

# The Messenger

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

December 2011

## *Leftover Turkey? Make Some Soup*

I have had several people ask me about recipes for some of the soups I have served at church. Most often, the request is for the turkey, vegetable, wild rice soup. Since many folks have leftover turkey this time of year, I thought now might be a good time to pass it along. Of course, each time you make soup it is a bit different and the vegetables vary with the season and whatever is in the kitchen at the time but here are some basics. Chop and sauté a small onion, in butter or olive oil. Chop your root vegetables; carrots, turnips, potatoes and put them on to boil in turkey broth. If you don't have turkey broth, you can use chicken broth. Add an equal amount of skim milk to make sure there is enough liquid to cover the vegetables. In another pot, prepare the wild rice. A cup of uncooked rice makes about three cups of finished rice, which will easily make 8 servings. Chop the turkey and add to the soup. You want at least two cups of turkey. Chop and add small heads of broccoli and cauliflower. Season the whole mix with seasoned salt, garlic and black pepper. Slice and sauté mushrooms and zucchini and add them to the mix. When the wild rice is finished, drain any excess liquid and add the rice to the soup. Finally, when the soup is simmering, add 6-8 slices of Swiss cheese and stir it well to make sure it melts smoothly. The entire process takes about an hour and a half. Depending on how much turkey you have and how big your vegetables are, you should have soup for 8-10 people. It tastes just as good on the second day.

But now the Thanksgiving holiday is officially over and we can start to think about Christmas without feeling like we are getting ahead of ourselves. There is so much to do and enjoy as we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Plan to be a part of it all.

Peace,  
Pat H.

---

## *Christmas Worship Opportunities*

### *Savior of the Nations, Come*

On Sunday, December 11, our choir will lead the congregation in a festival of hymns featuring Michael Burkhardt's arrangements for choir, congregation, brass quartet and organ, with readings from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This special advent tradition is always one of the biggest days of the church's year. It is a great day to invite students and friends to attend. Following worship, we will enjoy the fellowship of our second Sunday potluck.

### *Christmas Eve Worship*

Christmas Eve is on a Saturday this year. We will have special Christmas Eve worship service beginning at 6:30pm. The advent candles and the Christ candle will all be lit as we welcome the birth of our Savior. The choir will sing and we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

For those of you who enjoy an intimate, late night, Christmas Eve gathering, the Handlsons will once again be celebrating Christmas at their home beginning at 10:30pm and culminating with a candlelight celebration at midnight. There will be caroling, prayers, and a variety of foods and beverages to enjoy. All are welcome. The Handlsons' address is 315 E. 14th Street.

### *Christmas Day Worship*

Christmas day falls on a Sunday this year. We will worship at our regular time of 11:00am. The adult Fellowship Class will meet for Sunday school at 9:45am. The other adult classes and the children and youth classes will not meet that morning. There will be child care in the nursery.

## ***Christmas Parade***

The Christmas parade has been rescheduled for Monday, December 5. The time and route will be the same: 7:00pm, passing alongside the church by about 7:15 and ending about 9:00pm. We will serve hot chocolate to parade watchers in our parking lot. Anyone who can help out with this service is asked to come to church about 6:00pm. We will also be handing out invitations to our birthday party for Jesus, which will take place on Tuesday, December 20, beginning at 6:00pm. Contact Pat Handlson for more information.

## ***We Care:***

### ***A Birthday Party for Jesus***

The next meeting of We Care, the foster care support group, will be on Tuesday, December 20, beginning at 5:00pm. The menu for the evening will be ham and potatoes. At 6:00pm, we will open our doors to the wider community and have a birthday party for Jesus. There will be entertainment, telling of the Christmas story, gift certificate for the children, and, cake and ice cream for all. If you know of families that might be interested in attending, please let them know about this fellowship opportunity. You can even pick up a special invitation that includes a birthday candle to put on the cake. Talk to Pat Handlson for more details on how to help.

## ***Christmas Joy Offering***

Each Christmas we receive the Joy Offering, a special opportunity to assist young people at Presbyterian related schools. Many come from low income families and might not otherwise be able to afford college or attend high schools where they can get special attention. The Joy Offering also helps retired church workers and their families who are having trouble making ends meet because of special circumstances, such as health issues, or, because they worked at positions which offered small or no retirement benefits. The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken throughout the month of December.

## ***Wednesday Night Bible Study***

During the Advent season, we will look at the Psalms that are part of the lectionary for this time of year. We will explore what the Hebrew people were praying for and expecting and, what those Psalms say to us now as Christians, waiting for the return of Christ. The study is from 6:30-7:30pm. Several folks bring a brown bag supper and share a time of food and fellowship as well. Supper generally begins about 5:45pm.

## ***Nativity Collections***

The Cookeville History Museum presents "Nativity: A Collection" which is on display now at the Museum, 40 E. Broad St. until December 30. They are from the collection of Father Chad Puthoff of Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Jill Horner of Hooper, Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. The nativity pieces are from Honduras, Russia, Indonesia, Australia, Malta and many other countries. For more information call 931-520-5455.

## ***Financial Update***

After five years of easily exceeding our budget and being able to make extra payments to a number of mission projects, 2011 looks like a year in which we may fall short of our expectations. Of course, there is still time to rally and meet the 2011 budget. Please give careful and prayerful consideration to the work of the church as we come to the end of the calendar year.

