

## ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

**April, 2007**

*Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

Dear Friends,

Easter is almost here and, by the time you receive this newsletter, Holy Week will have perhaps begun. How this sacred time impacts us will depend upon how we prepare our hearts and minds to receive Christ's Easter blessings. If we get too distracted by other things, we will miss the beauty of God's promises. If we take it all lightly and for granted, we will lose a precious opportunity to straighten out our lives.

Everyday, we are challenged to live as Christians. Each day, we try to live up to Christ's teachings. We want to be more patient, loving, and kind. We wish to be less critical, judgmental, and intolerant. But somehow or other, something happens that breaks our concentration and diminishes our good intentions. Instead of being Christ-like, we think, say, and do the things that Christ won't like. Instead of being perfect, we are full of pride. Instead of being selfless, we remain selfish.

This is why we need to come to Jesus, especially during Holy Week. There's not one person who is reading this who doesn't have regrets, hasn't made mistakes, and doesn't need forgiveness. We all fall short of God's glory; therefore, we all need to be saved from His wrath.

I can hear some of you saying: what kind of Easter message is this? Aren't we supposed to be filled with joy and wonder? Shouldn't we as Christians feel fantastic and glorify Jesus for what He has done? Of course we should, because Easter is all about being saved. The joy of the Resurrection is the greatest moment of salvation in the history of humanity, but aren't we in danger of looking past the Cross in order to hurriedly experience the Resurrection?



Do we just want to celebrate forgiveness and not commemorate sacrifice? Do we wish to kiss Christ profusely like Judas, without recalling the wounds we have caused the Son of God?

Many people come to Easter morning services because they love to be with their families and friends at joyous events. Their presence joyfully gladdens the hearts of their loved ones and makes Easter a special family celebration. However, if we only accentuate the positive, aren't we negating the reason for Christ's crucifixion? We caused Him to die, not God. If we skip the Cross, we deny His atonement. If we forget about Calvary and only look to the joy of Easter, we are painfully and spiritually in denial.

So, how do we make Holy Week sacred and special? We do it by taking time to quietly be with God and to ask for His forgiveness. We do it by receiving Communion on the Thursday night – the night in which Jesus was betrayed. Our church holds a special Tenebrae service at 7.00PM

We do it by remembering His sacrifice on Good Friday – an ecumenical service is held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, on Northshore, at 12 noon. By doing these things, we are ready for Easter and when we recognize how much Jesus did to restore us to God; we can truly understand and experience the real joy of Easter – of being forgiven, of becoming reborn, and of being granted eternal life.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, bring us closer to You this Easter by helping us remember what it cost You to forgive us. In Your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.*

***April Sundays*****April 1****Communion****Passion/Palm Sunday**

Psalm 118:19-24 &amp; Luke 19:28-40

*“Home for the Holy Days”***April 08****Easter Sunday**

Psalm 93:1-5 &amp; Luke 24:1-12

*“God’s Finest Hour”***April 15****2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 150:1-6 &amp; John 20:19-31

*“Look Who’s Here!”***April 22****3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 30:1-5 &amp; John 21:15-19

*“What’s Love Got to Do with It?”***April 29****4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Celebrating the Gifts of Women

Preacher: Rev. Kally Elliott

**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](http://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.***April Birthdays***(This may not be an accurate list and some names may be missing. If so, please accept our apologies)*

Tom Pfeifer, Sr.	April 1
David Snodgrass	April 1
Lila Proof (past member at Erin)	April 1
Brad Fortune	April 2
Carol Robbins	April 2
Henry Thomas Ritchie V	April 3
Mike Bilbrey	April 4
Becky Cameron	April 4
Karen Price	April 6
Pat Swain	April 8
Dan Berry	April 9
Jonathan Wilkins	April 9
Jane Cowen	April 13
Erin McCallum	April 14
Margaret Garrett	April 16
Sierra Henshaw	April 16
Peter McKay	April 16
Jennifer Gahan	April 17
John House	April 18
Melinda Massengill	April 21
Cathy Satterfield	April 22
Josh Evans	April 25
Joseph McLeod	April 26
Denise Bilbrey	April 27
Ann Rust	April 30

**First Days of May**

Britani Massengill	May 2
Joan Miller	May 2
Carson Matthews	May 3
Kelcey Levering	May 6
LaVonne Knight	May 7
Laura Tillery	May 7

