



SteepleTalk

March 2008

First Presbyterian Church
304 West Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087
Phone: 444-1360
Fax: 444-9916
office@fpclebanon.org

www.fpclebanon.org

Dr. John T. Cheetham,
Pastor
1705 Brian Street
Lebanon, TN 37087
Phone: 443-7510
pastor@fpclebanon.org

Rev. Nicholas Reed
Associate Pastor
121 Sunny Meade Drive
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
Phone: 288-4745
associate_pastor
@fpclebanon.org

**Member Care
Volunteer
for March**

Judy Leonard
Lois Ann Wauford

**Deacon of Month/
Visiting Deacons**

David Foutch
Justin Taylor

**Steepletalk
Deadline**

March 21st

Circle Meeting

March 3rd at 9:45 a.m.

From the Pastor...

First Presbyterian Church will be participating in a Habitat for Humanity Build this year. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian organization that works in partnership with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat builds houses with partner families in need of shelter. Habitat houses are sold to the families at no profit, financed with affordable loans. The partner families put in 500 (Sweat Equity) hours working on other houses before their house construction can begin. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments go into a revolving Fund for Humanity that is used to build more houses. Homeowners are chosen on the basis of need, willingness to partner and ability to repay the loan.

The Outreach Committee and Session approved for us to be a part of the Habitat for Humanity Apostle's build. What is the Apostle's build?

Jesus had twelve apostles helping in his ministry. Habitat has arranged for twelve churches to join together in sponsoring the building of a house this spring. The cost of a Sponsor in helping Habitat build a house in Wilson County is \$30,000. Habitat puts up the other \$30,000 which makes up the \$60,000 it takes to build a house. Each one of the sponsoring churches involved will donate \$2,500 and provides 20 volunteers to work one Saturday during the build. It takes 12 Saturdays to build one house.

Volunteers need to be at least 16 years old. You do not have to have previous construction experience. There will be folks there to help volunteers with proper directions and guidance. There is a sign up poster in the Fellowship Hall for your convenience.

I hope many of you will come be a part of this ministry of reaching out to help others in our community.

Blessings,
Dr. Cheetham

**Combined Worship Service
March 30th at 10:00 a.m.**

On Sunday, March 30th, we will have a service that will combine our contemporary and traditional services. This service will be held in the sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School on this day.

Church Retreat March 29-30

Do you find yourself during worship looking at your neighbor and saying I wish I knew that person better? Do you feel that sometimes you need a spiritual boost? Or are you just looking for a time to get away from the craziness in life? As a church we want to offer you a time and space to answer these questions in your life. This is why we are having our annual (its been awhile) **Church Retreat** at **NaCoMe March 29th-30th**. The theme for the weekend will be **“A Community of Faith.”** The Retreat is for all who want to come! It will be a weekend where we will have fellowship with one another, games, activities, free time for relaxation, spiritual renewal, worship, and most importantly, time to grow in our faith as a community of believers. The cost for the whole weekend (lodging, breakfast and lunch on Sat.) is **\$41 for adults** and **\$30 for children**. I have recently been to NaCoMe and all of the cabins are really nice and not your typical cabin. For those who want to leave as a group from the church, we will be leaving the church as a caravan to head to NaCoMe at 5:30pm on Friday stopping on the way to grab a bite to eat. For those who want to drive separately from the caravan, we plan on getting things started around 8:30pm at NaCoMe. We plan on ending our retreat around 4pm on Saturday afternoon to give people a chance to get home before dinner. Please sign up and register with Kristy by **12pm on Friday March 22nd**. If you have any questions please feel free to call or speak to Nick Reed at the church, and he would love to talk to you more about this great church outing. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another and spend time with one another growing in our faith and ministry toward Jesus Christ, so please sign up and come. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Church Clean Up Day

We hope you can join us for a Clean Up Day on March 15th! Easter comes early this year and we want the church to look great. We will clean up around the outside of the church and spreading mulch in the beds. We need your help! Clean Up will begin at 8:00 am. Don't miss out on the fun!

Ken Hawkins
Building Committee Chair

New Members

We welcome the newest members of our congregation who joined on February 17th: Charles Carrier and Dorothy Stiles, Billy and Vickie See, and Kalee Kreider.

Deepest Sympathy is extended to

Elaine and Ken Hawkins upon the death of her mother, Ruth Reeves, on February 13th.

the family of Hazel Williams, who died on Wednesday, February 6th in Murfreesboro.

Palm Sunday Church and Community Pot Luck and Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your favorite dish and Easter baskets and join us after church on Sunday March 16th for a time of food, fun, and fellowship as we anticipate the joy of the coming Easter Season. At 12:30pm we will gather together in the fellowship Hall with our favorite dishes and share our food and company with one another. Following the meal we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the community. So spread the word to all of your friends and family to join us for church that Sunday and then join us for a wonderful meal together. Look forward to seeing everyone there!!!

