



SteepleTalk

May 2007

First Presbyterian Church
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1705 Brian Street
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Member Care Volunteer for May

Suane Bone
Marilyn Halbert

Deacon of Month/ Visiting Deacons

Lesley Jacobson
Judy Leonard

Steepletalk Deadline

May 25th

Circle Meeting

Tuesday, May 1st
9:45 a.m.

Words of Welcome

Tom Halbert

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for the Contemporary Service. If you would like to help provide food, please contact Kristy in the office at 444-1360.

From the Pastor...

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 *"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:*

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."

It has been said that life is what happens while we are waiting around for something else to happen. Perhaps we had a different idea of how our life would turn out. Maybe we had a dream of how our life would work out and we have waited around for that to come to pass, but it never has.

If you have ever read the comics you will be familiar with the comic B.C. Every so often someone will climb up to the top of the mountain to ask the wise man some question about life. What they usually find out is that the wise man doesn't have the answer either.

What does it all mean? So many people have started down the pathway of life but very few have ever found the answer. We have been overwhelmed by the circumstances of life and we ask, "What does it all mean?"

You will always have situations and circumstances that you won't understand. I wish I could tell you that I have all the answers for the questions of life, but I don't. However I can tell you this - Our lives will have meaning and worth, only if we live for Jesus. For only Jesus can satisfy your soul.

Solomon, one of the wisest men ever to live, devoted much of his life to answer this question of the meaning and purpose of life. He says to fear God. What does it mean to fear God? Godly fear is not being afraid of God but reverencing him. Godly fear realizes that the earth and everything in it belongs to God. We are God's creation, we belong to him. Our life, the food we eat and the air we breath belongs to Him. It's God that sustains us.

John 1:3 *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

Colossians 1:16-17 *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."*

God made everything around us and he made us. If we really feared or revered God we would live for him and serve Him with our lives.

Since we were created by God and sustained by Him, He must have a reason for us being here on earth. Some purpose more than just living until we die.

The Psalmist writes: *"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body."* (Psalm 139:13-16).

Before I was even formed God had a plan and a purpose for my life. To find that purpose will bring my life the greatest joy.

To fear God is to recognize sin and its destructive influence in our life. When Isaiah saw God, he saw himself as he really was.

Isaiah 6:5 *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."* Today we have such a light view of sin and what it is and how it affects us. The thief and murderer have no remorse; the criminal is not responsible for what he does; our courts often let the murderer and criminal go free; and there is little compassion for the victims of crime

We transgress the laws of God and it doesn't bother us. We live how we want to live and not according to God's word and never give it much thought. We profess to be Christian but don't live according to God's laws.

We fail to see that sin is a cancer which eats away and destroys our lives. We fail to see the reality that sin is damning the souls of men and women to a hell that was created only for the devil and his angels.

The reality is that sin separates us from a holy God.

Solomon's word to us today is to fear and reverence God, and to keep his laws. Let us live our life for God in all that we do.

Dr. Cheetham

Wednesday Night Fellowship 6:00 p.m.

May Menus and Programs

- 2nd Spaghetti w/meatballs, Garlic Bread,
Green Salad, Rum Pound Cake
- 9th Fish Fry

Program presented by The Huddleston's



Join us on Wednesday, May 9th for our annual Fish Fry. The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. and we will eat outside (weather permitting). Reservations may be made by calling the church office or using the reservation slip in the Sunday bulletin. Don't miss this great meal!

From the Organ Committee

Our pipe organ at First Presbyterian Church is an important element in our corporate worship. There are various roles that are served by our pipe organ in our worship services. First, to be an assertive and warm leader of congregational singing; second, accompany choral and instrumental ensembles with sensitivity and flair; and third, play the startling array of organ repertoire, with all its variety and color, brilliance and compelling beauty.

