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BIRTHDAYS

- 1-Johnny Smith
 - 2 -Julia Boyd
 - 2- Gary Dyer
 - 6- Donna Johnson
 - 8- Charlie Craig
 - 13- Charles Sine
 - 15- Susan Hogan
 - 15- Thelma Reno
 - 19- Charles Kibbons
 - 20- Bob Luna
 - 21- Pat Wilhelm
 - 21- Amy Woods
 - 23- Gary Moore
 - 24- Seanad Chang
 - 24- Chris McCormick
 - 25- John Flanders
 - 26- May Reinbold
 - 29- Wayne Hogan
 - 29- Jack Matson
 - 31- Anne Thurmond
- ANNIVERSARYS**
- 1-Ted & Pam Hayes
 - 3- Tom & Kay Powell
 - 14- Jerry & Marie Overstreet
 - 17- David & Cynthia Boles

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; John Phillips; Ted Hayes' mother, Ann Hayes; Eli Covington who is doing mission work in Nicaragua; Joey, Lauren and Ellia Pratt who are in Papua New Guinea; and the people in the armed services.

Hot Dog Day

Hot dog day began as a way for the Handlsons to introduce themselves to the church and the community. It is a simple day of food and fellowship. 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. Mark your calendar now.

Also on the Handlsons' calendar for this fall is the arrival of Lucia Bolognese. Lucy is from Milan, Italy, and will be an exchange student at Cookeville High School this coming year. The Handlsons will be her first host family. Italian speakers are especially encouraged to take note.

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The Messenger

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

July 2009

Summertime

Summer has officially arrived, although it has been quite warm for some time, at least according to my Minnesota body. I think back to hour after hour of playing baseball with my friends and riding my bike all over town. The only rule I remember was that I had to be home before it got too dark. Even that rule got tested on a regular basis. I remember playing until we could no longer find the baseball if it got hit deep into the outfield. After all, we could still see it up close. And, a full moon was definitely our friend as it provided plenty of light.

Looking back, I can see clearly now the two different perspectives of the people who set the rules and those who want to break or bend them. As a young person, I wanted to have as much freedom as possible. I wanted to spend every minute playing and having a good time. I saw the rules as enemies, prohibiting my fun. As a parent, I began to see the rules as safety precautions, guarding my own children from dangerous situations and against foolish choices. The dangerous side of rules is that they can become too controlling, stifling growth and creativity. We are engaged in a constant balancing act, wanting to keep our loved ones safe, while also encouraging them to be all that they can be.

With all that in mind, I have thoroughly enjoyed my study of Calvin's perspective on the Ten Commandments. Calvin offered a unique look at the positive side of the commandments, urging us to see them as useful guides toward a more fulfilling life. I have heard several positive comments about the latest sermon series on the Ten Commandments and I hope that people will continue to find this series helpful and relevant. I have also heard from several folks who have been following our worship services on the web site. I am glad that we can offer this bit of modern technology to people who can't make it to church on Sunday or are far away but want to stay in touch with us in that way.

Back to summer for a while, another thing I enjoy about the summer season is the change of pace. Now living in a university town, I have really noticed how dramatically the school calendar changes the dynamics of the community. Every family with children is aware of school activities and school breaks. Here, in Cookeville, even people without children cannot help but notice the ebb and flow of life around the campus. Adding or subtracting 10,000 students makes a big difference in the traffic patterns around town and in the types and numbers of activities that are being offered.

Of course, the city of Cookeville remains very active during the summer, perhaps even more active as special events pop up on the calendar, including music, drama, athletic events and social activities. I am excited to see the expansion of Dogwood Park, which I can watch out my office window. As the park goes through its expansion phases, there will be a growing number of activities right outside our doors. I hope we can find a way to make a helpful contribution to the community we claim to serve.