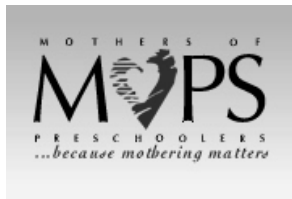
*Together with their families***Susan Hoover & Derry Evans***Invite you to share in the joy and celebration**Of their marriage on Saturday,**The seventh of April two thousand seven,**At two o'clock in the afternoon.*

## INFANT AND PRESCHOOL

**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. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 to 9:00PM in the Family Life Center. The program is titled "Singing with Your Baby." For more information, please contact Heather Ritchie, 584-1637, or e-mail [flash.supportgroup@gmail.com](mailto:flash.supportgroup@gmail.com).

### **MOPS NEWS**

**Join Erin MOPS for a morning on May 10<sup>th</sup> as we welcome an amazing speaker, Candy Colley Wood,**



a cancer survivor and a certified lay counselor from Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. "Candy" is a powerful testimony of how at age 30, she was diagnosed with grade-three bone cancer and endured extensive surgeries, treatment, and facial disfigurement. As a speaker, her primary focus is to communicate the importance of living each day as a gift and her passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you would like to attend the presentation on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. please RSVP to the church office by Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> (588-5350). Childcare is available upon request. A pamphlet is available in the church office for more information about this inspirational speaker.

### **Family Council at Erin!**

This is an opportunity to discuss important topics regarding children, grandchildren and the future of Erin in an open forum setting. The council will resume on **April 1st** after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. 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 call the office and indicate your needs regarding childcare.



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](mailto:KatinaSharp@aol.com). You can also visit the Mommy & Me website at [www.MommyandMe.com](http://www.MommyandMe.com). We hope to see you there!

### **Erin Welcomes Guest Speaker Frank Mosley**

Join us on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., as we welcome a special guest speaker to Erin! Sunday School Teachers, Enrichment Leaders, Youth Group Leaders, VBS volunteers and learners of all ages—this is an exciting workshop planned for motivation, inspiration, food and fellowship, and to gather great ideas!

Frank Mosley, consultant for *Standard Publishing*, is volunteering his time to provide our presentation:

*"After receiving my formal education from Moody Bible Institute and Columbia International University, I ministered for twenty one years as a Christian Education Pastor in three churches ranging in size from 250 members to over 4000 members. Since joining Standard Publishing's Consultant Team in 1994, I've had the opportunity to speak on various topics at local, regional and national conferences. My passion is to help equip*

*the local church leader and volunteer in becoming better prepared for meeting the spiritual needs of children, youth and adults.”*

Please call the church office (588-5350) if you plan to attend this program. Lunch will be served, and Childcare will be provided.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**



We are having a VBS Planning Meeting on **Sunday, April 15 from 12:30-2:00** after the worship service. If you would like to take part in planning this wonderful week for our children and outreaching to nearby children, please call the church office at 588-5350. Vacation Bible School at Erin will be June 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> and we are excited about planning for this great VBS week!! Contact Kelli Crisp for more information.

**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!

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Wednesday Dinner is such a success, that Erin needs more help in the kitchen! If you would like to cook, coordinate, serve, etc, please contact Allyson McLeod or the church office. Thank you!**

**FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

**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

**LET’S DO DINNER!** Meet us for fellowship and fun at Bravo’s on Bearden Hill on **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 5:15 pm. See you there!



**Men’s BBQ**

In lieu of Men’s Breakfast, Erin’s men will meet Saturday, **April 21<sup>st</sup>** for the Men’s BBQ at John Knox Center. For more information please contact Dale Webb (212-9772).



**Annual Smokies Baseball Game**

It is that time of year again!!! Erin will attend the Smokies baseball game on Saturday May 12 at 7:15. The deadline to sign up is Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are only \$7.00 per person (group rate) so be sure to call the office (588-5350) to get your name on the list! Batter up!



**Pastor John will be out of town from the evening of Sunday April 15 till Saturday April 21. He is going on a ministry renewal course at the Pastoral Institute in Columbus, GA. This is an intensive week long event to help him share his past ministry experiences and shape his future expectations. Please keep him in your prayers throughout the week.**

**Rev. Sharon Carter will be on call for any pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at home at 693-5111 or by email at [revscarter@comcast.net](mailto:revscarter@comcast.net)**

**New Members of the Erin Family!**

We are proud to announce  
the new members inducted on March 25, 2007:

***Steven Lamb and Siri Hamilton***

***Charles Montgomery***

***Courtney Backus.***

Please extend a friendly Erin welcome to our  
newest members!

