

# Erin Presbyterian Church News August 2003



Dear Friends,

Church is good for you, and that's official. Medical researchers and sociologists in recent years have shown that regular church members who have a sincere faith, prayerful support and a positive outlook lead healthier, happier and more hopeful lives.

People who are ill at home or in hospital have a greater opportunity of recovering quicker if they experience care and kindness from their faith community.

Church kids, who positively learn about faith, generally do better at school; have more confidence in themselves and cope better with life's many predicaments and problems.

Adults, who regularly worship in church, are more active in their communities, more productive in their careers and more attentive to their responsibilities.

So why do only 28% of people attend church on a regular basis? If church going adds and even enhances our lives, what causes so many people to miss out on this positive experience? The answer: wishful thinking.

People wish away their lives. 'I wish it was tomorrow. I wish I could be successful. I wish things would get better.' I can remember a guy called Doug who lived in Scotland. Doug always wished that he was rich and he was always working on some new scheme, project or system which would make him a millionaire. One year, he built boats. Another time, he grew vegetables. For a few months, he tackled painting other homes. He wanted a big house, a fancy car and a large savings account and throughout his life he pursued an elusive dream.

When Doug died, I remember visiting his shed at the bottom of his garden with his widow. The shed was full of unfinished items, parts of boats, seeds still in their packets and tools that had never been used. He spent his entire life's savings on schemes that were never completed. If only he had concentrated on one thing and stayed with it, he would have been rich beyond his dreams.

Church offers us a whole lot more than we are willing to recognize at times. It gives us a sanctuary, a place of prayer, peace and power. It brings us into a community of people whose help can heal our wounds; whose faith can fight our fears, whose support can shed our sickness and whose love can light up our lives.

Yet wishful thinking causes most people to search elsewhere for all the strength, hope and satisfaction that only God can bring through a church. It's a shameful thing to waste our lives looking for hope in the wrong places. It's sad to see so many of our families and friends missing out on the greatest love, the greatest joy, the greatest hope ever known to humanity.

Church is good for you only because God is good and Christ has all the answers to our serious questions about life, meaning and the universe. We can choose to ignore this wonderful opportunity and lead lives that ultimately come to a hopeless end. Or we can positively grasp the gift of faith, hope and love that Jesus brings and discover that life is good, God is great and all of this can last forever.

So, since church is so good for all of us, when do you think would be the best time to get all of this from God? This Sunday, of course!

John

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

August 3

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Communion Sunday  
 1 Chronicles 17:7-14 & Luke 5:1-11  
 "A Few Good Men"

August 10

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Psalm 33:1-9 & Luke 5:12-16  
 "Risky Business"

August 17

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Psalm 107:17-22 & Luke 5:17-23  
 "You've Got a Friend"

August 24

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Isaiah 55:6-11 & Luke 5:27-32  
 "Jesus in Bad Company"

August 31

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Ezekiel 36:24-30 & Luke 5:33-28  
 "Rebel with a Cause"

September 7

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**RALLY DAY**  
 Communion Sunday  
 Ecclesiastes 9:3-7 & Luke 6:1-11  
 "Never on a Sunday!"

**VOLUNTEERS LIST**

Please check the list below each month and mark your calendar for the week(s) when you are responsible for the following activities:

Greeters

August 3 Fran and Jeanne Ayers  
 August 10 Randy and Regina Bishop  
 August 17 Gary Blackburn and Robin Cuany  
 August 24 Darrell and Suzanne Hickman  
 August 31 Mike Pierce and Patty Britton

Ushers

August 3 Ron Roberts, Beth Snodgrass  
 Jessica Webb, Jane Yancey  
 August 10 Alex Jaynes, Gary Blackburn  
 Tom Chesney, David Cowen  
 August 17 Randy and Regina Bishop,  
 Mike and Mary Nelle Cate  
 August 24 Harriet Ayers, Robin Cuany,  
 Jimmy Dean, **Usher Needed**  
 August 31 Morgan and Pat Fitch  
**Two Ushers Needed**

Nursery Volunteers

August 3 Joanne Clelland  
 August 10 Jane Cowen  
 August 17 Ann Snodgrass  
 August 24 Kim Pennington  
 August 31 Apryl Quinn

