

Erin Presbyterian Church News December 2003



Dear Friends,

It's almost Christmas and so the annual rush to get things done begins. Each year, I swear, there seems to be more to do and less time to do it in. The hustle and bustle of getting everything ready, buying gifts, putting up lights and writing cards seems more demanding as the years fly past. I don't know about you, but when December 26th finally comes, I'm ready to put my feet up for the rest of the winter!

It's a shame really because in the midst of this quagmire of activity and anxiety, we all merely glance at Christmas. Some of us don't even have time to read the scriptures and the nearest we get to some biblical texts is what we read in some hokey Christmas cards that an out of state relative sends us.

Usually the card is of an angel with a trumpet and the inside reads: "Goodwill and peace to all men." It's supposed to make us feel good and that everything is all right with the world, especially at Christmas.

Except that's not what the scripture actually says. A properly translated copy of the verse reads:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14, NIV

"Peace to those on whom his favor rests." Hmm, that's a lot different from the message that our cards give us. A lot of people think that God's goodwill is available for everyone, every moment of the day. And yet the scriptures tell us that God's goodwill is given to those whom He favors. In other words, we can't take God for granted and that everything is all right just because we wish it to be so.

It's a bit like a Peanuts strip that I read a long time ago. Lucy and Linus are putting on a big show of being the best brother and sister in the world in order to fool Santa Claus into bringing them great presents. They usually fight and squabble with each other all year long, but with Christmas coming up,

they want to make most of their opportunities for getting gifts. Charlie Brown can see through their hypocrisy and asks how they are going to get away with it.

"That's easy," says Lucy. "We're a couple of smart young kids and Santa is a dumb old man!"

It's sounds funny and yet a lot of people treat God that way. They think that everything will be okay because they say and believe it will be so. God is so ancient, He doesn't understand. Or perhaps they think I can do what I like and God will still forgive me.

God isn't a dumb old man and His favor isn't something we can take for granted. Christmas isn't about getting gifts, it's about being given an opportunity to be restored to God's favor. It's about seeing Jesus as the Savior of our souls. It's about making a commitment, an act of dedication, a radical change in our lives to make things right with God through worship, study, meditation and service. And if we don't get it right then we won't be given the favor, the promise, the blessing of eternal life. Christians are not wishful thinkers who hope for the best. Christians are people devoted to God who are looking forward to the day when their dedication, service and faith will be transformed and translated into everlasting happiness, love and life in the presence of God.

So, be honest with yourself. Is your faith real? Is it based upon a loving, devoted commitment to God or is it just made up from a few words printed in a Christmas card? If you want eternal life, you need to do something this Christmas - you need to get real with God, otherwise you'll end up like the stores after Christmas - empty, except for the stuff nobody wants.

May you gain God's favor this Christmas by receiving His Son into your heart. John

SUNDAY WORSHIP*December 7***COMMUNION SUNDAY****Second Sunday of Advent**

1 Samuel 2:1-2 & Luke 1:39-56
 "Heartsong"

*December 14***Third Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:67-80
 "Without Fear"

*December 21***CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING****Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-14 & Luke 2:1-7
 "Home for the Holidays?"

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas
 Isaiah 61:1-3 & Luke 2:8-20
 "The LORD's Favor"

*January 4***COMMUNION SUNDAY****HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Psalms 27:1-3 & Luke 2:21-35
 "Waiting for God"
 (OT)

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

December 7 Charles Scarbrough and Chuck Scarbrough
 December 14 Jacque Roberts and Mary Scarbrough
 December 21 Marjorie McLean and Lionel Sands
 December 28 Anna McKay and Peter McKay
 January 4 Rob and Kari Matthews

Communion Servers

December 7 Rebecca Berry, Patty Britton,
 Laura Dean, Pam Pfeifer,
 Tom Quinley, Agnes Kirby
 January 4 Randy Bishop, Jane Cowen,
 Richard Dougherty, Morgan Fitch,
 Barry Robinson, Mike Pierce

