

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF POTSDAM

“A Community gathering in Christ and ministering as God leads”

Parish Paper

October, 2005

Worship 10:00 a.m.

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A Note from Pastor Rich....

The sound of geese, anxiously gathering for their southern migration, the clear crispness of the nights, the hint of changing hue of the maple leaves, and the sighs of the autumn wind through the pine trees all signal the return of my favorite season. It was always hard work for families such as ours, the first couple of weeks in October dedicated to harvesting sugar beets. Often the fields would be so wet that we couldn't get out in them unless the ground had frozen over night. Circumstances beyond our control would dictate when and where we would begin the trek from field to the American Crystal Sugar processing factory. Yes, indeed, the ground would freeze hard enough, even in early October. Yes, the rains could be significant, even to flooding stage in late September. But we, as did all the farmers in the area, persevered, and for the most part were able to reap the bounty of God's good earth, enough to feed ourselves and countless others. Despite the hard work (frequently arising at midnight or two in the morning) of the harvest, and the strain of keeping awake in school during the day, I still remember fondly those days working alongside my Granddad on the beet harvester or trudging up the half-mile long fields collecting beets that had dropped from the truck or machinery. It was hard work that made the harvest worth while, hard work that tempered our appreciation of nature and God's creation, and hard work that created within us a sense of accomplishment and well-being. Side by side by this gentle, diminutive but incredibly strong Scot, I learned the value of tenacity, perseverance and strength.

I share this tiny peek into my background for a special reason and a special plea. First of all, I am continually impressed by the hard work that transpires in this special community of faith. From the leaders of the church (Elders and Deacons), the staff, to the members and friends of the congregation, all have shown the character of Paul's admonition to the fellowship in Philippi found in the third chapter, verses 13-14: **“Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”** The success of the ministry here at First Presbyterian Church depends on the work of all individuals and groups. It depends on a clear vision of what God has called us to do. It means dedication, striving for excellence, and perseverance during times of challenge, struggle, and stretching. It also presumes that we depend upon a God who cares enough to confront us when we become complacent, strengthens us when we fall weak, nurtures us when we hunger, and loves us when we feel unloved.

Friends in Christ, we need your help. As members of the body, we are called to respond to the needs of our congregation, the needs of the community and when able, the needs beyond our area. As all of you are aware, there have been catastrophic natural disasters here in the US and abroad. Many from our church have been exemplars of charity, giving beyond their means to assist, and will continue to do so. Rising costs in energy, building and business supplies, and living expenses affect all of us, the church being no exception. Leaders of First Church have been diligent and frugal in paring down their budgets as much as possible. Yet, we continue to experience a shortfall in pledging and receipts needed to continue our valuable and vibrant ministry here. To the end of reducing this shortfall, I am asking those who might be interested in participating in a task force that will explore avenues for fund raising to let me know of that interest via email. Also, if you have ideas that seem practical and cost effective in generating additional funds, please email those to me. In addition, if the Spirit of God moves you to increase your giving, please respond to that call.

I realize this means work, hard work. I realize this might be a sacrifice to some, a challenge to others. Frugality, perseverance, and hard work were a part of the legacy my Granddad left me. I trust and pray that we can work together to ensure that this wonderful ministry continues to thrive and be a constant reminder to the community and beyond that Christ is alive and well through the Presbyterian presence here in the North Country.

Love, peace and grace,

Pastor Rich



✠ Deacon News ✠

Prayer Chain

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he mentioned immediately (1:3) that he and Timothy had been praying for the folk there. In chapter four of the same letter he requested that the congregation of that church pray in turn for him and Timothy.

Prayer was an important part of their daily lives as they went about serving the Lord. We too have opportunities (and responsibility) to pray for one another.

The Deacons maintain a prayer chain, which is now being coordinated by Louise Straub. If you have specific requests for prayers for yourself or others, please call Louise Straub at 265-4022, Pastor Rich or Tammy Liscum at 265-9434.

♪ Worship & Music ♪

"I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God,
and I mean, God helping, to be one too.
They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and His love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long...
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.
They lived not only in ages past,
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school,
or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or the P&C,
for the saints of God are just folke like me,
and I mean to be one too." - Lesbia Scott

Last month we felt like we were literally "drowning" in sorrows. Recovery will probably be measured in months and years, and some scars may never fade. Encouragement comes from the emergence of "saints": churches, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Presbytery Disaster Assistance, the National Guard, police, ordinary (and extraordinary) citizens, neighbors near and far, all doing many small and large acts of kindness. The words of the anthem above will be sung on Oct. 30th. They were written by a mother for her young children, and while the text is sometimes whimsical, it does remind us that "saints" come from all walks of life. We participate with all the saints of the ages during love offerings, community dinners, rummage sales.... May we help brighten our world by helping joyously.