Guide and Scripture Readers

August 3 Beth Snodgrass and Charles Snodgrass  
 August 10 Pat Sexton and Lynn Sexton  
 August 17 Ron Roberts and Sara Leckie  
 August 24 Hugh Jaynes and Kim Jaynes  
 August 31 Tracy Long and David Cowen

Enrichment

August 3 Laura Dean  
 August 10 Alice Carroll  
 August 17 Anna McKay  
 August 24 Mary Scarbrough  
 August 31 Lionel Sands or Tina Webb

Counters

August 3 TBA and Tom Quinley  
 August 10 Becca Berry and Morgan Fitch  
 August 17 Randy Bishop and Gary Blackburn  
 August 24 Pam Pfeifer and Ann Snodgrass  
 August 31 Laura Dean and Morgan Fitch

Communion Servers

August 3 Randy Bishop, Gary Blackburn, Mary  
 Nelle Cate, Marjorie McLean, Ann  
 Snodgrass, Dave Leckie

Please remember that if you are unable to volunteer on your assigned date, please contact another individual to serve for you. Then, please call the church office (or e-mail [Erin1877@aol.com](mailto:Erin1877@aol.com)) to advise them of the change.

**PRAYER REMINDERS**



*And the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise Him up. Pray for one another that you may be healed.*

*James 5:15-16*

Please remember these members of Erin's family in your prayers during the coming month:

**Arbor Terrace:** Helen Staples

**Echo Ridge Retirement:** Dorothy Farnham; 8458 Gleason Road; APT 102

**Greeneville, TN:** Gay Hawk, *niece of Marion Sanks (Serious Condition)*

**Greenwood, South Carolina:** Cornelia Erskine; NHC; PO Box 3109; Greenwood, SC 29648

**Kansas:** Bob Ellis, *nephew of Helen Staples*

**Michigan:** Flora Hudson, Chuck Hudson *sister and nephew of Mae Brandon-Pershing*

**New York:** Chris Skinner, *friend of Tracy Foster*

**Osceola, Wisconsin:** Virginia Dick, *sister of LaVonne Knight*

**Scotland:** Barbara Smith, *mother of Evelyn Stuart; Dollina Campbell, friend of Cathy Satterfield*

**Shannondale Health Care Center - 801 Vanosdale Road:** Carolyn Cuany, Room 208; Lelia Rimmer, Room 215; Mary Lester, Room 406; *friend of Linda Patterson*

**St. Jude's:** Walker Hecht (4-years-old)

**At Home:**

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Jeanette van Aalst                                 | Christy Blanchard |
| Mae Brandon-Pershing                               | Margaret Casteel  |
| Michelle Cross ( <i>friend of Debbie Vowell</i> )  |                   |
| Gladys Fisher                                      | Connie Hawkins    |
| Ruth Henderson                                     | Pat Houbler       |
| Ann Johns  | Jo Ludwig         |
| Elizabeth Martinson                                | JE Pershing       |
| Henry Thomas Ritchie                               | Ethan Shannon     |
| Bonnie Sise  | Pat Swain         |
| Edith Stellacci ( <i>mother of Regina Bishop</i> ) |                   |
| Pearl Swallows                                     |                   |
| Michael Williams ( <i>son of Bill Williams</i> )   |                   |

**WE EXPRESS OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY**

To the family and friends of Betty McBath Hoyle, who died on Saturday, June 28, in Knoxville; and to the family and friends of Irene Carson Cooper, who died on Friday, July 11, in Knoxville.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Amanda Baucom        | August 2    |
| Agnes Kirby          | August 3    |
| Richard Dougherty    | August 8    |
| Louise Ryba          | August 8    |
| Ann Johns            | August 9    |
| Lauren Stuart        | August 9    |
| Rue Dougherty        | August 14   |
| Mary Frierson        | August 14   |
| Hugh Jaynes          | August 14   |
| Virginia Chesney     | August 15   |
| Garren Miller        | August 16   |
| Cornelia Robinson    | August 23   |
| Mary Ann Hagler      | August 24   |
| Ruth Henderson       | August 25   |
| Pam Stevens          | August 25   |
| Catherine Landstreet | August 27   |
| Bobby Swallows       | August 29   |
| Connie Hawkins       | August 30   |
| Lynn Sexton          | August 30   |
| Robert Price         | August 31   |
| Shandra Evans        | September 1 |
| Joe Jaynes           | September 6 |
| Pearl Klepser        | September 6 |

**CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES**

**Volunteers are needed to usher.**

**If you are willing to serve on August 24 or August 31, please contact Millisa, 588-5350, in the church office.**

**AN IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY** will be available mid-August at no charge. This directory will be a useful addition to the pictorial directory. The smaller size will make it a handy companion at home or in your car. Useful information provided includes: staff information, session information, church activities, a spot for notes/additions and finally a listing of area hospitals including their address and patient telephone numbers.

