

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church
Cookeville, TN 38501
www.firstprescookeville.org
October, 2010

I've missed you—

I know that I have been with you for the past two Sundays while Pat has been in Italy, but in case you haven't noticed, I have been sort of missing in action over this summer. I want to take a moment to tell you what I have been up to over the past couple of months.

The Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee has asked me to serve as the moderator of the session of a church who is currently without a pastor. The church is located in Rock Island, Tennessee and aptly named Rock Island Presbyterian Church. Its attendance averages about 30 people. They, like this church, are mostly made up of members at or nearing retirement age with a few younger members. As a part of my duties as moderator of the church, I moderate session meetings and preside over the sacraments.

The church is actively searching for a minister. Because they are a small church they cannot afford a full time minister. They are looking for a Commissioned Lay Pastor or a retired minister who might be interested in filling the pulpit on a part-time basis. As they engage in their search I am helping them to fill the pulpit on Sunday mornings.

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. is a denomination whose majority of churches are those with 100 members or less. These churches, of which my husband serves three, struggle to find consistent pastoral leadership. They, like Rock Island, are often unable to provide for a minister full time and have to rely on pastors willing to serve their pulpits on a part-time basis. We, who are fortunate enough to have the ability to have a full-time minister need to keep these small churches in our prayers as they struggle to be in ministry.

I was also busy this summer preparing for the students to come back to the Presbyterian Student Association. We graduated quite a few of our students this last May and will graduate even more this December so, we are having to double our efforts to recruit students to become involved with PSA. Our numbers are low, but we have had quite a few visitors. Our hope and prayer is that these visitors will find our community welcoming and will want to become a part.

And as always, I am busy being a mother. Emma and Jacob have always been such a blessing to me, but as children tend to be they are needy blessings. Jacob continues to struggle with his gastrointestinal problems. We are going back to the Vanderbilt pediatric GI doctor this month. We hope to be able to treat his problem at home, but are well aware that putting him in the hospital may still be our best hope. Emma is busy with 6th grade homework and playing the trumpet. She broke her pinky finger this week and is wondering how she'll be able to play her trumpet with the brace on her finger. I always appreciate your prayers for my family and ask that you continue to offer up prayers for us.

I have missed you this summer. At least now you know I wasn't just skipping out on church and attending the Bedside Baptist or the Church of the Inner Spring.

Peace, Erin

Peacemaking Offering to Be Received

October 3 is World Communion Sunday, the day that Presbyterian churches receive the Peacemaking Offering. Thirty years ago the General Assembly of the former United Presbyterian Church in the USA adopted *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*, recognizing that the church is faithful to Christ when it engages in peacemaking. The Peacemaking Offering was created to support the work of peace at all levels of the church; and congregations (25%) and presbyteries and synods (25%) use half of the Offering receipts for peacemaking work locally and regionally.

The Offering also helps the General Assembly's Peacemaking Program (50%) to develop resources, events, and programs that assist the church as it responds to Christ's call to peacemakers. A recent resource helps children learn about peacemaking in Sudan. Each year International Peacemakers from several countries visit presbyteries and synods to share information about ministries of peace and justice in their home countries and invite Presbyterians to widen their understanding of the world.

An annual seminar or conference helps people develop as disciples of the Prince of Peace. The Presbyterian Program helped coordinate Presbyterian participation in the Red Hand Campaign, an international effort to put pressure on countries to say no to children being used as soldiers.

On World Communion Sunday, we break bread and share the cup in remembrance of Jesus. Through Communion we are remembering Jesus' life and ministry, and we are also celebrating Jesus, the true peacemaker, who broke down barriers to bring people together. It is the day when Christians all over the world, regardless of denomination, politics, gender, race, or culture, come to the table to partake in the simple meal of bread and wine and remember the one who continues to bring us all together.

Clean Water Project Updated

—Appalachian Network of Living Waters for the World
by Bill Swim

Current work is focused on determining the need for water treatment systems in the Putnam County Area. Our Clean Water team has made three trips to the lower Spring Creek valley in Jackson County. Two trips were to meet and visit with people, many of whom were interested in learning more. On our third trip we tested the water at two homes and at a public spring. The need for water treatment seems significant in this area.

Our Church team will continue to work in the lower Spring Creek valley and in adjacent areas during the next several months. Though we have a dedicated team working on this mission project, additional workers would be helpful. Call Eliseo Rios, 260-4694; Bob See, 854-0841, or the Church office 526-4424 to join this exciting project or to get more information.

The Enlightenment and Inspiration Class

The Enlightenment and Inspiration class is well underway, and we are fortunate to have speakers scheduled into the month of December. Here is a list of those we look forward to:

October 3	Calvin Dickinson
October 10	Debbie Handlson
October 17	Carolyn Isbell
October 24	Velma Thompson
November 7	Jim Greeson
November 14	Rick Woods
November 21	Perryn Rice
November 28	No Class
December 5	Bill Swim
December 12	Calvin Dickinson



Read Anything Good Lately?

by Thelma Johnson

THE EDUCATION OF A COACH, by David Halberstam

Hey, it's football season, and what fan has not heard of Bill Belichick of the Patriots? Halberstam, who has written several books about baseball, politics, world problems, wars, and other weighty subjects, has done a great character study of Belichick and what it takes to be not only a winning coach but an outstanding human being. Belichick's grandparents came from Croatia a century ago to find work in the steel mills of Pittsburgh. The story of the family is one of hard work, honesty, devotion, and persistence. This is easy reading and totally appropriate for a rainy day this fall when there is no game on the TV.