The current instrument is actually the second pipe organ to be installed in our sanctuary. It was built and installed in 1955 by the Moller Organ Co. of Hagerstown, Md. The first was built by the Pilcher Organ Co. of Louisville, Ky. and installed shortly after the construction of the sanctuary in 1911. Though the pipes visible to the congregation today no longer contribute to the sound of the organ, they do continue to provide beauty and majesty to our sanctuary.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to speak to any member of the Organ Committee: Pat Climer; chair, Marty Bone, Lesley Jacobson, Gary Scott and Bob Frye.

Deepest Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to:

Dot Jenkins and family upon the death of her sister, Betty Eschelman, on April 9th.

Robert Wiseman and family upon the death of his grandmother, Mary Ann Stovall, on April 11th in Pulaski.

The family of Sue Bouton, who died on April 23rd. Her funeral service was held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, April 25th.

Rodney Ahles and family upon the death of his brother, Gary Ahles, who died on April 24th in Long Beach, California.

Lynn Harris and family upon the death of Eddie Harris on April 27th.

The family of William Guthrie (Gus) Marks, who died on April 12th in Houston, Texas.

Bible Quiz

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

When is Pentecost?

- A. Seventh Sunday after Easter
- B. Seventh Sunday after the Ascension
- C. 40 days after Easter
- D. 40 days after the Ascension

Session Highlights

- Vacation Church School will be held June 24-28, with Margaret Carroll serving as director
- Pictures for the new church directory are scheduled to be taken August 28-31.
- The Session approved holding a Silent Auction as a fund raiser for the mission trip.
- The Member Care Committee continues to focus on improving attendance and is looking at options for getting the names of newcomers to the community for the purpose of inviting them to FPC.
- A Member Care Pot Luck Dinner will be held Wednesday night, May 16th.
- The Session approved a committee to draft guidelines for administering the Bascom Cooksey, Jr., First Presbyterian Scholarship Fund. Committee members are Roy Wauford, Ken Hawkins, and Pat Climer.
- Brooke Nagy reported that the Pastor Nominating Committee members have screened the personal information forms of 55 candidates for associate pastor and, as of this date, have six (6) candidates that are in active status.
- Contributions for March totaled 5.55 percent of the budget for 2007.

The May Session meeting will be Monday, May 14.

Lectionary Readings

May 6	Acts 11: 1-18 Revelation 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35
May 13	Acts 16: 9-15 Revelation 21: 10, 21: 22-22:5 John 14: 23-29 John 5: 1-9
May 20	Acts 16: 16-34 Revelation 22: 12-14, 1-17, 20-21 John 17: 20-26
May 27	Acts 2: 1-21 Romans 8: 14-17 Acts 2: 1-21 John 14: 8-17 (25-27)



Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

This year's Offering theme, "That very Spirit!" from Romans 8:16, highlights how the Spirit of God persistently reminds us that we are all children of God. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering work actively to bring God's blessings to our brother and sisters in need.

Through the Pentecost Offering you are raising up leaders for the church! A former member of our church, Alicia Perry, served a year in Nashville as a Young Adult Volunteer in 2000. The Nashville Epiphany Project is hosted by Second Presbyterian Church. This arrangement offers the YAV an exceptional opportunity to share the mission experience in community with members of Second Presbyterian Church.

Member Care Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, May 16
6:00 p.m.

The Member Care Committee is sponsoring a covered dish dinner on Wednesday night, May 16. Bring your favorite recipe (enough to feed 10 to 12 people) and join the fellowship.

May 2007

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<u>Sunday</u>		1	2	3	4	5
8:45 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 AM Church School		9:00 am Preschool 9:45 am Morning Circle 4:00 pm Knitting Group	5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp Presbytery Meeting		
			Jay on Vacation			
6 5:00 pm Organ Committee 6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting Communion	7 9:30 am Sewing Group	8 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Knitting Group	9 Fish Fry	10 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	11	12
13	14 9:30 am Sewing Group 6:30 pm Session	15 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Knitting Group	16 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Member Care Potluck Supper 7:15 Choir	17 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	18	19
20	21 9:30 am Sewing Group	22 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Knitting Group	23 5:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	24 10:00 am Preschool Graduation 6:30 pm Contemp	25 Steepletalk Deadline	26
27 5:00 pm Deacons Pentecost 4 Cents a Meal	28 9:30 am Sewing Group Office Closed for Memorial Day	29 4:00 pm Knitting Group	30 5:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	31		

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Lebanon, TN 37087

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Cedar Forest Ministry

On Sunday, May 27th we will begin our summer worship services at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. We need volunteers who can give a short message, others to lead music, and “greeters” who will walk through the campsites and invite people to the service. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you would like to be involved in this ministry of fellowship and outreach.