A supply of the recent "Pictorial" Erin Church Directory is still available at a cost of \$5 per copy. To purchase a pictorial directory, please contact Millisa, 588-5350, in the church office.



**Changes above?  
Contact the church office, 588-5350.**

## WITNESSING FOR CHRIST AND THE HELPER

One may ask the question: Why do Christians receive the Holy Spirit? To answer that question requires the answer to another question: Who is the Holy Spirit? According to scripture, the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Matthew 28:19 and 2 Corinthians 13:14, the Three are spoken of as One: "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:18b-19, NIV)

God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are the Head and Cornerstone of Christianity. Look at the words of the fourth stanza of:

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation."  
(Latin 7<sup>th</sup> Century – Henry Smart 1867)

Laud and Honor to the Father,  
Laud and Honor to the Son;  
Laud and Honor to the Spirit  
Ever Three and ever One,  
One in might and One in glory  
while unending ages run.

The words and music of this stirring hymn will strengthen one's faith in the Trinity. Also, in John 14, Jesus promised, "Another Comforter." He tells the disciples, "But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you," (John 14:17b) and, "that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you." (John 14:20 NIV) Besides telling of the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus was speaking of another role of the Holy Spirit – the Indwelling Spirit. The Indwelling Spirit is the Holy Spirit that dwells within each Christian's heart. Does the Spirit dwell in one's heart as this hymn indicates?

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"  
(George Croly 1854 & Frederick C Atkinson, 1870)  
(1<sup>st</sup> stanza)

Spirit of God descend upon my heart  
Wean it from the earth through all its pulses move,  
Stoop to my weaknesses, mighty as Thou art  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Or does the Holy Spirit dwell within our minds? Regardless, the Holy Spirit is within each believer. Look what Paul said in Romans, "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is

living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you." (Romans 8:11 NIV) The Indwelling Spirit is Jesus Christ in you. Look back at what He said in John 14:20 and what Paul said in Ephesians 3:1-21, NIV.

The Indwelling Spirit! Read that phrase again. Think on it! What a responsibility Christians have! A Christian has accepted Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, as his or her Savior. Whether the Christian has made this acceptance in private or in public, as in front of a group of Christians, a promise has been made. A promise made by faith that not only do they accept Jesus as their Savior, but that they will live by His teachings. At this point in the person's life, the Holy Spirit, the Indwelling Spirit, entered to live with them into eternity. Where that person goes, the Holy spirit goes, into all kinds of daily situations with all types of people. Therefore, what effect should the Holy Spirit have on you and me as Christians?

The effect of the Holy Spirit coming to live in you will cause you to begin a great battle, because you suddenly realize that your old sinful habits are coming under attack. Suddenly, you realize that to live the life Christ wants; you will have to change your directions, behavior and thinking.

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly! and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:6-8, NIV)

A new way? Yes! It's as if you are walking down a way and come to a fork in the road. One way is marked sin and death. The other way is to eternal life and with Jesus in heaven. You have taken the latter, so the battle begins. Who will win?

As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, NIV, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in games

goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

Athletes have to train if they are going to win races and other games. Paul used this comparison because he lived in a Greek world that was familiar with Greek games. A Greek athlete would train to win a race and the much sought after laurel crown. In order to achieve godliness, a Christian must train daily in order to earn the hereafter – Christ’s crown of everlasting glory.

Paul commanded Timothy to, “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives tales, rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise both the present life and life to come.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8, NIV)

Again here is the word, “promise” and Paul is speaking of God’s promise to all who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. A believer relies on God in the present and for the future. The future is not seen by faith, the believer knows that God’s promise will come to be a fact. This is emphasized in an ancient Irish poem translated by Mary E. Bryne in 1905 and composed in a hymn.

