

The Messenger

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

August 2009

Would Calvin Go Hang Gliding?

Debbie and I once toured the home of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield IL. The guide told us that the home was exactly the same as when Lincoln lived there. One of us made a comment about having air conditioning. The guide informed us that Lincoln was a very progressive leader, and if air conditioning had been available in his time, Lincoln would most likely have had it in his home.

I thought a bit about progress during my time at the Calvin conference at Montreat. Calvin lived on the border of the middle ages and the enlightenment. He took advantage of new technologies, especially the printing press, which allowed him to communicate with large numbers of other people and spread his reformed thinking about faith and the church. But, when it came to creature comforts, Calvin had little time for modern conveniences. Also, living in Geneva, Switzerland, he probably wouldn't have cared about air conditioning.

I thought about Calvin again while I was hang gliding above Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga last week. I think I can say with some certainty that Calvin would not have gone hang gliding. It wasn't because he was afraid. After all, he went to visit people in the hospital during outbreaks of bubonic plague. It was because he did not have time for activities that seemed frivolous or self serving. Calvin wanted everything to draw us toward God and increase our faith. He was also frugal and probably wouldn't have paid a full day's pay for a fifteen minute ride.

I am forced to agree that hang gliding doesn't seem to have many practical applications. It is simply something people do for fun. At the same time, however, I think Calvin could agree that hang gliding gives us a wonderful perspective on the glory that is God's creation. The day I went, the weather was perfectly clear and not too hot. My instructor and guide pointed out a number of landmarks that were many miles away, including the Blue Ridge Mountains, on the other side of Asheville, NC (where Montreat is).

Calvin did write extensively about our ability to recognize God in creation. He wrote that there is not one spot in the universe where you can't find evidence of God and that even a quick glance at nature should overwhelm us with the force of God's power and might. Like David in Psalm 8, Calvin is amazed that God even thinks about us in the midst of such a vast expanse. And, Calvin loved birds. He appreciated their freedom and their ability to create music, and he firmly believed that people should enjoy birds as a form of God's entertainment. I thought of that as I watched a hawk slowly circling below me.

In the past week, I have gone hang gliding, played golf, and ridden my bike (some of you may begin to wonder when I ever work). In each of these outdoor experiences I have been struck by how beautiful God's world truly is. This has been a fine summer for us, with plenty of rain and relatively pleasant temperatures. The trees are lush and green, flowers and vegetables are flourishing, birds and other wildlife are evident all around us. I hope that each of us can spend some time contemplating how wonderful life is, even in the midst of social and political crises. Sometimes it is good to take a break from our worries and simply be grateful for what we have.

Of course, the troubles and trials of life will still be waiting for us. There is much work to be done, and God also calls us to service. Enjoy and appreciate the little things that God sends our way. Then, refreshed and strengthened, we can renew our efforts to be worthy of all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. How fortunate we are to be alive and able to serve God today.

Peace, Pat H.

Please Join Us!

by Pat Wilhelm

The members of the Discussion Class invite everyone interested in thought-provoking study and lively discussion to attend our class led by Mike Birdwell on Sunday mornings starting at 9:45. The class study deals with topics ranging from Bible history to social issues. Topics are chosen by a consensus of students and teacher.

Currently, the class is studying a Karen Armstrong book, [The Bible: a Biography](#), which deals with the evolution of the Bible. Each chapter is packed with information that will inform and provoke the reader to new questions about our scriptures.

PSA News

by Erin Angel

With the return of Tech students at the end of August comes the beginning of a new semester of activities for the Presbyterian Student Association. On August 28th the students will be participating in the President's Picnic and Student Organizations fair with the hope of recruiting some new students to join PSA. One way you can help is to give Erin the names of any Tech students who you think might be interested in the activities of PSA. Also keep our organization in your prayers as we begin a new year.

We will begin our PSA activities on Tuesday, September 1st with a cookout and worship service at the PSA house. Anyone who is interested in the ministry of PSA is encouraged to join us at the PSA house at 5:30. Watch for more information in upcoming church bulletins. Another way you can become more involved in the ministry of PSA is by providing meals for our Tuesday night worship services. We share this outreach ministry with the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. We will be taking the first half of the semester and the CP church will be taking the last half. If you are interested in this wonderful outreach ministry or would like more information, please contact Erin at angelsgfour@dishmail.net or 265-0481. You can also watch for a sign-up sheet at the church.

