

# The Messenger

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

April 2009

## ***Thoughts from Houma, Louisiana***

Sixteen people participated in the latest mission trip to the gulf coast where people have been out of their homes for over six months. Houma is about 45 miles southwest of New Orleans. Some of our group worked on a private residence, taping and sanding the ceilings and walls for painting the following week. The rest worked at Bayou Towers, a public housing unit for senior citizens and disabled adults. Here is a random sampling and a compilation of some of the thoughts shared by the folks who gave up a week to help people affected by hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

The PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) camp was well organized. Ours was one of four groups that week. The others came from North Carolina, California and New Jersey. We were 76 workers in all. We lived in blue plastic corrugated tents that were hot during the day and cold at night. Fortunately, temperatures that week were about 80 and around 60 at night, so we were fairly comfortable. The dining hall was air conditioned, thank goodness. We all ate our morning and evening meals together, with each group taking its turns to help the paid staff prepare meals. We enjoyed wonderful hot showers and flush toilets at the PDA camp thanks to modern technology and the donations of Presbyterians from around the country. The shower truck is parked next to the tents and people visit and chat about their day as they wait in line for the next available shower. Many of us had frog experiences as there were lots of little green tree frogs that shared our camp space. At least two were given names: Frere frog, who lived in the women's shower, and, Trudeau, the tree frog, who kept the men's large tent mosquito free.

On Sunday morning, we worshiped at the Bayou Blue Presbyterian church. We all got mugs from the church and at the end of worship they surrounded us and prayed for us. It meant a lot to them that we would make the trip and also attend worship. They often feel abandoned by the rest of the country. On that Wednesday, they provided a mega dessert bar that kept us in desserts for the rest of the week. On Tuesday night, we were fed by the Methodists; all the seafood gumbo we could eat, and more than we should have eaten. These local folks glowed with hospitality, even though many of them had their own hurricane horror stories to tell. We might not be so giving were we in their shoes.

We went on a fascinating swamp tour. See photos at [www.cajunman.com](http://www.cajunman.com). Our guide played a Cajun accordion, guitar, and sang as well as called alligators to the boat, even feeding them raw chicken on a stick. We saw a baby eagle, turtles, nutria, baby alligators, and learned about Shell Oil Company from a Cajun point of view. Everyone came home with lots of pictures of alligators. The swamp can be a very beautiful yet eerie place to visit. And, it's good to have a guide as it is also a very easy place to get lost and never be found again.

Work days were from 8-4:30, including a lunch break of sandwiches that we made at camp in the morning. The tower staff and volunteer coordinators kept us busy; assigning us to painting projects, cleaning apartments, putting up ceiling tiles, moving furniture or spending time with residents who were seeing their homes for the first time in over six months. It was sad and traumatic for many of them as they realized all their furniture and clothes had mold or mildew and had been taken away. We went through old food and helped people make decisions about what they could keep and what had to go. Donated furniture made its way into several apartments so that residents would have a bed or a couch or a table and chairs. Hugs from elderly strangers were a nice surprise. Everyone was so grateful for our efforts, even though they didn't know us. We were truly sisters and brothers in Christ.

On Friday, we worked a half day and went to New Orleans for fun. We went to the Cathedral on Jackson Square to check out the newly installed organ and an illuminated Bible from Spain. Then we went down Bourbon Street and into the courtyard of Pat O'Brien's, home of a magna hurricane drink which now costs \$175! It serves dozens. We agreed that New Orleans is a unique city, with a lifestyle that exists no where else in America. Most of the group ate dinner at Masparro's in the old Slave Exchange building. We ran into some of the volunteers from the California group and all went to Cafe du Monde for beignets. Suddenly one of the many St. Patrick's Day parades started. They threw green and gold beads to us. Sam and most of the students went to Preservation Hall to hear jazz. The rest of us drove back to Houma for Cajun music and dance lessons at the local Cajun restaurant. It was quite a last night for everyone.

The ribbon cutting took place at the Bayou Towers on Monday, March 16 and people moved back in on Tuesday. There is still much work to be done but 300 Houma residents are back in their homes. We look forward to helping along the Gulf coast again next year (March 6-13) where ever the need is greatest! Want to go with us? You are very welcome to go, too. It is very rewarding, educational, and very affordable! Definitely a good way to spend a week.

The group of sixteen: Robbie Evans, Brien and Katie Lewis, Diane and Sam Glasgow, Pat Handlson, Daniel Keaton, Ginny and Wayne Langpap, Jeff and Luke McNeese, Jonathan Mauney, T. Wes Moore, Kerrin Pryor, Carroll Vierra and Lindsay Watts.

