

The Messenger

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

March 2010

Pastor's Annual Report

This is the end of my fourth year as your pastor and it is truly a joy to be among you. I am deeply grateful for the support you have shown me and pray that I will continue to be worthy of that support as we continue to do good work and build a strong and caring community of faith.

2009 was a difficult year for many churches in our area and I am happy to say that we held our own. Our membership and attendance at worship remained stable throughout the year and we are a healthy congregation. Our newer members brought new ideas and new energy that has helped keep the congregation active and vital. It is also clear that we remain a very warm and welcoming group of believers. As we move through 2010, it will be important that we not only maintain our welcoming nature but that we begin to develop a more inviting attitude. We cannot become complacent. The church must always look for new ways to reach out and meet the needs of the community we serve. There are many people who need to be reached for Christ. I pray that we will be up to the task.

Looking back over the past year, we lost several members and dedicated friends of the church: Virginia Throckmorton, Nancy Jarrell, Merlin Miller, Harry Leonard, Mary Ann Dyer and Nancy Dixon. Each of these individuals was beloved by God, family, church and community. Each had special gifts and made a significant contribution to the life of the church. Each one will be remembered and missed. I am very grateful for the work of the deacons, who make sure that the families and friends of those who die are lovingly comforted in their time of loss. As our congregation ages, the ministry of compassion will continue to play an important role for us.

I was pleased to officiate at two weddings during 2009. Grant Lovellette and Allison Anderson were married in our sanctuary and celebrated their reception in Fellowship Hall. Many church folks were in attendance and it was a tremendous celebration for the entire church family. The other wedding was for Charlie Coorts and Joanne Cavanaugh, who were married in lovely rural setting and celebrated in a beautiful barn due to rainy weather. It is a joy and a privilege for me to participate in the special celebrations of people who call this church their spiritual home.

One of the most exciting developments of 2009 was our commitment to the Appalachian Network of Living Waters for the World. I believe this will become a major mission program for our region, cutting across denominational lines and bringing clean water to many families and homes. We will be the leaders in helping to make it happen.

Despite the economic woes of the region and nation, the church had a good financial year and a slight increase in giving that allowed us to exceed our budget in the area of mission, as well as make some improvements to the building and grounds. The biggest improvement may have been the complete overhaul of our sound system, which will serve the church for many years. We also made great strides in the area of computer connections and our weekly worship can now be heard on the internet. The parking lot was resurfaced and, after the loss of our Bradford Pear trees, new plantings are beginning to take root and we will continue to be proud of the face we present to the community. The 2010 budget is essentially the same as what we spent in 2009. We will wait to see what happens over the first several months before making any new plans.

2009 was the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, and I am glad that we got to know Calvin a little better through the course of the year. Of course, our major focus for 2010 will be the celebration of our centennial year. There will be art shows and special music during the year. We will have guest speakers and will host the meeting of Presbytery in July. There will be plenty of opportunity to celebrate over the coming months. I look forward to being a part of it.

Peace,
Pat H.

Centennial Calendar (A Work in Progress)

Speakers Series

Hosted in Conjunction with the Friends of the Cookeville Museums

March 25—Ann Toplovich, “Women of the Upper Cumberland”

April—Bill Landry, “The Heartland Series”

May 27—Mary Evins, “Joe L. Evins: A Life of Public Service”

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

February 22-April 9—G. David Campbell Retrospective

March 27, 1-3 p.m.—G. David Campbell Reception

April 12-June 30—Cookeville Camera Club

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

October 4-December 31—Nancy Dixon Retrospective

Concert Series

TBA

Centennial Notes:

By Michael Birdwell

By 1798 a group of Presbyterian ministers, graduates of Princeton Theological Seminary, were convinced that the New Republic had lost its sense of mission. They feared that settlers who made their way into Tennessee and Kentucky would “go native,” and adopt the culture and attitudes of Native Americans. Worse than that, however, was the possibility that the frontier might fall under the control of Methodists or Baptists.

Reverend James Cummings was the first minister to come into the region and preach. He followed Long Hunters into Tennessee in 1770 and attempted to establish a church in the Watauga Settlement in upper East Tennessee. His errand into the wilderness yielded little fruit. He urged other ministers to join him in the fight to save settlers from themselves, as they cohabited with Indians, fought, drank profusely, and generally disregarded religion. In 1797 and 1798 a delegation of Presbyterian ministers, led by James McCready, made their way into Tennessee and Kentucky, where they held a series of communions, for the word “revival” was anathema. To Presbyterians the notion that a faith was so weak that it had to be revived was tantamount to no piety at all.