Brooks House News

Brooks House is a faith based organization in Lebanon. The group helps homeless families find shelter and assists families in need with basic necessities. The group is starting a volunteer program called A.N.G.E.L. that will allow women of faith to be active in our community and share their faith with those they help. There will be a free information and training session for those interested in participating.

A.N.G.E.L. Program Volunteer Training
March 8, 2008
James Ward Ag Center Fairgrounds
Session 1: 1pm-3pm or
Session 2: 3pm- 5 pm

Please RSVP with your name, phone number, and indicate which session you are interested in attending to:

GiveHelp@BrooksHouse.org

Nursery Volunteers

Each Sunday, we need volunteers to help in the Nursery. There will be a sign-up sheet on the door of the Nursery if you are interested in helping on a particular Sunday. For more information, please call the church office.

Session Highlights from the February 10th Meeting

- The following were welcomed into the fellowship of F.P.C.: Billy and Vickie See--by letter from the Springfield Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Kentucky; and Charles Carrier, Dorothy Stiles, and Kalee Kreider--by profession of faith.
- Finalizing the dates for Vacation Church School was referred to the Christian Education Committee. Consideration is being given to offering an adult Bible study simultaneously.
- The Session approved
 - Implementing a Sunday School rotation for elementary age children; (This is a model consisting of the study of a Bible story over a three-to-five week period. The children are divided into different age groups, and, with their group, they study the story through a different lens of experience each Sunday [drama, storytelling, art, puppets, etc] until they have completed the rotation stations for that particular Bible story.)
 - Sending \$1000 from the Outreach budget to assist the victims of the recent tornado.
 - A church retreat at NaCoMe March 28-29; and
 - A Habitat for Humanity sponsorship fee of \$2,500 to be taken from the Outreach budget.
- The Words of Welcome at the 11:00 a.m. service will be issued by the associate pastor.
- A Talent Show is being planned for Wednesday, March 26, 2008.
- The following elders will serve as Presbytery delegates for 2008:
 - Feb. 23- Richard Pellerin and Richard Hartwell;
 - May 1- Ken Hawkins and Charles Bradshaw;
 - July 26- Dot Jenkins and Patricia Bone;
 - October 16- Philip Barnes and Pat Climer.
- Contributions for the month of January totaled \$43,605, or 16.78 percent of the budget.

Lectionary Readings

March 2	1 Samuel 16: 1-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41
March 9	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45
March 16	Matthew 21: 1-11 Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philemon 2: 5-11 Matthew 26: 14-27: 66 Matthew 27: 11-54
March 23	Acts 10: 34-43 Jeremiah 31: 1-6 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-18 Matthew 28: 1-10 Isaiah 25: 6-9 1 Corinthians 5: 5b-8 Luke 24: 13-49
March 30	Acts 2: 14a 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31

Bible Quiz

An Old Testament book reveals some lessons that King Lemuel learned from his mother. One was the following: "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Which book contains that quote?

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| A. Psalms | B. Jeremiah |
| C. 2 Kings | D. Proverbs |

Transportation for Seniors

The Member Care Committee is looking for volunteers on a rotating basis to drive the church van on Sundays to transport our senior church members who are living in retirement homes to our church services.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Kristy in the church office or Richard Pellerin at 453-5495.

March 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<u>Sunday</u> 8:45 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Church School	<u>Sunday Youth Fellowship</u> 4:45 pm Elementary 5:45 pm Dinner 6:15 pm Youth					1
2 Communion	3 9:00 am Sewing Group	4 9:45 am Morning Circle 4:00 pm Knitting Group	5 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	6 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	7	8
9 7:15 pm Session	10 9:00 am Sewing Group	11 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Knitting Group	12 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	13 6:30 pm Contemp	14	15
16 12:30 Luncheon 5:00 pm Deacon's Palm Sunday	17 9:00 am Sewing Group	18 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Knitting Group	19 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	20 6:30 pm Contemp Maundy Thursday	21 Steepletalk Deadline Good Friday	22
23 Easter	24 9:00 am Sewing Group	25 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Knitting Group	26 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	27 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship 4 Cents a Meal	31 9:00 am Sewing Group				NaCoMe Family Retreat	
						Bible Quiz Answer: D

SteepleTalk
 First Presbyterian Church
 P.O. Box 457
 Lebanon, TN 37087

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Lebanon, TN
 Permit 106

News from the Associate Pastor

I am so happy to announce there are new and exciting things going on with Christian Education, particularly with the children. At the last session meeting, our session decided to change our Christian Education program for our children's ministry to a rotation Sunday School. Well after reading that title, some of you might be wondering what in the world is a rotation Sunday School model? A rotation Sunday School model is a model where children with their appropriate age group will learn and explore the same Bible story over a number of weeks through different experiences and learning styles (Storytelling, Arts and Crafts, Drama, Puppets, etc).