Ushers

December 7 Catherine Landstreet, Dave Leckie
 Evelyn Lowry, Bob McLean
 December 14 Larry and Anna McKay
 Peter McKay and David McKay
 December 21 Mary Ann Hagler, Tom Quinley
 Erin Quinley, Henry Ritchie
 December 28 Charles and Mary Scarbrough
 Chuck Scarbrough, Abby Scarbrough
 January 4 Josh Evans, Charles Snodgrass
 Stan Stevens, Evelyn Stuart

Nursery Volunteers

December 7 Christy Blanchard
 December 14 Joanne Clelland
 December 21 Kristi Bailes
 December 28 Nicole Webb
 January 4 Mary Scarbrough

Guide and Scripture Readers

December 7 Bob McLean and Marjorie McLean
 December 14 Patty Britton and Gary Blackburn
 December 21 Hugh Jaynes and Kim Jaynes
 December 28 Gary Blackburn and Joe Jaynes
 January 4 Tom and Eva Quinley

Enrichment I

December 7 Apryl Quinn
 December 14 Linda Patterson
 December 21 Amanda Baucom
 December 28 Kari Matthews
 January 4 Alex Jaynes

Enrichment II

December 7 Pam Pfeifer
 December 14 Laura Dean
 December 21 Larry McKay
 December 28 Evelyn Stuart
 January 4 TBD

Counters

December 7 Pam Pfeifer and Tom Quinley
 December 14 Laura Dean and Morgan Fitch
 December 21 Patty Britton and Gary Blackburn
 December 28 Mary Nelle Cate and Ann Snodgrass
 January 4 Larry McKay and Tom Quinley

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who volunteer for the "available" slots when needed.



Communion Servers should meet in the Mini-Kitchen at 9:00 a.m. to prepare communion.

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

Gallatin, TN: Eva Denning, *mother of Eva Quinley*

Greenwood, South Carolina: Cornelia Erskine; NHC; P.O. Box 3109; Greenwood, SC 29648

Huntsville, Alabama: Mattie Tapp Beard (*former Erin Member*)

Kansas: Bob Ellis, *nephew of Helen Staples*

Memphis, TN: Jerry Rakestraw, *friend of Tom Quinley*; Gibson Phillips ~ ICU at LeBonheur Children's Hospital, *two-week-old cousin of Wes Harris*

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

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

San Jose, California: Dee Ballard, *sister of Eleanor Jaynes*

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

Shannondale Health Care Center - 801 Vanosdale Road: Carolyn Cuany, Room 208; Elizabeth Martinson, Room 213; Lelia Rimmer, Room 215

St. Jude's: Walker Hecht (4-years-old); Hayden Wiggins (*friend of Christy Blanchard*)

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	
Alison Irwin (<i>daughter of Jay and Jo Derrick</i>)	
Ann Johns	Jo Ludwig
JE Pershing	
Emma Read (<i>grandmother of Mike Sharp</i>)	
Henry Thomas Ritchie	Marion Sanks
Ethan Shannon	
Edith Stellacci (<i>mother of Regina Bishop</i>)	
Pat Swain	Pearl Swallows
Michael Williams (<i>son of Bill Williams</i>)	

If there are any changes needed for the above prayer list, please contact Millisa, 588-5350, at the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mary Job	December 1
Heather Ritchie	December 1
Morgan Bitz	December 3
Erin Quinley	December 6
Lionel Sands	December 7
Jeremy Holliday	December 8
Susan Miller	December 10
Pam Pfeifer	December 10
Margaret Pfeifer	December 12
Nicole Webb	December 14
Matthew Miller	December 20
Marty Kirby	December 23
Angela Johnson	December 24
Howard Lovelace	December 26
Henry Ritchie	December 26
Paula Tate	December 27
Nick Carter	December 28
Barbara Brazelton	December 29
Cynthia Holliday	December 29
Vincent Blanton	December 30
Sarah McKay	December 30
Fran Ayers	December 31
Wilma Harrington	January 1
Joe Tate	January 3
Audry Cafego	January 4
Suzanne Hickman	January 4
Maud Hoover	January 4

Your birthday not listed? Please contact the church office, 588-5350.

WE EXPRESS OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY to Ann Davis on the death of her uncle, Carl Hall, who died on Saturday, November 8.

