

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

January, 2007

Therefore, my dear people, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Dear Friends,

Every January, I try to choose a motto that our church can undertake to fulfill throughout the coming year. I've selected this verse from one of Paul's letters because I think it best describes what we are facing in 2007.

Over the past twelve years, we've accomplished many things together and if we were to journey back in time to June 1995, we would see an entirely different Erin Church from the one we are currently experiencing. Our dedication and devotion to the life, work, and ministry of this church have enabled us to strengthen our faith, reach out to the community, and renovate our building. Despite some serious setbacks, we still managed to grow as a congregation, and meet all of our obligations. In fact, our giving to missions was one of the best year's on record, of which our **Outreach** team can be deservedly proud.

Our other ministry teams greatly contributed to the strength of our church in the midst of some very trying times. **Fellowship** formed strong bonds amongst us through their work in helping, supporting and encouraging the congregation. **Discipleship** expanded its family programs and commitment to Christian Education throughout the year. Our **Property** team completed numerous tasks and overcame some unexpected obstacles, to put us in a better position to begin essential work on our Fellowship Hall and main kitchen. And our **Stewardship** team admirably guided us through some rocky moments and troubled waters that no one foresaw at the beginning of 2006. So, where do we go from here, and what things are we hoping to accomplish for the Lord in 2007?

Well, the biggest project will be the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. We've talked about it for the last two years. It was the last phase to be worked on of our current vision plan. In the middle of 2006, we



discovered that the crack in the Fellowship wall had grown larger and that there was some movement in the surrounding grounds. We thought that things were looking bleak, but the necessary surveys and reports do not depict any serious damage. It now looks as though the settlement around the wall has stopped and that, praise be to God, we can repair the wall without too much inconvenience to our programs.

Once we get the proper estimates and costs in for the Fellowship Hall, we can begin a capital campaign to finance its much-needed renovation. Some generous contributions and memorial gifts have already been received for the modernization of our Kitchen. Hopefully, by the end of this year, we should have a Fellowship Hall and Kitchen that we can be proud to possess.

We'll also continue to make an even greater commitment to reach out to our surrounding community in Christ's Name. In the midst of declining Presbyterian churches in our area, we have been constantly blessed by the Lord. If you were present at either or both of our Christmas Eve services, you will have experienced this blessing in person. The amount of families, friends, and faithful members who attended church that Sunday was absolutely amazing and wonderfully encouraging.

So, as a wee church beloved of the Lord, let's take on board what Paul wrote centuries ago, and use it as our motto for 2007. Let's seek to '*give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because we know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.*'

God bless you and all your loved ones.

John

January Sundays**January 07****Communion Sunday**

Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

*"Where Have All the Wise Men Gone?"***January 14****Second Sunday Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 63:1-5 & 2:1-11

*"A Moonshine Miracle?"***January 21****Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Psalm 19:7-11 & Luke 4:14-21

*"High Noon at Nazareth"***January 28****Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Psalm 71:1-6 & Luke 4:21-30

*"Causing a Commotion"***February 04****Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time****Communion**

Psalm 138:1-8 & Luke 5:1-11

*"Gone Fishing"***Daily Devotions**

Almost every weekday, the pastor writes a short devotional based on the follow up readings printed in the Sunday bulletin. This devotional is emailed to subscribers in our church and all over the world. The devotionals have also been published on other Christian websites, magazines, and denominational publications in different countries. If you would like to subscribe to these short five minute devotionals, then go to our home page on the church's website at www.erinpresbyterian.org, where you will see the sign up link. These devotions help many of our people keep connected to God and the church no matter where they are in our country.

*Your birthday not listed?**Please contact the church office, 588-5350.***January Birthdays***(This may not be an accurate list and some names may be missing. If so, please accept our apologies)*