**The office will be closed on
May 28th in observance of
Memorial Day**

Vacation Bible School June 24-28

This year the theme for VBS is “Take the Plunge.” We need beach related items, such as beach towels, beach chairs, beach umbrellas, beach balls, wading pools, inner tubes, a small plastic slide, a blue tarp, a tan tarp, sand toys, rafts, floats, and swim goggles. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to church office.

Volunteers are also needed! If you would like to help one night or the entire week, please call the church office at 444-1360.

SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN... LET'S ALL REACH OUT AND PARTICIPATE

Hugo Sandoval, Outreach Committee Chair

We all have heard the expression “to sit on your hands.” It is a way of talking about someone who does nothing, for to sit on one’s hands means that one is unproductive since the “tools” that help us create are tied up. And it also means that the person is not moving since sitting is incompatible with mobility.

Next month our church has the first of several opportunities not to sit on its hands:

May 26 is the **Silent Auction** to raise funds for those traveling on **mission trips to Guatemala and/or Brazil**. One possible way not to sit on your hands is to donate items to the Auction. Our Voluntary Auctioneer (rather silently) is Judy Leonard and she will be glad to receive our donations by August 20th. She can be contacted by calling the Church office. Of course, bidding is a different way to participate; we need the funds that the items will bring to fund the donations and the travel expenses of those going.

A second way not to sit on your hands this summer is to participate in the mission trips on behalf of our church. The trips are conveniently spaced; to **Guatemala, June 9-16**, and **July 7-14**; to **Brazil August 3-11**. So, there are three opportunities throughout the summer to go.

The July trip to Guatemala includes the construction of a church for a congregation that now meets in the porch of the pastor’s house, the installation of a potable water system, and medical assistance to the members of our Partner Presbytery in Petén and Sayaxche. The Brazil trip besides a mission of presence is an opportunity to bring donations to several important educational projects in the dry, water-starved Northeast part of Brazil. Call the Church office for more details on any of these.

A fourth way not to sit on your hands is right here at home: you can volunteer to invite, lead singing, or bring the message to the **Cedar Forest Sunday Worship**. These services begin on Memorial Day Sunday, May 27th and continue until Labor Day Sunday, September 2nd. The sign-up board is located on the wall right at the rear entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

A fifth way to not sit on your hands regarding the outreach mission of our church is to provide funds for the mission trips. Remember the expression “to give of one’s time, talents, and treasure.” Time and talent need treasure to be more effective. Let’s all contribute at least with one of those. Summer is the season for action, don’t you sit on your hands.

Guatemala Mission trip 2007

June 9-16

Valle Nuevo

Coordinator Susan Brantley 297-4639

Contact Person Barbara Hall home 373-5587 cell 491-5983 work 370-3760 ext 13

Team members thus far: Susan Brantley, Mike Magee, Doak Patten, Ann Carr

Possible: Ashley Darnell, Philip Beiswinger, Doris Rice, Nancy Morris, Janet Hilley, Gregg Hileman, Fred Kirchner

Cost

Flight – about \$900

Daily - \$85 per day – (covers van, driver, escort, food, hotel) x 7.5 = \$637.5

To leave Guatemala = \$8

Total = \$1545.50

Other possible costs: Travel money, shots, Tikal (\$7), gifts/souvenirs

Purpose/objectives/ideas:

Planning team to visit Peten in March to decide priorities

Build a water harvesting system on roof of new church in Valle Nuevo– in progress hopefully

