

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church
Cookeville, TN 38501
www.firstprescookeville.org

April 2010

Our Particular Mission

In the last issue of the newsletter, I wrote about the Great Ends of the Church and how Presbyterians of 100 years ago wrestled with the meaning and purpose of being the church. Over the past two weeks our Wednesday night study group has discussed the mission statement of our particular congregation. Many people may not even know that we have a mission statement, much less what that mission statement is. You can find it on the home page of our web site. It was the product of the discernment process that led the search committee to call me as your pastor.

Our mission statement is this: Called by the Holy Spirit into the First Presbyterian Church of Cookeville, we seek to be a community in Christ whose worship and study, fellowship with one another, and service to others embody the love of God.

The mission statement has some corollary statements that expand the vision of our mission: We are a transforming congregation that honors a diversity of gifts and respects each individual's journey of faith while challenging everyone to grow in discipleship to Christ through a full range of educational, training, and service programs for all ages and groups. We are a growing congregation that welcomes visitors, actively reaches out to people in the community, and makes space for new people by offering them friendship and significant work to do within the church. We are a serving congregation that offers its members and friends many opportunities to embody in their own lives Christ's ministry of compassion and to work for justice, freedom and peace.

In many ways, this is a very complex statement, which is difficult to summarize in a few words. That also means that there are many different ways to interpret the mission statement and many different ways to apply it to our individual lives and to our life together as a congregation. The Wednesday night group had quite a time discussing the meaning of the statement and deciding how we are living up to our own expectations. It was a wonderful discussion and we could celebrate our successes while also recognizing areas where we fall short of our goals.

My challenge to everyone in the congregation is to look at this mission statement more closely. For some of you it may mean looking at it for the first time. Is it still an accurate statement for our congregation? What are we doing well? What can we do better? Are there better ways to describe who we are? Are there better ways to challenge ourselves? How can we measure our progress? And, how do we hold ourselves accountable? These are just a few of the questions rattling around in my head this week.

Peace,
Pat H.

Maundy Thursday Service

We will hold a special service commemorating the Last Supper at 7:00pm on Maundy Thursday, April 1. That was the night that Jesus ate with his disciples before being arrested and taken before Pilate to be crucified. It is a solemn remembrance of Jesus' last words to his followers before being nailed to the cross. Everyone is invited to be a part of this service of remembrance. There will not be communion on Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday

Easter is the most important day of the Christian year, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb and his victory over death. We want to make sure that everyone who comes to church that day has a great experience. We will start the day with a breakfast of pancakes and sausage in Fellowship Hall, from 8:30-10:00am. There will be no speaker's class that morning so breakfast diners may linger for an extended time of fellowship. All other Sunday school classes will take place as usual. Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00am. Invite family members, friends and neighbors to share the day. It may be crowded but it will be well worth the tight quarters in order to sing special praises to our risen Lord.

Centennial Calendar (A Work in Progress)

Speakers Series

Hosted in Conjunction with the Friends of the Cookeville Museums

April 22— Bill Landry, “The Heartland Series”

May 27—Mary Evins, “Joe L. Evins: A Life of Public Service”

August 5— Ben Nance, “Prehistoric Tennessee: Archaeology of the Cumberland Plateau”

September 16—Fred Prouty, “Civil War Sesquicentennial in Tennessee”

November 4—“The Tennessee Maneuvers and Cookeville”

All events at 7p.m.

Art Shows

April 12-June 30— Cookeville Camera Club

July 5-September 30—First Presbyterian Artists, Past and Present

October 4-December 31— Nancy Dixon Retrospective

Concert Series

TBA

History Speaker

On Thursday, April 22, Bill Landry of WBIR, Knoxville, will be at our church to talk about his Heartland TV series. This very popular series highlighted local people and local areas, including people and places in the Upper Cumberland. The presentation which is part of the Cookeville History Museum Heritage Lectures will begin at 7:00pm. Talk to Michael Birdwell for more information.

Financial Update

At the end of February, church finances are strong and stable. Church income totaled over \$59,000, with expenses coming in at over \$36,000. Thanks to several church members who make their complete pledge payments at the beginning of the year, we started the year in a strong position. This has allowed us to be very active in mission projects, with two trips to Tazewell, TN and our week long trip to Montgomery, WV. There was also a generous response to disaster needs in Haiti and that money was sent on its way very quickly

The One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports Presbyterian mission projects around the world, will be received through the week of Easter.

