



SteepleTalk

August 2009

First Presbyterian Church
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Member Care Volunteer

Judy Leonard

Deacon of Month/ Visiting Deacons

Hal Bone
Scott Harris

Steepletalk Deadline

August 21st

Circle Meeting

Meetings will resume in
September

Mission Co-workers

Roger & Gloria Marriott
Ted & Sue Wright

From the Pastor...

Paul said “*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child,*” and we started school after Labor Day. This school schedule provided the whole of August for summer vacation in the grand calendaring scheme of things. We would go on our family trips or to summer camp in August in the 1960s with no thought that it might impinge on school days. Now in most parts of the country school now begins around the second week in August.

I would guess that several factors come into play when changing the nature of the school calendar. Fewer American school children work on the family farm. Therefore, the late summer harvest is no longer a basis for the school calendars. Another argument that influences the new and more modern school calendar is that most schools have included more breaks. Most schools, for example, have a long Christmas break in addition to a winter and spring break. Finally, compared to the time when I attended public schools, the educational “powers that be” in my state have, over the years, increased the number of days necessary to complete a child’s educational requirements.

All this talk of change reminds me that occasionally we, by the nature of the culture in which we live, must adjust the ways that we have always done things. I often hear people bemoan the lack of desire to change in their congregations, but it is often they who do not like to rock the boat.

As a pastor, I have a dual task. First I must immerse myself thoroughly in the Holy Scriptures. I need to understand what the biblical witness of faith says and how the context of Bible stories, statutes, and ordinances color the implications of sacred texts. My other task, however, may be just as important. I need to be aware of the world around our congregation. Karl Barth once commented that faithful preachers carry the Bible in one hand and the daily newspaper in the other. I suppose Barth meant that preachers need to not only know the scripture but also understand the world to which holy writ speaks.

While it may be true that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8), it is equally true that the world to which the Scripture speaks changes constantly. The Greek pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus once said, “It is not possible to step twice into the same river” (“Fragment 91,” Heraclitus, in John Bartlett, *Familiar Quotations* [Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1968] p. 77b). By this he meant that whenever one approaches a river it is different by virtue of the fact that new droplets of water form what appears to be the same river. In other words, everything is in constant flux or change. This may be especially true when we speak of social groupings of people. No matter how similar we look to outsiders, no two groups of people are alike.

We live a balancing act between venerable traditions and the serendipitous unconventional. It is good to remember that a standard Christian doctrine is the unchanging nature of God. Most of us find comfort in knowing that our God resides in a stable status. The challenge for us is to remember to make the Scriptures relevant to the changes we find in our world today.

Blessings,
Dr. Cheetham

From the Associate Pastor...

I am so excited about the next couple of months at First Presbyterian Church! We are going to start something back up that happened years before I even arrived at this church. We are going to start up a small group ministry that takes place not only in our church but in our own homes. ***Faith, Food, and Fellowship*** is a ministry that consists of groups meeting around the Bible and food in places besides the church.

Faith, Food, and Fellowship is going to be a great opportunity for everyone in the church to gather together and get to know one another better, but more importantly explore their faith! ***Faith Formation*** is an important part of all our Christian journey's and our hope is that **Faith, Food, and Fellowship** will be able to nurture, shape, form, and challenge your faith in our loving Triune God!

We would love everyone to become a part of this new ministry! It does not matter if you are older, younger, new at the church, been at the church for a lifetime, married, single, have kids, or have no kids we want everyone to come and join us! Our vision for this ministry is that everyone in the church become part of a group of eight to ten people! Each group will have a group leader that will coordinate your groups gathering times and locations. Your group leader will also lead the group in a some form of Devotional or Bible Study or faith based discussion. The type of faith formation that occurs within your group is up to your group and your leader. The hope also is that everyone in the group will have the opportunity to host their group if they would like to.

Although gathering up leaders for the groups is important, it is not as important as finding people to take part in the ***Faith, Food, and Fellowship*** groups. Those who sign up to participate, please rest assured that you will not be called upon to lead your group if you do not want to. Our hope is to place people in groups of people they might not know as well so you can spend the year getting to know more people in the church better. Also if you know any people outside of our church who would love to be a part of this ministry, please let me know so we can make sure they can become a part of our church family through this ministry. Our plan after a year is to reshuffle people into new groups so you can get to know and explore your faith with more wonderful members of First Presbyterian Church.