Dear Friends at Erin Presbyterian Church,
I want to thank the members who have prayed for me, for our Lord has heard all your kind prayers. Therefore, I have been received. Thank the Lord.

I enjoyed my stay at the Jaynes' this summer, for I met some new friends. I also had fun selling tickets at the carnival. It was very enlightening to listen to Pastor John at the Bible class.

Thank you all for keeping me on your prayer list. I appreciate all your good wishes.

Dee Ballard ~ *sister of Eleanor Jaynes*
1427 Bob White Place
San Jose, CA 95131

LETTERS FROM KAREN HARRIS

Hello, I hope all is well. I wanted to take a moment to enlighten everyone of 2 firsts for me that have happened in the last 12 hours.

First, I baked 2 apple pies, crust and all from scratch for the first time on my own. I made them for BCA's International Picnic, which is tonight. It is an event where all of the BCA families, which are very diverse, bring a dish to share. I was trying to think of an "American" food to bring, and with another American teacher already claiming hot dogs, I decided to attempt apple pies. I am a little nervous because I don't know how they taste, but if they are good, I will have to start making them all of the time!

The second "first" for me was me getting cold here. Last night I got so cold, I had to sleep under a blanket and turn my fan off. I even had on a long sleeve shirt and pants. I wasn't sure if I would ever get cold here with it being so hot when I first arrived, but I am very happy to say that it has happened.

I am looking forward to tonight's picnic. I hope to eat some new foods and meet some families.

I have had a good week, with school starting with the 1st grade last Thursday I have substituted three days out of the past five. I love doing it, but know that my other jobs are just piling up! I might be able to catch up today. I hope everyone has a wonderful Friday.

Karen

KAREN HARRIS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Karen, a Missionary Volunteer at the Belize Christian Academy of Belmopan, Belize, which is a school for about fifteen different nationalities of students, needs your help. **How can you help?** *Commit to pray* for Karen as she faces significant life changes as she depends on God for all of her needs (financial, emotional, physical, spiritual, etc.). *Provide financial support* for Karen. Her missionary position is voluntary. *Communicate with Karen*, by providing positive correspondence. More information is available at the church office. For financial support, please make your check payable to Erin Church; write *Karen Harris* in the memo line.

LET'S DO DINNER

Let's do it again! We have been having such a good turn out at these dinners. It is always good to get together. December we will be trying a new restaurant - Puleo's. It is located at the corner of Cedar Bluff and Peters Road. They call themselves an Italian restaurant with a Southern flair. The menu is varied, with something for everyone. Let's Do Dinner on Tuesday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m. See you there!

SENIOR SACK CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Thursday, December 18, at 12:00 noon we will have our Christmas Party. Please bring a covered dish - we will furnish ham, rolls and drinks. Also, bring a gift for the gift exchange. The cost should not be over \$5 or it can be something that you have received as a gift in the past and "just can't find a use for". We'll have dinner, exchange gifts and sing a few carols. Please join us - we will distribute poinsettias to be taken to shut-ins.

LITTLE CHILDREN...

Little Children of the World - In October, the Seniors began sponsoring a child. His name is Gerwin Dales. Gerwin is 13 years old, and he is in his second year of high school. Gerwin has 4 brothers and 2 sisters. If you would like to write to Gerwin, his address is: **Gerwin Dales, Little Children of the Philippines; Claytown Daro, Dumaguete City; 6200 Philippines**

Gerwin's birthday is January 18. We will be sending money to Gerwin for Christmas, but would like to send him a package for his birthday. Suggested items are jeans, since they are very expensive in the Philippines, a watch or books. We thought that an Orange Tennessee shirt would be appropriate, too. If you would like to contribute to his birthday gift, please make out a check to Erin but memo it "gift for Gerwin". We will purchase his birthday gift and mail it to arrive by January 18. This is a wonderful mission project for our senior group. **A letter from Gerwin will be posted on the Senior Board. Thanks to all of you.**

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

sponsored by MOPS

On Saturday, December 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. please join everyone in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate a pancake breakfast with Santa. A \$5 donation per family is requested. You may call the church office, 588-5350, to RSVP or use the signup form in the church bulletin.