Meet Our Newest Member

Bob See, born and raised Californian, recently moved to Tennessee from Orange County where he was a real estate broker. He isn't really sure as to why he moved to Cookeville, but he does have a sister in our congregation, Ginny Langpap. Bob has two grown daughters and has grandchildren still in CA. He likes to garden and plays golf and has already been involved with the water treatment mission trips.

Christian Education

By Erin Angel

Easter Egg Hunt

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. We would like all children to bring a bag of plastic Easter eggs stuffed with goodies. Any church members who would like to donate stuffed plastic eggs can bring them by the church office the week before Easter. We are asking that the middle class (Sharyl Hansen's class) arrive at 9:30 to help hide Easter eggs for the younger children, then stick around to help them look. The hunt will begin at 10:00.

Volunteers needed

If you would be interested in being a substitute teacher for our children and youth Sunday school teachers, please let Erin know. Every once in a while our teachers need a break.

Mark your calendars

VBS is scheduled for Sunday June 6th through Tuesday June 8th from 5:30 until 8:00 each night. Once again we will be having classes for all ages, including adults. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information.

Dinner Out Group

By Kaye Craig

Come join us on Saturday April 17, 5:00pm at Casa Mexicana Restaurant, 440 Market Square, Livingston, Tn. Casa Mexicana Restaurant is located next to Food Lion and across the street from Livingston Academy. Ron and Marilyn Ledbetter have graciously opened their home in Livingston for dessert and coffee after the dinner. Sign up sheets are at both doors of the sanctuary. Please indicate if you will be able to attend at the Ledbetters' home. If you have any questions please call Kaye Craig at 537-3714

Presbytery Meeting

As part of our 100th anniversary celebration, we will host the July 24th meeting of the Presbytery. It is a Saturday meeting, which generally begins at 8:00am and finishes up about 3:00pm. During the course of the day about 200 delegates from the various churches throughout middle Tennessee will be here to worship, hear reports, vote on motions, eat lunch and discuss the business of the Presbytery. We will need lots of help to make sure that everyone has a positive experience that day. From greeting people and helping them find their way around the building and grounds, to leading worship, to preparing and serving lunch, to cleaning up at the end of the day, it will take many hands to make the work go smoothly. Several people have already begun the preparations and at the April session meeting more specific planning will get underway. Please plan to be a part of that special day and ask about how you can best serve. Talk to Pat Handlson for more information.

Mission Matters

Our work team has returned from Montgomery, WV with lots of stories and pictures. Many from the group shared some of their experiences during a Sunday school class. There are still pictures from the trip on display in Fellowship Hall. There are also pictures on the church's web site. The work consisted of repairs to walls and floors damaged by flooding. Team members also helped out at the local crisis closet, housed at the church in Montgomery. It was a memorable experience for everyone involved and there seems to be a consensus that we will return to WV for another work trip next spring.

A bit closer to home, we have completed two water treatment installations in Tazewell, TN. The next water system may be headed for Morgan County in April or May. We are making an effort to identify needs closer to Putnam County, so that we can work more efficiently and in a more cost effective manner. We are also trying to find other churches in the area to work with us on this growing mission. Contact Bill Swim for more information.

Another mission opportunity is available for anyone who might want to join folks from First Cumberland Church on their next trip to Long Beach, Mississippi. The trip is the last week of April and will be one of the last work trips to take place at that site along the gulf coast. Talk to Pat Handlson for details.

Dismas House

Another of the mission projects we support is the Dismas House, a transitional residence for people coming out of prison. Participants in the program get the help they need to rejoin society and reduce the likelihood of re-incarceration. Dismas House will hold an open house on Wednesday, April 7, from 11am to 3pm. The house is located at 1226 Byrne Avenue, close to the stadium at TTU. There will also be a fundraising dinner on Friday, April 23 from 6:00-7:30pm in the multi-purpose room at the Roaden Center on the TTU campus. The speaker that night will be Ray Krone, a convicted murderer who served time on death row and was later exonerated by DNA evidence. Ray Krone spoke at our church last year. Call the church office for more information.