It is also important for us as a church to keep in mind that, even though our summer schedule is a bit lighter than during the school year, there is still a lot going on at the church. Activities and events are scheduled throughout the summer. The fare may be a bit more relaxed but that only gives us a greater opportunity to get to know each other better. Take a close look at this issue of the newsletter to find out how you can stay active in the life of the church.

While you are reading this, Debbie and I are spending some time in Minnesota. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel and we hope to have some great stories to share when we return to Cookeville.

Peace,
Pat H.

Presbytery News

Part of being Presbyterian is recognizing our connection to other Presbyterians. We are part of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, which includes churches from Clarksville in the west to Crossville in the east. In July of 2010, we will host a quarterly meeting of the Presbytery. 200 elders and ministers will come here for worship, lunch and a business meeting, to discuss the mission and ministry of our region. We were invited to host this particular meeting because it will be part of our centennial year celebration. It is still over a year away but we will need everyone to help out in order to make this a successful event for our congregation and all of our guests.

In other Presbytery news, a new mission unit has been created to serve the needs of college students and young adults. Pat Handlson has been asked to chair this new unit, dubbed CoYAM (College and Young Adult Ministry). As campus minister at TTU, Erin Angel will also be very active in CoYAM. The purpose of the new unit is to support campus ministry and encourage the development of programs and resources for churches ministering to young adults. It is the only such mission unit in the denomination and may become a model for others as the church seeks a way to minister to this important group of people searching for meaning in their lives. Talk to Pat and Erin about their new work and keep this ministry in your prayers.

PSA House Needs

By Erin Angel

The Presbyterian Student Association house is in need of a good quality, modern printer. We have set up a room at the house where students can come and spend time studying. We have a computer with internet access, but would like students to have the ability to print out research or papers while at the house. If you have a printer you would like to donate or if you would like to give some money towards the purchase of a printer please let Erin know. Thanks for your support of this ministry.

Church Finances

For the first five months of 2009 church finances are slightly better than where they need to be. The church has taken in just over \$102,000, about \$10,000 more than expected. At the same time, expenses have been just under \$90,000, about \$2,000 less than expected. A portion of the difference reflects extra giving for mission projects. This is wonderful, given the extra needs in our community. Nevertheless, while we have modest reason to celebrate, the summer months tend to be a bit more lean and the session will remain cautious with church finances. Many thanks to all who have generously supported the mission and ministry of the church. Let's keep up the good work.

Hey You!

A regional training meeting for church leaders will be held in our church on Saturday morning, August 22. The purpose of this training event is to help church leaders recruit and train volunteers for work at the church. In addition, there will be tips on how to invite and encourage newcomers to attend church and become more active. Because it is a regional event, it will also be an opportunity to meet with leaders from other churches in our part of the Presbytery. There is a \$10 fee for materials that will be used during the event and serve as resources for future reference. Talk to Pat Handlson for more details.

Hosting International Students

We have a great opportunity to meet and get to know a number of the international students who attend TN Tech each year. These students come from a variety of foreign countries and are eager to find out what life is really like in the heartland of the United States. A meal in a typical home, a couple of hours visiting or a brief shopping trip can make quite a difference for a student who is miles from home and family. As a church, we can also host a couple of group dinners, where we can also learn more about the various cultures of these students. We need 8-10 people willing to serve as hosts to make sure that we can do a proper job of welcoming these guests into our country. Talk to Peggy Kilgore for more information.

John Calvin Turns 500

John Calvin was born on July 10, 1509, in Noyon, a small city in northern France. We will celebrate his 500th birthday by making our second Sunday lunch a birthday celebration, complete with cake and ice cream.

Calvin was one of the earliest reformers and is considered the founder of the Presbyterian branch of Protestantism.

Dinner Out

By Kaye Craig

Come join us for dinner on Saturday, July 18 at 5:00pm at the Bethany Café, 243 Gladdice Hwy., Gainesboro. Bethany Café is a gourmet restaurant with reasonable prices overlooking the Cumberland River. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 4:30 pm. Be sure to sign up at the church. If you have any questions, call Kaye Craig at 537-3714.