## Holy Week Services

Holy Week services will again be held in our sanctuary, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. A number of different ministers and musicians will provide leadership during worship, with a variety of churches providing the meals each day. Worship begins at noon, with lunch following at 12:30pm.

### Here is a schedule for Holy Week

#### Worship

Mon 4/6	Reader: Caleb Cangelosi Preacher: Perryn Rice
Tues 4/7	Reader: Vance Johnson Preacher: Fr. Chad Puthoff
Wed 4/8	Reader: Drew Shelley Preacher: Randall Adkisson
Thu 4/9	Reader: Joe Weatherly Preacher: Max Mayo
Fri 4/10	Reader: Erin Angel Preacher: Pat Handlson

#### Lunches

Monday	Cumberland Presbyterian Soup, sandwiches, salad & desserts
Tuesday	Grace Presbyterian Church Red beans & rice with bread, salad & desserts
Wednesday	First Baptist Church Spaghetti, bread, salad & desserts
Thursday	First Methodist Church Soup, salad, cornbread & desserts
Friday	First Presbyterian Church Baked potatoes w/fixings, salad, bread & desserts

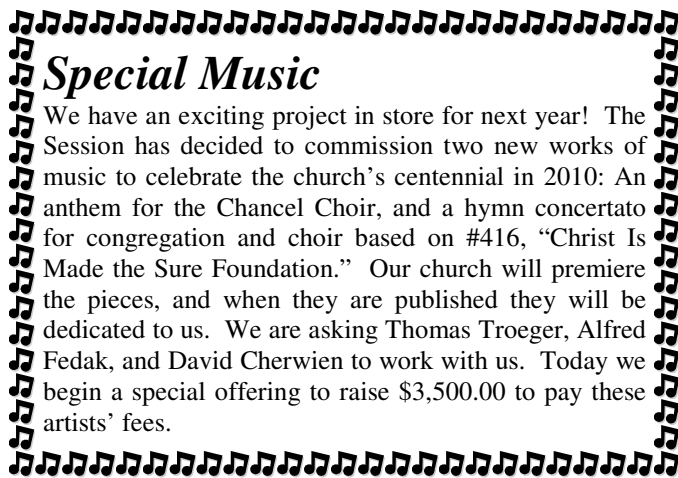
## Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday we will have two services. The first service will begin at 8:00am. Easter breakfast will be served from 9:15-10:30. Sunday school classes will meet from 9:45-10:45. The second Easter service will begin at 11:00am. It will be a joyous day of celebration. Plan to be a part of it all.

## Dinner Out

By Kaye Craig

Come join us on Saturday, April 18 at 5:00 pm at Crawdaddy's Westside Grill, 52 West Broad Street next to the historic depot. Sign up at the church. If you have questions, call Kaye Craig at 537-3714.



## Special Music

We have an exciting project in store for next year! The Session has decided to commission two new works of music to celebrate the church's centennial in 2010: An anthem for the Chancel Choir, and a hymn concertato for congregation and choir based on #416, "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation." Our church will premiere the pieces, and when they are published they will be dedicated to us. We are asking Thomas Troeger, Alfred Fedak, and David Cherwien to work with us. Today we begin a special offering to raise \$3,500.00 to pay these artists' fees.

## Youth News

By Erin Angel

On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, the church is going to make an effort to encourage the participation of our children in Sunday school and worship.

During the Sunday school hour we will be having a retelling of the story of Palm Sunday followed by donkey rides around the church parking lot. We want the children to truly get an understanding of what Palm Sunday was like and feel that this might be one way to help them understand.

During the worship hour we are asking the children of the church to join the choir in processing down the center isle at the beginning of worship waving palm branches. We then would like them to sit on the front pew for a short time during worship with adult supervision, until after the Prayer of Confession. Immediately following this portion of the service the children ages 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger will be invited to join Pat at the front of the sanctuary for a children's sermon time. (Even very small children are encouraged to participate. Parents, don't worry if you need to accompany your children to the front.)

After this time the children will be encouraged to return to sit with their parents or to go with the nursery staff down to the nursery. It is our hope to continue the tradition of the children's sermon time each Sunday following Palm Sunday.

We want our church to be a welcoming church to all people, including families with young children. The offering of a children's sermon time is one way that we can portray to the congregation and to any who might be visiting with us that children are important to the life of this church. We realize that at this time we do not have a great number of children, but still feel that we need to reach out to the children we do have. We hope that you will embrace this new ministry by bringing your children to church on Palm Sunday and allowing them to participate in the morning's events, then by continuing to bring them on the following Sundays and allowing them to participate in the time for children during worship.

## Mission Matters

by Jeannette Volpe

April brings several special opportunities for us to participate in local and global mission activities.