In August of 1800 thousands of people descended upon Drakes Creek in Sumner County for the first Camp Meeting in U.S. history. Competing directly for the attention of the throng were Methodist minister John McGee of Smith County and Presbyterian minister William Hodge. McGee, still regarded as the “father of the Camp Meeting,” was the more successful of the two. Hodge, however, successfully founded Shiloh Presbyterian Church, the oldest of the denomination in Sumner County.

James McCready vowed to return to the frontier after his visits in 1797 and 1798, saying that he would conduct a communion at Cane Ridge, in Logan County, Kentucky that would last a fortnight. He expected around 2,000 people to attend over the course of two weeks, but somewhere between 20-30,000 people attended. Distinguished Vanderbilt historian Paul Conkin deemed the Cane Ridge communion “America’s Pentecost,” the most important cultural event of the nineteenth century. Out of that momentous revival came the Charismatic, Evangelical, Holiness, Pre and Post-Millennial, Perfectionist, Pentecostal, Restoration, and Temperance movements. Also coming from it were the Cumberland Presbyterians from which the Cookeville First Presbyterian Church, USA later emerged.

Some Presbyterians loosened their standards in order to attract more worshipers, which led in part to the creation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1810 as a middle way between the High Church Presbyterians and the sensationalism of the Evangelicals and Pentecostals. Detractors were convinced that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church—established at the Home of Sam McAdow in Dickson County—sprang from the loins of the Methodists rather than the Presbyterian Church. And it is from the Cumberland Church that this congregation later emerged. Perhaps that confusion with the Methodists is why they constantly try to appropriate our parking lot.

Easter Lilies

We will again be decorating the sanctuary with lilies on Easter Sunday, April 4. If you would like to purchase a lily you may do so by filling out a form at church or calling the church office. You may present a lily in memory or in honor of someone special. Lilies will be \$9.00. Please have your order in by Monday, March 15.

Holy Week Schedule

During Holy Week, there will be no Wednesday dinner or Bible Study on March 31, but there will be a Maundy Thursday communion service on April 1 at 7:00pm. On Easter morning, we will start with a breakfast of pancakes and sausage before the one service at 11:00.

4 Weeks, 28 Days Let’s Get Ready for Holy Week

by Sylvia McGee

For many years our church has hosted an ecumenical noontime worship service with lunch served for our community. Plans have begun for this year. Come to the services when you can. There will be a need for hosts, hostesses, and food on Friday, so, when the sign-up charts go up, sign up. The proceeds from the lunches have in the past gone to Meals on Wheels and Helping Hands.

The Eclectic Players

The Eclectic Players is a group of musicians who love chamber music. They have played in our sanctuary in the past and would like to include our church as part of their ongoing repertoire. They regularly perform in Nashville and are heard on Nashville Public Radio. Locally, The Eclectic Players are anchored by Rebecca and Eric Willie. Rebecca is a violinist with the Nashville Symphony and The Bryan Symphony. She also teaches, including regular trips to a music school in Haiti that was damaged in the latest earthquake. Eric is a Professor of Percussion at TN Tech and also performs with The Bryan Symphony. Other musicians from the Nashville and Knoxville areas fill out the group depending on the music chosen for each concert. Their next concert at our church will be Monday, March 15 at 7:30pm. Check our web site for a link to The Eclectic Players for the latest information about upcoming music.

Baby Stuff

The Women's group will continue to accept contributions of newborn infant items until the morning of March 2nd. Receiving blankets, socks, bottles and burp cloths are still needed. All donated items will be delivered to CRMC to send home with new mothers as needed. Thank you for your help.

Mission Matters

Living Waters for the World – First Installation

By Ginny Langpap

Last weekend, our group of six (John and Sylvia McGee, Diane and Sam Glasgow, and Wayne and Ginny Langpap), along with help from three experts from Living Waters, installed our first water filtration system at a small church in Tazewell, Tennessee. The church was using water that contained bacteria, and also had a very strong sulfur smell. The odor was so strong that for the last two years, the church ladies were bringing in bottled water and heating it on the stove so they could wash dishes after church functions. Now there's no sulfur smell and their water is safe. They fed us two great meals and were most gracious and thankful for the work we performed. It took longer than expected, and we'll be picking up a few loose ends this weekend when we return to install the second system in a private home. All in all, it was an excellent learning experience and a wonderful way to get to know some of the good people of Tazewell.

