

The Messenger

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

June 2010

We're pleased to present the world premiere of "New Life, New Love, New Light" by Thomas Troeger and Alfred Fedak. The anthem was commissioned by First Presbyterian to commemorate its 100th anniversary, through funds generously donated by members of the congregation.

Earth's crust of rock is drifting upon its molten core,
And all the sands are shifting on every wave-lapped shore,
While in the sky's vast spaces great suns recede to night
And leave no shining traces of their once steady light.

Though all things fade and crumble on earth and in the sky,
And we frail creatures stumble, our faith will never die
For we have glimpsed the wonder of love that never dims
And dreams of hope that thunder through worship, prayers and hymns.

Faith gives a depth dimension to how we view all things,
Directing our attention to their undying springs:
The Spirit animating all life in every place,
The heart of Christ relating to us with love and grace.

Christ is our sure foundation, the only solid ground,
The wellspring of creation whose depths we cannot sound,
The truth past our conceiving, the Word too vast to spell,
And yet in hearts believing, good news to sing and tell.

Good news that's overflowing with such abundant grace,
That we feel Christ bestowing on us the same embrace,
That spans the farthest borders of distant stars and night,
And from creation orders new life, new love, new light.

Thomas Troeger wrote about his poem:

I took my cue from your anniversary theme hymn "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation." However, I shifted the context for understanding Christ as our "foundation" from the 7th century architectural language of your theme hymn "cornerstone," "temple," "walls" - to modern cosmology. I thought this would provide a sense of the ongoing life of the church over the centuries. And I expanded the meaning of foundation so that it encompasses a wide range of complementary images for Christ, all of them biblically based.

The composer, Alfred Fedak, had this to say about the piece:

The piece opens with choir singing the first stanzas above a brooding ostinato accompaniment (which can be played on either piano or organ). By stanza three the ostinato has disappeared and the mood is brighter and more positive. Then a new hymn tune which I call NEW LIGHT, and which grows out of the material of stanza 3, is introduced by an organ interlude between stanzas 3 and 4. The choir then sings the final two stanzas of text to this melody. The congregation can be asked to join in on either stanza 4 or 5 or both.

Centennial Music Commission Committee:

Gerald Hansen, T. Wes Moore, Grace Anna Sine, Paul Thurmond, Rick Woods

Presbytery Meeting

As part of our 100th anniversary celebration, we will host the July 24 meeting of the Presbytery. It is a Saturday meeting which generally begins at 8:00am and finishes up about 3:00pm. During the course of the day about 200 delegates from the various churches throughout Middle Tennessee will be here to worship, hear reports, vote on motions, eat lunch and discuss the business of the Presbytery. We will need lots of help to make sure that everyone has a positive experience that day. From greeting people and helping them find their way around the building and grounds, to leading worship, to preparing and serving lunch, to cleaning up at the end of the day, it will take many hands to make the work go smoothly. There are now signup sheets for people to help out with parking, set up, registration and directions in the early morning; lunch preparation, serving and cleanup; final cleanup and closing the building in the afternoon. The choir will be here for worship in the morning and will present some of our special anniversary music. It will certainly be a day to remember and we want it to be a day that our friends from neighboring churches remember as well. Talk to Pat Handlson for more information.

A Moment in History

(from Michael Birdwell's history of the church and region)

In 1902, at the age of 33, D.L. Lansden was elected Chancellor of Tennessee's 4th Judicial District and moved to Cookeville, where he spent the majority of his time adjudicating acrimonious land disputes, many of which stemmed from the Civil War. Lansden earned a reputation as a fair judge who took property disputes seriously. As a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA in Cookeville, Lansden was in the thick of the schism there. He not only contributed to the building fund, but also served as the congregation's legal counsel during the dispute with the Cumberland faction. When the case came before the State Supreme Court, he failed to recuse himself. In his opinion he wrote: "The unfortunate controversy arising between a faction of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of the USA has been waged for a number of years, both in and out of the courts, and has been marked with a spirit of acrimony that is not creditable to the cause of Christianity." In 1918, Lansden became chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, the only chief justice to come from Cookeville. Perhaps one of his most important opinions was written in support of ratifying the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. A portrait of D.L. Lansden hangs in the Supreme Court Building across from the State Capitol. His funeral service was conducted in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church and he was buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery. It is fitting that he be remembered during the church's Centennial celebration.