Financial Update

At the half way point in the year, church finances are relatively strong and stable. The 2009 budget calls for just over \$110,000 in income and spending for the first six months. Actual income has been just over \$121,000, with actual spending just under \$108,000. The difference in income can be accounted for by several families who paid their annual pledges in advance, as well as mission giving above expectations and special gifts for the centennial music programs. Thanks to all for such generous support of church mission and ministry.

Hey You!

A regional training meeting for church leaders, members and friends will be held in our church on Saturday morning, August 22, from 10am-12noon.

Hey You! is a workshop designed to help people understand their spiritual gifts, particularly in the areas of calling and equipping volunteers for a variety of church offices and tasks. There will be Bible study on the nature of being called by God. Participants will explore their own sense of call and begin to discern their own gifts.

This workshop is open to all who want to learn more about how to better serve the church. There will be people from throughout the Cumberland region participating in this workshop and sharing practical ideas of how to improve our ministry and mission. Sign up for this event by Wednesday, August 5. Talk to Pat Handlson for more details.

Hot Dog Day

Put the Handlson's Hot dog day on your calendar now, before you forget. This year's party will be held on Saturday, October 10, from 2-5pm. There will be grilled hot dogs (including veggie dogs) with all the fixings, chips, drinks and desserts. There will be lawn games and a TV tuned to whatever regional football game is playing that day. A number of international students will be present for this very typical American experience. You don't want to miss it.

Wedding Invitation

Alison Marie Anderson and Tyler Grant Lovellette invite everyone in their church family to join in the celebration of their life together as they exchange vows on Saturday, September 5, at 3pm. The ceremony will be held in the church sanctuary. A cake and hors d'oeuvres reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Grant and Ali are very excited about sharing their special day with the congregation. It will truly be a celebration of faith and love.

A Message from

the Bruce Throckmorton Family

We wish to thank everyone who helped provide the meal for our family after Virginia's service.

A Concert to Benefit Helping Hands

by Debbie Handlson

Wei Tsun and Seanad Chang have graciously offered to provide an afternoon of beautiful chamber music as a benefit for Helping Hands of Putnam County. Wei Tsun is the Concertmaster for Bryan Symphony Orchestra and Seanad plays with the Nashville Symphony and is the principal violist for Orchestra Nashville. They have invited some of their friends to join them for this concert.

The concert will be Sunday, August 9 at 3:00 in the Wattenbarger Auditorium on TTU campus.

Wei Tsun promised that the music chosen will be nothing but fun – a great summer concert. Seanad added that this is a concert for those who don't like chamber music; these are the classics for those who don't think they like classical music. If you have ever watched cartoons or seen a commercial, you will recognize the program they have chosen and will probably be amazed who wrote the music for a Bugs Bunny cartoon!

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$25 each. If possible, bring a check already made out to Helping Hands of Putnam County (HHPC) to help facilitate seating. Seating will be general seating so come early to get your chosen seat. Sweet Sallie's is contributing cupcakes to a reception immediately following the concert. This will give everyone a chance to meet the musicians and learn more about the work of HHPC.

Mission Matters

by Jennette Volpe

We at First Presbyterian have the opportunity to participate in an exciting mission project. Our church has committed to be a Covenant Partner with Living Waters for the World Appalachian Network. LWW is a global mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters—our Synod. LWW trains volunteers, equips their partners with clean water systems and health education materials and links and supports mission teams “to share the gift of clean water with communities in need.”

We have committed \$8,000 over 3 years. We will help install clean water systems in 4 homes. Persons can participate in various ways from learning to install the clean water systems to teaching about health and hygiene as it relates to clean water. We can all pray that everyone will have access to clean, germ-free water.

A training and installation session has been scheduled for the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY on November 6, 7, and 8, 2009. A meeting has been scheduled for August 5th at 12 Noon in the church library to discuss our next step. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information call Chris McCormick at 537-2317 or Bill Swim at 528-7321.

In Ecuador

On July 31st, Sam and Diane Glasgow joined St. Michael's mission trip to Ecuador. It's the 10th medical mission trip of Episcopalians from Cookeville.

They will see 300 people a day for 5 days, sharing worship, health care and craft therapy. They will shop for Ecuadorian and Peruvian crafts to bring back and sell at our One World Market

Our prayers are with this mission team and their new friends in Ecuador.