Proceeds from the annual ecumenical **Holy Week luncheons** sponsored by First Presbyterian have been donated to the local Meals on Wheels program which provides nutritionally balanced noontime meals to the frail, elderly and adults with disabilities. The program is designed to help these persons remain in their own homes. It has been decided that this year's proceeds will be shared with Helping Hands.

**Heifer International** is one of our own church's ongoing missions. A generous donation was made last year from the contributions of many individuals. Our One World Market attempts to highlight Heifer during the Easter and Christmas Seasons. A table will be set up at Holy Week luncheons where people can contribute. This international project helps people become more self reliant by giving families livestock and training for food (e.g., milk eggs) and income. Each family in turn promises to "pass on the gift" by giving their animals' offspring to another family in need.

Easter is the time when the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is collected. Our gifts support the works of the Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Bulletin inserts provide more detailed information.

It is appropriate to note that the **Window on the World International Festival 2009** will be held at TTU on April 18. This festival celebrates cultural diversity and global harmony and recognizes our role as peacemakers. Our **One World Market** will have a table set up at the festival. If you would like to help at our booth, please speak to Katie Kumar or Jeannette Volpe.

Don't forget our second Sunday collection for **Helping Hands**. They can always use toilet paper, diapers and powder laundry detergent. Listen for other special needs.

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## One World Market Requests Help at WOW

By Katie Kumar

Since the beginning of Window on the World, First Presbyterian has had a presence there with our One World Market. Sales have helped in the support of UNICEF and SERRV, and proceeds have been donated to Helping Hands and the Rescue Mission. If you can help staff the sales table for a 2-hour shift this year, please let Jennette or Katie know.

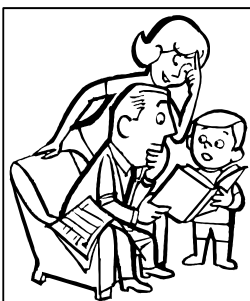
For eleven years, the WOW festival has offered a view of the internationalism we experience in our community and at the university. The event this year is scheduled on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entertainment features 16 cultures, opening with a Thai welcoming dance and Camerata and ending with West African drumming and a salsa dance band. The food court is expected to offer food from 12 countries.

The children's craft area will be coordinated for the second year by Carolyn Stumpf with help from Chelsea Holland. And this is another area where a 2-hour shift would be greatly appreciated. International crafts have been chosen and the prep work is being done, but children always need the supervision of a loving hand.

Check out the website for more information on WOW ( [www.tntech.edu/wow](http://www.tntech.edu/wow) ) and note on the Mandala page that three of our members have received this award for community and world service.

## Worship on the Web Site

Thanks to Raj Kumar, we can now listen to the latest worship services. 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.



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## Read Anything Good Lately?

By Thelma Johnson

Home by Marilynne Robinson

This author won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel Gilead, and this story is about another family in the same town, the Boughtons. It is told from the viewpoint of a daughter who leaves teaching to come home and take care of her aging father. Her brother Jack, the family black sheep, arrives with all his troubles and charm, to disrupt once again the uneasy relationships with his family. It is a story of forgiveness and redemption, love and death, and faith. Robinson, who teaches at the University of Iowa Writers Workshop, writes masterfully with an insight that will change the life of anyone who reads her.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 — Bill Cameron
- 1 — Lonnie Hester
- 6 — Patricia Elsensohn
- 6 — Joane Kibbons
- 18 — Gerald Hansen
- 18 — John Phillips
- 22 — Lisa Dollar
- 23 — T. Wes Moore
- 24 — Ginny Anderson
- 25 — Jonathan Holland
- 25 — Velma Thompson
- 27 — Annabele McCormick

**ANNIVERSARY**

- 5 — John & Betty Grant
- 8 — Mike Birdwell & Tammy O'Dell
- 15 — Gary and Sharon Dyer
- 18 — Paul & Lois Burgess
- 26 — Ron & Marilyn Ledbetter

***In Our Prayers***

**IN OUR PRAYERS: PERSONS HOMEBOUND:** Mary Martha Bush, Nancy Jarrell, and Jessie Lee Lamb.

**IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES:** Beulah Doran, Dorothy Grant, Edith Jared, and Frances Snyder.

Keep in prayer also: Dick Armstrong; Helen Copeland; Nancy Dixon; Lonnie Hester; Don Medley; Merlin Miller; Virginia Throckmorton; Ted Hayes' mother, Ann Hayes; Eli Covington who is doing mission work in Nicaragua; and the people in the armed services, especially Paul Evans.

**Church Office:**

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Next newsletter deadline is April 23. Phone Debbie Handlson at (536-5486) or e-mail (phandlson@aol.com) with any information.

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