

# The Messenger

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

January 2010

## *Time Flies*

On some days it's hard to believe that it has been four years since Debbie and I first arrived in Cookeville. The time has gone by so quickly. I remember the freshly fallen snow that covered the ground and stuck to the trees. It was beautiful. Of course, it only lasted for a few hours but it set the tone for a wonderful beginning to our lives in Cookeville. We

have made many friends and we have been blessed to call this area our home. As your pastor, I have been privileged to be included in so many of your families. You have allowed me to share in your pain and your joy and we have gotten to know each other better, day by day and year by year. I have tried to show my gratitude for your trust by being available and accessible when you need me. It is my pledge that I will continue to be the best pastor I can be.

I firmly believe that this is an exciting time to be part of First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville. There are many challenging mission opportunities ahead of us and we have the energy, resources and enthusiasm we need to be effective workers building God's kingdom. I am particularly pleased with the steady progress we are making with the Appalachian Network, bringing clean water to families within our region. This is a mission that will serve for many years and we are at the beginning, helping to make it possible. I am also excited about the creativity and openness demonstrated by our church leaders, who are more than willing to listen to new ideas and look for ways to encourage new mission projects and programs.

Our Sunday worship remains a strong focal point for the congregation and the broader community. We are recognized for our consistent style of music and preaching, as well as our inclusiveness of diversity within our leadership and church family. It is especially nice to welcome newcomers, students and visitors on a regular basis. The addition of the web site and its audio capability only enhances our appeal. We have received many compliments on our services. I have no doubt that our worship will continue to comfort and inspire people well into the future.

Of course, it is not a perfect world. We have weathered a tremendous financial storm over the past year. Not just in our nation but around the world. Hopefully, the worst is over but it will be a long slow recovery for many families and there will be many people looking for stable and meaningful employment. Our congregation has fared much better than many others in our area and we have risen to the challenge of serving more of our neighbors in need. I am afraid there will still be a great need in 2010. Let us be diligent and generous in our efforts.

Warfare also continues to be a part of our lives for the foreseeable future, especially with the deployment of the 278<sup>th</sup> and so many local families affected. In all, over 250,000 soldiers are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as an equal number of civilian contract workers. We must be vigilant in our prayers for peace, remembering our enemies as well as our allies and the countless number of innocent victims of war. It surely breaks God's great heart every time one of these precious children suffers.

The congregation is blessed by its wonderful staff. We are a small group of folks and yet so much is accomplished. Carolyn makes sure that everything in the office runs smoothly and she keeps me on track. Paul is able to bring high quality music to worship every week and inspires our group of volunteers to be better than they thought possible. Erin is a colleague and friend who brings many gifts to the church besides her work as campus minister. They all make me a better pastor and I am happy to spend time with them every week.

Finally, Debbie and I got each other Italian lessons for Christmas. Hopefully we are not too old to learn a few new tricks, or at least a few useful phrases that will serve us well if we are able to make a trip to Italy in the coming year. We would love to see Lucy in her home city and meet her parents, who trusted us with their precious daughter for a few months.

Happy new Year!

Peace,  
Pat H.

## ***Centennial Notes:***

By Michael Birdwell

A significant cultural shift began in 1910. China abolished slavery, Racing legend Barney Oldfield set a new land speed record of 133 miles per hour in a Mercedes-Benz. An omen appeared in the skies as Halley's Comet returned. The father of modern American literature, Mark Twain, who was born the year the comet was first sighted, died upon its return at eighty years of age. Multi-millionaire turned philanthropist Andrew Carnegie established the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The city commission of Spokane, Washington, created a new local holiday that later went national, Father's Day. The Nestor Company opened Hollywood's first film studio in an old tavern on the corner of Sunset and Gower. Not long afterward, Cecil B. DeMille, D. W. Griffith, Jesse Lasky, and Adolf Zukor established Paramount and modern Hollywood was born.