Landscaping Help

Ouch! One of our Bradford Pear trees split in a recent storm and served as a vivid reminder that our landscaping needs work. Many thanks to Gary Moore for cleaning up the mess.

Mary Dell and Robert Sommers have done a great job of overseeing the landscaping around the church. We have received many compliments about the vibrant colors and trim appearance of the property. Mary Dell has even more ideas for improving the grounds, especially as we move toward our 100th anniversary celebration. But we need a team of several folks willing to pitch in and help maintain our new look, as well as plan for the future. The work is not overwhelming and the Sommers will provide the direction we will need to keep our property looking its best. Talk to Mary Dell to help out with this ongoing project.



Welcome, Lucia!

Lucia Bolognese is a foreign exchange student from Milan, Italy. She will be staying in Cookeville and will attend Cookeville High School this coming year. She will stay with three different families throughout the year, and the Handlsons will be her first host family. Lucia will arrive in early August. Her first church experience will be on Sunday, August 9, which also happens to be a Second Sunday Dinner for us. Please give Lucia a warm welcome as she makes her adjustment to life in small town America. Italian speakers are especially encouraged to take note. Lucia has studied English for many years but it will be nice if she can find a few folks who can give her brain a rest by letting her speak Italian once in a while.

Civil War Musical Presentation

The Civil War Roundtable, which meets monthly in Fellowship Hall, has invited Ross Moore to be the presenter at their next meeting, Tuesday, August 11, beginning at 6:30pm. Ross Moore is a well known musician and story teller who specializes in music from the Civil War era. He sings and plays many of the instruments that were popular during that time period, including: Hammered Dulcimer, Mountain Dulcimer, Banjo, Celtic Harp, Dobro and Irish Pennywhistle. Mr. Moore has performed throughout the nation with many country and bluegrass music stars. This will be a great opportunity to hear high quality music that represents the heritage and culture of this region. Talk to Kent Dollar for more information.

Dinner Out

by Kaye Craig

Come join the Dinner Our Group on Saturday, August 15, at 5:00 p.m. at the India Palace, 120 West 1st Street. Sign-up sheets are available by both entrances to the sanctuary. For more information, please call Kaye Craig

Read Anything Good Lately?

by Thelma Johnson

THE SCARECROW by Michael Connolly

For the dog days of August, what is better than a good mystery? Michael Connolly is one of the best in the business, and has turned out many stories featuring his favorite detective, Harry Bosch of the LAPD. This book deals with a new hero, Jack McEvoy, who is a reporter for the L. A. Times, and who has just been fired because of the economy. He wants one last big story; and when his replacement is murdered, the story becomes personal. Jack is once more teamed with old flame Rachel of the FBI, and the race is on to find what they suspect is a serial killer working in a high-tech stalking of victims.

Connolly's characters are well-drawn and human with professional as well as personal problems. The author is frugal with bad language, sex, and physical violence although the genre demands it at times. He is generous with plot development, realism, detail, and pacing. One of the most prolific and enjoyable mystery writers, he has earned a solid place in popular literature.

**A
U
G
U
S
T**

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 — Ted Haselton
- 3 — Pat Quillen
- 3 — Lucille Robertson
- 5 — Kay Powell
- 6 — Bill Dyer
- 11 — Albert Wilhelm
- 12 — Linda Hurt
- 12 — John McGee
- 12 — Malcolm Williams
- 14 — Carolyn Medley
- 20 — Helen Copeland
- 26 — Virginia Morton
- 30 — Melba Smith
- 31 — Patsy Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 — Tom & Linda Hurt
- 12 — Gary & Virginia Lovellette
- 14 — Sam & Diane Glasgow
- 16 — Mike & Carolyn Medley
- 17 — Kenneth & Ann Turner
- 26 — Dave & Donna Johnson
- 30 — Charlie & Kaye Craig
- 31 — Tom & Marilyn Aitken

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; Charlie Craig; Nancy Dixon; Lonnie Hester; Krishna Kumar; Don Medley; John Phillips; Anne Rose; Judy Medley's brother, Richard McReynolds; Ted Hayes' mother, Ann Hayes; Eli Covington who is doing mission work in Nicaragua; Lauren, Joey and Ellia Pratt who are in Papua New Guinea; and the people in the armed services.

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

The next newsletter deadline is August 23. Please send your information to Debbie Handlson at (536-5486), e-mail (phandlson@aol.com) or Katie Kumar at (372-6197), e-mail (kjkumar@tntech.edu)

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

