



# SteepleTalk

November 2007

First Presbyterian Church  
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**Member Care  
Volunteer  
for November**

Brenda Thaxton

**Deacon of Month/  
Visiting Deacons**

Faye Brown  
Jennifer Breland

**Steepletalk  
Deadline**

November 23rd

**Circle Meeting**

November 6th at 9:45 a.m.

**Words of Welcome**

Richard Pellerin

*From the Pastor...*

When I think of stewardship, I am reminded of these words from 1 Peter 4:10: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." We are called to share our gifts with one another.

What is a steward? One definition states that a steward is a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for the owner. In the Christian sense, a steward is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. God has made each of us a steward and has given us abilities and talents that are unique. We should use these abilities and talents to serve God in how we respect and care for ourselves, each other and our world. We should also use these abilities and talents to serve God in how we receive, share and reflect the Gospel in our day-to-day lives.

Everything we have is given to us by God – time, health, the environment, relationships, talents, property and the Gospel. Human life is the first and greatest gift, and carries great responsibility with it. We are the stewards of our lives. God depends on us to use all our gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts. We share our time, talents and property, knowing that it is not how much we have but what we do with what we have that is important. Whatever time we have is a gift from God. When God gives us life, we don't know how much time we have to use that life. However, we must use the time we are given wisely in every activity throughout the day and budget our time so that we are able to help fulfill God's plan.

God gives all people potential talents when they are born. The Bible tells us that if we use our talents wisely, we will be better able to serve God and our neighbors and will develop other talents. Otherwise, we may lose even those talents we do have.

When we consider the stewardship of our property, we are reminded that we bring nothing into this world and that we take nothing out of it. All the things we have are a gift from God. In appreciation, we choose to share a portion of these gifts. The stewardship of our property is an ongoing process. We give regularly and systematically in proportion to the gifts that we are given and the talents that earn us our possessions. The more we have, the more we give.

Giving money to the church is a symbolic act. It is the offering of ourselves in service and devotion to God. Giving is also a practical matter. Our offerings make it possible for the church to pay its bills and carry out its mission in Christ's name.

Our whole life is a partnership with God. Stewardship is the responsibility of the Christian life, making our prayers, worship, study of the Scriptures and Christian action truly sincere. We seek no rewards for our stewardship – we do it with the joy of serving God. Yet we know that God does reward stewards by filling their needs in life and by giving new opportunities to care, share and participate in the wholeness of life. We cannot 'give' anything to God – but we can "fulfill" God by using our gifts wisely and sharing with others.

Blessings,  
Dr. Cheetham

## Love Should Not Hurt

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence is any pattern of behaviors that attempts to control an intimate partner or family member through the use of fear, manipulation, coercion, isolation, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, or physical abuse.

The YWCA of Nashville & Middle Tennessee provides safety, counseling and education services. Just make a call. The free and confidential 24-hour hotline (615) 242-1199 is not only for victims of abuse but also friends and family of victims. More information is available at [www.ywcanashville.com](http://www.ywcanashville.com).

**Volunteers for Nursery:** The nursery is seeking volunteers to help on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office.

## News from the Associate Pastor

It was so great to see everyone together sharing their food and their stories at the Hayride at the Bone Farm this past month. I preached a few weeks ago about the importance of community and how we are a community of believers called by God to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with one another and to love one another. My hope is that in the future there will be more outings like the Hayride throughout the year where we can spend time with one another as a community of faith. I believe that Wednesday night fellowship supper is a great opportunity for church fellowship, and hopefully we can get more people to attend this time of community. Even if it is not on a Wednesday night, let us all continue to strive to share with one another our faith and life stories, and experience the community of believers gathered together.

Grace and Peace,  
Nick

## Pledge Sunday, December 2nd

Pledge Sunday will be December 2nd, the first Sunday in Advent. What better way to show our thanks for the greatest gift of all than to commit our gift for the coming year. After pledges have been received, the 2008 Budget will be prepared and presented to the Congregation. Our church is blessed with caring people, meaningful worship, quality staff, various educational programs, mission outreach efforts, and attractive facilities. In making your pledge remember that it is your expression of your gratitude for all the gifts God has given us.



## Hanging of the Greens Service

The Hanging of the Greens Service will be held **Sunday, December 2nd** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service tells the significance of the Poinsettias, Carols, Lights, Star, Candles, Advent Wreath, and the meaning of the wreaths and greens. Make plans to attend this special service as the church begins its celebrations of the Advent Season.

## Outreach News

**Thanksgiving dinner** for the residents of Cedar Croft is scheduled for November 14th at 5:30 p.m. The Outreach Committee is seeking volunteers to help prepare and serve this meal. Additional help will be needed to reset the tables for our regular Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner.