Closer to home, the Aluminum Corporation of America purchased 7000 acres near Maryville, Tennessee, to create a company town, ALCOA, for the manufacture of aluminum. A large smelting plant was constructed as well as 150 homes for employees and managers. The state legislature passed laws creating a juvenile court system to try non-adults. They also called for the creation of two reformatories, one at Pikeville for white offenders and the other at Jordania for African Americans. Chattanooga's Jack Lupton, Joseph Whitehead and Ben Thomas, all attorneys and entrepreneurs, made history when they were the first to challenge the new federal statute known as the Pure Food and Drug Act. The sole owners of the right to bottle Coca Cola, their product was accused of containing a "strange and deleterious substance." That substance was caffeine, not cocaine. They successfully convinced the judge that Coke held no more caffeine than the average cup of coffee. The high profile of the case made Coca-Cola a national soft drink rather than just a regional one.

Southern Engine and Boiler Works of Jackson, Tennessee, generated some success in designing and manufacturing automobiles. They named the cars "Marathon" in honor of the 1904 Olympics. A tremendous success with the public, production could hardly keep up with demand. Marathon dealerships existed in every major city in America. They may have remained a major contender in the automotive industry if not for the First World War.

Wealthy businessman, lawyer, and social leader Lawrence Tyson of Knoxville courted controversy from his peers when he promised to end child labor in his textile mill. While his contemporaries employed children as young as four to toil in the mills, Tyson promised to hire no one under the age of ten. He even went so far as to organize the "Southern Conference on Women and Child Labor" in Memphis which called for a number of labor reforms that failed to materialize.

Knoxvillians witnessed a huge spike in tourism due to the Appalachian Exposition dedicated to mountain industries (e.g. logging and mining), native crafts, and traditional music. The first airplane ever to land in Tennessee created quite a stir as it rumbled above the fairgrounds. Even Theodore

Roosevelt attended the event and praised the celebration.

A gubernatorial election year, prohibition continued to be a controversial issue. Former U.S. Senator Robert Love "Our Bob" Taylor ran for the governorship, but tried to evade the issue of alcohol. He told a crowd in Johnson City, "I come to you today with a harmonica in my mouth, with an olive branch in one hand and a bowie knife in the other, and with a heart full of good will to my fellow man, provided that my fellow man votes for me for governor."

The reaction against prohibition came swiftly. Lem Motlow, owner and operator of the Jack Daniel Distillery, contested the law, leading to a supreme court case that upheld prohibition. Under the court ruling only those operations that manufactured alcohol with a proof of 188 or higher could remain in operation, for they provided "medicinal grade alcohol" to physicians and pharmacists. The Chattanooga Medicine Company, makers of the infamous emetic Black Draught, began producing Wine of Cardui in the late nineteenth century for "difficult menstruation, backache, headache, dizziness and general female diseases." It contained things like jasmine, chamomile, rose hips and generous amounts of alcohol. Suddenly men throughout the Volunteer State developed women's ailments as sales of Wine of Cardui went through the roof. It soon earned the nickname the "Temperance Tipple."

It was in this climate that First Presbyterian Church USA emerged in Cookeville. Rapid changes in technology, from airplanes to automobiles to movies captured the attention of people throughout the Upper Cumberland. Those days saw the emergence of Cookeville as the most important town in the region, slowly eclipsing both Sparta and Monterey. What follows is not a traditional church history, for this narrative looks not just at a congregation over time, but also the city of Cookeville and the Upper Cumberland. So prepare to take a trip back in time, and rediscover the history of the congregation and the region.

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## ***Centennial Requests:***

1. Does anyone have any copies of the monthly church newsletter "Illuminations" that was distributed during Hall Barrett's tenure as pastor? If so, would they share them with the church?
2. A retrospective of the work of G. David Campbell is being planned for February-April. Do you have any paintings or drawings of his that you would be willing to loan for the show?
3. We are still in need of photos of people and events associated with the church down through the years. Any help is greatly appreciated.

## ***Mission Matters***

### **March work trip to Montgomery, WV**

After three years of working in the gulf area, our spring work trip this year will be to Montgomery, WV. It is a small, impoverished city south of Charleston, located along the Kanawha River, which experienced devastating flooding last year. The preliminary cleanup work has been done and now the area residents need help making their homes habitable again. The work will be basic carpentry and construction. The time of the trip will be March 7-13, 2010 and will hopefully be a combination of students and church members. To learn more, contact Pat Handlson.

Also, a crew of workers is preparing for a clean water installation project in Tazewell, TN in early January. Please keep our work team and the recipients in Tazewell in your prayers.