Please, please, please sign up to join us! Its going to be an amazing experience that you will want to be a part of! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the church! Be sure to check out our bulletin board in the hallway outside of the Library to learn more about ***Faith, Food, and Fellowship*** and sign up to be either a leader or a participant! I believe that this ministry is going to allow your faith to be nurtured and to grow and you will see First Presbyterian Church in a whole new light!!

Grace and Peace,
Nick

Rally Day
Sunday, August 9th
9:45 a.m.

On August 9th, all Sunday school classes will meet in Fellowship Hall to celebrate our new Sunday school year. We will recognize the teachers and volunteers who were involved with our Sunday school program during 2008-09. We will also look ahead to the coming year. The three adult classes will have an opportunity to tell about their classes, including upcoming topics of discussion. The children will tell about their Sunday school classes. Plan to join us for Rally Day; it will be a great day to find out which Sunday school class is best for you!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

In order to recognize special occasions we are requesting that members of the congregation share their birthday and anniversary dates (year not required) with the church office. Please call Kristy in the office at 444-1360 or send an email to office@fpclabanon.org. Or you may write the information in the comments area of the attendance slip and place it in the offering plate.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Luke Baker upon the birth of their son, Finnean Rex Baker, who was born on June 24th in Pensacola, Florida. Jon Baker is the proud grandfather.

Session Highlights from the July 13, 2009 Meeting

- The Treasurer reported that June offerings were \$15,484.25.
- The bank balance as of June 30, 2009 was \$18,670.54
- The sanctuary cross was raised by Bluegrass Glass and Mirror at no cost to the church.
- The Christian Education committee reported that August 9 would be Rally Day with no regular Sunday School but instead a celebration of Sunday School with a mixer for all classes in the Fellowship Hall; regular Sunday School classes will start back August 16.
- The Christian Education committee is continuing to work on Faith/Food/ Fellowship groups as a small group ministry to meet in homes. They are working to find volunteers to lead the groups.
- The Outreach committee has placed a bulletin board in the hallway asking for donations to Project J.O.Y., which will again send school supplies to children in Harlan, KY.
- The Worship committee has decided that there will not be a combined service on the next fifth Sunday, August 30. The 5th Sunday in November will be the First Sunday in Advent and there will be two services concentrating on music that Sunday.
- We will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our church building in 2010. Current plans are to have six celebration Sundays in January – June with different themes.
- Nick Reed is planning with Beth Johnson to take 8 youth to the Montreat Middle School Conference in South Carolina where Reverend Reed will be the keynote speaker.
- A Deacon on duty at each traditional service will lock the fellowship hall door and the door near the nursery at 11:05 each Sunday beginning August 2 to minimize access and the possibility of theft or other criminal activity.

Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of G. Frank Burns who died on Monday, July 13th in Texas. There was a memorial service held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Lectionary Readings

August 2	2 Samuel 11: 26-12: 13a Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35
August 9	2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 Ephesians 4: 25-5:2 John 6: 35, 41-51
August 16	1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58
August 23	1 Kings 8: 1, 6, 10-11, 22-30 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69
August 30	Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 James 1: 17-27 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Cedar Forest Ministry

This year we are sharing the responsibility of the Cedar Forest Ministry with other churches in Lebanon. Volunteers are needed for August 30 and September 6th. We need “greeters” to invite campers to the service, song leaders who select songs and lead the singing, and worship leaders who deliver a short devotional. Please sign up on the board in the hall outside the library if you would like to be involved in this ministry of fellowship and outreach. For more information, contact Richard Hartwell.

CLASSIFIED BULLETIN BOARD

Check out the bulletin boards in the hallway next to library. The bigger board is now being used for news articles. The smaller board is for our own classified ads to be used by members of our church family.

- Got something to sell? List it on the board.
- Need help? Post it on the board.
- Looking for something to buy? Ask for it.