Our church is scheduled to work at the **Wilson County Community Help Center** November 12-16th. Volunteers will work at the center from 10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm to stock shelves with canned goods and other food items. They are also asking for donations of diapers, pull-ups, cereal, crackers, corn meal, flour, storage bags, trash bags, peanut butter, blankets, towels, pork and beans, sugar and dry milk. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

## Sudanese Presbyterian Church 6th Anniversary Celebration

The Sudanese Presbyterian Church invites you to their 6th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 4th at 3:30 p.m. The church is located at 1115 Old Hwy. 109 N, Gallatin. The guest speaker is the Reverend S. Renee Franklin, pastor of Key-Stewart United Methodist Church, Gallatin, Tennessee. The Sudanese Adult Choir will sing and the Sudanese Dance Ensemble will perform. Last, but not least, a Sudanese meal will be served to culminate the celebration. For more information, call 615-893-6219.

The Sudanese Presbyterian Church receives support from our church through our Outreach Mission.

## All Saints Day November 1<sup>st</sup>

On this special day we remember with gratitude all of the "Saints" of our church who have died during the last twelve months. An All Saints Day service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church., November 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Don Denney	11-19-06
Bascom Cooksey	03-10-07
Isa Carroll	03-27-07
Gus Marks	04-21-07
Sue Bouton	04-25-07
Orris Waggoner	05-16-07
Etta Hammer	07-10-07
Frances Sellars	09-10-07

### Session Highlights from the October 14th Meeting

- Te Deum, a choral work by Frank Hayes, will be presented by the Chancel Choir at the 11:00 a.m. service on November 18. In addition, approval was given for presentation to the public at 3:00 p.m. on the same day, with donations being received for the Choir Scholarship Funds.
- Doors between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will be closed for the 11:00 a.m. service, except on special occasions.
- Bagpipes will be a part of the celebration on Reformation Sunday (October 28), with expenses being paid by donations.
- The layout of the Pictorial Directory was approved.
- Beginning January, 2008, Words of Welcome will be given by volunteers from the Elders and Deacons.
- A request to take action on the transfer of membership for Lois Meyer to Dale Heights Presbyterian Church in Madison, Wisconsin, was approved.
- Guidelines for the serving of lunch/dinner following a funeral were adopted.
- Approval was given to use H.D.S. Direct, Lilburn, Georgia, on a trial basis (through the end of the calendar year) to secure information about new residents in the 37087 and 37090 zip codes. Cost is \$28 per month for the service plus an estimated \$75 per month for mailing expenses and brochures to be sent to new area residents.
- The Session meeting time was changed from 7:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
- Through September, contributions lag behind budgeted needs by 10 percent.

## Lectionary Readings

November 4	Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2:1-4 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12 Luke 19: 1-10
November 11	Haggai 1: 15b-2:9 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17 Luke 20: 27-38
November 18	Isaiah 65: 17-25 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 Luke 21: 5-19
November 25	Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23-33-43

## Deepest Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to:

Megan and Jeff Ritchie and family upon the death of Megan's mother, Evelyn Haines Knox, on October 17<sup>th</sup> in Charlotte, NC.

Debbie and Phil Harlan upon the death of Debbie's brother, Glen Brooke Wilkins, on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pastor on Vacation:** Dr. Cheetham will be on vacation from November 12th-18th.

**Associate Pastor on Vacation:** Nick will be on vacation from November 15th-21st. If you need pastoral care during this time, please call the church office.

## *Thank You..*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fall Festival. It was a huge success.

A big thanks goes to everyone who helped make Project J.O.Y. a success this year. We filled 100 bags and sent multiple boxes of can goods. We also were able to spend \$275.00 on hygiene items and school supplies for the children. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you to the Bones for hosting the hayride at their farm. We also would like to thank Bill Hamby for providing the hot dogs and chili and everyone else who helped make this time of fellowship so successful.

# November 2007

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

<b>Sunday</b> 8:45 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 AM Church School	<b>Don't forget to turn your                  clocks back on November 4th.</b>			<b>1</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 
<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Worship <b>Communion</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	<b>6</b> 9:00 am PreSchool 9:45 am Morning Circle 4:00 pm Knitting	<b>7</b> 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	<b>9</b> Thurley/ Cross Rehearsal 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> Thurley/ Cross Wedding 7:00 pm
<b>11</b> 7:15 pm Session	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group _____ Dr. Cheatham on Vacation through the 18th _____	<b>13</b> 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting 6:30 pm Southern Starrs	<b>14</b> <b>Cedarcroft                  Thanksgiving</b> 5:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir _____ Nick on vacation through the 21st _____	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 5:30 pm New Building Committee Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	<b>20</b> 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting	<b>21</b> <b>No Activities</b>	<b>22</b> Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	<b>23</b> Office Closed <b>Steepletalk                  Deadline</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 5:00 pm Deacons 5:30 pm Outreach  4 Cents a Meal	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	<b>27</b> 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting	<b>28</b> 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	<b>30</b>	

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