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## ***Kitchen Help Needed***

We have several special lunch and dinner events planned for our centennial year, including hosting the Presbytery meeting in July. The special events, along with our regular weekly activities, means that the kitchen will get quite a bit of use during the coming year. We are in need of a thorough examination of the equipment and organization of the kitchen and pantry area. It would be great to have a team that would take on this project early in the year so that we can be fully prepared for all the celebrations that will be coming our way.

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## ***Officer Training Meeting***

There will be an officer training meeting for deacons and elders on Saturday, January 9, from 9am to noon. It will be a time to discuss goals and strategies for the coming year. It will also be a time for new and returning officers to get to know each other better. New officers will be ordained and installed at the worship services on January 3 and 10. Many thanks to our retiring deacons: Joyce DuBey, Christine Hegenderfer and MaryDell Sommers (who is becoming an elder). We also remember Merlin Miller, who served as a deacon at the time of his death. Retiring elders are: Marilyn Aitken, Steve Chapman and Chris McCormick.

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held following worship on February 28.

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## ***Financial Update***

At the end of November, church finances remain relatively strong and stable. The 2009 budget calls for just over \$202,000 in income and spending for the first eleven months. Actual income has been just under \$214,000, with actual spending just under \$208,000.

Official financial reports are always a month behind the calendar but a sneak peek at preliminary December numbers reveals that the congregation will end the year 2009 with slightly more money received than spent. The church will meet all of its obligations and be able to increase its mission spending above what was budgeted. Thanks to all for your generous support of church mission and ministry. We can look forward to an exciting 2010, celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this location and building.

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## ***Week of Prayer Service, January 20***

The week of prayer for Christian Unity begins on January 18<sup>th</sup>. For the past few years we have hosted an ecumenical hymn sing and luncheon during that week. We have had a good number of churches represented at these special services. We will do it again on Wednesday, January 20. The service of prayers and hymns will begin at noon, with lunch to follow in Fellowship Hall. Anyone who would like to help prepare and serve the meal is asked to contact Pat Handlson.

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## ***Nursery Rotation***

We are always in need of people to help out in the nursery. Anyone who would be willing to be part of a rotation to make sure that the nursery is covered every Sunday and staffed properly on occasions when it might be extra busy is asked to call the church.

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## ***Dinner Out Group***

Come join us for the best catfish in Putnam County. We will be eating at Twin Lakes Catfish Restaurant, 580 Gainesboro Hwy on January 16 at 5:00 pm. If you need a ride, we will meet at the church at 4:30 pm. Sign up sheets are located at both doors of the sanctuary. If you have questions, call Kaye Craig at 537-3714.

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## ***Blood Donations to Blood Assurance***

If you are still in the giving mood following Christmas, remember that January is one of the lowest times for people to donate blood but it is one of the highest times for people needing blood and supplies are always low after the holidays. We are fortunate to have a Blood Assurance office just a few blocks from the church. The donation process takes only about half an hour and is well worth the time spent. Give the gift of blood his month.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

- 05—Diane Glasgow
  - 06—Juanita Phillips
  - 08—Ethan Woods
  - 14—Judy Pumar
  - 16—Carolyn Stumpf
  - 17—Paul Burgess
  - 20—Hannah Boles
  - 22—Laura Aitken
  - 24—Rachel Dollar
  - 24—Hannah Dollar
  - 25—Thelma Johnson
  - 26—Ted Hayes
  - 28—Matthew Wilhelm
  - 31—Steve Chapman
  - 31—Barbara Greeson
- ANNIVERSARIES**
- 05—Jonathan and Chelsea Holland
  - 10—Dick and Mary Armstrong
  - 11—Chris and Annabelle McCormick

***In Our Prayers***

***Persons Homebound:*** Mary Martha Bush, 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; Paul Burgess; Helen Copeland; Charlie Craig; Lonnie Hester; Don Medley; John Phillips; 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.

***Our heartfelt sympathy*** to Ed Dixon and family at the passing of Nancy.

**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)  
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**Next newsletter deadline is  
January 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.

***PSA News***

By Erin Angel

As the semester gets underway again at TTU, we will once again be providing meals for the Presbyterian Student Association on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in providing a home cooked meal for about 12 students on a Tuesday evening beginning Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and continuing until spring break in March please see the sign-up sheet in the hall by the sanctuary or talk to Erin Angel. This is a great ministry to the students and a wonderful way for our church to remain connected to the PSA.

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