:00 AM	Fellowship	<b>FALL SCHEDULE</b>
<u>Office Hours Beginning Sept. 5</u>		
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Mon.-Fri.	
Janet's Hours Mon, Tue & Thurs.		
7:30 AM – 2:00 PM		