

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

May, 2007

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that our eldest daughter Lynsey is graduating from UT this month. Where have all the years gone? How did they manage to pass by so quickly? I'm beginning to feel like Tevye from Fiddler on the Roof, with my daughters growing up and the world changing so fast. It doesn't seem that fourteen summers have come and gone since we first visited Knoxville. In a blink of an eye, the years shoot pass and are all gone.

I'm proud of what she has achieved, and I feel as though God is leading her to be at Virginia Tech during this sad and tragic time. I hope and pray that she can help the students and staff in Blacksburg in the midst of their grief. Lynsey has gifts of encouragement and friendship, faith and determination that may bring blessings to some of the people around her.

I rarely express things about my daughters in this newsletter. I don't like to use it as a vehicle to puff up the Stuart family, but on this occasion, I just want to write one thing: I'm proud of my daughters for who they are, and also for what they've done. I'd also like to give Erin some of the credit for enabling them to experience opportunities that they may never have had back in Scotland. Your love towards my daughters has enabled them to grow into faithful, confident, and compassionate young women. I thank you for embracing and supporting them throughout the years.

All of our young people are precious gifts, who need constant encouragement, the setting of boundaries, and reliable support to help them develop their gifts, personalities, and purposes in



life. Every year is a changing experience for them and these days they've got to grow up so quickly. The role of the church is to nurture them spiritually and to offer them guidance as the years fly past. Seeds of faith are planted in their hearts and minds through our own faithful, loving and hopeful actions. When we show that we honestly care about them, we touch their hearts in ways that we cannot fully comprehend. In years to come, their faith may be tested and tried by whatever the world throws at them. If we have fulfilled our part in building up their faith through the years, then no matter what comes, faith will remain.

So thank you, Erin, for allowing our daughters to grow up in a family of faith and a place of love. Whatever they accomplish and achieve in the future, know that you, as a caring congregation, have provided them with blessings and strengths that will shape their lives forever.

May God be with you and all your loved ones.

John Stuart

The Nursery Team would like to extend a special Thank You to Katie Rash and Lynsey Stuart. Both Katie and Lynsey will be moving to Blacksburg, VA. Katie has accepted a Social Work position in the school system. Lynsey will be attending Virginia Tech as a Graduate Student. We greatly appreciate their dedication to the nursery program, and caring for all the children of Erin. They will be greatly missed and we wish them both a successful future!

May Sundays**May 6****Communion****5th Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 148:1-6 & John 13:31-35

*“A New Start”***May 13****6th Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 67:1-7 & John 14:23-29

*“A Greater Peace”***May 20****7th Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 97:6-12 & John 17:20-26

*“A Better World”***May 27****Pentecost**

Psalm 104:24-30 & Acts 2:1-7

*“A Powerful Beginning”***June 3****Communion****Trinity Sunday**

Psalm 25:1-7 & Ephesians 1:1-10

*“Real Riches”***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.

May Birthdays

(This may not be an accurate list and some names may be missing. If so, please accept our apologies)



Britani Massengill	May 2
Joan Miller	May 2
Carson Matthews	May 3
Kelcey Levering	May 6
LaVonne Knight	May 7
Laura Tillery	May 7
Marisa Bridwell	May 9
Sharon Carter	May 9
Ruth White	May 12
Ann Snodgrass	May 13
Parker Fortune	May 17
Edith Schoeller	May 17
Cade Quinn	May 18
Joanne Clelland	May 19
Donna Schall	May 19
Earl White	May 19
Beverly Owen	May 21
Katherine Snodgrass	May 21
Jim Thompson	May 22
PJ Brice-Means	May 23
Taylor Pierce	May 25
Zach Cowen	May 27

First Days of June

Lois Mansfield	June 1
David Cowen	June 3
Abby Scarbrough	June 3
Sherisse Hurst	June 4
Ella Levering	June 5
Gaines Miller	June 5
Derry Evans	June 6
Linda Moxham	June 6

*Your birthday not listed?
Please call the office at 588-5350.*

Ministry Team Meetings:

Property – May 1 @ 7:00pm
 Discipleship – May 1 @ 7:00pm
 Fellowship – May 1 @ 7:00pm
 Stewardship – May 8 @ 7:30 pm
 Outreach – May 13 after service
 Session – May 17 @ 7:00 pm

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. To wrap up the season, we are having our FLASH Family Picnic on Sunday May 20th from 4:30-6:30 in the Family Life Center. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact Heather Ritchie, 584-1637, or e-mail flash.supportgroup@gmail.com.



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!

Family Council at Erin!

Erin Presbyterian Church has been developing a new Family Council for the last several months. There has been terrific participation in this group with a bright future ahead. The first few meetings have been an evolution, basically defining the council and determining its role for Erin. First, a

specific emphasis has been made to ensure that all children, newborns to teens, are given the best Christian environment and education that we can offer.

Second, the council has defined itself to be a cross-committee group, much like the Vision Team. The topics discussed are broad and will touch the areas of each of Erin's established committees. These include Fellowship, Discipleship, Outreach, Stewardship, Property and each sub-committee.