Christian Education

By Erin Angel

Renew: The Green VBS

Sunday June 6, Monday June 7, and Tuesday June 8 from 5:30 until 8:00 each night, our church will be having Vacation Bible School. We are excited about this year's curriculum which is based on the parable of the sower and focuses on living green. We will have activities for children age preschool through middle school and a class for adults. Each night will begin with a light meal followed by classtime for the adults and classtime, crafts, and music for the children. We hope you will all come to church and join in the fun, fellowship and learning.

Congregational Art Exhibit

Calling all artists! The third art show planned in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration will showcase the artistic talents of members of the congregation, both present and past. On display will be paintings, drawings, photographs as well as craft objects. Please deliver your material to the church during office hours the week of July 5-9. The show will be hung on July 10 and open in conjunction with the Second Sunday congregational meal.

Please include with your submission your name, the title of the work, the medium used to create it, and whether or not you wish to sell the piece. If you have questions please contact either Michael Birdwell (birdie@tntech.edu) or Tammy O'Dell (tammyaodell@gmail.com).

Centennial Calendar

Speakers Series

Hosted in Conjunction with the Friends of the Cookeville Museums

August 5— Ben Nance, "Prehistoric Tennessee: Archaeology of the Cumberland Plateau"

September 16—Fred Prouty, "Civil War Sesquicentennial in Tennessee"

November 4—"The Tennessee Maneuvers and Cookeville"
All events at 7p.m.

Art Shows

July 5-September 30—First Presbyterian Artists, Past and Present

October 4-December 31— Nancy Dixon Retrospective

Our Newest Members

Though they have been here for many years, Rachel and Emily McCormick have just become our newest adult members, received by Confirmation on Sunday, May 23. Rachel has just graduated from Cookeville high and will be attending UT Knoxville in the fall. Emily finished at Avery Trace and will begin at Cookeville high this fall.

Mission Matters

We have received a request from the Presbytery office to help with repair work in Nashville, following the flood there. Westminster Presbyterian will be the host site for out of town groups. We would like to be able to match skills of volunteers with local efforts and coordinate our focus on where teams will be deployed. The Presbytery office would like to know what particular skills volunteers have to offer. For example, do you have construction experience and the ability to evaluate damages and assess repairs needed? Do you know any carpenters, roofers, dry wall installers, licensed plumbers and electricians, painters, experienced Habitat for Humanity workers, or those who have worked with Katrina relief who want to help? Do we have folks who are willing to spend a couple of nights in Nashville? What kind of construction tools and equipment might we have available? Talk to Pat Handlson to learn more.

Also, many people have asked Seanad Chang about Kirsten Greer, the cellist that played for us at Beersheba and who had severe damage to her home in the flood. Besides the repairs that have to be made, they have extra living expenses at this time because they cannot live in their home. If anyone would like to help Kirsten and her husband, make a check out to Kirsten and place in the offering plate or hand it to Seanad. As they don't have an address at this time, Seanad will make sure Kirsten gets it the next time she sees her.

Presbyterian Women

by Kay Powell

The First Annual Spring Gathering of Upper Cumberland Presbyterian Women was held April 17th at Post Oak Presbyterian Church. Seven churches were represented; six members of 1st Presbyterian attended. Erin Angel gave the worship message. Several attendees explained their mission activities; Sylvia McGee described our involvement in the Appalachian clean water project. The assistance provided by Helping Hands was explained by May Reinbold. Donated handmade crafts were purchased by silent auction; proceeds went to earthquake victims in Haiti and Chile.