The session is also currently working on setting a budget for the year 2012. Everyone is invited to return a pledge card to the church to assist the elders and finance committee members plan the very best budget possible. There is much work for us to do as a congregation. In addition to caring for our own members and friends, we are a presence in the community that is not duplicated by other churches or organizations. Let's make sure that our voice is heard and that our mission continues to make a strong statement about our ministry. Thanks to all for your generous support of the church.

## ***Spring Break Mission Trips***

There will be two opportunities for mission experiences over TTU's Spring break, March 4-11, 2012. The first will be rebuilding homes in Birmingham, AL, which were destroyed by tornadoes last summer. The second trip will be to the Koinonia Farm outside Atlanta, GA. This farm has been an interracial, social justice experiment since the 1940's. More information about each of these trips will be available soon and we want people to get the dates on their calendars. If you are interested in participating in either of these mission trips, contact Diane Glasgow, Pat Handlson or Andy Smith.

---

### ***One World Market***

Check out the One World Market for a variety of Christmas gifts from around the world. The market is open Saturdays from 10-2 and before worship each Sunday morning.

---

### ***Genesis House Mitten Tree***

The children's Sunday school classes are again sponsoring the Sock & Mitten Tree for the Genesis House. All sizes of socks, mittens and scarves for women and children are needed. Soon we will know sizes so that we can also donate sweaters. The 35 families need toiletries of all kinds and toys for the children. (We'll know ages soon.) You have always been very generous with your donations making the tree a huge success.

---

### ***Mastersingers Concert***

Mastersingers presents their Christmas concert featuring Antonio Vivaldi's stirring *Gloria* and many Christmas favorites at 3 pm on Sunday, December 11 at the Bryan Fine Arts Building.

---

### ***The Enlightenment & Inspiration Class***

The Enlightenment & Inspiration Class which meets in Fellowship Hall announces their December schedule of speakers. The class begins at 9:45 am fellowship and the program begins at 10:00. All are welcome to come to the class.

Dec 4 Elinor Ross

Dec 11 John Lee, Stephen's Ministry

Dec 18 Video

Dec 25 No Class

---

### ***Dinner Out***

The Dinner Out Group will meet on Saturday, December 10 at Maddux Station, 319 E. Spring Street at 5:00 p.m. The restaurant is located across the street from the courthouse on the square. Signup sheets are available at each sanctuary entrance. Please call Annette Coorts (526-3301) for further information or if you have signed up and are unable to attend.

---

### ***Congregational Assessment***

At its most recent meeting, the session heard from Michael Davis regarding our congregational assessment. The final report should be available by the end of the year but the preliminary report shows that we are an active church with a high sense of mission beyond our own congregation. That should not come as a surprise to anyone who has been paying attention. At the same time, we must also be aware of the changing demographics of our community. We are older and less diverse than the community around us and that raises issues for us and the future of our ministry. What kind of ministry will we make our priority in the coming years and how willing will we be to considering the changes that may be needed to thrive. Early in the next year, we will have opportunities to discuss the findings of the report. Stay tuned.

---

### ***Worship on our Web Site***

If you miss Sunday worship or want to invite a friend to learn more about our church, go to our web site [www.firstprescookeville.org](http://www.firstprescookeville.org). Once you are at the web site, click on the audio link. That will take you to a page listing Sunday services by date. Click on the date you want to hear and you will see a bulletin from that Sunday. Click on the portion of the service you are interested in and it will begin to play. You can listen to the sermon, the anthem, the announcements, or the entire service. You are only a couple of clicks away. Each Sunday's service is generally available by the following Monday.

**D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 02—David Boles
- 04—Kay Katz
- 05—Jacob Angel
- 06—Emily McCormick
- 13—Jeannie Mills
- 15—David Campbell
- 15—Tim Harrison
- 15—Ed Milner, Jr.
- 16—Linda Wilson
- 19—Ernie Robertson
- 19—Barry Turner
- 20—Robert See
- 21—Sharon Dyer
- 22—Sylvia Milner
- 26—Marilyn Aitken
- 28—Pam Hayes

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 20—Gordon and  
Gene Anne Hunter
- 27—Jon and Diane Dugle
- 27—Bill and Janice Swim

***In Our Prayers***

***In Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Facilities:*** Edith Jared, Joanne Miller, Frances Snyder.

***Keep in prayer also:*** Mary Armstrong; Mike Birdwell; Cleo & Joyce DuBey; Sam Glasgow; Don & Judy Medley; Hugh Piercey; Eliseo Rios; Mary Smith; Grace Anna Sine's brother, Don Green; Linda Wilson's sister, Diane Roby; Barbara & Dave Riddell's daughter, Carrie Lee; Peggy Rittenberry's sister, Linda West; Robert See's & Ginny Langpap's sister, Shirley Nelson; Sharon Myer's neice, Barbara Powers; Andy Smith's father, Kenneth Smith and son of a friend, Arbor McRoberts; Jean Metz; Linda Furtsch; Cindy Dyer; Susan Dowland; Deryl Martin's nephew, Kyle Martin; the orphanage in Lesotho, Africa, and the people in the armed services, especially Giles Evans, Lt. Josh and Ashley McClellan, Ty Langford and Lance Cpl. Kevin L. Honaker.

**Next newsletter deadline is  
December 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.

**Church Office:**

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
(931) 526-4424  
(firstprescooke@frontiernet.net)  
Pastor: The Rev. Pat Handlson  
home: 526-5486  
(phandlson@frontiernet.net)  
www.firstprescookeville.org

First Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.  
20 N. Dixie Ave.  
Cookeville, TN 38501

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cookeville, TN  
Permit No. 59

Or Current Resident