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of my heart  
Nought be all else to me save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night.  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light.

Please re-read the above selection from 1 Timothy 4:7-8. Notice the word, “godliness.” The key for a Christian in training is godliness which can be described as, “an inwardly and outwardly display of Christian living.” This display comes about because of one’s belief in Christ Jesus and His teachings. One receives the strength to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the evidence of godliness is shown by the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. See Galatians 5:22 NIV. One trains for godliness so that you will be in a right relationship with God, and the



training will assist you in the present life and in the life to come. Remember what Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:8. So concentrate on the present life by following Biblical instructions pertaining to the life of godliness. This is the reason that John wrote in John 20:31, NIV “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.”

Some examples of Biblical instructions for living a godly life can be found in Colossians 3:1-17, NIV entitled, “Rules for Holy Living” and vv. 18-25 entitled, “Rules for Christian Households.” Chapter 4 of the same book contains, “Further Instruction” in vv 2-6. Paul’s instruction to the Ephesians contains instructions in Ephesians 4:29-32 in the NIV.

Although Paul wrote to Timothy in First and Second Timothy with instruction on how he should think and act as a pastor, those instructions can be followed by each Christian training for a godly life.

In 1 Timothy 6:11 we are told to “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.” Kindness and love of God, our Savior (Titus 3:1-11, NIV) are central themes of Paul’s instructions to Titus. What a glorious world we would have if mankind would follow the instructions of love, the centerpiece of Jesus’ teachings. Look how the word love stands out in the first stanza of Charles Wesley’s:

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”  
(Charles Wesley 1747 & John Zundel 1870)

Love divine, All Loves Excelling;  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
Jesus, Thou are all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art,  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ever trembling heart.

You know that Jesus loves you and you know that your salvation lies with Him. However, your old sinful habits keep popping up. You do and say things that cause you to realize that the battle has not yet been won. And sometimes your mind is like a “garbage pit” because of the bad and hateful thoughts that keep reoccurring. Paul had this problem as expressed in Romans 7:15, “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not, but what I hate I do.” But be not discouraged, because Paul also said to keep on keeping on. Stay in the race and run as a Christian to your final minute here on earth. “Not that I have already obtained all

this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14, NIV)

I think that Charles Wesley in 1749 had this scripture in mind when he wrote the following hymn and notice the last line of the third stanza:

“Soldiers of Christ, Arise”

(Charles Wesley 1749 & George J Elvey 1858)

Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul  
Take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole  
From strength to strength go on;  
Wrestle, fight, and pray  
Tread all powers of darkness down,  
And win the well-fought day.

And again Paul said, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run but only one gets the prize so run in such a way as to get the prize.” (1 Corinthians 9:24, NIV)

And that is what Christians are to do – be doers of the Word not just hearers. A Christian keeps on keeping on. Do not be discouraged and quit. Run the race for Christ! You will know that you are running a good race and others will know by the life you lead. The evidence will show in what is known as The Fruit of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22. Paul wrote, “But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Against such things there is no law.”

If a Christian shows this “Fruit” in his or her daily living, as Jesus said in Mark 12:34, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” In this scriptural passage Jesus acknowledged that the greatest commandment was to love your God with all your heart, soul, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. And a Christian will be doing this every time he or she displays in their daily living the “Fruit of the Spirit.” This all takes place because of the person of the Holy Spirit or the Indwelling Spirit within each and every Christian who because of their love for God will show the “Fruit of the Spirit” in every minute of their daily life. PRAISE THE LORD.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”  
(Chas. Wesley 1747 & John Zundel 1870)

Finish, then, Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Article Written by:** Claude D. Houbler

**Edited by:** Judy Clapp and Jenny Boyd

*(This article continues from the July newsletter, for this article in its entirety, please contact the church office, 588-5350.)*

### VBS THANK YOU'S

We would like to say a great big thank you to the sixteen children who enlightened us everyday at VBS 2003 with their bright smiles. I believe that we had as much fun as they did!

We would also like to thank the following people who graciously gave their time and talent to help make this years VBS a success!

**Shepherds:** Alyssa Contreras, Helen Dean, Jenny Dean, Carlina Moore, Jessica Webb and Nicole Webb.

**Volunteers:** Kristi Bailes, Becca Berry, Morgan Bitz, Jimmy Dean, Kari Matthews, Larry and Anna McKay, Linda Patterson, Pam Pfeifer, Apryl Quinn, Mary Scarbrough, Lauren Stuart and Lynsey Stuart.