Dinner Out Group

By Kaye Craig

Come join us on Saturday June 19th, 5:00pm at Crawdaddy's West Side Grill, 53 West Broad Street. Mike and Carolyn Medley have graciously opened their home for homemade ice cream after the dinner. Sign up sheets are at both doors of the sanctuary. Indicate on the sign up sheet if you will be able to attend at the Medley's home. Please, if you sign up for the dinner and dessert and you find that you will not be able to attend either function let Kaye Craig know at 537-3714.

Financial Update

At the end of April, the church's finances remain strong and we are heading into the summer months with confidence. Church income for the year to date has totaled just over \$113,000, with expenses coming in at just under \$76,000. Several substantial memorial gifts account for much of the difference at this point, as well as some special mission offerings that will be sent off soon. The session will soon begin discussing spending priorities for the rest of this year. Thanks to all for your generous support of church programs and mission.

Open House

Come and join in the celebration as Helping Hands of Putnam County shows off our new office on June 30 from 1-4pm. We are so excited about this move and it was such a long time in coming. HHPC is just one block off the courthouse square at 421 East Broad Street. Many FPC members helped with the move and we at HHPC are grateful for the support from this congregation.

Community Blood Drive

Blood Assurance will hold a special community blood drive on Saturday, June 12 from 12noon to 5pm. Broad Street will be closed off all along the area of the train depot and live music will be performed throughout the afternoon. West Side businesses will provide refreshments. All blood donated to Blood Assurance goes to the hospital here in Cookeville. Blood is always in short supply and that is truer during the summer months. Several local and regional motorcycle organizations have pledged to support this event and have challenged area churches to respond as well. If you have never donated blood, or, if it has been awhile, consider making a donation during this special event. See the rolling kiosk for details.

Thank You

Thank you so very much for all the support that you've given me throughout my whole life. It ahs been a blessing to celebrate my graduation with my family and all of your humble spirits. I hope to be in service in the near future. Thank you once again and God bless.

Robert Viera

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BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Raj Kumar
- 2 – Diana Dugle
- 3 – Donna Quillen
- 10 – Christine Hegenderfer
- 10 – Gary Lovellette
- 10 – Mary Dell Sommers
- 11 – Joyce DuBey
- 12 – Kaye Craig
- 16 – Michael Thurmond
- 22 – Wei Tsun Chang
- 22 – Eliseo Rios
- 23 – Emily Woods
- 24 – Robert Viera
- 25 – Mike Medley
- 27 – Ted Darwin
- 28 – Brenda Smith

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 – Don & Judy Medley
- 6 – Richard & Mary Ann Neil
- 8 – Ted & Rosemary Haselton
- 10 – Wayne & Susan Hogan
- 11 – Wei Tsun & Seanad Chang
- 13 – Paul & Anne Thurmond
- 14 – Kent & Lisa Dollar
- 15 – Lonnie & Lenora Hester
- 15 – Albert & Pat Wilhelm
- 24 – J.B. & Peggy Rittenberry
- 30 – Tom & Linda Wilson

In Our Prayers

Persons Homebound: Jessie Lee Lamb.

In Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Facilities: Helen Copeland Patricia Elsensohn; Dorothy Grant, Edith Jared, and Frances Snyder.

Keep in prayer also: Dick Armstrong; Mike Birdwell; Kat Bullard; Charlie Craig; Joyce DuBey; Myrna Estes; Lonnie Hester; Wayne Hogan; Don Medley; John Phillips; Hugh Piercey; Jennette Volpe’s uncle, Turner Boyd; Grace Anna Sine’s brother, Don Green; Jean Metz; Dr. Jim Bolton; Royce Harris; and the people in the armed services especially Giles Evans, Lorelei Hammond and Josh & Ashly McClellan.

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

Next newsletter deadline is

May 23

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

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