

## ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

### November, 2007

*Psalm 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits.*

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that we're almost at the end of another year. Time seems to go very quickly. In fact the other day, I was looking at a website from Maybole in Scotland, where I used to be the pastor. There were photographs of a 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and I was stunned when I realized that the birthday girl was once a member of the original elementary school kids club that I used to run at the church. I couldn't believe that so many years had passed. In my mind, Marion was still just a young schoolgirl. It came as a shock to my system, to realize that over two decades had come and gone.

As we approach the time of Thanksgiving, which is a beautiful American custom, most of us will be reflecting upon the past, thinking about people and events, and cherishing them all in our hearts. It's a special season when we thank God for all of His goodness and benefits. All Gods' good gifts are around us – people we love, the food that we eat, the clothes that we wear, the homes that we live in, and the faith that we share. God's blessings are real and so we give Him many thanks for His love and care.

Throughout the years, it's been a privilege to serve the Lord and share the Gospel with so many people. I'm thankful for the many opportunities God has given me to preach a message of faith, hope, and love. I've also watched people grow in faith and have a deeper understanding of what their lives are all about. I've seen God take people in the midst of troubled times and lead them to a better life. I'm thankful for the power of the Gospel that changes people's hearts, giving them a second chance to make things right, to overcome their problems, and to re-establish themselves. And I'm especially thankful for Jesus, for Savior and Lord, who rescued me long ago from the pits of alcoholism, and brought me up out of the gutter to be a servant in His Kingdom.



Some people say that the Church is dying and that Christianity is dead. They don't understand how Christ works and what he is doing throughout the world. As we read this newsletter today, someone somewhere is crying out to the Lord and He is reaching down to where they are, lifting them up, carrying them through their crisis, and bringing them back into the fold of faith.

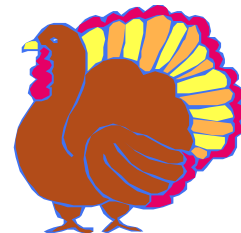
The benefits and blessings of the Lord don't just belong to a bygone age. They are constantly being experienced and embraced all over the world. Christ's Spirit is moving amongst us, and even in our wee church, His blessings are being encountered and realized.

So, in this month of Thanksgiving, let's make each day a time of blessing by remembering the work of the Lord in our own lives, and the benefits we keep receiving through Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and all your loved ones.

John

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING



### Knox County Thanksgiving Break begins November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**November Sundays****November 4****Communion****31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ephesians 6:21-24 &amp; Revelation 2:1-7

“Where Do We Grow from Here?”

**November 11****Stewardship Sunday****27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 40:25-31 &amp; Romans 8:31-39

“A Lifetime Commitment”

**November 18****33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 65:17-25 &amp; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

“Working for the Lord”

**November 25****Christ is King**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 &amp; Colossians 1:11-20

“The Christ Supremacy”

**December 2****1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent****Communion Sunday**

Isaiah 2:1-5 &amp; Romans 13:11-14

“The Day is Almost Here”

**ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE**

The following is the November schedule for Enrichment - if you are unable to attend on your scheduled date, please contact someone to take your place:

	November 4		
Katina Sharp	Jennifer Gahan	Joey Webb	
	November 11		
Erin McCallum	Denise Bilbrey	Matt Cowen	
	November 18		
Pam Pfeifer	Kristi Bailes	Peter McKay	
	November 25		
Anna McKay	Apryl Quinn	Ben Hoskins	

**November Birthdays**

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



Lindsay Pfeifer	November 3
Hanna Matthews	November 4
Amanda Scarbrough	November 5
Ashley Fortune	November 6
Julie Miller	November 8
Tom Chesney	November 12
Logan Jenness	November 12
Alma Siedentopf	November 14
Don Vowell	November 14
Matt Cowen	November 15
Nancy Berry	November 16
Rob Cameron	November 17
Sara Leckie	November 17
Connor Quinn	November 18
Scott Blind	November 19
Loretta Breasseale	November 20
Bill Brazelton	November 25
Tina Webb	November 26
Kylie Bridwell	November 28
Ellie Simpson	November 28

**First Days of December**

Heather Ritchie	December 1
Antonia Vowell	December 1
Bev Cowen	December 2
Rylan Elliott	December 2
Lionel Sands	December 7

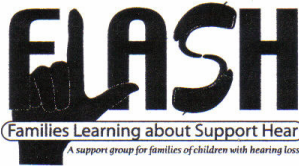
*Your birthday not listed?*

*Please call the office at 588-5350.*

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

The next **Furniture Ministry** day is Saturday, Nov. 10, 8:30-11:30 am at Cokesbury Center. We need your help to pick up and/or deliver furniture in partnership with Compassion Coalition. Owners of minivans and pickup trucks are especially welcome! Contact Joe Jaynes (675-6432) to confirm your participation. THANK YOU!