Landscaping Help

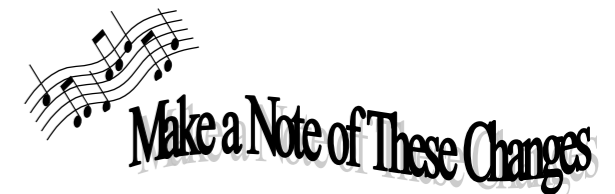
Mary Dell and Robert Sommers have done a great job of revitalizing the landscaping around the church. We have received many compliments about the vibrant colors and trim appearance of the property. Mary Dell and Robert have even more ideas for improving the grounds, especially as we move toward our 100th anniversary celebration. The Sommers are proposing a planting area around our sign, using shades of red flowers when ever possible. This project would require the cost of a plumber to get a water source to that area from the main that lies about 15 feet from the sign. They would like to remove the shrubs that run parallel to the outside stairs running down to the basement and replace them with a colorful and compact evergreen called Plum Delight. This would require an electrician to either remove or lower an electrical box in the present shrubs. The retaining wall on the west side of our property needs to be sealed. This large wall, which is very visible from Dogwood Park, will be sending a message to our community about our church. More information on how we can interface with the entities in charge of that particular area of the Dogwood Park project would guide us in efforts to improve the appearance of that wall. We also have considered placing a cross in the smaller pie shaped clover area formed by two walks from the parking lot up to the walk of our main entrance. There are some inexpensive approaches that would require a lot of muscle, or we could have it professionally done. It would be striking but may be more than we care to take on from either the muscle or the cost stand point. The Sommers can't do the work alone. We need a team of several folks willing to pitch in and help maintain our new look. 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.

Clean Water Mission

By Bill Swim

FPC has become a Covenant Church with the Living Waters for the World – Appalachian Network (LWW-AN) to provide clean pure water to families in East TN & KY. Many households in that area are plagued with contaminated water supplies and are beyond the service area of district water systems. Our Church, with other Covenant Churches will be purchasing the components of a water treatment system and installing the systems in homes with contaminated water.

A member of the LWW-AN leadership team will be visiting us on Sunday July 19 to explain the need and the solution to these water problems. To join this endeavor or find out more, contact Chris McCormick, Mission Committee chair, at 537-2317 or Bill Swim at 528-7321.

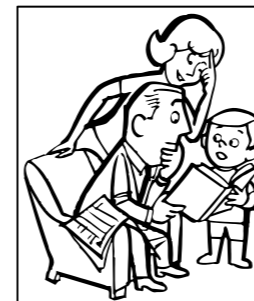


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Next newsletter deadline is July 23. Phone Debbie Handlson at 536-5486 or e-mail (phandlson@aol.com) or Katie Kumar at 528-7968 or e-mail (KJKumar@tntech.edu) with any information you would like to have included.



Read Anything Good Lately?

By Thelma Johnson

The Johnstown Flood by David McCullough.

On May 31, 1889, after days of heavy rain, an earth dam broke on the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River in the mountains east of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. When the torrent had slackened and passed, more than 2,000 people had perished and the town was so devastated that survivors could not determine where houses and streets had once been located. It was the worst disaster in our history up to that point.

McCullough, a Pulitzer Prize winner and social historian, grew up in nearby Pittsburgh, and this was his first book. His research is meticulous and his style immensely readable. He gives us a narrative of a group of wealthy businessmen who in their arrogance and greed ignored warning signs of a faulty dam, and their avoidance of responsibility in the aftermath. They had names like Carnegie, Frick, and Mellon. This event was a clear beginning of the class awareness, labor strife, and social consciousness that followed. But the main part of the book deals with the human tragedy and survival of a disaster that didn't need to happen.