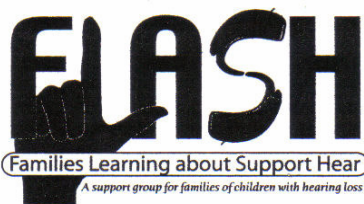
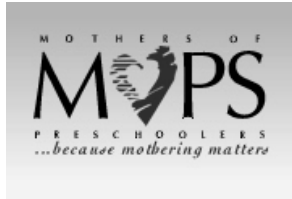
Wilma Harrington	January 1
Joe Tate	January 3
Audry Cafego	January 4
Suzanne Hickman	January 4
Maud Hoover	January 4
John Moxham	January 4
Lanie Webb	January 4
Gary Blackburn	January 5
Tracy Foster	January 6
Mary Nelle Cate	January 6
Jeff Waters	January 6
Chloe Webb	January 6
Mae Brandon-Pershing	January 10
Laurel Breyen	January 10
Maeve Smith	January 10
Pat Fitch	January 11
Kelli Crisp	January 12
Kay Schoeller	January 13
Jose Vowell	January 15
Shane Crisp	January 16
Kris Johnson	January 17
Walt Siedentopf	January 17
LouL Tate	January 19
Evelyn Stuart	January 21
Al Wallin	January 21
Barbara Wallin	January 23
Jada Cable	January 24
Jeff Carter	January 24
Frank Harrington	January 25
Marjorie Swanner	January 25
Tim Jenness	January 26
Mike Jackson	January 28
Thomas Pearson	January 29
Andy Jaynes	January 30
Kathy McClellan	January 31
Rob McLeod III	January 31
<i>First Days of February</i>	
Ginger Thompson	February 2
Julie Blanchard	February 4
Randy Bishop	February 5
Margaret Casteel	February 6

INFANT AND PRESCHOOL

MOPS NEWS

Attention, Mothers of Preschoolers!

Erin MOPS has begun the New Year! Come meet other moms of preschool-aged children, and connect with others who understand what it's like to be "Mommy" to these wonderful tiny people. Join a community of women who support one another as we grow as mothers, women, and children of God. The theme this year is "Fresh Air: What Every Mother Needs". We'll be doing crafts, hearing speakers, working on mission projects, participating in devotionals, engaging in lively discussion about our needs as mothers, and eating delicious food while our children participate in their own activities with our quality teachers. Most importantly, we'll be making new friends while we worship God together! We meet the 2nd (January 11) and 4th (January 25) Thursdays of each month from 9:30-11:30AM. Every mom with children from birth through kindergarten is welcome to join us, and kids are welcome too! Contact: Katina Sharp for more information (742-2292).



Families Learning about Support Hear

is a family friendly organization that supports all types of families and

children dealing with different degrees of hearing loss. FLASH is open to any parent, grandparent, sibling, caregiver or other support person and allows a positive environment where there is an opportunity for folks to meet others who are dealing with similar issues. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 18**, from 6:30 to 9:00PM in the Family Life Center. For more information, please contact Heather Ritchie, 584-1637, or e-mail flash.supportgroup@gmail.com.

Time to Gear Up for VBS! There will be a VBS Planning meeting Wed., January 24th from 7:30 - 8:30. We have had many people who have already signed up to be lead volunteers, which means we plan to have a really great VBS this year! We have selected a great theme and are really excited about getting things organized. There are two main areas which need lead volunteers and those are Music and Bible Stories. Please meet us in the Family Life Center to begin planning. Childcare will be available upon request.



As parents, we want our children to feel happy, healthy and loved. Mommy & Me believes spending time together is the best way to make that happen. This group provides you and your child fun and simple ways to make the most of the time you spend- Laughing, Loving, Learning-Together. Mommy & Me is for all moms, dads, grandparents, and other caregivers with children 6 and under who wish to participate in a fun time of bonding with their children. We sing songs, read stories, play games, dance, and laugh together. And the best part? It's free! No commitment, no fees. Just show up and enjoy yourself! Mommy & Me meets every Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. If you have a question about the group, don't hesitate to call Katina Sharp at 742-2292 or email her at KatinaSharp@aol.com. You can also visit the Mommy & Me website at www.MommyandMe.com. We hope to see you there!

We are creating a new Family Council at Erin!

This will be an opportunity to discuss important topics regarding children, grandchildren and the future of Erin in an open forum setting. Reverend Stuart will lead this council and the first meeting will be held January 14th after service. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and we'll order pizza! If you have



any topics that you would like to discuss, please talk to Reverend Stuart or Shane Crisp as they will be organizing an outline of topics for the forum. Everyone is welcome. If you are not able to attend, please feel free to submit any thoughts, ideas or concerns in writing and your ideas will be heard. Please sign up below and indicate your needs regarding childcare.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Come to G.E.T. Games! Hey middle school and high school Youth! Do you need a mid-week break or some time to relax and have fun? Come to G.E.T. Games every Wednesday! We play basketball, cards, board games, or anything fun you can think of! We meet after Wednesday Night dinner in Becca's office until 7:30. Bring a friend, bring a Frisbee, and be ready to blow off some steam!