CAKES FOR LAKESHORE

Thank you to everyone who brought in a cake for lakeshore. We delivered a total of 32 cakes (oops! we missed one that was in the freezer). The people at Lakeshore were very thankful for your thoughtfulness. Thank you all again.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle IV will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8, at Mary Scarbrough's for our annual Christmas party. Don't forget your covered dish and a gift for the gift exchange.

Circle II will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, in the church parlor. You will have your lesson then leave for Chops Grill for lunch. Please call Pat Sexton, 693-3187, with your reservation by Sunday, December 7.

The gifts for Sunset Gap will be taken to Newport on Thursday, December 4. If you haven't submitted your gift, you still have time to do so. Help someone have a *Merry Christmas*.

THANK YOU

There are several of us who would like to express our thanks to Millisa for all of the "extra" things that she does to keep things in order in our church building. She not only keeps the office running smoothly, but daily finds ways to help out in other ways. Thank you very much, Millisa. We really do appreciate you.

**ERIN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Guess who is coming to dinner?

Clue: Mrs. Ho! Ho! Ho!

There will be an Erin family Christmas dinner, sponsored by Erin Presbyterian Women, on Sunday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. We'll have a visit from the person in the Red Suit, gifts for all and carols to be sung. Invite your friends and family! Just bring a covered dish (salad, vegetable, meat dish, or dessert). We will provide the drinks and rolls.

If you bring a copy of the recipe of your dish, we'll put together a 2003 Christmas dinner cookbook for you.

Please join your church family for food, fun and fellowship and plenty of holiday cheer. Don't forget to sign up on the board in the narthex. Or, you may call the church office, 588-5350.

HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING IT?

Are you shopping for that "difficult" person on your list? Well...bookmarks celebrating Erin's 125th anniversary and pictorial directories are still available at a cost of \$5. Please contact the church office, 588-5350, to get yours!

KROGER CARES

Will you give a fruit basket or a bouquet of flowers for a Christmas gift? Remember that Kroger gift certificates are available and they do both! For every \$5,000 we use, the church will get \$250! This money will be used for the Playground Fund. Please see Pam Pfeifer, 691-8492, or contact the church office, 588-5350, to get yours!

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2003	1 Knox Out 7:30p AA	2 5:30p Let's Do Dinner 7:00p Ministry Teams (BG, CE, CC&F, M&E)	3 5:30-6:30p Dinner 6:30p Hanging of the Greens 7:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	4 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p FS&P 8p Glenfinnan	5 7:30p AA	6 9-11a Breakfast w/Santa
7 Second Sunday - Advent 5:00p Day/Spring Light 5:30p Potluck Dinner 6-7:30p Middle School 6:30-7:30p Right Spirit 6:30-8p Sr. High	8 6p Circle IV 7:15p MNBS - Last 7:30p AA	9 10a Circle II 7:00p Scotland Tour 2004	10 4:30p Kidz Art Club 5p Journey Seven 5:30-6:30p Dinner 6:30p Music N Movement 6:30p SonShine Co. 7:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	11 9-11:30a MOPS 5:30p Girl Scouts 8p Glenfinnan	12 Sr. High Awards Sr. High Lock-In 7:30p AA	13 8a Men's Breakfast
14 Third Sunday - Advent 5:00p Day/Spring Light 6p MOPS Dinner 6p Caroling 6-7:30p Middle School 6:30-7:30p Right Spirit 6:30-8p Sr. High	15 7:30p AA	16	17 NO WND/Programs 7:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	18 Newsletter Deadline 5:30p Girl Scouts 12p Senior Sack Party 7p Session	19 Bulletin Info for 11/28 due 7:30p AA	20
21 Fourth Sunday - Advent JOY OFFERING NO Day/Spring Light, Middle or High School, or Right Spirit	22 Knox Schools Out 7:30p AA	23 Knox Schools Out	24 6p Christmas Eve Service Special Offering Received Church office closes 12 noon NO WND/Programs Knox Schools Out	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed Knox Schools Out	26 Church Office Closed Knox Schools Out 7:30p AA	27
28 NO Day/Spring Light, Middle or High School, or Right Spirit	29 Knox Schools Out 7:30p AA	30 Knox Schools Out	31 Knox Schools Out End of 2003 Tax Year No WND/Programs/Choir			

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings that our church receives each year. The Joy Offering gives congregations a direct way to support specific causes that help those in need. The receipts from the offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for their Financial Assistance Programs, and to the National Ministries Division of the PC (USA) to support Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.