West Virginia Work Trip

Our work team of a dozen church members and college students will leave for Montgomery, WV on Sunday, March 7. Montgomery is a small, impoverished city south of Charleston, located along the Kanawha River, which experienced devastating flooding last year. Our work will be basic carpentry, construction and painting. The group will return on Saturday, March 13. Please keep these folks in your prayers. Other ways to support this work trip include donations of sheets and towels for people moving back into their homes after reconstruction. Monetary donations to the West Virginia trip will be helpful as well.

Feed My Sheep

One of our strengths as Presbyterians lies in sharing what we have with others, a discipline that for more than six decades Presbyterians have exercised through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This year's offering theme, drawn from Jesus' last encounter with his disciples, highlights the message he leaves them--to focus not on one's own needs but on those of others. "Do you love me?" he asks three times. Three times he repeats a variation of the instruction, "Feed my sheep." By participating in OGHS, together we are making a difference in the suffering of the world. The offering will be received March 21, 28 and April 4.

Dinner Out Group

Come join us on Saturday, March 20th at 5:00 pm for dinner. We will be dining at Dipsy Doodle Drive Inn, 1442 West Broad. Dipsy Doodle is known for their giant Burgers and banana pudding. If you have any questions call Kaye Craig 537-3714. Sign up sheets are at both doors in the sanctuary.

Youth and Young at Heart:

Decorate Easter cards for shut-ins and for soldiers on Wednesday, March 3 from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. Please bring microwavable popcorn or individual drink mix to add to bottled water and imagination! Questions? Contact Diane Glasgow 260-9350.

Financial Update

At the end of January, 2010 church finances remain strong and stable. Thanks to several church members who make their complete pledge payments at the beginning of the year, we are off to a very good start. We will have several mission expenses early in the year that will take a significant portion of the budget. We are fortunate to be able to support mission in such a strong way, locally, throughout the region and around the world.

The complete 2009 budget recap and 2010 projected budget income and expenses are part of the annual report to the congregation on February 28. Thanks to all for your generous support of church programs and mission.



Read Anything Good Lately?

By Thelma Johnson

Citizens of London by Lynne Olson

If Averill Harriman, Edward R. Murrow, and John Gilbert Winant had not stayed in London during the Blitz, the world might have been reshaped in a different pattern. Joseph Kennedy had decamped for America and gave up his post as ambassador to Great Britain. He was pro-Nazi and a strong non-interventionist. Winant was hardly known in America, but he took on the ambassadorship and stayed through the darkest days of the Battle of Britain in 1940. These three men through their friendship with Winston Churchill were key players in negotiations with Roosevelt. When Winant and Churchill heard the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor during a dinner at Churchill's Chequers, they did a little dance of joy. America was now in the war with us,

and we will win!

Lynne Olson is a journalist, a former Moscow correspondent for the Associated Press and a former White House correspondent for the Baltimore Sun. This is the most recent of her several books about WWII.

BIRTHDAYS

**M
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- 02—Bob Anderson
 - 02—Evan Phillips
 - 05—Martha Jane Whitaker
 - 07—Bruce Throckmorton
 - 08—Mike Birdwell
 - 09—Tom Aitken
 - 10—Mary Martha Bush
 - 10—Joanne Miller
 - 12—Richard Neil
 - 15—Nathanael Harrison
 - 16—Jim Reno
 - 19—Catherine Berry
 - 21—Lenola Dyer
 - 26—Janis Swim
 - 27—Debbie Handlson
 - 27—Don Medley
 - 27—Erica Scott
 - 31—Sharyl Hansen
- ANNIVERSARIES**
- 04—Jim and Barbara Greeson
 - 13—Charles and Joane Kibbons
 - 21—Malcolm and Patsy Williams
 - 25—Wayne and Sharon Myers

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; Myrna Estes; Lonnie Hester; Wayne Hogan; Linda Hurt; Don Medley; John Phillips; Amy Woods’ brother, David; Emily Woods; the Aitkens’ grandson, Jiake; Grace Anna Sine’s brother, Don Green; Gordon Hunter’s sister, Kathy Hoppers; Ted Hayes’ mother, Ann Hayes; Eli Covington who is doing mission work in Nicaragua; and the people in the armed services, especially Giles Evans and Lorelei Hammond

Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday, March 13.

Church Office:

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
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**Next newsletter deadline is
March 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.

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