Senior Highs Give Back! Our Senior High Youth Group was very busy with new mission projects this holiday season! In early December, Lauren Stuart led them in making "Hope Buckets" for the AIDS patients at the Hope Center. Hope Buckets are intended to give the patients a spark, sometimes their only spark for the holidays. They are filled with everyday items that can be used throughout the year. The Senior Highs collected money and goods that filled over 20 buckets. They would like to say a very heartfelt thanks to their Erin family who were so generous and to Lauren for her time and vision. Lauren, a freshman at UT, is a real role model for our senior highs. She has a heart for mission work and spends much of her free time doing just that!



On December 24th, the Senior Highs participated in Empty Stocking Fund. The mission of ESF is to provide food and toys to disadvantaged East Tennesseans during the holidays. This year they fed 3,500 families, about 8,000 people, and supply toys to more than 2,100 children. Each family receives a food basket with 70 pounds of food. The basket contains a turkey, fresh produce, canned goods and much more. Erin Senior Highs volunteered to lead parents through the ESF "Toy Store", helping them pick out toys for their children. It was really moving to see how many people in our own hometown don't have enough money to buy



their children Christmas gifts. The Sr. Highs felt really lucky to be those people's "Santa" for one day!

Our Sr. Highs truly have a passion for helping people and hope to continue their service work in 2007!

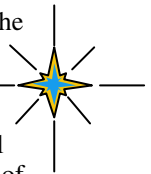
OUTREACH MINISTRY

Erin members have made the Angel Tree a success again! Your generosity provided 80 gifts to East Tennessee children in need. They will have a much brighter Christmas thanks to you! Your support of this annual project is much appreciated by the Outreach Team this year and in all the years we have sponsored an Angel Tree. May the New Year bring you many blessings!



2006 JOY OFFERING

On December 24, the fourth Sunday in Advent, the Christmas Joy Offering for 2006 was received in the amount of \$1,130.56. This special offering is a joyful response by congregations across the Presbyterian Church (USA) to special needs of people. \$565.28 will go to our Board of Pensions and is used to relieve unexpected and emergency needs of retired and current church workers. The Racial/Ethnic Schools and Colleges that are related to our denomination receive the remaining \$565.28, which they use for scholarships and to help cover basic operating expenses. Thank you for your generous giving during the Holiday Season. Your generosity will greatly assist others in need. Erin Outreach Team.



Thank You

On behalf of the Outreach Team, I would like to say a special word of thanks to the congregation for your generous support of the Christmas Joy Offering and the Christmas Eve Offering. We raised \$1,130.56 for the Joy Offering and \$1,114.00 on Christmas Eve for the Appalachian Mission of Hope. Your generosity toward those less fortunate was a wonderful ending to a great year for Outreach.

Because of your willingness to obey God's calling to faithful financial stewardship, Erin reached out in 2006 in support of many local, national, and international needs. We were not only able to honor the commitments of support we had made at the beginning of the year, but we were also able to provide support to emergency needs as they arose.

Our challenge as a church is to continue to meet the ever-increasing needs God shows us in our community, our nation, and our world. Serving on the Outreach

Team this year has been spiritually rewarding and a personal joy for each one of us. We look forward to 2007 and the opportunities God will show us to reach out to a world in need.

Thanks Erin for your loving spirit.
The Outreach Team
Cynthia House, Convener

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

LET'S DO DINNER! will not meet in January, but we will resume Tuesday, February 6th.



BARNABAS will not meet in January, but will resume on Tuesday, February 6th at Hogan's at 11:45am. New members are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Mary Scarbrough at 691-8658.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Schedule of Events

5:00-6:00 - Journey Seven
5:45-6:15 - Dinner
6:15-6:30 - Clean up
6:30-7:30 - Women's Study Group
Table Talk
Sonshine - grades K-8
Kid's Club - 4-5 years and grades K-5
GET Games - grades 6-12
Hand Bells
Nursery - infants - 3 years
7:30-8:30 - Choir

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

I would like to thank everyone who came to my home last Sunday for caroling! It was a joyous occasion and the children were wonderful! Thank you all for sharing the Christmas spirit and spreading good cheer! - Marion Sanks

Breadbreakers

We will meet on Saturday, January 27th at the Leckie's home at 6:30pm for dinner. Please call the church office at 588-5350 if you plan to attend. We look forward to starting off the New Year with you!

