

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF POTSDAM

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

Parish Paper

November, 2005
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Telephone 315-265-9434

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A Note from Pastor Rich....

Moving, changing addresses, reworking schedules, bumping into boxes, searching for lost name badges and energy-saving lights---ARRRRGH! However, we are now in our new home, surrounded by cedars, birches, maples and other trees, blessed by the presence of hundreds of birds (including evening grosbeaks!), teased by a brook (I think I heard it babble the other night), and learning which way is east (the sun finally shined!)

Transitions always provoke much emotion, occasional anxiety, and for the two of us, a lot of excitement. New beginnings, however they present themselves, are a big part of life and can be provocative, growth enhancing and horizon broadening. On the other hand, where doubt, fear and anxiety about newness arise, transformation can be threatening and any creative energy that might otherwise be utilized will be dampened. The life of the church, as in the lives of individuals, is never static. During the past few decades, the church (especially the mainline denominations) appears to have lost influence over societal direction, with mass media, a consumer mentality and individualism taking the forefront. Churches that attempt to buck societal trends without being in tune with the needs of the coming generations, will inevitably hit the proverbial brick wall. For the most part, mainline churches that attempt to explore and implement new ways to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ through innovative and creative means, find their worship enhanced and their worshipers rewarded.

As I write this message, I ponder the incredible possibilities at Potsdam First. With the talent that already exists and the potential for the future, we lie at the crossroads of forward thinking and the need for the gospel message to be revitalized. To accomplish this, we must lessen our hold on the comfort of ‘what has been done in the past’ and grab a hold of the daring of ‘what might be in the future’. We must be in tune with the generations who think, respond, react, and absorb differently from us. We must earnestly try to be ‘in sync’ with what their needs and concerns of the future are. We must listen to the drummer that leads them, guides them and directs them. Only by doing this will we reach out and make a difference in their lives and ours. While the message of Jesus Christ and his sacrifice remains the same, the methods and means of sharing that message must change with the times, without diminishing the meaning or impact of it.

Thanksgiving season is upon us (though I believe every season is a season for thanksgiving) and we are reminded of God’s love, mercy and goodness. We are called to respond to God in sacrificial ways. This includes not only talent, time, treasure, but also at times sacrificing our ossifying ways of thinking, dreaming, and acting so that the gospel of Jesus Christ may be made alive in new ways, new venues, new avenues of creativity. I encourage us to make this upcoming advent season a season for reflection on ways to embolden our members, friends and families to take risks, to step out on faith, to take advantage of opportunities to grow, and to make transformation and change an exciting and positive experience for all.

Love, peace and grace,

Pastor Rich



✠ Deacon News ✠

Prayer Chain

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colassae 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

Flowers for Altar

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on any Sunday(s) throughout the year, please sign-up on the “**flower chart**” on the bulletin board outside the church office. There is an area for the date, who they are given by, and if they are given for a reason (Please specify if they are given in honor of..., in memory of..., etc.).

Westminster Choir (Teens and Up)

Weekly Rehearsal: Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m. in classroom 4

Warm-up Rehearsal: Sundays, 9 a.m. in classroom 4.

Handbell Choir (Teens and Up)

Rehearsal in balcony following worship service.

Philhymnonic Orchestra (all ages)

Scheduled to play again on Dec. 11th.

If you have any questions about any of these groups, please call Laura Toland at 265-0650.

Membership & Congregational Life

Fair Trade Coffee

The Potsdam Co-op has agreed to sell the Church both regular and decaf **Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee** at their cost. This will allow us to serve Fair Trade Coffee at ALL church –sponsored events from now on. Along with

this cost savings, several individuals have indicated a desire to “gift” or pay for a case of coffee. To quote the slogan... “this is better coffee for you and better lives for the farmers.” Many thanks to the Potsdam Co-op and the others who will gift us with the coffee. Anyone wishing to purchase Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee can do so at the Potsdam Food Co-op. For more information, talk to Dawn Bartow, Bonnie Bruno, or Barbara Baker.



Mission

Monthly Community Dinners

We will now hold **TWO** Community Dinners each month in the Church Center. The 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month a dinner will be held from 5-6:30 p.m.

November's Community Dinners will be held on **Thursday, November 10th and Thursday, November 17.** We hope to see you there. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor.

CROP Walk

The CROP Walk was a wonderful success again this year. Overall, the total amount raised was \$4668.80. Our Church raised the most with \$1,670.00. Congratulations goes to Mary Theisen who raised \$370.00; The Caamaño family who raised \$290.00; and the Grant family who raised \$201.00. A big thanks goes out to everyone that contributed in anyway to make this so successful.