Thank you also for all of the “unseen” helpers, those mentioned and those not mentioned.

Tracy Long & Laura Dean, VBS Coordinators



**MISSING** are several items from the church kitchen; most recently, a cookie sheet. There is also a water hose missing from outside. If you have borrowed any of these items from the church, please return them.

**PEACEMAKING STUDIES**

**John 14:27**

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Peace is something special that we all hope for in our lives, across our nation and throughout the world. The PCUSA is committed to making peace a reality in all of our lives and our wee church at Erin wisely signed a covenant years ago, committing our congregation to support peacemaking.

Each year, on the first Sunday in October, we give an extra offering for peacemaking. This summer and fall, the pastor will be leading an eight week Sunday school course on Peacemaking, using the excellent material which the denomination has produced for 2003.

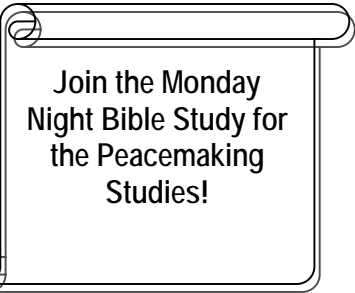
Everyone is actively encouraged to come along to the class. Your thoughts and opinions about peace, peace keeping and peace making are vitally important to ensuring that this class will be challenging and life changing. The classes will be held in the Noah's Ark room from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, beginning on Sunday August 3.

**STOP PRESS!!!** The Monday Night Bible Study team has decided to present the Peacemaking Series during their fall season. This means

that two opportunities to participate in this thought-provoking series will be offered to all church members and visitors. The Monday Night team will begin to meet on Monday, August 11, at 7:15 p.m. in the church parlor. Everyone is cordially welcomed to attend.

**POOL PICNIC PARTY**

A big thank you goes to Charles and Mary Scarbrough for hosting the annual church-wide pool party on Sunday, July 27. The food, pool and conversations were great!



Join the Monday Night Bible Study for the Peacemaking Studies!

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

The summer Sunday School series, 'A House of Prayer for all Peoples' was well attended and excellently taught throughout June and July. Our special thanks goes to all who participated in the series, particularly the teachers - Tom Quinley, Hugh Jaynes, Rev. Sharon Carter, Kim Jaynes and our pastor, John Stuart. This General Assembly series helped us all focus on what church is and how to become more inclusive of the people in our community.

**YOUNG FAMILY COUNCIL**

A special meeting for our young parents and their families will be held on Saturday, August 16, from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Breakfast and refreshments will be served for the first hour, to be followed by a two hour brainstorming session to formulate plans for future young family programs and create a vision for the ministries that are needed in our church to strengthen the bonds of fellowship, support and faith between our young families and all other groups in our church.

If you would like to come along because you have a young family or have a special interest in this ministry, please contact us at the office (588-5350) in order to give us an idea about breakfast and conference numbers. A special invitation is being sent out to our young families. Child care will be provided throughout the three hour session. If you have any questions, contact the pastor at the office.

**NURSERY WORKER NEEDED**

**MOPS** is in need of a nursery worker for this fall each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. This is a paid position with volunteer support. Please contact Kristi Bailes, 560-3081, to receive an application or if you know of anyone who would be interested. *MOPS continues to collect old cellular telephones. A drop off bag is located under the table in the Narthex.*



# SAM NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### August 21, 2003

9:30 a.m. – Senior Sack Lunch planning meeting

12:00 p.m. – August Senior Sack Lunch

### September 3, 2003

4:30 p.m. – Body Recall begins

### September 18, 2003

12:00 p.m. – September Senior Sack Lunch

Earl White will give a presentation on his travels in Egypt.

### October 8, 2003

10:00 a.m. – POAM meeting, Athens, TN

### Oct. 22-25, 2003

9:30 a.m. – POAM national meeting, Tempe, AZ

A **Senior Sack Lunch** program planning meeting for 2004 will be held on Thursday, August 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any suggestions for programs that you would like to see at one of our Sack Lunches, please come to this meeting with your ideas. If you can't attend the meeting but have some ideas, please speak with a SAM council member.