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

Have you ever wondered who selects the hymns for the worship service, or who helps to prepare for important events in the liturgical calendar such as Easter or Christmas. That would be the Worship Committee. This committee is part of Discipleship Ministries, and meets about four times each year. Membership includes the minister, choir director, hand bells director, organist, two members of Discipleship, and any other interested member of Erin Church.

The worship service is central to the life of our church, and the Worship Committee works with the minister to ensure the service runs smoothly. Much of the committee's work involves routine but very important tasks. These include making sure that the greeter, usher, reader and guide lists are current, changing the banners in the church, and making sure the elements for communion are available. However in addition to the routine tasks, there are many technical and creative aspects to this ministry. Technical aspects include ensuring the sound system works properly so the service can be heard, and having the musical equipment tuned in a timely manner. Creative aspects involve selecting hymns, music and dance to enhance the service, planning programs to mark special events in the church calendar, and ensuring there are flowers and other special items available to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary.

The next Worship Committee meeting is being planned for early April. If you are interested in attending this meeting, or have any comments concerning the worship service, please contact any member of the Worship Committee.

**Church Concert – April 15**

The Rocky Hill Elementary Soul Singers and Deborah Young, pianist will present a concert on Sunday, April 15th at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary at Erin. The Soul Singers are an auditioned chorus comprised of 4th and 5th graders at Rocky Hill ES and directed by Edie Yeager. They will be singing a mix of folk and classical music. Deborah Young is a pianist who will perform her own original arrangements of hymn tunes. She has put out several CD's in the past few years. Deborah will also be selling her CD's at the concert that evening. All profits from her CD's will go to Erin Presbyterian Church.

Admission is free.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**PW Circle II** will meet Monday **April 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm at Mary Scarbrough's house. Joy Bornhoeft will lead the Bible Study. **Circle IV** will meet Tuesday **April 10<sup>th</sup>** in the Parlor at 10:00am. Pat Sexton will lead the Bible study.



**Many thanks to all those who brought items for the Fellowship Center and the Interfaith Clinic! Through your contributions Erin was able to provide for several individuals. Thank you for your generosity.**

**Birthday Picnic**

Mark your calendars for the Birthday Picnic—it will be Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Mary Scarbrough's house!



**Celebrating the Gifts of Women –** Kally Elliott will be leading the worship service on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> for Women's Sunday. We look forward to this service dedicated to the women of our church and community.

**OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Who are my neighbors? How can I help them? The ministry of the One Great Hour of Sharing helps our neighbors who suffer from poverty, hunger, and lack of opportunity. Help them find a foothold. Give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to be received on Easter Sunday.

**Ministry Team Meetings:**

- Property – April 10 @ 7:30pm
- Discipleship – April 3 @ 7:30pm
- Outreach – April 8 after service
- Stewardship – April 10 @ 7:30 pm
- Session – April 26 @ 7:00 pm

**DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**

**A New Sunday School Class**

The Connections class at Sunday School have started a new book called “Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt.” If you’ve ever wondered about what makes Presbyterians so different from Baptists, Roman Catholics, Methodists, etc, this is a great class to find out. The following lessons will be shared at 9.45am in the Noah’s Ark Room during the next couples of weeks:

- April 1            Are You Saved, or Are You Presbyterian?
- April 15          Is the Bible the Literal Word of God, or Just a Long, Boring Book?
- April 22          Are You Going to Heaven, or to Tulsa?
- April 29          Is Jesus “Lord,” or Just a Good Guy?

*Everyone is welcome to come along!*

**The Apostles’ Creed**

The Monday Night Bible Study group has started a new series about the Apostles’ Creed. If you’ve ever wondered about why we recite the creed during worship and what it really means, this

series is for you. The group meet each Monday from 7.15-8.30pm in the parlor. We love sharing our ideas, questions, and opinions with one another. Anyone can come along and express their opinions. During April, the group will discuss the following parts of the Creed:

- April 02            I Believe in God the Father
- April 09            Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth
- April 23            And in Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord
- April 30            Who Was Conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary

**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES**

**Body Recall** will resume on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a seven week session which runs through Friday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Join us on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm! See you then!