MINC Thanksgiving Dinner Project

Potsdam Presbyterian's contributions to the MINC Thanksgiving Dinner project will be:

10 cans of "other" (not green) vegetables

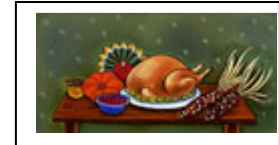
Ingredients for 5 fruit salads

5 units of potatoes

10 desserts

5 jars of condiments

20 other food items



MINC congregations from Adams to Waddington all contribute to create complete Thanksgiving boxes for needy families. Recipient families are not limited to farm families, though this is a project of the Farm Committee. If you would like to contribute and bringing food to church is not convenient or possible, the committee welcomes donations of money with which to purchase gift certificates for the purchase of meat (or fish). Checks should be made payable to MINC, and clearly designated for the Thanksgiving Dinner Project. They can be given to Cynthia Coleman or sent to Bonnie Boyd, MINC Receiving Treasurer, 5 Douglas Road, Norwood, NY 13668. The goal this year is to help 40 families. There will be a box in the hallway as you enter the Center, clearly marked MINC Thanksgiving, and we will collect donations until November 13th. On that Sunday, MINC meets at the Crary Mills church to assemble the boxes, then worship and enjoy fellowship and planning for winter events. If you know of families who might be served by this program, please notify a member of the Board of Deacons.

Stewardship

Consecration Sunday

Everyone is welcome to eat lunch immediately following the Worship service on Sunday, Nov. 6. We are thanking God for all of His gifts and we are committing ourselves to "make Holy" our gifts for the upcoming year.

We will draw the Stewardship Quiz entries and announce the "winners" sometime during lunch.

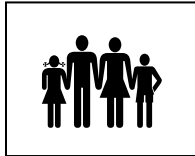
Don't forget to turn in your quiz answers....put your names on your entry!

Prizes are; a) \$25 gift certificate to Angelo's Seafood Restaurant, b) \$10 gift certificate to Little Italy, c) 1# Fair Trade Decaf Coffee. Answers are found in the Stewardship booklet, which was placed in the pews, they are found in the Bible, and also in the Covenants of Stewardship. Good Luck!

A reminder.....our Church is different from other social organizations. We are the ONLY organization committed to the Gospel and to God. While other community organizations do wondrous things and perform needed services, our commitment to our Church should represent the first fruits of our God-given gifts.

Attendance in Church

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for their participation in Potsdam First's Stewardship Program. One of the ways we can fulfill



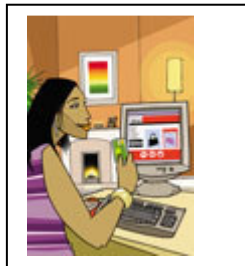
A Covenant for Personal Life is by making sure we don't miss coming to church every Sunday. Worship not only reminds us of God's enduring presence and love, it also helps us commune with people we love and want to be with. As stated on your Covenants paper, "Because God has given me life and called me 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 October attendance was:

Oct. 2 – 109	Oct. 9 - 110
Oct. 16 – 115	Oct. 23 - 106
Oct. 30 – 138	

Outreach

Web Site Briefing

Our church web site has two main purposes: to reach out to our neighbors, telling them who we are and what we do; and to be a resource of information for our own church community. The left-side navigation headings help our web site visitors find general information about our church; many also proclaim to the world those things our church holds most dear: Spiritual Life, Worship and Music, Serving Others, God's



Church, Education, Youth, and College. Navigation links to our church community information pages (i.e. links to Session, Deacons, Committees, and Groups) can be found on the page "Who

We Are." Announcements (from bulletin inserts, the "Parish Paper," etc.) are found on the "Church Family" page. Events are noted both on the "Home" page (linked from the Presbyterian logo in the upper left corner) and also on the "Calendar" page (linked from the calendar in the upper right corner). The link "More..." wherever

it appears, takes you to more information. Use our website:

<http://www.potsdampresbyterian.org>.

Help keep it current and relevant: e-mail corrections / changes / information / pictures to rkreuzer@stlawu.edu.

Ladies Guild

Rummage Sale News & MORE!