Mission Matters

Equipped with slide rule, abacus, and calculator, Mary Dell Sommers has estimated a major windfall for church Missions when those who shop at Kroger use the church gift card. Very much like a debit card, this card is loaded before the purchase of groceries or gas. Then, at certain benchmarks, Kroger will donate 4% of our total purchases to the church. Last year, with just a few families participating, we were able to send \$1,500 to our housing ministry, Creative Compassion. How can a fund raiser be easier!? Please stop by the One World Market or Carolyn's office to learn more details and pick up a card.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is hard at work getting volunteers to fill 4 deacon vacancies and 3 elder vacancies. The members of the committee include: Michael Birdwell, Virginia Lovellette, Malcolm Williams, Sylvia McGee, Ginny Langpap, Chris McCormick, and Mike Medley. Please be in prayer for this committee as they do the work of the church. If you are approached by one of these committee members we hope that you will prayerfully consider serving this congregation.

You Are Important

The First Presbyterian Church values you...your talents, your gifts, and your participation. And this is the time of year—prior to the congregational meeting on the 31st—when the Personnel Committee requests your input. We are asking you to help the committee, the officers and the staff to look at our goals and expectations for another year.

Please give us a call, an e-mail or a note that expresses constructive improvement. (If you have a word of encouragement or appreciation for our staff, that would be welcomed, too!) kjkumar@tntech.edu 510-0750

We are blessed to have the sincerity, hard work, and commitment represented by our pastor, parish associate, secretary, director of music, custodian, and nursery attendant, and we want to continue the positive communication and mutual support important to our church.

The congregational meeting on Sunday, October 31st is to elect elders and deacons and to approve the terms of call for the pastor. Please plan to attend.

Dinner Out Group

Come join us on Saturday, October 16th when we will be going to Cumberland County Playhouse to see Brigadoon. The play begins at 2:30 and afterwards we will dine Italian at the historic Stagecoach Café in Crossville. Tickets for the play are \$26 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$14 for children/students, and payment must be made by October 6. (This is a non-refundable ticket.) You may see the dinner menu at <http://www.stagecoachplace.com/Website1aa/Entrees.html> If you have any questions please contact Diane Glasgow at 260-9350.

Make an International Friend

Did you know that we have over 500 international students at Tennessee Tech? Although the largest groups are from India, China, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea, there are many other countries represented. ICHA links some of these international students with local host families, opening the doors to cultural understanding and fresh perspectives. It is not a home stay program, Students live on campus and just visit their hosts periodically.

For more information on this visitation program, contact Heide Weidner (hweidner@tntech.edu)

Bulb Gardening

Due to an unexpected conflict, we have had to change the date of our work day. ***On Saturday, October 9, not October 2***, we will divide the bulbs in the iris bed. We'll start at 8 a.m. and not work any later than 11 a.m.. Please bring plastic bags for any bulbs you wish to take home, a spade and some garden gloves. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Welcome, Alexa!

We are pleased to announce that Alexa Norton, a Pre-med student from Tech, is our new nursery attendant. Alexa is a resident of the PSA House and has family ties to First Presbyterian.

Many, many thanks to Rachel and Emily McCormick and Chynna Crawford who took charge of the Nursery during the summer.

We are looking now for a support/sub system. So, if you could help on an occasional Sunday, please use the sign-up sheet at the south entrance.

Come Join Us!

The First Presbyterian women's circle meets in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Monday of each month September through May at 1:30 p.m. for a brief business meeting, Bible study and refreshments. This year the study is "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today." Judy Pumar, Leader, Diana Dugle, Treasurer and Sylvia McGee, Secretary, invite anyone interested to come and fellowship with the group.

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Birthdays

- 1 Casey Price
- 1 Paul Thurmond
- 3 Peggy Rittenberry
- 5 Josef Bullard
- 9 Andy Smith
- 15 Katie Kumar
- 17 Lois Burgess
- 22 Ed Dixon
- 31 Charlene Gregory
- 31 Ron Ledbetter

Anniversaries

- 4 Mike & Judy Pumar
- 18 Steve Chapman & Donna Simpson
- 24 John & Annette Flanders
- 24 Robert & MaryDell Sommers

In Our Prayers

PERSONS HOMEBOUND: Jessie Lee Lamb.

IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES:
Patricia Elsensohn, Edith Jared, John Phillips and Frances Snyder.

KEEP IN PRAYER ALSO: Dick Armstrong; Mike Birdwell; Charlie Craig; Helen Copeland; Billie Cameron; Joyce DuBey; Myrna Estes; Wayne Hogan; Don Medley; Hugh Piercey; Barbara Riddell; Mary Smith; Wesley Henry; Jennette Volpe's uncle, Turner Boyd;

The next newsletter deadline is October 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).

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