The next **Senior Sack Lunch** will be held Thursday, August 21, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The program for this month is "Creating a Green Household" and will be presented by Ijams Nature center. This program details safe alternatives to the many chemicals we use in our households every day. **Volunteer needs for this event: Two people to bring dessert and two people for clean up afterwards.** If you can help out at this event, please call Sharon Carter at the church office (588-5350). See you then!!!

In the spring, the Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) agreed to sponsor a child through the Little Children of the World, a nonprofit Christian organization dedicated to creating caring communities for the world's homeless and neglected children. If you signed up to be part of that program, please turn in your money (\$12) on or before the first week of September. Please make your check out to Erin Presbyterian and reference it to Little Children of the World - SAM.

## LET'S DO DINNER

Please join us for food, fun and fellowship. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at a local restaurant. The August dinner will be held on Tuesday, August 5, at Sullivan's in Rocky Hill Shopping Center on Northshore. There is a coupon in the Knox County School Coupon Book. Please bring your coupon and if you have extras, bring them along to share. Let Maud Hoover, 463-7399, or Mary Scarbrough, 691-8658, know if you will attend so that we can make reservations. Begin to think about where you want to go in September.



## "USE IT OR LOSE IT"

Erin Church sponsors the third year of Body Recall with classes beginning Wednesday, September 3. Sessions continue for 10 weeks on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. with Ron Roberts, nationally certified instructor. Wear comfortable shoes for 10-minute pre-class walking to upbeat music. Cost is \$1.00 per session. Text books are available at cost.



Come and bring a friend, and do both of yourselves a favor. For just three hours a week, it's a sure way to keep your body moving and joints lubricated. Body Recall is an exercise class that involves stretching and low-impact movements, designed to keep our bodies moving as we age. If you would like to take part in this class, please contact Ron Roberts, 966-8666.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>AUGUST</b>						
<b>3</b> COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:45 a.m. Peacemaking Study 5:30-6:30 p.m. Right Spirit 6:30 p.m. Sr. High	<b>4</b> 7:00 p.m. B&G Team 7:30 p.m. Stage Co. Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>5</b> 5:15 p.m. Let's Do Dinner 7:00 CE, CC&F, ME Teams	<b>6</b> Last day to recommend an individual for elder 4:30 p.m. Journey Seven	<b>7</b> 7:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 p.m. Glenfinnan	<b>8</b> 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. DaySpring Dance VMC Run/Fun Walk
<b>10</b> 9:45 a.m. Peacemaking Study 12:15 Nominating Committee 5:30-6:30 p.m. Right Spirit 6:30 p.m. Sr. High	<b>11</b> 7:15 MNBS Begins 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>12</b> Knox Schools Begin 1/2 Day	<b>13</b> 4:30 p.m. Journey Seven	<b>14</b> 7:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 p.m. Glenfinnan	<b>15</b> 7:00 p.m. Youth Lock- In 7:30 p.m. AA Committee Reports Due (If Any)	<b>16</b> 9:00-12:00 p.m. Young Family Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. DaySpring Dance
<b>17</b> 9:45 a.m. Peacemaking Study 5:30-6:30 p.m. Right Spirit 6:30 p.m. Sr. High 6:30-8:00 p.m. Erin Express Reh.	<b>18</b> 7:15 MNBS 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 4:30 p.m. Journey Seven 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 7:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast 9:30 a.m. SAM Council 12:00 p.m. Senior Sack Lunch 7:00 p.m. Session <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>23</b> 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. DaySpring Dance
<b>24</b> 9:45 a.m. Peacemaking Study 2:00-6:00 p.m. John Knox Picnic 5:30-6:30 p.m. Right Spirit 6:30 p.m. Sr. High	<b>25</b> 7:15 MNBS 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> 4:30 p.m. Journey Seven 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast 9:30 a.m. MOPS Registration 8:00 p.m. Glenfinnan	<b>29</b> 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>30</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. DaySpring Dance UT vs Fresno
<b>31</b> 9:45 a.m. Peacemaking Study 5:30-6:30 p.m. Right Spirit 6:30 p.m. Sr. High	<b>Such Is The Kingdom - F.R.O.G. has a new name</b>			<b>Mission Emphasis</b> Comfort & Compassion		<b>2003</b>
<b>Journey Seven</b>						