A big THANKS to all who helped with the rummage back in October, through their donations, hours of sorting, baked goods for the snack bar, taking a shift during the days of the sale, and clean-up. It looked to us to be possibly the largest sale in recent times with many varied and wonderful items. Thanks to the smiling faces of the workers, and the knowledge that a portion of the sales was going to hurricane relief, the customers seemed to be quite happy with the sale. As we closed up shop on Friday, the last bargain hunters were invited to take home anything they wished for free, which also sped up the clean up. Some items were boxed up, and are being stored in the basement or at the Walkers for next spring and fall sales. The total income was around \$2400 (a few things are still out on consignment), and the Guild will be sending at least a tithe to some specific church that suffered hurricane damage, as well as our prayers and friendship. More information on that project to follow!

With the sale safely behind us, we are asking for your HELP in a different way. For many years, the Guild has been involved with keeping our church home "in order", particularly the kitchen area, as many of our past activities involved "food and fellowship". In more recent times, the kitchen was re-organized and labeled, partly to help outside groups find the things they needed. Currently we check the main refrigerator once a month, discarding outdated or spoiled food. Some of our kitchen "angels" scrub the refrigerator when the spills call for it. The Guild has also "adopted" the nursery area on a small scale, and recently replaced the broken crib with a donated crib.

Our Center is a wonderful area shared with the community, and it is having ever increasing usage. Some weekdays and nights there are multiple activities, and Headstart now uses the nursery every day for some special needs students. Many weekends there are larger events like dinners, dances, conferences, training, etc. The Guild is finding that our light housekeeping

activities are inadequate to meet the demands of increasing building usage. We also believe that our



congregation may not be aware of the little details that are not "officially" covered by a staff person. Over the next few parish papers, we would like to share some simple ways all of us can help keep our church home inviting at all times. Here are a few suggestions for this month:

* if food needs to be saved for another church event, please label it with the sharpie pen on the refrigerator.

* if there are coffee hour leftovers you don't want to take home, why not find someone who would be blessed with taking it home. Too often we just end up throwing away leftovers, which we hate to do!

* if your children enjoy playing in the nursery during coffee hour, they can help by putting away all small toys on the shelves or in the appropriate bins. Headstart now brings a special needs student there every day – it also helps Ron keep the floor clean.

We appreciate your “helping hands”, as we all strive to leave our church home better than we find it!

Events/News

Learn to Knit

There is going to be a knitting class forming to teach anyone who wants to learn to knit. We hope there are many kids as well as adults interested. We have a couple of mission related knitting projects in mind to work on as you learn, so that you'll have practice and results all at the same time; and once you learn to knit, there are all kinds of possibilities. Let us know if you're interested by calling the church office, Sharon Pickard (265-4129) or Jane Wells (265-5325).



Book Group

The Book Group will be reading: Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals and the Call to Mercy, by Matthew Scully. They will meet on November 28th @ 7:30 p.m. @ the Caamaños.

Movie Group

Many thanks to Jon and Ruth Kreuzer for lending us their video and audio equipment to show “Hotel Rwanda” and “Luther” in October, and particularly for Jon’s technological expertise in making it work. With his help, we’ve done well in working out the bugs of lighting and sound and operating the video. Thanks, too, to the Session for purchasing the big screen for the Center for stimulating the idea of showing movies.

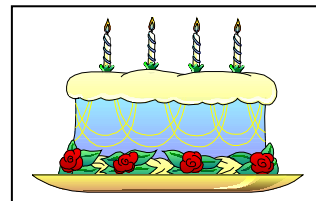
And while there may be much we may not appreciate about having the sun go down so early as the days get shorter, it does make viewing films in the Center a lot easier!

We don't have another Movie Group meeting scheduled right now, but information will be posted on the church web site, in the weekly

Parish Life insert, and announced at worship when we do. Meanwhile, we can go as a group to see movies in a theater, too. If there's a movie coming to Potsdam or Canton, which you think would be enjoyable and appropriate to go to see as a group, please talk with Helen Brouwer, Ruth Kreuzer or Eleanor Hopke.

Youth Group

The Youth Group has been very active this past month. We went on an overnight to Camp Overlook for a ropes course adventure. It was quite an experience for all of us. Being up high was both challenging and exciting. Some of us participated in the Crop Walk on the 16th and our Hallowe'en Party was on the 30th with costumes required. There were several contests, including the costumes, string donut eating, apple bobbing and a strange cup game that was enjoyed by some of the girls. Winners of the costume contest were: Kevin Allott-first, Colin Borsh-second, Marion Enslow-third, Daniel Brouwer-honorable mention, and Erin Anderson-creative. We're looking forward to our November meetings that will include leaf raking and Pajama Drama Day.



November Birthdays!