Please join us on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Family Life Center for a discussion with school-age children with cochlear implants and their families

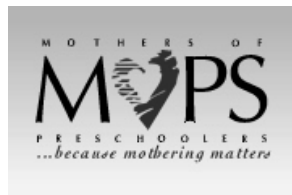
concerning the successes and challenges of dealing with hearing loss. The meeting will be facilitated by Velvet Buehler UT Child Hearing Services, and Barbara Nicodemus, UT Center on Deafness. For more information contact [flash.supportgroup@gmail.com](mailto:flash.supportgroup@gmail.com).

## INFANT AND PRESCHOOL



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. Mommy & Me will continue to meet throughout the year every Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. If you have a question, contact Katina Sharp at 742-2292 or [KatinaSharp@aol.com](mailto:KatinaSharp@aol.com)

**Mothers of Preschoolers,** are you ready to *Dwell Well?* Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is a non-denominational Christian group designed to nurture and inspire mothers of young children in the Knoxville area. This year's theme is *The Home Factor*, and we will be looking at how we use our own homes to raise Christian children and build up our own faith. We meet on 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 9:30-11:30, and childcare is provided. For more information, please contact Katina Sharp (742-2292, [KatinaSharp@aol.com](mailto:KatinaSharp@aol.com)).



## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

**LET'S DO DINNER!** Meet us for fellowship and fun on **Tuesday November 6 at 5:15 at The Chop House (9700 Kingston Pk (Franklin Square)).** Please contact Maud Hoover for reservations (463-7399). We look forward to seeing you there!



Christmas is about sharing the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ, with the world. You can share His love with needy children in Honduras, Kosovo, or another country by taking part in **Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a project of Samaritan's Purse.**

OCC brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. People across the country are getting shoe boxes from home and filling them with small toys, school and hygiene supplies, candy, and other little gifts. Then, during the Christmas season, needy children overseas will receive the shoe boxes, along with Christian literature in their own languages. What an opportunity to reach these children with a clear presentation of the Gospel!

Erin MOPS is once again participating in this heartwarming ministry. The group will hold a box assembly session on November 8 (9:30-11:30). Each shoe box will be wrapped in festive Christmas paper and filled with goodies. It is then labeled for the appropriate age/gender and sent to a shipping station. Here the gifts are inspected (for the safety of the children), and Christian literature is added to the box in the native language of the recipient. Then the boxes board a plane and wait to meet the eager child who will receive it. Guests are welcome to join the MOPS group for the wrapping/stuffing session.

You can donate shoe boxes or items for the gift boxes by placing them in the box in the narthex. Suggestions for donations include small cars, balls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, yo-yos, pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, writing pads, solar calculators, toothbrush/toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), combs, new washcloths, hard candy, gum, hair accessories, and new socks. We cannot accept war-related items, anything in a breakable container, liquids or lotions, damaged items, vitamins, chocolate or perishable items, or aerosol containers.

Samaritan's Purse asks that each shoe box be accompanied by a \$7 donation to cover shipping and other related project costs. You can donate to this worthy cause by writing a check to Samaritan's Purse (or to Erin Presbyterian with OCC in the memo line) and placing in the offering plate or mailing to the church office. Each \$7 donation will allow us to fulfill one child's Christmas wishes at the same time that we spread the Gospel message. Help spread His love and peace to a world in need by being part of this special Christmas project. Please prayerfully consider donating to this unique ministry.

## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

### **Wednesday Night Programs**

Wednesday Night Dinner begins November 7 at 5:45 in the Family Life Center. The kitchen will be available to prepare a good hot meal so bring your appetite!

The Wednesday Programs begin at 6:30 and are as follows:

- Sonshine Company (Noah's Ark Room)
- The King's Club (Gathering Room)
- Youth Talk (Sr. High Room)
- Financial Series (Parlor)

Choir practice begins at 7:30 and Glenfinnan practices at 8:30.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays!

**Please note that there will be no Wednesday programs on November 21 due to Thanksgiving Holiday!**

### **Peacemaking Studies**

Every year in October, our church gives to the Peacemaking Fund of the PC(USA). Our denomination prepares a short series about current peacemaking issues in our nation and across the world. Our Monday Night Study Group will begin a three part series of this year's Peacemaking study.

The studies begin at 7.15pm in the church parlor on Monday evenings and are led by Pastor Stuart. Everyone is welcome to attend. The series starts on Monday 5th November.

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY



The **Annual Senior Adult Ministry Christmas Party** will be held on Thursday December 13 at 3:00 pm. in the Fellowship Hall. This year the dinner will be catered at a cost of \$10.00 per person (please make checks to Erin PC). It is important that we know how many will attend - please call Helen Henry at 986-9711 or Maud Hoover at 463-7399 by November 5<sup>th</sup>. **We must know how many are coming.** If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 gift.



We're on our way again, the path to better coordination, flexibility and stamina! This will be the seventh year of **Body Recall** classes at Erin. Join the class for fun and action 3 times a week in Noah's Ark room at 4 o'clock Mon., Wed., and Fri.

## PW NEWS

**Circle IV** will meet at 7:00PM at Mary Scarbrough's house on Monday November 12. **Circle II** will meet at 10:00AM in the parlor on Tuesday, November 13. Hope to see you then.