Help the community learn how to manage, share, and maintain it

Be in fellowship with the community- build relationships

Worship with them/eat with them

Put fluoride on children's teeth

Eye clinic

School materials

Instruments – the children love music

Traveling issues:

Food: Each day, lunch will be in the village

Don't drink the water – only bottled

Take your own snack food for the week down with you on the plane

Don't eat fruit that can not be peeled

Don't eat lettuce, radishes, and tomatoes

Give Susan any dietary restrictions

Local transportation - Van

Security – armed police may travel with us

Escort travels with us who will help with translation

Passport needed – keep a copy with you at all times on trip

Shots: hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Malaria pills (can get malaria pills in Guatemala)

Take an antibiotic for traveling diarrhea

Travel Clinic at Vanderbilt – 1301 22nd Ave. S – 936-1174 – Betty Cecelic

Clothing: light weight pants for men

Skirts for women – long for church

Can wear pants to work in

First aid kit (Fred)

Risk management insurance available – contact Kris Baker kbaker@ctr.pcusa.org

Devotions – Each morning before breakfast, a quick gathering to begin the day with prayer and a bible reading.

Each night we will discuss/process/reflect on the day. All team members are invited to lead devotion.

Misc.

Phone tree – to contact families

Photocopy passports – to keep in safe place during trip

Collect list of: blood type, prescription meds, allergies, etc.

all members sign a liability release form

Contact in Guatemala

David Wiseman – c – 011-502-5736-6253

h -011-502-7763-6610 o – 011-502-7767-3365

Guatemala Mission Dinner

Sunday, May 6th
6:00pm

The Guatemala Mission Task Force will be traveling to the Peten again this year to share in God's ministry, love and friendship.

The dates for the trip are July 7th—July 14th.

Please join us and hear more about our Mission work in Guatemala.
Meet the 2007 Mission Team & offer them your support and encouragement
Enjoy the dinner they have prepared

There is no charge, but donations will be gladly accepted

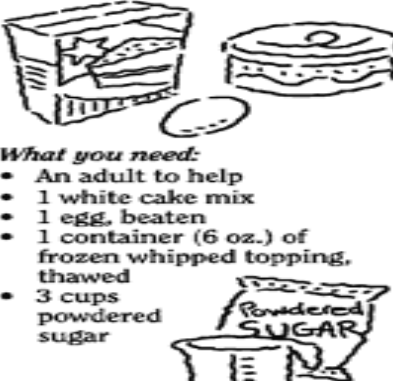
In order to help plan how much food to prepare,
we would like to get a headcount so please reply by email to ebpcmail@comcast.net

If you are interested in going on the Mission Trip please contact Barb Hall at home 373-5587;
cell 491-5983 ; and work 370-3760 ext 13

Cloud Cookies

Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (verse 11).



What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar

What you do:

1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.

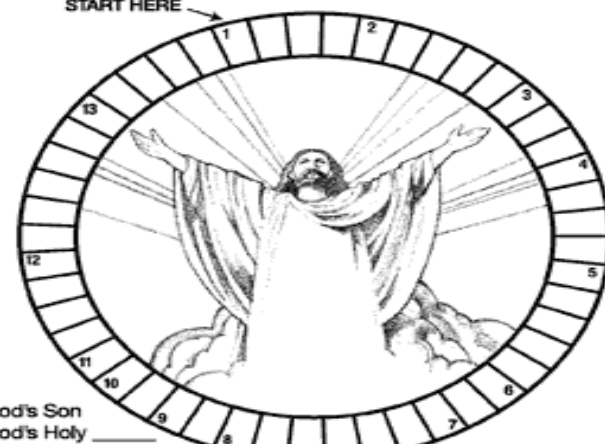
Just for KIDS

Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.

START HERE →



1. God's Son
2. God's Holy _____
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds
9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers: 1) Jesus; 2) Spirit; 3) time; 4) Earth; 5) heaven; 6) new; 7) witness; 8) sky; 9) you; 10) up; 11) power; 12) returns; 13) seeks