We will receive this special offering at Erin this year during worship on December 21. You will receive further information about the Joy Offering, and you may cruise through www.pcusa.org, under "Special Offerings." God's generous blessings encourage us to respond generously.

BODY RECALL

Body Recall classes will resume at Erin on Monday, January 12, for the winter 10-week session. The cost is \$1 per class, and it is strongly recommended that you purchase a textbook if you do not already have one. Ron Roberts, who is a certified Body Recall teacher, each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, teaches body Recall at Erin Church. Body Recall was founded by Dorothy Chrisman in 1978 at Berea College of Berea, Kentucky and is now internationally renowned.

Body Recall I
4:30-5:30 p.m.

Body Recall II
2:30-3:30 p.m.

Don't delay. Make a decision to join us today. Your joints and muscles are crying for movement. You will do yourself the biggest favor and have fun while doing it! Go at your own pace – no competition. (Classes were originally to begin on January 5; however, Ron and Jacque will be vacationing the first week of January.)

For more information, you may call Ron Roberts at home, 966-8666, or on his cellular telephone number, 254-8666. You may also contact the church office, 588-5350. Stay for Dinner after!

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is paid by each church that is a member of the Presbytery and is based on a church's annual membership, which is taken from the submitted church statistic form. Yearly membership dues for this year are \$28.56 per church member. The money is distributed to three areas:

1. General Assembly	\$5.44
2. Presbytery of East Tennessee	\$20.00
3. Senate	<u>\$3.12</u>
Grand Total Per Church Member	\$28.56

Therefore, for the 2003 year, the church will pay a total of \$8339.52. It is requested that each church member pay for his or her own membership fees for 2003. Payments can be made monthly (\$2.38) or yearly (\$28.56). Please remember to write "Per Capita" in the memo line of your check. This money is tax deductible and will be included on your contribution report. For more information, please contact Millisa, 588-5350, in the church office.

Have you paid your 2003 per capita yet? Now is the time, as it will be deductible for the 2003 tax year.

www.ErinPresbyterian.org/calendar/index.html

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! By going to the above link and subscribing to this list, you will receive the church's calendar/activities each Monday for the current and upcoming week. **Who should subscribe to this list?** Elders, committee chairs or any one who schedules activities on the church calendar or **anyone that wishes to receive the calendar information** to know what activities are available each week. ***This unique tool will keep you informed.*** Corrections/additions need to be made by Tuesday of each week (the day after e-mail is sent).

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

A bulletin board in the Narthex is available for you to list items that you may wish to sell and donate to proceeds the playground fund. Item description cards and tax receipts are available on the board. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Patterson, 769-7655, or Millisa, 588-5350, at the church office. ***Your participation is needed.***



**“Hanging of the Greens”
Wednesday, December 3
6:30 PM**

*Everyone is encouraged
to participate.*

**CAROLING
Sunday, December 14
6:00 P.M.**

Are you a singer? That’s okay, some of us aren’t. The important thing is that you join us for a special time with caroling on Sunday, December 14. You need to be at the church by 6:00 p.m. We will park at the church and ride a big yellow school bus! So come, have some fun, and sing...or try to sing....Everyone should meet at the church at 5:50 p.m. to participate. This is fun for the whole family.

POINSETTIAS

In honor of or in memory of your loved ones...Poinsettias/Christmas Memorials are now being taken. Please use the signup form in the bulletin or contact the church office, 588-5350. Monies not used to purchase poinsettias will be used towards the purchase of two new kitchen stoves. The deadline is Sunday, December 14. The donation requested is \$10.

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Thursday, December 18**, 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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