**Don’t forget** to register for the program in Athens, TN, “**Shape Note Singing**” on May 16, 2007. Please see insert for registration information.

**SAM Sack Lunch** will be Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Mary Alice Vowell will be our guest speaker, and she will update us on the progress in Antigua, Guatemala. Bring your sandwich and join us for an informative afternoon.



**PROPERTY TEAM**

**Property Committee Construction Project:**

You may be wondering what has been going on outside the Church recently with the heavy equipment and piles of red clay. According to engineering analysis the exterior retaining wall was moving and putting pressure on a concrete slab which in turn was pressing against the

Fellowship Hall exterior wall. Consequently, the Fellowship Hall wall fractured. Before we can repair the Fellowship Hall wall we had to relieve the pressure. To relieve the pressure we had to remove the soil behind the retaining wall. All of the excavation equipment and piles of dirt you have seen recently was that excavation work.

The exterior work is now complete and we can begin the next phase which is to repair the wall inside the Fellowship Hall. All indications are that the work was successful and the fractured wall has actually moved back into place. Repairs to that wall are still required. Grass seed and straw will be placed soon.

By the way while we had the earth removed behind the retaining wall we added additional bracing to help hold the retaining wall and hopefully keep it from moving in the future. We also replaced the 50 year old clay tile sewer line which had been leaking for many years with new PVC pipe.



*Last month, Dorothy Farnham, one of Erin's longest serving members, passed away. Dorothy was a great friend to many people in our church and she served God faithfully as a deacon and elder at Erin. Over the years, she helped our congregation make many changes that has enabled us to thrive. Her support for the many ministries and events at Erin was much appreciated. Her sense of humor and great loyalty to the church were tremendous blessings to our congregation. We shall all miss her, but we are truly thankful for having known such a precious friend among us. Our prayers and condolences go out to her family.*

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**

**Stewardship Figures  
YTD March 2007**

	<u>3/2007</u>	<u>1/2007-3/2007</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Administration	0.59	19.08
Property	0.00	1,400.00
Discipleship	449.70	1,464.67
Fellowship	362.00	876.66
Memorial	5.00	5.00
Outreach	354.05	1,671.25
Offerings	20,621.43	56,042.62
Worship	0.00	50.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21,792.77</b>	<b>61,529.28</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Administration	2,317.34	7,587.07
Property	8,553.26	20,921.99
Discipleship	1,295.13	6,007.83
Fellowship	60.82	2,652.52
Outreach	8,972.82	14,265.98
Stewardship	60.73	171.23
Worship	394.09	981.32
Pastoral		
Ministry	3,139.65	20,460.65
Personnel	1,646.97	15,997.37
Memorials	54.75	989.75
Session	316.64	316.64
Payroll	0.00	-397.74
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>26,812.20</b>	<b>89,954.61</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>-5,019.43</u></b>	<b><u>-28,425.33</u></b>

**HAPPY  
EASTER**



**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF****April 1, 2007****IRAQ**

*Levi Martin* (husband of Bev Cowen's granddaughter)

**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

*Emma Reed* – (grandmother of Mike Sharp) - is at home and undergoing radiation for the pain associated with her cancer.

*Pat Swain* – admitted to Fort Sanders Hospital, Room 303

*David Lamson* (son of John Lamson) is still dealing with chemical dependency and he is having a difficult time with his addiction.

*Erin and Wes Harris* (daughter and son-in-law of Tom and Eva Quinley) - complications with her first pregnancy

**FLORIDA**

*Kathy Hood* (daughter of Alma Siedentopf) has been transferred to a hospice

**MICHIGAN**

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

**MISSOURI**

*Christian Peich* (the son of Karen and Jim Peich who are Kari Matthews' college friends) - born 10 weeks prematurely and is undergoing many medical treatments and is in very fragile condition.

**WASHINGTON**

*Sandy Tessier* undergoing chemotherapy for cancer

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED****SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Sara Mantel* (friend of Sara Leckie)

**TEXAS**

*Joseph Streckfuss* (father of Allyson McLeod), recovering at home from surgery for a serious burn to his leg.

**OHIO**

*Kathy Mitchell* (Susan Hannah's sister) - diagnosed with cystic fibrosis that is attacking her digestive system.

**GEORGIA**

*Patricia Bass* (sister of John Lamson) suffering from congestive heart failure.

**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 **Monday, March 26th** 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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