



SteepleTalk

October 2008

First Presbyterian Church
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Member Care Volunteer

Judy Leonard

Deacon of Month/ Visiting Deacons

Becky Burris
Bob Frye

Steepletalk Deadline

October 24

Circle Meeting

October 7 at 9:45 a.m.

From the Pastor...

The Holy Eucharist is the oldest experience of Christian Worship as well as the most distinctive. Eucharist comes from the Greek word which means thanksgiving. In a particular sense, the word describes the most important form of the Church's attitude toward all of life. The origin of the Eucharist is traced to the Last Supper at which Christ instructed His disciples to offer bread and wine in His memory. The Eucharist is the most distinctive event of Orthodox worship because in it the Church gathers to remember and celebrate the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ and, thereby, to participate in the mystery of Salvation.

This sacrament is referred to as Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper in the Reformed Tradition of the Presbyterian Church USA. The Eucharist is variously administered. Acknowledging that the bread at the Passover celebration was almost certainly unleavened, some Churches use bread without any raising agent but, the Presbyterian Church (USA) prescribes "bread common to the culture". The wine served might be true alcoholic red wine or grape juice from either a chalice or from individual cups.

Years ago the Reformed tradition moved away from coming forward to receive communion, preferring to have the elements distributed throughout the congregation by the presbyters (elders) more in the style of a shared meal. The elements may be found served separately with "consecration" for each element or together. Communion is usually open to all baptized believers.

The worship committee decided that for this World Communion Sunday they wanted the congregation to experience this Holy Sacrament in a little different way which dates back to the Orthodox tradition of the congregation coming forward to receive the elements. We will receive the Sacrament by Intinction.

Intinction is the Eucharistic practice of partly dipping the consecrated bread, or host, into the consecrated wine before it is consumed.

During the 8:45 a.m. service, the congregation will come forward for communion one table at a time.

During the 11:00 a.m. service, the choir will come forward for communion first, and then return to their seats. The congregation will come forward for communion one pew at a time (as instructed by an elder) down the inside isle and return to their pew by the outside isle.

This is one way of celebrating our ecumenical fellowship with multiple denominations during this World Communion Sunday, October 5th.

Blessings,
Dr. Cheetham

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

6:00 p.m.

Adults \$6 Children under 10 years \$3.00

Under 5 years "Free"

To make or cancel a reservation, mark the Sunday Attendance Card in the bulletin, visit the website, or call the church office. Reservations must be made **no later than noon on Tuesday.**

Programs will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

Reformation Sunday

October 26th

Protestants recall the Reformation on October 31st. On that day in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

Ultimately, the following five statements of belief became central to Protestant Christians.

1. Scripture alone is the final authority of Christian doctrine.
2. Christ alone is Lord and Savior.
3. God's freely given grace is central to salvation.
4. Sinners are justified by faith in Christ alone.
5. God alone is worthy of all the glory.

Children's Worship

Our Children's Worship will gather twice a month beginning Sunday, November 9th during the 11:00 worship service. The program will use the curriculum "*Young Children and Worship*" that presents a joyful way for children to worship God. It invites young children to experience the wonder and mystery of God through storytelling and multi-sensory experiences. It is designed for three to seven year olds.

Clean Up Day

The Deacons have scheduled a "Clean up the Dinges House Day" on Saturday, October 25th at 9:00 a.m. If you are willing to help, please call the church office at 615-444-1360.

From the Associate Pastor...

I am looking forward to October, not only because the weather will get cooler, but there are so many wonderful opportunities for church fellowship at First Presbyterian Church. It is no secret that Fellowship has been a part of Christ's church for over 2000 years and is a blessing to the church.

If we just came to church for ourselves, we would be missing out on truly growing in our faith. The Bible reminds us of the power of fellowship in Psalm 133:1 which reads, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." We are called by God to love one another, care for one another, and nurture each others faith.

Like many of you all, I have learned more and grown more in my faith when I have been around others. Fellowship is a great time to experience each others kind words, loving smiles, and outstanding faith.