Our fall schedule is in full swing, and we are delighted to have several new faces in the Westminster Choir (Heather and Leah). We

always have room for more! We rehearse at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. in classroom 4. Some singers can only rehearse on Wednesday, and some on Sunday, but we work weeks in advance so we can sing the Lord's praises in a prepared and worshipful way.

The Handbell Choir rang the introit last Sunday - they rehearse after church in the balcony, and hope to ring again by the end of October. The Philhymnonic, under the able direction of Art Frackenhohl, is a multi-generational group of instrumentalists that forms several times a semester. They will rehearse at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary on October 30th, so dust off your instruments, and let Art know what you play!

Membership & Congregational Life

Progressive Dinner

The Membership & Congregational Life Committee has scheduled a church progressive dinner to be held on Saturday, October 22nd. The tentative schedule is as follows: 5:30-6:15 p.m. - Appetizers; 6:30-7:45 p.m. - Main Meal; 8:00-8:45 p.m. - Desserts at the church Center.

We are looking for host homes for the appetizers and main meals. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board for you to indicate your interest. You can indicate if you would prefer to host a main meal, host appetizers, provide a dish for the main meal, or provide a dessert for the Center. Main meal hosts would be expected to provide a main dish for their group.

Grouping will be done on October 2nd to allow enough time to coordinate dishes. The list and schedule will be at Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 16th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Barb Baker, Dawn Bartow, and/or Bonnie Bruno.

Mission

Monthly Community/Spaghetti Dinner

The **October** Community Dinner/Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on **Thursday, October 20, from 5-6:30 p.m.** We hope to see you there. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor.

CROP Walk

We encourage everyone to either participate **or** sponsor someone in the **CROP WALK**. Our goal is to raise over \$2,000 as we have done the past two years. The CROP WALK will be held on Sunday October 16th.

Tanzania Student

The Mission Committee with the backing of the Session will be financially assisting Prudence Rukwago, the Tanzanian student we funded through secondary school, with his first year's tuition at Hubert Kairuki Memorial University. Prudence's goal is to become a Physician.

Rural Rehab Work Day

Dawn Theisen, Erin Anderson, Jane Wells, Dick Partch, Armond Spencer, Amy Walker (and Martha), Eleanor Hopke and Norm Marshall joined four Clarkson Sigma Phi Epsilon undergraduates, six Clarkson graduate students, two volunteers from the Western Adirondack Church in Star Lake, both homeowners and Rural Rehab Work Coordinator Jo Ann Mathews to install skirting on a trailer in Star Lake. All the Potsdam people were at the church parking lot at 7:15 AM to get some information about the job and driving directions from Rehab Chair Cynthia Coleman. The weather could not have been better, and there was almost nothing which would have made the work go more smoothly.

Cynthia had very accurate written directions for each driver about how to get there and sent along bottles of water and bags of apples. Dick Partch brought along much-appreciated Joe-to-Go to share. Later in the morning, one of the Star Lake volunteers came with a fresh batch of coffee and freshly baked brownies and muffins. The homeowner gave us a delicious lunch of goulash, salad, and bread, and then Jane Wells pulled out some home-baked cookies to finish the meal.

Jo Ann had all the materials we needed ready to go and set us right to work. While one group was painting the boards for the skirting, others started digging a bit to flatten a trench on which to set the framing. Some measured the lengths of boards needed and cut them, after which others started fastening them together with screws. Completed frames were screwed to the frame of the trailer and installing the completed cover boards finished the job. There was enough work to keep everyone busy without being overwhelming, and even though not everyone knew each other before Saturday morning, we all worked together as a great team. Jo Ann had been expecting that it would take us until around 5:00 p.m. to finish, but everything was cleaned up and we were ready to leave by 2:30 p.m. We all enjoyed meeting and working with the homeowners, too, and what a good group we all turned out to be!

Not only will this young couple and their 3½ year old and 8-month old be warmer and their pipes unlikely to freeze this winter, their purchase contract requires that they have some insurance. Without adequate skirting they would have lost their insurance and maybe their home. How wonderful to work together to make a home safer and more comfortable for some people without the resources to get this work done on their own. All sorts of good experiences can happen when we take Jesus' commands to love God and love our neighbors to heart and action. Look for pictures on the church web site: www.potsdampresbyterian.org

College Students

In addition to being readers and choir members and Youth Group advisers and participating in the Adult Sunday School class and going to dinners offered in September by Eleanor Hopke and Amy and Martin Walker, college students have been busy with Mission projects during the September.

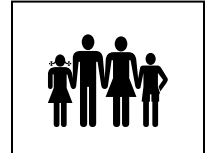
Students organized the September Community Dinner on September 15th. They helped with the shopping and cooking, the setting up, serving and cleaning up and did a first class job. Student Norm Marshall went on the Rural Rehab Work Day on the 24th, too.