- 2 Sally Hoose
- 3 Pauline Holden
- 4 Jerry Gravander
- 5 Lionel Hewitson
- 7 Donald Borsh
- 8 Kate Ferrier
- 9 Tom Longshore
- 10 Betty Jeffers
Barry Blumenthal
- 11 Mike Nuwer
- 12 Betty Merriman
- 14 Melissa Woodbury
- 17 Colin Borsh
- 21 Richard Raymonda
Laura Toland
- 22 Katherine Allott
- 23 Floyd Callahan
- 24 Dorothy Gordanier
Scott Visser
- 26 Aimee Raymonda
Tom Weissinger
- 27 Peter Brouwer
- 28 Steve Yianoukos

Week of (Sun–Sat)	Hospital Deacons	Events of the Week	Sunday Worship	
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 Oct. 30 – Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 2 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Nov. 3 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 3 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2	<u>Oct. 30</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Peter Bird Richard & Vernice Church Gordy & Sue Theisen David & Kickie Britt Bob & Betty Fraser
Nov. 6 To Nov. 12	Tom Longshore And Scott Theisen	Nov. 6 – Consecration Sunday Nov. 6 – Youth Group, 3-5 p.m. Nov. 6 – Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 6 – College Student Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Vissers Nov. 9 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Nov. 10 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2 Nov. 10 – Christian Ed. Meeting, 7 p.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 11 – Office Closed – Veterans Day!	<u>Nov. 6</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Bob Pickard Mary Theisen, Betty Smith, Chip & Rosalie Hunter Bob & Connie Bicknell Steve & Joyce Yianoukos
Nov. 13 To Nov. 19	Nancy McKinley And Cindy Runge	Nov. 13 – Youth Group, 3-5 p.m. Nov. 13 – Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 15 – Session Meeting, 7 p.m. Nov. 16 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Nov. 17 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 17 – Community Dinner, 5 p.m. Nov. 17 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2	<u>Nov. 13</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Christa Rideout Joe & Connie Zelinski/ Armond & Ann Spencer Don & Peggy Burlingame Richard & Vernice Church
Nov. 20 To Nov. 26	Joyce Yianoukos And Helen Brouwer	Nov. 20 – Youth Group, 3-5 p.m. Nov. 20 – Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. Nov. 23 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Nov. 24 – Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving! Nov. 25 – Office Closed!	<u>Nov. 20</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Cindy Randi Kirk Severtson, The Visser Family Gordon & Katharine Batson/Bob & Betty Fraser
Nov. 27 To Dec. 3	Phil Paro And Dick Partch	Nov. 27 – Advent Workshop, 5 p.m., Center Nov. 28 – Book Group, 7:30 p.m. @ Caamaños Nov. 30 – Choir, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Dec. 1 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conf. Rm. Dec. 1 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2	<u>Nov. 27</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Neil Johnson Don Borsh & Meg Trainor Family Gary Bartow Family

Can you move up one category in 2006?

In 2005, we had pledging members and friends in each of the categories listed below:

<u>MEMBERS/FRIENDS</u>	<u>PLEDGE CATEGORY**</u>
16	NO MONEY PLEDGED
2	\$ 1.00 - 4.99/week
6	\$ 5.00 - 9.99/week
5	\$ 10.00 – 14.99/week
10	\$ 15.00 – 19.99/week
14	\$ 20.00 – 29.99/week
17	\$ 30.00 – 39.99/week
4	\$ 40.00 – 49.99/week
11	\$ 50.00 – 74.99/week
1	\$ 75.00 – 99.99/week
2	\$100.00 – 149.99/week
2	\$150.00 & Up/week

**These pledge categories represent the OPERATING BUDGET ONLY.

WEEKLY INCOME	YEARLY INCOME	TITHE	MIDDLE RANGE GIVING (per week)	LOWER RANGE GIVING (per week)
-----	-----	10%	6%	2%
\$ 100.00	\$ 5,200	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 2.00
\$ 200.00	\$ 10,400	\$ 20.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 4.00
\$ 300.00	\$ 15,600	\$ 30.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 6.00
\$ 400.00	\$ 20,800	\$ 40.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 8.00
\$ 500.00	\$ 26,000	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
\$ 600.00	\$ 31,200	\$ 60.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 12.00
\$ 700.00	\$ 36,400	\$ 70.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 14.00
\$ 800.00	\$ 41,600	\$ 80.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 16.00
\$ 900.00	\$ 46,800	\$ 90.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 18.00
\$1,000.00	\$ 52,000	\$100.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 20.00
\$1,100.00	\$ 57,200	\$110.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 22.00
\$1,200.00	\$ 62,400	\$120.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 24.00
\$2,500.00	\$130,000	\$300.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00

*The First Presbyterian Church
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Potsdam, New York 13676*

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