This month we have many great moments of fellowship at First Presbyterian Church. The usual is our Wednesday Night Suppers, Sunday morning worship and Sunday School. All of these fellowship moments of the church are vital to our spiritual growth and church growth. Without these moments to share a meal and experience our God together we would be nothing more than a Civic Club.

Also this month we have our Fall Festival on Wednesday night, October 29th. During this regular fellowship time, we will have a fabulous meal followed by games and lots of fun for the children. Another special fellowship event this month is the hay ride and pot luck dinner at the Bone Farm on October 26th. It will begin at 4:30 pm and end around 7:00 pm. Please bring your favorite dish to contribute to the meal and some warm clothes. This will be a wonderful time to spend together and enjoy a nice cool fall afternoon out in the country.

So please come and join us and invite friends to come along for all of these fabulous fellowship opportunities. Let us make October "Fellowship Month" at First Presbyterian Church.

Grace and Peace,
Nick

Session Highlights from the September 14th meeting

- The Session approved use of the Dinges House once per week by the following:
 - A nondenominational group of students from Cumberland University; and
 - Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The Outreach Committee reported that the quotation on the front sign will be changed weekly.
- Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 26th.
- The Session is seeking names of members interested in participating in the planning for F.P.C.'s Centennial Celebration.
- Elders Mimi Hurd and Pat Climer will serve as members of the Officer Nominating Committee. In addition, the Deacons will select one (1) committee member; and a Called Congregational Meeting will be held October 5th at 10:45 a.m. to elect four (4) members-at-large to serve on the committee.
- New Deacon Scott Harris will serve on the Finance and Building and Grounds committees.
- Elders Phillip Barnes and Pat Climer will serve as commissioners to the October meeting of the Presbytery.
- Financial contributions for August totaled \$23,575.00. The balance, as of August 31, 2008, was \$18,081.78. Contributions for the general operating budget through August total \$259,808.29.

Lectionary Readings

| | |
|------------|---|
| October 5 | Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21: 33-46 |
| October 12 | Exodus 32: 1-14 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14 |
| October 19 | Exodus 33: 12-23 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22 |
| October 26 | Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46 |

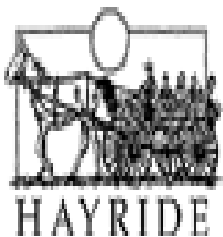
Cedar Forest Ministry

A special thank you to those of you who participated in our Cedar Forest Ministry this summer.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Sue Abernathy | Sara Hay |
| Scott Abernathy | Tracey Hay |
| Renee Beaumont | Mimi Hurd |
| Hal Bone | Olivia Hurd |
| Pat Bone | Raymond Hurd |
| Linda Bramhall | Sam Hurd |
| Glen Brosius | Linda Hyland |
| Ginger Brosius | Gwynn Lanius |
| Becky Burris | Nancy Lanius |
| Charles Carrier | Carolyn Mann |
| Bob Frye | Brooke Nagy |
| Kevin Gray | Tony Nagy |
| Don Guy | Kay Pellerin |
| Hollye Guy | Richard Pellerin |
| Holdon Guy | Deborah Sanders |
| Catherine Hanson | Mark Sanders |
| Richard Hartwell | Michael Sanders |
| Ken Hawkins | Dorothy Stiles |
| Elaine Hawkins | Brenda Thaxton |
| Jane Hay | Bob Pierce & Band |

Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the Congregation has been called for Sunday, October 5th at 10:45 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect four members-at-large to the Nominating Committee.



Hayride & Pot Luck Dinner October 26th 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, October 26th we will have a hayride and pot luck dinner at the Bone's farm on Carthage Highway.

We invite everyone to bring a favorite dish and to join us for a time of good food and great fellowship.