We are very fortunate to have these students with us during their time at SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson. We still have room for more hosts for student dinners during this school year. If you'd be willing to do this, put your name on the list on the bulletin board in the Center or talk to Eleanor Hopke or Amy and Martin Walker.

Stewardship

Attendance in Church

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for their participation in Potsdam First's Stewardship Program.



One of the ways we can fulfill

A Covenant for Personal Life is by making sure we don't miss coming to church every Sunday. Worship not only reminds us of God's enduring presence and love, it also helps us commune with people we love and want to be with. As stated on your Covenants paper, "Because God has given me life and called me to be a steward of life, I make a covenant to grow and change in my personal life by.....attending Sunday worship regularly. For the month of September attendance was:

Sept. 4 - 90

Sept. 11 - 137

Sept. 18 - 140

Sept. 25 - 111

Ladies Guild

The SERRV Catalog

The SERRV catalog will be available for the last time during coffee hour on October 2. This is a great way to start your holiday shopping and help the crafters whose items appear in the catalog. Also, 20% of all sales go to our church.

The Fall Rummage Sale

This is the last call for helppppppp! Items may be brought beginning this Sunday, October 2nd. Please leave items along the wall by classroom 2. We appreciate your good, clean donations and any labeling and sorting you can do is a big help to us. Tables will be set up in the center on Monday; feel free to drop by any time that week to sort through the goods and distribute them on the labeled tables.

We still need more workers to sign up for a shift (on the chart outside the office area). The Ladies Guild has sponsored this event for many years, but we do not have enough woman-power to do it all. Men and women with friendly faces are needed to help make the sale a pleasurable experience (including clean-up!). We are sharing out abundance with the needy in our community, and a portion of the proceeds will go to hurricane relief. Many thanks in advance.

Please do stop by to shop, grab a snack from the snack bar, etc....

Hours of the sale:

Thursday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Clean-up: Friday, Oct. 7, 1-3 p.m.)

Events/News

Youth Group

The Youth Group has begun meeting regularly again and the schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 2 Regular meeting, 3-5 p.m. (bring names for Christmas care packages)
- Oct. 7 & 8 **Ropes Course** (group building); **over night at the 4-H camp**
- Oct. 9 No Youth Group meeting
- Oct. 16 CROP Walk – Registration begins @ 12:30 p.m., Walk begins @ 1 p.m. from Church
- Oct. 23 A Day in the Park, 3-5 p.m.
- Oct. 30 Halloween Party, 3-5 p.m. (costumes are required)

Please note: All activities begin at the church unless otherwise noted.

Movie Group

In the aftermath of the World War II Holocaust we used the words, “Never Again.” But has that been the case? What about “ethnic cleansing” in Bosnia? Or in Rwanda? Or even more recently in Sudan?



We’ll be showing the movie “Hotel Rwanda” in the Church Center at 7 PM on Sunday, October 2nd. It is based on a true story of courage amid the horrors of “ethnic cleansing” in 1994 Rwanda and is at the same time very disturbing and hopeful. Amid the fear and carnage a Hutu man finds ways to keep over 1200 Tutsis alive hour by hour and day by day. Richard Roeper called it “One of the most inspirational films I’ve ever seen.” This movie did not come to Potsdam or Canton when it first came out in theaters; this is a chance to see it on the large screen in the Center. There’s plenty of room in the Center, so bring your friends, too. We will start promptly at 7. The rating is PG-13.

On Sunday, October 30th, at 7 PM, we will be showing the 2003 MGM film “Luther” in the Church Center. Joseph Fiennes stars as Martin Luther; others in the movie include Alfred Molina and Sir Peter Ustinov. It does a gripping job of bringing a major historical upheaval to life.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, the 16th century equivalent of a message board or chat room, with the idea of stimulating discussion about practices which greatly disturbed him and which were then prevalent in the Catholic Church. While Luther didn’t start out to cause great trouble, such a tumult this monk began, political as well as religious, and bloody. When it was made very clear that he was to cease and disavow his criticisms of the Church, he made his well-known statement, “Here I stand; I can do no other.” He didn’t plan to start a new church, much less such a revolution, but neither did he shrink from it. This film tells the story of a strong character in Christian history and traces

the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation from which our Presbyterian Reformed Tradition descends. One of our former members related a story about a conversation with a Catholic priest who told him, “Not long after Luther, the Catholic Church decided Luther was right and the Counter Reformation followed.” Martin Luther had truly affected all of western Christianity. Rated PG-13.

2nd Annual Transformation Conference

The Presbytery is sponsoring a workshop by Tex Sample here in our Church Center on Saturday, October 15th, (Registration @ 8:30 a.m. & Conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many of you attended the Tony Pappas workshop last year; here’s another opportunity to learn.