Now this might sound unclear to some, so let me use an example. We will divide the children into different groups according to their age group (pre-k, k-1, 2-3, 4-5). For example lets use the 2nd and 3rd graders. Let us say for four straight weeks we will explore and study the story of "Jesus Calming the Sea." On the first week the 2nd and 3rd graders will study the story through Arts and Crafts and with paint the story can be explored and discussed. The next Sunday they will rotate to a new class room and study the same story of "Jesus Calming the Sea", but this time explore and learn the story through drama. On the third Sunday of learning the story of "Jesus Calming the Sea" they will rotate to a class room where they will explore the story through Storytelling. Finally, on the fourth Sunday they will learn the story of "Jesus Calming the Sea" through Puppets. After four weeks, the children now have studied, heard, explored, and learned the story of "Jesus Calming the Sea." Through many different outlets of learning, their faith and their knowledge of the story has grown.

I am not only writing you all to inform you about this great and new model of Sunday School for Children, I am writing to find volunteers to help implement this model here at our Church. This model of Sunday School is very flexible for volunteers to use their time and their talents for serving the church. For example, if Jane or Joe Smith decides to volunteer to teach the Arts and Crafts class for the story of "Jesus Calming the Sea," she/he must find an activity to teach this story, but she/he uses the same activity on different levels for all four groups throughout the four weeks story period. So, she/he only really has to prepare once for the 3-4 week period. The hope also is that she/he would teach for a 3-4 week period, then rotate off when the new story period begins.

One of the biggest issues I hear from people at this church is that they feel that when they commit to something at church sometimes it feels like they are stuck doing it for years. I think this model is great because Sunday School teachers can teach but then be refreshed. Besides teaching the individual classes, I am looking for adults to be a "Shepherd" to each age group. The shepherd has a job that requires more time commitment, but no preparation to teach. The children need a constant presence that follows them and guides them from class to class, from Sunday to Sunday, especially since they experience a new teacher every week. The Shepherds main role is to be a leader and someone the children can look up to on a consistent basis. Even though the Shepherd would need to commit to a longer time period of leadership (at least 3 months) the Shepherd does not plan anything during that time, they only assist the Rotation Teachers.

Well I am sure that was a lot to take in, but I think it is important for everyone to know where *we* are going and how *you* can be involved in the wonderful ministry we are offering our children. If you have any questions or are interested more about this new model of Sunday School for children please feel free to call me or speak to me at church because I would love to answer your questions. Also, be on the look out for more opportunities to learn more about this new program and how you can be involved.

Grace and Peace,
Nick

A New Confirmation Class is just getting started!!

We are so pleased and blessed to have 7 young people be a part of our 2008 confirmation class. These seven individuals have committed to spending their time and energy to explore and grow more in their faith in Jesus Christ. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers over the next few months as they journey together towards being confirmed and professing their faith in Jesus Christ before God and this congregation.

Cedar Forest Ministry

It's that time of year when we start making our plans for the summer. The Cedar Forest ministry is a part of the summer tradition in our church for more than 30 years. The first service will be May 25 and continue until August 31. Please check your calendar and pick a Sunday to help out in this meaningful service. The calendar is in the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen door.

I want to thank again all those who helped last year.

Hal Bone
Pat Bone
Suanne Bone
Tracey Bone
Charles Bradshaw
Loyce Bradshaw
Linda Bramhall
Faye Brown
Becky Burris
Charles Carrier
Betty Clay
Bob Frye
Karen Hall

Bill Hamby
Nancy Hamby
Linda Hartwell
Richard Hartwell
Jane Hay
Sara Hay
Tracey Hay
Barbara Howell
David Howell
Mimi Hurd
Olivia Hurd
Raymond Hurd
Sam Hurd

Gwynn Lanius
Nancy Lanius
Brooke Nagy
Tony Nagy
Mary Ellen O'Neil
Kay Pellerin
Richard Pellerin
Deborah Sanders
Mark Sanders
Hugo Sandoval
Dorothy Stiles
Robin Taylor

A Very Special Thank You...

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As many of you know, I have personal involvement with the victims of the tornado. I came here from Lafayette. I would like to personally and from the bottom of my heart thank everyone for the prayers, thoughts, words of encouragement for me and my family, and for all donations of money, clothing, food, and hygiene and household items. The families that have received the donations are very grateful and much appreciative. May God bless all of you!! Love, Kristy

Life after prison has been difficult but nothing in comparison to the struggle that men, women and children face in their challenges with Muscular Dystrophy. Thank you so much for contributing to this great cause. Through your help, I was able to raise \$624.00. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Nick

Congratulations

to Erin and Chas Chasse upon the birth of Charles Aaron Taylor Chasse on February 27. Proud grandparents are Robin Taylor and Bruce Taylor.

Church Directory

Finally, after much anticipation, the new church directory has arrived. Copies of directory are available in the office. Please feel free to stop by anytime to get your copy.



Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering on Easter Sunday. The offering supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People.

Mission Trips to Guatemala

The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee plans three trips to Guatemala this year and you are invited to get involved!

April 24-May 1: Introductory trip.
June 19-26: VBS and theological training
November 1-8: Medical clinics

For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Mike Magee at mageemichaelj@aol.com