**OPEN LETTER****To The Congregation From The Finance, Stewardship & Personnel Team:**

As you should have gleaned from our reports to the Congregation, Erin Presbyterian Church is facing a serious financial challenge. When we developed our budget for 2003, we based it upon both pledges and historical patterns of giving. The budget basically assumed that 2003 would provide an equivalent amount of giving as 2002. We are now more than half-way through 2003 and it is clear that our assumptions have not been correct. If you have not yet received your quarterly report of your contributions, year-to-date, it will be arriving in your mail soon. Please review the report closely; If you have achieved the pro-rata portion of your pledge, we thank you dearly. If you have not achieved a pro rata level of either your pledge or your historical giving, please ask yourself why not. If your financial situation has changed in ways you did not anticipate, we understand. The U.S. Economy has not been kind to many of us for the last year. However, we, as a congregation, must respond to the realities of our resources as well as the needs of our church, our community and our world.

If you are "behind" and able to catch up or can add just a little more to cover for those who cannot, you will be appreciated more than you can imagine. If you are unable to match your pledge or your past levels of giving's, it would be most helpful if you would advise one of the members of the F,S & P Team (Morgan Fitch, Ann Snodgrass, Barry Robinson, Tom Quinley, John House or John Stuart) to let them know. We will have to make adjustments in order to complete the budget year. Your input will let us know the amount of necessary adjustments.

**THE SESSION NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

...has convened to call Elders for the 2006 class. Your recommendation for Elders to be nominated is encouraged by contacting one of the following committee members: Gary Blackburn, 693-3604, Robin Cuany, 690-0349, Anna McKay, 691-5341, Ann Snodgrass, 693-8102, or Beth Snodgrass, 322-2576. Recommendations may also be made to [Erin1877@aol.com](mailto:Erin1877@aol.com). *Recommendations should be submitted no later than August 6.*

**ERIN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Well, ladies of Erin, we have taken a few months off to enjoy this glorious summer, but we are looking forward to our Horizon's Bible Study beginning in September. This year's study is entitled "The Face if Familiar" Remembering Unnamed Women in Scripture. This study was written by the Reverends Louise, Mary, and Sue Westfall. **Rev. Sharon Carter will give us an overview of our study at the Fall Gathering to be held in the church parlor on Saturday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m.**

If you haven't given the circles a try, please consider this year to be the time to do so. We have two circles, one meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the church parlor at 10:00 a.m. and the other circle meets on the second Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. at members homes. For moms with young children, you could form a circle to suit your needs if either of these times does not suit you. It is an excellent time to get together for fellowship and Bible study. For more information, please join us on Saturday, September 6, for a continental breakfast and to hear more about the 2003-2004 program. See you there!

**WE ARE FAMILY**

By Rev. Sharon Carter

When I was in high school there was a popular song that had as part of the refrain "we are family". I often think of this song when I am thinking about the nature of church membership, because "family" is the word that I hear used most often when I hear people speaking about their church. "We are a family", they say, "everybody knows everybody else and we truly care about each other". While this may be an apt metaphor for our churches, it may or may not be a positive one. Families are wonderful things at their best- they can be warm and inviting, close-knit and loving, caring and nurturing. On the other hand, families almost always have their down side: there are the difficult family members, who no one wants to be around; there are the "absentee" members, who you might hear from but never see; and there are the caretakers (or enablers, in today's language) who take so much responsibility for seeing that the family holds together that they don't allow others in the family to

pull their own weight. Families are basically systems, and whenever systems become out of balance they begin to be distorted; in a family system the bonds of the family begin to unravel. We know these families as “dysfunctional”.

The same things can be said in the church. At best, we are a family— we grow in faith together as we nurture the children, we support each other in good times and bad, we pray for each other and show each other the respect that we each deserve as children of God. However, sometimes even the church family becomes dysfunctional. There are the members who only show up on Christmas and Easter. There are the members who seem to have difficult personalities, who seem to always take the negative view or throw a monkey wrench into your committee’s best laid plans. And there are the members who take so much responsibility for “getting things done right” that they seem to forget that the running of the church is the responsibility of the whole church; they become overburdened with activities and plans and committees— and they quickly burn out. They might insist that “if I don’t do it, no one will”, but they don’t see that by being involved in everything and trying to do everything they are enabling the other members to be less active. They are making worse the very conditions that they are trying to avoid— things being left undone due to lack of participation.