The Family Council is a powerful communication group. This is a place where no matter your age, interest, committee, you are welcome to share your ideas, concerns and praises of the church. These ideas can be openly discussed in an informal venue.

The Family Council is in its developmental stages and important topics are being discussed. New programs, such as the "Dads & Us" Wednesday Night Program and the Kid's Worship Bags, have already emerged as a result of the Council in collaboration with other committees. Come hear about other exciting projects in the works, and share your ideas. We are meeting monthly. The next meeting is **May 6th** immediately following worship.

*Minutes from the previous meetings are available in the church office.

MOPS NEWS

Join Erin MOPS for a morning on May 10th 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 10th at 9:30 am. please RSVP to the church office by Monday May 7th (588-5350). Childcare is available upon request. A pamphlet is available in the church office for more information about this inspirational speaker.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thirty Hour Famine

The Erin Senior Highs attended the 30 Hour Famine, an event designed to raise awareness about hunger in our country and around the world. This is an account of the experience by Annie Peretz, a member of Parkway Presbyterian who also participates in Erin Youth activities.

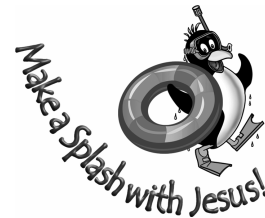
“The thirty hour famine started at 8:00am on Friday morning. We went to Faith Lutheran church at 6:00pm on Friday evening. Once we arrived we had some people from TEC come and tell us about their program. Then we played some icebreaker games to help us meet the kids in the other six churches that were there to fast. We went into the Faith gym and had a juice and jell-o break. After our short break Mr. Bryan McFarland a singer/songwriter came and performed songs for us. He was really amazing. After Mr. McFarland performed we wrote in a journal about the thirteen hours of hunger we had been through and a passage; the passage given to us was 2Corinthians 9:6-15. Around ten o'clock we got out for free time until about eleven thirty, and the guys had to carry all the girls stuff over to Farragut Presbyterian church. (Hahaha!) While at Farragut we had another devotional, and another chance to write in our journals this time about Matthew 25:31-40. After evening devotional the guys headed for bed back at Faith while the girls slept at Farragut.

Saturday morning we had devotion in the Farragut sanctuary. While in the sanctuary we did another journaling at the 25 hours of hunger point and wrote about the passage, Isaiah 58:6-12. We walked back over to the Faith Lutheran gym and Mr. McFarland played some songs as a part of our interactive bible study. We then made a big sign using cutouts of everyone's hands that read “I Will” to serve as a

reminder to be less like goats and more like sheep.(if you read our first journaling passage this should all make sense) We then did a service project to help young children in foster care, by making blankets for the children. We had our final devotion and wrote in our books this time about our 30 hours of hunger and it was over the passages from 1Peter 4:7-11. We took Holy Communion and then around 2:15pm we headed over to the fellowship hall to break the fast and stuff our faces!!! YAY!!!”

By Annie Peretz,

Member of Parkway Pres. And Erin Youth!



Vacation Bible School

VBS is just around the corner, June 18-22nd.

Please watch for various sign-ups in the bulletin and in the narthex. We are looking for volunteers for a wide variety of areas. Also, t-shirts are on sale. And finally, we are pre-registering children for VBS week. We invite everyone to participate in Vacation Bible School this year. We know that it's going to be another wonderful week! *Take the Plunge, Make a Splash with Jesus!*

We are having a VBS Training Session on **Sunday, May 20th from 12:30-2:00pm.** We are excited about the preparations for this great VBS week!! Contact Kelli Crisp or Jennifer Gahan for more information.

G.E.T. Games will take a break for the end of the school year and for summer, so be sure to join us on the last meeting will be May 9th.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

LET'S DO DINNER! Meet us for fellowship and fun at Aubrey's at Papermill on **May 1st** at 5:15 pm. See you there!



New Directory Update

We're hoping to have our new pictorial directories available soon! FirstChoice Resources is finishing up our directory project, and directories will be distributed in the narthex as soon as they are delivered to us. We are hoping to have them in by the end of May. Check the church office for timeline updates, or contact Kristi Bailes.

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. Batter up!



A big thank you to everyone for participating in the Brandon Breakfast, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Easter Lily Memorials on Easter Sunday. We had wonderful participation----what a lovely way to fellowship on Easter morning. We would like to thank the Brandon family for their support of these events each year.

Interested in Fellowship Activities?

The Fellowship Team is a fun way to get involved with lots of projects that go on every month at Erin. Our team welcomes new folks, new ideas, and help with coordinating our projects and activities. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is Tuesday, **May 1st**. Can't make it to the meetings, but want to help with specific projects or give suggestions? Call Kristi Bailes or the church office, or email: kristi_bailes@yahoo.com. Happy Spring!

The last **WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY** dinner will be **May 9th**. VBS will host dinner **May 2nd**, so be sure to join us and support our VBS Program!

Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, May 12th** at



8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. After breakfast and fellowship, we will tour the McClung Museum and view the "Age of Armor from the Higgins Armory Museum" exhibit. Be sure to join us and we look forward to seeing you there!

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

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 May, the group will discuss the following parts of the Creed:

May 07	Suffered under Pontius Pilate
May 14	He Descended to the Dead
May 21	On the Third Day, He Rose Again
May 28	He Ascended into Heaven

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:

May 6	Is Jesus "Lord," or Just a Good Guy?
May 13	Are Only 144,000 Saved?
May 20	When Will the World End, or Did It End in the 1960s?
May 27	Do Presbyterians Have Spirit, or Do They Just Drink Them?

Everyone is welcome to come along!

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The Pentecost Offering

The second special offering of the church, the Pentecost Offering, is received on Pentecost Sunday each year. This offering provides funds to address the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Forty percent of the offering is retained by our congregation to support and minister to children at risk in our community. The balance, 60%, is used across the PC(USA) in programs that advocate for children and that support developmental opportunities for leadership with youth and young adults. We will receive this offering on Sunday, May 27, the Day of Pentecost. May the Spirit move us as it did those Christians on that day so long ago.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Birthday Picnic

Mark your calendars for the Birthday Picnic—it will be Saturday, May 19th so mark your calendars!



PW Circle IV will meet Monday **May 7th** at 7:30pm at Mary Scarbrough's house.
Circle II will meet Tuesday **May 8th** in the Parlor at 10:00am. Hugh Jaynes will lead the Bible study.



SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!



Just a reminder that the last day for Knox County Schools (1/2 day) will be May 25th!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Body Recall is in the midst of a seven week session which runs through Friday May 25th. Join us on the 9th at 4:00pm! See you then!



Don't forget - "Shape Note Singing" is on **May 16, 2007** in Athens, TN. There may still be seats available if you are interested in registering. You need to contact Presbytery if you are interested (688-5581).

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Reflections on Stewardship

Most of us keep an eye on what needs to be done around the house. We may not get to it all at once, but we generally get to it. Same thing with our bills--we might pay a late fee once in a while, but we take those responsibilities seriously and pay our bills. We look out for our families' best interests.

But what if your family is comprised of hundreds of individuals? Where responsibility is shared with hundreds of others? Then, it is much harder to keep up with all that needs to be done, and all that needs to be paid. And, it is much easier to assume that someone else will take care of it.

It is not that we do not prioritize God, His work, and His people. It is that we have a hard time keeping up with what is really our responsibility and what belongs to someone else. This is a universal challenge for Christians, and here at Erin we are not an exception. Please, do all you can to support our church family. Keep abreast of the needs of the church, ask to see what you can do to help, and please, do not allow your giving to fall behind. We can only make Erin the place He wants it to be if we all take responsibility for making it so. "Lord, send me."

Thanks,
The Stewardship Team

**Stewardship Figures
YTD April 2007**

	<u>April, 07</u>	<u>Jan-April, 07</u>
Income		
Administration	6.31	81.99
Property	0.00	1,400.00
Discipleship	472.95	1,952.61
Fellowship	1,206.89	2,448.55
Stewardship	-18.28	-18.28
Memorial	60.00	65.00
Outreach	1,498.98	3,314.23
Offerings	33,072.70	89,895.32
Worship	0.00	50.00
Total Income	36,299.55	99,189.42
Expense		
Administration	1,451.22	11,397.75
Property Team	3,591.81	24,705.93
Discipleship Team	1,138.47	7,158.12
Fellowship Team	1,018.29	4,016.72
Outreach Team	913.57	15,506.12
Stewardship Team	239.67	410.90
Worship Team	779.44	1,804.32
Pastoral Ministry	2,074.86	28,567.51
Personnel	1,617.36	21,867.29
Memorials	0.00	989.75
Session	132.00	448.64
Payroll	0.00	-397.74
Total Expense	12,956.69	116,475.31
Net Income	23,342.86	-17,285.89

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.

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF
April 29, 2007**

IRAQ

Levi Martin (husband of Bev Cowen's granddaughter)

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Florence Reichmann – (wife of Harry Reichmann) – passed away last week.

Dr. Bill Harms - a former associate pastor at EPC, is recovering at Fort Sanders Hospital after suffering a heart attack.

Emma Reed – (grandmother of Mike Sharp) – diagnosed with terminal cancer

Pat Swain – recovering at home

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) – having complications with her first pregnancy

MICHIGAN

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

MISSOURI

Karen and Jim Peich (Kari Matthews' college friends) – their son, Christian Peich, passed away.

WASHINGTON

Sandy Tessier undergoing chemotherapy for cancer

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sara Mantel (friend of Sara Leckie)

David White (son of Ruth White) - will be running in a marathon this Saturday in Oklahoma City. Then, he will be having eye surgery Sunday in Dallas, TX!

Please pray for a successful surgery and a quick recovery and praise God that he is doing well enough after his accident to participate in a marathon!!!

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.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S
DAY**

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Monday, May 28th** 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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