Mens' Breakfast

Erin's men will meet Saturday, January 13th at 8:30 am. Come enjoy a time of fellowship, and after breakfast we will visit the Knoxville Historical Museum to gander the exhibit



of WWII photography. A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. Please call Dale Webb (212-9772) for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Start off the New Year right by visiting one of our Circles! PW Circle 2 will meet on Monday, January 8 at 7:00pm at Mary Scarbrough's house. Diana Chappell will lead the Bible study. PW Circle 4 will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00am in the Parlor. Pat Sexton will lead the Bible Study.



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

The Women's Serendipity Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesday nights after dinner. For the first six weeks we're exploring our Christian identity by talking about our values, our strengths, our desires, our self-image, our faith, and our future, using stories and images from the New Testament. All women are invited to attend—so come along, and bring a friend!"



Sign up now for the 2007 Erin Women's Retreat, In Our Own Skins. This retreat is open to all women in the Erin church family, and will be held on Friday, February 2nd and Saturday, February 3rd at the Highland Manor Inn and Conference Center in Townsend, TN. The cost for the event will be approximately \$75 per person for a single room (slightly less if you share a room), which includes a room at the Inn, 3 meals (dinner Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday), snacks and program materials. We will also enjoy Bible study, crafts, and lots of fellowship time. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 588-5350 by January 14.

Wednesday Night Table Talk

The Wednesday night group that the pastor is leading will be turning its attention to current issues and religious events that are happening all over the world. Sometimes our news is tainted with secular opinions that make religious people out to be zealous fanatics and



spiritual nutcases. The pastor hopes to introduce current topics to help us get to the heart of these complicated issues that try people's souls today.

Monday Night Study Group

We will begin on Monday January 8 in the parlor at 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and share their ideas, questions, and opinions about various subjects. We're finishing off a book about other religions and faith called "What's the Difference?" Copies of this study will be available in the narthex on Sunday 7 January. The group has some light-hearted as well as serious moments. The pastor leads the discussion and sometimes we end up going off subject to deal with current events and burning issues.

Come along and see for yourself. You'll like it! We promise.

New Connections Sunday Morning Class

The Problem of Pain

By

C. S. Lewis

On Sunday January 14, we'll be starting a new Sunday school class in the Noah's Ark Room at 9.45am. It's a ten week journey and discussion of one of C.S. Lewis' great books called "The Problem of Pain." For those of us who are fans of Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia, this is a good book to get to know the heart and soul of one of Christianity's greatest writers. The book covers questions about pain and suffering, asking why does it happen to us and how can we respond to dealing with pain. As the back cover of the book describes:

If God is good and all-powerful, why does He allow His creatures to suffer pain? And what of the suffering of animals, who neither deserve pain nor can be improved by it? The greatest Christian thinker of our time sets out to disentangle this knotty issue. With his signature wealth of compassion and insight, C.S. Lewis offers answers to these crucial questions and shapes his hope and wisdom to help heal a world hungering for a true understanding of human nature.

Everyone is welcome to join the series. The book can be purchased at Borders for \$9.95, or you may get it cheaper on www.amazon.com.

2007 Online Study: Mark

The pastor will be starting a new online study for 2007. It will be a journey through the Gospel of Mark. These studies take about fifteen minutes to complete and build up our knowledge of Christ's ministry and mission during New Testament times. The study also

gives participants time to meditate on select short passages and seek ways to apply the lesson.

A sign up will soon be able in the worship bulletin and people interested will be able to sign up online at the church's website on our home page at www.erinpresbyterian.org.

The studies are sent by email each day, Monday to Friday and participants go at their own pace. There will also be opportunities for feedback and perhaps we will try to have a bulletin board set up on our website for comments and messages.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Erin Choir Needs YOU! Do you have an interest in lifting your voice in praise somewhere other than the shower? Then the Erin Choir is the place for you. Your voice will be welcome in every section: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. No formal vocal training is required ... just a willingness to learn. And we welcome all ages, from senior high school students to senior adults!