October 2008

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Sunday Youth Fellowship</u> | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8:45 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 AM Church School | 4:45 pm Elementary 5:45 pm Dinner 6:15 pm Youth | | 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir | 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp | | |
| 5 10:45 am Congregational Meeting 5:00 pm Beth Moore Bible Study Communion | 6 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group | 7 9:45 am Morning Cir 4:00 pm Knitting | 8 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir | 9 6:30 pm Contemp | 10 | 11 |
| | | | Nick on Vacation thru 12th | | | |
| 12 No Afternoon Elementary and Youth 7:15 pm Session 5:00 pm Beth | 13 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group 6:30 pm Southern Starrs | 14 4:00 pm Knitting | 15 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir | 16 Presbytery Meeting 6:30 pm Contemp | 17 NaCoMe Youth Retreat | 18 NaCoMe Youth Retreat |
| | | Kristy on Vacation | | | | |
| 19 No Afternoon Elementary and Youth 5:00 pm Deacons 5:00 pm Beth Moore Bible Study | 20 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group | 21 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting | 22 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir | 23 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp | 24 Steepletalk Deadline | 25 |
| 26 4:30 pm Hayride Reformation Sunday 4 Cents a Meal | 27 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group | 28 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting | 29 Fall Festival | 30 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp | 31 | |



October 5, 2008

Nearly 70 years ago, on November 1, 1936, World-Wide Communion Day was born. In the winter of 1935, a group of ministers met to study the spiritual needs and possibilities of the church during the dark days of the Great Depression. In the Lord's Supper they saw a great opportunity to unite Christians in dedication to Christ.

In 1937, the date of World-Wide Communion Sunday was changed to the first Sunday in October, where it has remained. The word 'wide' has since been dropped from the name, giving us the present observance of World Communion Sunday.

Consider what an amazing table the Lord's table is! In a sense it stretches around the whole earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Evangelical Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names we may never have heard of, will gather in their place of worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: Remember him!

"This do," he said, "in remembrance of me." Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted up the cup holding the wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice and loving concern for each of us. How could we ever forget him?

Remember, also, as we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace that we are brothers and sisters in Christ with Christians around the whole world.

"In Christ there is no east or west;
In him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love,
Throughout the whole wide earth."

Thank you, Lord.

Where do THINGS come from?

Where do the donuts come from at the early service at church??

Where do the fruit and the juice come from?

Who makes the coffee?

Who set all these things out for all of us to enjoy?

Who sets out the offering plates on the tables for the early service?

Who lights the candles?

The worship committee was asking the same questions.

The answer is volunteers from the church. Yes, that's right. The donuts, the fruit and juice, all the preparation are from volunteers. The volunteers sign up on a list and they are asked to bring either donuts or fruit and juice for Sunday. This is usually about once in over a three month period.

The coffee is not a church secret recipe. So, if you can open a package of coffee and fill the coffee maker with water, you have made the coffee.

The offering plates and the wooden pencil holders are all in a box ready to be set out before the service.

Now that you know where all these THINGS come from, help make these THINGS happen. Volunteer today.

If you would like to help with any of these IMPORTANT tasks or have any questions about them please contact Richard Hartwell or the church office.

Request for Art Supplies



The Rotation Sunday School classes need old Christmas cards with pictures of shepherds for the Advent lessons. If you have any cards that you could donate, please bring them to the church office.

Bells, Bells, Bells



We have a special duet as guests, that will be sharing in our 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 19th. Mandie Metzger (Dr. & Mary Margaret Cheetham's daughter) and Julie Burge from First Broad Street United Methodist Church in Kingsport, TN. Mandie and Julie will be playing 3 octaves of hand bells during the service. Mandie will be playing 2 octaves of bells solo during the service. Make plans to be with us for this very special and unique service.

Bluegrass at Cumberland University

Jesus prayed, Father... that they may be one... John 17:22

Please join us in celebrating God's Love!

We are going to celebrate God's love for the least of these through the work of Wilson County Help Center and fellowship with students of CU with a *Bluegrass Mass and picnic* at Cumberland University.

The music will be led by some of Tennessee's finest musicians. The sounds of *Oh Brother* will come from musicians and singers from *Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and other churches* to back you up in singing God's praise.

3:30pm, Sunday October 5th 2008

In keeping with the spirit, a *potluck dinner* of good country cooking will follow the worship time. Bring your favorite dish or just bring yourself. We will have plenty of *beans, greens and cornbread*, and, if blessed, some chicken or pig. We will keep the music going with a bluegrass jam so bring your *Bible, banjo, fiddle, dulcimer, guitar, clogging shoes*, lawn chair and God's gift-- your voice. Let's make a joyful noise to the Lord together!