

# The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church  
Cookeville, TN 38501  
[www.firstprescookeville.org](http://www.firstprescookeville.org)

October 2011

## *Somebody to Love*

When I was growing up, I remember a few times when we didn't have a place to live. When that happened, relatives took us in and we stayed with them until things got a little better and we could find our own housing again. As a child, I didn't think too much about it, it was just the way we lived. I always had a place to sleep and something to eat. It might have been a bed shared with siblings or cousins and a meal I didn't particularly enjoy but we made the best of it and I didn't worry about it. Worrying was a job for grownups. Now, I can only imagine the thoughts and feelings that my parents were experiencing during those times

In our own community there are dozens, perhaps even hundreds, of families that are experiencing similar problems. They are having a terrible time making ends meet and taking care of their children. Like my family, many of these at risk families rely on relatives for support. Some even hand over their children to be cared for by others. Of course, sometimes it is a legal necessity. Parents get arrested for a variety of reasons and can't care for their children. Relatives step in and take over for a while, maybe even years. When that happens, the families providing the help may get stressed to the breaking point. Suddenly, you have two or three extra mouths to feed, clothe and supervise. Sometimes it seems like there isn't nearly enough time, energy or money to get everything done the right way.

As we have been going through this latest visioning process, I have been confronted with a number of community problems and needs which the church has been asked to consider. The issue we are most familiar with is the clean water initiative that we have been working on for several years. We have identified a growing number of families within our community who have badly polluted water and we have helped many of them by installing water purification systems and teaching them how to keep them operating safely and efficiently. We can feel good about how our church has stepped in and made a difference in the lives of these families. I have no doubt that we will continue to be actively involved in this mission.

Now it is time to consider adding other missions to our church's ministry. One that has come up recently is the need for support for foster families who are caring for extended family members. Because they are related, these families are not eligible for any financial support from either the county or the state. Their homes are inspected to make sure the children are being cared for in a safe and appropriate manner but they often lack additional resources and support to make the best decisions for all concerned.

I would like to see if we can make a difference in the lives of these at risk families. On Tuesday, October 18, beginning at 5pm., we will host an informational meeting for foster families who are interested in meeting on a regular basis in order to share stories and concerns and find help for the common problems they face. I want to do more than simply offer space for a meeting. I suggested that we might be able to prepare a meal for the families and child care for the children while the adults meet. I think we might offer tutoring for school age children and a discussion group for older youth. Anyone who wants to help with this meeting, please contact me. God is putting people in our path and asking us to love them.

Peace,  
Pat H.

## ***Farewell but not Good Bye***

After four years, Erin Angel has resigned as Parish Associate and will concentrate on her work as Campus Minister at TTU's Presbyterian Student Association. Erin intends to maintain a strong relationship with our church, as well as with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In her letter to the session Erin wrote, "I remain grateful to First Presbyterian Church for the many friends I have made, for the pastoral care shown me during my car wreck at the end of my tenure as your Interim Pastor and for the same care you have given me during these last four years. It is my prayer that the friendships I have formed will continue." The session accepted Erin's resignation with regret and appreciation for her service to the church. A reception for Erin will be held following worship on Sunday, October 2.

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

Soon we will finish our discussion of spiritual gifts. The next Wednesday night study will be an examination of the landscapes of the Bible. We will explore themes such as: gardens, the wilderness, vineyards, mountaintops, valleys and more. We will discuss these metaphors as they are presented in the Bible and as they relate to our lives today. 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.

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

The Enlightenment & Inspiration Class which meets in Fellowship Hall announces their fall 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.

Oct 2 Suellen Alfred  
Oct 9 Calvin Dickinson  
Oct 16 Video  
Oct 23 Hector Black, Prison Ministry  
Oct 30 Hill Carlen  
Nov 6 Suellen Alfred  
Nov 13 Diane Glasgow, Report on Mission Trip  
Nov 20 Video  
Nov 27 No Class  
Dec 4 Elinor Ross  
Dec 11 John Lee, Stephen's Ministry  
Dec 18 Video  
Dec 25 No Class

## ***Congregational Life Survey***

Our congregation has been chosen to participate in the largest and most representative survey of worshipers ever conducted in the United States. Our responses will be combined with those of people from many other congregations to provide an accurate picture of people who worship in the United States.

The survey will take place during worship on Sunday, November 6. It will be a communion Sunday, so that we will have a good number of participants. The survey will take the place of the sermon that day. Everyone who attends church is asked to participate, whether a member or friend of the congregation.

Our congregation will receive a summary of the responses of our particular church, showing a profile of who we are, our religious backgrounds and our involvement in the congregation's ministry and mission. We will also see how our responses compare to the national picture of people who attend worship during this time in the life of our nation.



## ***Financial Update***

At the end of August, the church's overall financial status remains good. Giving for the first eight months was just over \$156,000, about \$3,000 ahead of the budget. Expenses for the year so far have been just under \$170,000, including about \$34,000 for the new virtual organ components and installation.