We believe that God is worshipped in many ways. Consequently, the Choir is committed to performing a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary. More importantly, we believe in having fun with the music and with each other. In addition to singing, we share joys and concerns and support one another with prayer and compassion each week. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Please join us and experience it for yourself. We practice each Wed. night from 7:30-8:30 pm.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Body Recall will not meet the first week of January. Class will resume at 4:00pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on January 8, 2007! Have a safe and happy Holiday and we will see you then!

SAM Sack Lunch will be Thursday, January 18th at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. After lunch, we will enjoy playing Bunco! So put your "game face" on and prepare to join in the fun!



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**Building Fund Report**

The Erin congregation has generously given to our Building Fund for 3 years. To refresh our memories concerning improvements made in 2004-2006, listed below are approximate costs on projects completed:

1. Playground Equipment	\$20,000.00
Approximately \$18,000.00 was raised by the playground committee.	
2. Tree Removal	\$1,500.00
Hackberry tree at front entrance	
3. Family Center	
Furniture and equipment	\$3,342.00
Carpet (includes upstairs hallway)	\$9,241.00
4. Pressure Clean and Paint Exterior	\$5,100.00
Includes trim, railings, windows	
5. Paint Interior	\$3,000.00
Includes all classrooms, hallways and entries	
6. Choir Room	\$1,658.00
Renovate and paint	
7. Excavation	\$9,100.00
Prior to paving parking lot	
8. Paving Parking Lot	\$13,500.00
9. Basketball Court	\$9,700.00
Removal of 9 trees	
Installation of 12"x120' drainage pipe	
Rock and Backhoe	
10. Chain Link Fence	\$800.00
11. Basket Ball Goal and Installation	\$900.00
12. Replace fascia/soffitt at front entrance	\$1,500.00
13. Library Furniture and Shelving	\$5,000.00
14. Installation of Outdoor Light	\$1,500.00
15. Installation of Indoor Light	\$2,500.00
Classrooms and Hallways	
16. Parking Lot	\$2,800.00
Repair cracks and seal	-----
	\$91,141.00

Many of our faithful members have provided their time, talents, and money to complete these projects. It has been a team effort and the results are evident throughout our church building and grounds. Now, let us go forward with the kitchen and fellowship hall.

Ron Roberts
Convener, Stewardship Team

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

**Stewardship Figures
YTD
2006****Income****Administration**

Income	199.54
Property Income	27,512.00
Discipleship Income	5,674.34
Fellowship Income	10,700.51
Donations in Kind	1,443.17
Memorial Income	20,975.00
Outreach Income	17,373.13
Offerings	300,976.36
PW Income	138.00
Worship	1,245.33
Total Income	<u>386,237.38</u>

Expense**Administration**

Administration	20,559.98
Property Team	74,908.13
Discipleship Team	20,353.62
Fellowship Team	9,933.53
Outreach Team	58,462.33
Stewardship Team	1,295.65
Worship Team	4,132.46
Pastoral Ministry	101,291.99
Personnel	69,672.20
Memorial Expenses	830.68
Session	355.60
PW expenses	142.19
Payroll Expenses	788.10
Total Expense	<u>362,726.46</u>

Net Income**23,510.92****PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF
January 1, 2007****IRAQ***Levi Martin* (husband of Bev Cowen's granddaughter)**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE***John and Susan Miller* – John's mother passed away. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.*Ervin McClellan* - father of Kathy McClellan, was diagnosed with cancer which has spread to various parts of his body.*Major Claude Houbler* – he is recovering at home. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

John Badders – great uncle of Kelli Crisp, passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Velma Blackburn--Gary Blackburn's mother, is now in Shannondale Assisted Living, room 221.

FLORIDA

Kathy Hood (daughter of Alma Siedentopf)

MICHIGAN

Flora Hudson, sister of Mae Brandon-Pershing, suffering from serious heart problems.

WASHINGTON

Sandy Tessier undergoing chemotherapy for cancer

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sara Mantel (friend of Sara Leckie)

ERIN PRAYER CHAIN: the prayer chains will be supervised by **Katina Sharp**. She has volunteered to temporarily take over this vital ministry to ensure that messages and requests are not overlooked. You can contact Katina by e-mail at **Katiquando@aol.com** or call her at 742-2292. Thank you Katina for looking after this important area of our church's ministry.

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Wednesday, January 24** for inclusion in the next month's issue. Place submissions in Administrator's mailbox in the Church Office or send articles and/or calendar events via e-mail to "**admin@erinpresbyterian.org**".

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