Feel free to put up your own business cards. Check the envelope for 3x5 cards for your use.

August 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<u>Sunday</u>						
8:45 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Church School						1
2 Communion	3 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group 6:00 Christian Ed. 7:00 Outreach 7:00 pm Worship	4 3:30 pm Knitting 6:00 Member Care	5 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	6 6:30 pm Contemp	7	8
9 Rally Day	10 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group 6:00 pm Session 6:30 pm Southern Starrs	11 3:30 pm Knitting	12 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	13 6:30 pm Contemp	14	15
16	17 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	18 3:30 pm Knitting	19 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	20 6:30 pm Contemp	21	22 8:30 am Prayer Breakfast
23	24 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	25 3:30 pm Knitting	26 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	27 6:30 pm Contemp	Nick on Vacation	
			Nick on Vacation			
30 4 Cents a Meal	31 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group				28 Steepletalk Deadline	29
—Dr. Cheetham on Study Leave—						

Faith, Food, and Fellowship

Do you enjoy some great food: Do you enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship? Are you looking to have some time to sit down and explore your faith with others? Then First Presbyterian Church has the thing just for you! Starting in September of 2009 our church would like to try a different approach to Christian Education at FPC! We call it Faith, Food, and Fellowship!

What is it?

It is a time to gather with 8-10 other people from the church, either at someone's home or a disclosed location, and meet for a time of faith exploration, food, and fellowship with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

How often will your groups meet?

It is definitely up to the group, but we encourage each group to try and meet once a month.

Who will lead the group?

We are seeking people who might be willing to take on and lead a group. This person would lead the discussion or Bible Study for the group. Dr. Cheetham and Reverend Reed have said they would love to be resources for the group leaders. Group leaders also would take the lead in setting up future meeting dates and times at the groups convenience.

Will I ever have to lead the group?

No, unless those who want to lead would like to lead a session for your group. If you want to participate in this ministry, sign up to be a part of a group and you can simply come and have a time to enjoy fellowship with others and be led in a though provoking devotion for your spiritual growth.

How can I sign up?

All you have to do is sign up on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the library or call the church office and tell them you would either like to lead a group or be put in a group. We at the church will place everyone into their groups! Our hope is that after a year in a group, we will change the groups all over again so you can get to know more people of the church.

A Great Opportunity!

This is a great opportunity to get involved with the church, get to know members of the church you might not really know all so well, share stories with friends, and most of all, share and grow your faith in our amazing Triune God!

FPC Lunch Break

Join Nick Reed and other members of the church as they gather for Lunch Break at Crave Café and Bookstore on Thursdays. The July gatherings will be held on the 16th and 30th. Feel free to drop in anytime between 11:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. for a time of lunch, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, August 12th
6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Plan to have dinner with your church family at a pot luck dinner on Wednesday, August 12th. Our members are known to be great cooks! So bring your favorite dish and your appetite. The dish could be a vegetable, a salad, meat, or a dessert; drinks will be provided. This is a great opportunity for a summer gathering at the church. Invite a friend to join you for some good food and fellowship. See you there!

Prayer Breakfast **August 22nd**

The monthly prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, August 22nd at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join as we gather to have breakfast with one another and a time of devotion and prayer. The church will provide coffee and donuts; feel free to bring any additional breakfast foods with you.

Project J.O.Y. **Adopt-a-Bag**

Project J.O.Y (Joyous Offerings of Youth) is the youth-lead Appalachian Mission Project at Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Project J.O.Y. started in 1999 when the high school youth group was looking for a mission project. They were led to Harlan, KY, a community of extreme poverty in the coal mining area of eastern Kentucky.

This year Project J.O.Y. will again gather items for "learning bags" as well as laundry supplies, linens, clothing, and food. Lists of supplies needed to fill these bags are posted on the wall outside Fellowship Hall. Select a list and take advantage of "back-to-school" sale prices! The deadline to return the supplies is Sunday, September 27th.



Ken's Going Away Party

**Please join us as we offer
our best wishes
to Ken Poley
on his move to California.**

DATE: Friday, August 7

TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: 210 South Tarver, Lebanon

Refreshments

No gifts, please