For the past several years, the church has started out the year with a strong core of regular giving. This year has not been as strong as the previous several years. Now as we move through the summer months, it is very important to remain committed to our support of the church's ministry and mission. This will be especially important in the area of local mission, such as support of Helping Hands and the Samaritan Fund.

There is also a need for contributions in support of the new organ. The session voted to take money out of reserve funds to make sure that all the work could be completed in a timely manner. Now we would like to replenish the reserve funds for future needs. Thanks to all for your generous support of the church.

## ***Epic Sandwiches and Energizing Soups***

Our young people had such a great time at Montreat that they want to start planning for next year as soon as possible. On the second Sunday of October, instead of our normal potluck lunch, the young people will host the lunch and ask for your donations to the Montreat cause. You will not be disappointed and the young people will be on their way to another great experience. Make sure you have October 9 on your calendar.

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## ***Dinner Out***

October 22 the Dinner Out Group will see Fiddler on the Roof at 2:30 pm at the Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville. Tickets are \$23 or \$12 for children or students. *Deadline to reserve tickets is October 12.* Dinner afterwards will be at Forte's on the Square. It is a steak and seafood house with an Italian flair in a historic building! Attend the show or dinner or both. Invite friends! Questions? Diane Glasgow 931-260-9350.

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## ***C2G is Back***

With the fall semester at TTU well underway, the Come 2 Gather group has returned to Fellowship Hall. The group meets for worship and discussion on Sundays at 5pm, followed by a potluck meal, generally wrapping up by 7:30pm. C2G follows the TTU calendar.

For those who need a refresher on what Come 2 Gather is; it is a Christ centered experimental casual service of worship where everyone is invited to participate. There is a brief message, based on Scripture, followed by an open ended discussion and opportunities to share prayer concerns. Music is provided by participants. It is an alternative to the traditional worship style of Sunday morning, and, it is also different from many of the college ministry worship services that are available on the TTU campus. The leadership of C2G comes predominantly from First Presbyterian Church but other Christian traditions are also represented. All ages are welcome and all stages of faith development are invited to participate and share in the journey.

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## ***Directory Change***

**Gloria Thomas'** new phone number is 528-7824

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## ***Nashville Flood Relief***

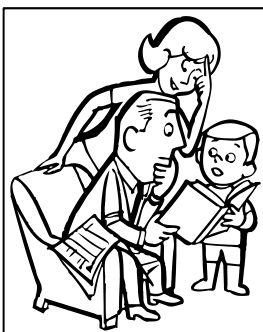
We have another opportunity to help with flood relief in Nashville. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance teams work out of Westminster Presbyterian Church and generally schedule groups for a week at a time. We are scheduled for the week of October 30 to November 4. Because we are so close to Nashville we have the option of spending the entire week or going down for shorter durations, even a single day. If you are interested in participating in this local mission trip, contact Diane Glasgow or Pat Handlson for forms and more information.

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## ***Broad Street Boo Bash***

Halloween falls on a Monday this year and several local organizations are working to provide a community party for families and children. Broad Street will be closed between Dixie and Fleming Streets for several hours that evening and cars filled with candy and goodies will offer families a safe and exciting experience that evening, from 5-8pm. There will be costume contests for all ages. There may also be activities in the newly expanded Dogwood Park. Our church is invited to participate by providing people, cars and candy during that time period. We are collecting candy now and recruiting folks willing to park their cars along Broad Street and hand out candy to participants. This may become an annual event along Broad Street and ideas are welcome during this formative stage. Contact Pat Handlson for more information.

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## ***Read Anything Good Lately?***

DEFIANCE, by Nechama Tec and Edward Zwick.

This remarkable story is a revelation of a little-known heroic effort to save Jews during WWII. Tuvia Bielski with his two brothers organized and managed a shelter for Jews who hid out from the Germans in Belarus. They formed a secret community in the forest and rescued 1200 Jews and kept them safe for three years until they were liberated at the end of the war. Their struggle to survive is one of the few incidents of Jews saving Jews, and refutes the general feeling that victims of the Holocaust were passive.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

- 01—Kenneth (Casey) Price
- 01—Paul Thurmond
- 03—Peggy Rittenberry
- 04—Chelsea Holland
- 05—Josef Bullard
- 09—Andy Smith
- 15—Katie Kumar
- 17—Lois Burgess
- 22—Ed Dixon
- 31—Charlene Gregory
- 31—Ron Ledbetter

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 04—Mike and Judy Pumar
- 18—Steve Chapman and  
Donna Simpson
- 24—John Flanders and  
Annette Coorts

***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 Myers’ niece, Barbara Powers; Jean Metz; Linda Furtsch; Cindy Dyer; Susan Dowland; Deryl Martin’s nephew, Kyle Martin; and the people in the armed services, especially Giles Evans.

**Next newsletter deadline is  
August 23**

Phone Debbie Handlson at 536-5486  
or e-mail (phandlson@aol.com) or  
Katie Kumar at 528-7968 or  
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with any information  
you would like to have included.

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