Like a family the church is also a basic system. And, like a family, when everyone is participating fully and taking only their share of the load, the church runs smoothly. Plans are made and carried through, bills are paid, programs are staffed so that no one will carry too much of the burden. However, like a family, when the system is out of balance— maybe committee participation is down and a few people end up doing everything, or attendance is down and thus financial support of the system falls on a few faithful givers, or everyone thinks “the pastor is in charge, he/she will do it” and the pastor begins to burn out— then the church family system suffers and the congregation goes into decline. When that happens, we become unable to do the work that God has for us to do. We don’t spread the gospel, we don’t feed the sheep, we aren’t a light to the world. We may even feel our bond with God grow weak— and we certainly won’t strengthen anyone else’s.

So it would seem that from time to time it is a good idea to ask ourselves “what kind of family member am I? Are my actions helping to keep the family together and even bring in new members? Am I helping to equip my brothers and sisters for the work of God’s kingdom? Are we working together to bring the light of Christ to this world— a world that so badly needs his light?” If you can answer ‘yes’ to these questions and others like them, then the church family is in good shape. But, if we are bored, tired, burned-out, and disconnected, then it’s a sure sign that there are problems in the family that need to be addressed. And until they are addressed, and the system is brought back into balance, then the church family is dysfunctional, and as such will be unable to fulfill its Godly purpose in the world.

### SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILY HELPERS

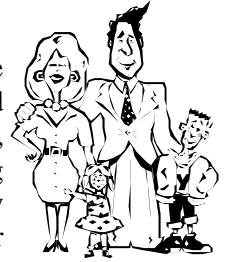
Do you have a large yard that constantly needs work done, but you are unable to do it all yourself? Does your home have minor repairs that need to be done, but you just don’t have the skills to do it yourself? If so, than I have a solution for you: Family Helpers.

Family Helpers is a service program at Erin designed to provide help in situations just such as those above. What’s more, Family Helpers is designed to allow church members\* – primarily the youth group – to serve the church family by providing these types of services to others. So, whether your gutters need to be cleaned, or you need someone to come in for light housekeeping, or you need a ramp built onto your house for safety, Family Helpers is the one to call. You will not only have a quality job done, but you will also have the satisfaction of knowing you have helped others in your church family fulfill their call to serve others.

How do you become a part of this ministry? Simply fill out a Family Helpers work request form (found in the church lobby and return to the church office or your may call me, Sharon Carter, 588-5350, during my office hours (Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon)). *Give us a call and we’ll take care of it all!*

**\*HEY YOU!!!** If you have special skills that you would like to share with this program, there is a form for you, too! Or, give Sharon a call, 588-5350!!

### PARENTING CLASS



After recently talking to John Stuart, it seemed like there might be some interest in my once more teaching the parenting class I taught several years ago. Since that time I have received feedback enough to feel comfortable offering the class, and intend to do so. We will meet at Erin, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, for about an hour and fifteen minutes; I intend to be out of the building by 9:00 p.m. We will skip first Tuesdays each month, I expect, since that is when our Ministry Teams meet. We will meet for nine weeks altogether, unless there is a need to go over to cover specific issues that parents bring up, and then we will play it by ear. I will ask John and the Session about child care; that has not been addressed as of yet. I plan to begin in September.

For each lesson, there is a page or two of written material covering a concept or set of related concepts related to parenting. Members of the class will receive material one week, and we will discuss it the next. Each week we will get the material for the following week. It is my intention to field questions and facilitate communication among the participants, working to develop an understanding of the concepts presented. I do ask that participants commit to faithful attendance and participation for the duration of the class.

If you would like to attend the class, please contact Millisa Moore at Erin (588-5350 or MMoore1640@aol.com) and let her know. *Everyone is welcome.* You may also contact me either in person, by phone (694-9474), or by e-mail ([jchphd@mindspring.com](mailto:jchphd@mindspring.com)). John House, PhD

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Thursday, August 21**, for inclusion in the next month's issue. Place submissions in the Newsletter mailbox in the Church Office or send articles via e-mail to "Erin1877@aol.com". Send Calendar events to "admin@erinpresbyterian.org".

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