### **PW Thank Offering**

In 1888, Eliza Clokey urged her fellow members of the Women's General Missionary Society to give a dollar above and beyond their normal pledges as a thank offering to God. A special day was set aside that year to gather this Thank Offering and has continued until this day. Although the focus has changed over the 120 year history, this offering is a vital part of giving by Presbyterian Women. Each year the Creative Ministries Offering Committee reviews many applications. Last year (2006) a total of 49 grants were awarded totaling \$983,194. These vary from projects affecting community outreach, domestic violence, prison ministries, empowering women, homelessness/hunger relief, children/youth, older adults, health, spiritual growth, and justice and peace. At least 40% of the Thank Offering funds are earmarked for health related projects.

Sunday, November 18, 2007, is PW Thank Offering Sunday. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to this worthwhile offering which gives hope to the world, confident in God's steadfast love for all humankind. Give as you are blessed, offering mercy to others as God has been merciful to you.

"God who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and INCREASE THE HARVEST of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with manly thanksgivings to God." II Cor. 9: 10-12

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

### Why Pledge?

By now you will have received your annual pledge forms. Perhaps you're wondering why we pledge at the church. Here are a few suggestions to help you.

**P = Promises fulfilled.** When we all became members at Erin, we each promised to support the work of the church with our prayers, time, and resources. By making a pledge, we show that we care for the future of the church and Christ's mission in this community.

**L = Living by Faith.** Pledging is an act of faith because it means that we recognize we are servants of God and stewards in His Kingdom. We make our resources available to be used by the church in all of the programs, projects and plans that we undertake each year. By pledging in advance, we enable our Stewardship team to make better estimates of what we are going to need for the coming year.

**E = Enlisting in God's Kingdom.** We are bound together as one family of faith, seeking to do the Lord's will, and pooling our resources to make an effective impact in our community for Christ. On our own, we can do very little, but by pledging together at this time of the year, we can look ahead to effectively and efficiently reaching out to others in our area with the Gospel.

**D = Dedicating our money.** The Bible tells us that the root of all evil is the love of money. By making a financial pledge to the church, we are no longer controlled by greed or insecurity. We see money as a means for getting God's work done and we are released from letting it possess us.

**G = Giving of ourselves.** Being a good steward means giving a significant proportion of our time, talents, and money to God for the church. The ideal proportion is one tenth (a tithe) of our income. By setting aside a percentage of our income, instead of just giving a certain amount, we are faithfully serving the Lord.

**E = Enhancing the church.** Our congregation is growing and our building is getting older. The wear and tear is beginning to show. By pledging to both the current needs of the church and the Building fund, we will enhance the work of the congregation and enable us to continue for decades to come.

Please return your pledge cards to the office by Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> by mail, or put them in the offering plate on any given Sunday. An updated list of pledges and proposed contributions will be displayed in the narthex each week.

Don't forget to join us for the Stewardship breakfast on November 11<sup>th</sup>! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall before the Worship Service. We will have plenty of coffee and juice.

God bless you all.  
The Stewardship team.

### Stewardship Figures YTD October 2007

	Oct 1 - 23, 07	Jan 1 - Oct 23, 07
<b>Income</b>		
<b>undesignated</b>	0.00	20,000.00
<b>Administration</b>	0.00	231.86
<b>Property</b>	3,197.00	27,954.13
<b>Discipleship</b>	115.00	7,157.46
<b>Fellowship</b>	342.00	6,216.04
<b>Stewardship</b>	40.00	165.00
<b>Memorial</b>	165.00	1,770.00
<b>Outreach</b>	1,192.54	12,989.19
<b>Offerings</b>	13,302.40	236,393.42
<b>PW Income</b>	0.00	6.00
<b>Worship</b>	100.00	650.00
<b>Total Income</b>	18,453.94	313,533.10
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Administration</b>	2,238.87	22,800.18
<b>Property</b>	3,253.83	51,472.06
<b>Discipleship</b>	397.24	20,292.96
<b>Fellowship</b>	-465.32	9,526.99
<b>Outreach</b>	1,457.07	43,304.72
<b>Stewardship</b>	0.00	650.25
<b>Worship</b>	150.00	2,387.56
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	1,778.75	80,069.04
<b>Personnel</b>	1,579.68	57,489.09
<b>Memorial</b>	0.00	1,753.74
<b>Session</b>	0.00	328.94
<b>PW expenses</b>	34.67	341.65
	0.00	-397.74
<b>Total Expense</b>	10,424.79	290,019.44
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,029.15</b>	<b>23,513.66</b>

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF**

**October 28, 2007**

**IRAQ**

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

*Joseph McLeod*

**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

*George Evans* (Derry Evans’ father)

*Margo Puckett*

*Sue Rayburn*

*Mike* (friend of Gary Blackburn)

*Mrs. Pat Swain*

*Sue Tabor* (mother of Mary Alice Vowell)

*Denise Bilbrey*

*Marion Sanks*

**PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY**

*Bev Cowen*

**VIRGINIA**

*Rev. Erin C. Sharp* (pastor of Ray Schall’s former church)

**CALIFORNIA**

*Linda Gaspar* (sister of Dave Leckie)

**WASHINGTON**

*Sandy Tessier*

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Sara Mantle*

**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, November 26** 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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