One World Market Needs Help at WOW

Window on the World, an international festival to celebrate cultural diversity and global harmony, will be held in the RUC of TTU from 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, April 17. The festival has over 6,000 participants and fills the university center with music, dancing, food, displays and sales. One of the sales tables is traditionally filled by items from our One World Market. Anyone who can give two hours to table-sit or to set up or pack up would be very much appreciated. Our sales help both local and international missions.

Dinner at the Rescue Mission

We will be serving dinner at the Cookeville Rescue Mission on Tuesday, April 13. This is an opportunity to prepare and serve a meal, as well as be a part of the worship experience with the residents at the mission that evening. Contact the church office for more information.

Nursery Worker Needed

Holly Fox has been working faithfully in our nursery on Sunday mornings and has taken good care of our youngest children. She will soon be graduating and leaving for Seattle so we are once again on the lookout for a capable person to keep our children during Sunday school and worship. If you have suggestions, please contact Katie Kumar.



Read Anything Good Lately?

By Thelma Johnson

Fifty Miles From Tomorrow by William Hensley.

Willie Hensley was abandoned by his mother when he was two years old; he never knew his father. Fortunately, he was taken into the family of an uncle, and his early years were spent in the welcoming inclusive culture of the Inuit people of northern Alaska. Their life was subsistence level and full of hardship but they were completely independent--until Alaska became a state and the U. S. government imposed its laws and restrictions on the native people. Willie was bright and when he reached high school, he was sent to Chilhowee school in Seymour, Tennessee for his education. College followed with scholarships and hard work, and Willie's return to his native village was both happy and sad. The old life was vanishing and the people were treated the same way the American Indians were treated in the lower forty-eight.

Hensley spent eight years in the Alaska legislature, ran for Congress and was defeated, and became at last the spokesman for native peoples of all cultures. He persuaded the Congress to set aside millions of acres for the various tribes so they could become self-sufficient in a changing world, and is now a liaison between Alaska and Washington, D. C., in native American matters. The book is easy to read and gives insight into the problems of a people who have lived thousands of years without need for government or police, and are suddenly thrust into the modern world in all its disturbing and sometimes terrifying complexity.

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BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Bill Cameron
- 1 - Lonnie Hester
- 1 - Ronnie Reno
- 6 - Patricia Elsensohn
- 6 - Joanne Kibbons
- 18 - Gerald Hansen
- 18 - John Phillips
- 22 - Lisa Dollar
- 24 - Ginny Anderson
- 25 - Jonathan Holland
- 25 - Velma Thompson
- 27- Annabelle McCormick

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 - Mike Birdwell and
Tammy O'Dell
- 15 - Gary and Sharon Dyer
- 26 - Ron and Marilyn Ledbetter

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In Our Prayers

Persons Homebound: Jessie Lee Lamb.
In Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Facilities: Mary Martha Bush; Beulah Doran, Patricia Elsensohn; Dorothy Grant, Edith Jared, and Frances Snyder.
Keep in prayer also: Dick Armstrong; Helen Copeland; Charlie Craig; Joyce DuBey; Myrna Estes; Lonnie Hester; Wayne Hogan; Don Medley; John Phillips; Jennette Volpe's uncle, Turner Boyd; Grace Anna Sine's brother, Don Green; Jean Metz, former church secretary; Eli Covington who is doing mission work in Nicaragua; and the people in the armed services especially Giles Evans and Lorelei Hammond.

Beersheba

Please sign up to enjoy the musical retreat at Beersheba with Wei Tsun and Seanad Chang and their colleagues on April 9 and 10! Go on Friday night to relax or do some hiking or come on Saturday morning. For those coming on Saturday morning, breakfast will be served from 9-10 and music will begin at 10:30. Talk to Diane about food assignments.

Questions? Contact Sam or Diane Glasgow 260-9350

**Next newsletter deadline is
 April 23**
 Phone Debbie Handlson at 536-5486 or e-mail (phandlson@aol.com) or Katie Kumar at 528-7968 or e-mail (KJKumar@tntech.edu) with any information you would like to have included.

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