This workshop is for you if: You want to increase the vitality of your church. You want ideas for increasing the ability to touch people’s lives. You want practical resources for improving church ministry. It’s not just for Presbyterians, so encourage friends from other denominations to come, too, please.

Tex Sample has done extensive work on generations and our culture, aiming to help churches more effectively reach people for Christ. Some of his books are “U.S. Lifestyles and Mainline Churches,” “Hard Living People and Mainstream Christians,” “Ministry in an Oral Culture: Living with Will Rogers, Uncle Remus and Minnie Pearl.”

This workshop will focus on: Understanding traditional oral culture and the small church. Developing awareness of the practices of traditional oral people. Learning church practices which are traditional and oral in character, and how this is important to people. Helping small churches implement “indigenous ministry” – a ministry that makes sense to people and is harmonious as to the way they communicate, interact and live.

Early-Bird registrations (by 10/7) are \$32/person or \$125/for more than four people from a congregation. Lunch and snacks are included. After 10/7, the cost is \$40 and \$150, respectively. Contact the Church Office or Rich Will if you would like to attend. We’d like to have a count for how many lunches to have available. Peggy Burlingame or Eleanor Hopke can give more information or answer questions.

October Birthdays!

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Armond Spencer | 18 Jason Bruno |
| | Ian Drummatter | 21 Rachel Hartman |
| 2 | Helen Dunstone | Lovina Miller |
| 3 | Rev. Rich Will | 22 Erin Bicknell |
| | Gordon Batson | Elena Hobson |
| | Garett Seney | 24 Carly Fenner |
| 5 | George Gordon | 25 Jennifer McDonald |
| | Linda Caamaño | 27 Don Burlingame |
| 7 | Matthew McKinley | Dustin Grant |
| 10 | Deborah Parsons | Frances Williams |
| 11 | Michelle Albrecht | 28 Don Osterberg |
| | Dawn Theisen | 29 Evan Powers |
| 13 | Benjamin Blumenthal | Eleanor Hopke |
| | Sandra Seney | William Runge |
| 15 | Nicholas Hartman | 31 Katharine Batson |
| 16 | Glen Osterberg | |

Week of (Sun–Sat)	Hospital Deacons	Events of the Week	Sunday Worship	
Oct. 2 To Oct. 8	Joyce Yianoukos And Helen Brouwer	Oct. 2 – Youth Group, 3-5 p.m., Center Oct. 4 - Mission Committee meeting, 9 a.m., Rm 3 Oct. 5 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Oct. 6 – Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Center Oct. 7 – Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. then clean-up from 1-3 p.m.) Oct. 7 & 8 - Youth Group overnight @ 4-H Camp	<u>Oct. 2</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Bob Fraser Dawn & Erin Theisen George & Ann Davis Reachout & Dale Hobson & Terry de la Vega
Oct. 9 To Oct. 15	Phil Paro And Dick Partch	Oct. 9 – College Student Dinner, 5 p.m. Oct. 10 – Office Closed – Columbus Day! Oct. 10 – Book Group, 7:30 p.m. @ Schabergs Oct. 12 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Oct. 13 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2 Oct. 15 – Tex Sample Conference, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Center	<u>Oct. 9</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Victor Caamaño Dick & Joanne Partch Bob & Sharon Pickard Jim & Kathy Allott & John & Norma Drummatter
Oct. 16 To Oct. 22	Devon Shipp And Victor Caamaño	Oct. 16 – CROP Walk, 1 p.m., Church Parking lot Oct. 16 – Youth Group doing CROP Walk, 1 p.m. Oct. 16 – Hospice Fall Remembrance Service, 2 p.m., Center Oct. 18 – Blood Drive, 12:30 – 5 p.m., Center Oct. 18 – Session Meeting, 7 p.m. Oct. 19 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Oct. 20 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conference Room Oct. 20 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2 Oct. 20 – Community/Spaghetti Dinner, 5 p.m., Center Oct. 22 – CORC Store Volunteer Day, 9-10:30 a.m.	<u>Oct. 16</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Fran Stowe TBA Chet & Eve Bisnett Bill & Chrystal Hayman
Oct. 23 To Oct. 29	Jim Whittet And Dick Partch	Oct. 23 – Youth Group, 3-5 p.m. Oct. 23 – College Student Dinner, 5 p.m. Oct. 26 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Oct. 27 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2	<u>Oct. 23</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	George Davis Don & Peggy Burlingame Radmilla Zuman, Martin Walker Victor & Linda Caamaño Mark & Adrienne Hartman
Oct. 30 To Nov. 5	Ray Toland And Kate Cruikshank	Oct. 30 – Youth Group, 3-5 p.m. Oct. 30 – Movie Group, 7 p.m., Center	<u>Oct. 30</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Peter Bird TBA David & Kickie Britt Bob & Betty Fraser

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