

## ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

### January 2008

*Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Dear Friends,

It's good to be starting a New Year, for it gives our church the opportunity to set new goals and come up with fresh ways to present Christ's mission to our community. Last year saw us come through a whole host of problems which, at the beginning of 2007, cast a shadow over everything we set out to accomplish. However, by the end of the year, there was a feeling of unity and strength, focus and determination which has placed us on the right footing for 2008.

Already we have a new batch of visitors who want to become members at the church. Our ministry teams are gearing up to provide our congregation with support and guidance, opportunities and programs that will encourage every one of us to grow in faith and bring others to the Lord.

It seems to me that we're beginning to accept and apply Christ's words in a wonderful way. Together we are seeking His Kingdom first in our lives, which is transforming Erin into becoming a faithful church that is ready to impact the surrounding community with God's love.

For instance, beginning on Wednesday 16 January, a new weekly Bible study program called "The Coffee Club" will commence. It will start at 10.30am and be held in the parlor. Each week, I'll be leading participants through a chapter of the Bible. The program will last until 11.30am. We'll be looking at the Gospel of Mark as our starting off point.

But the Coffee Club will also be available online, with study notes. This means that those who cannot attend the Coffee Club on Wednesdays will be given an opportunity to study the material in their own time. Perhaps other people will want to use the material to share with their friends and neighbors, to start their own Coffee Club in their own home. It would be



wonderful if new weekly house groups and gatherings took place all over the congregation. If anyone is interested in starting up their own Coffee Club at home, contact me and I'll be delighted to help you get started.

Our elders are also having a retreat on the morning of Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> at the church. This meeting will be used to help us work on a three year plan for the entire church. God is moving amongst us in a beautiful way. Our elders will be seeking His guidance and will for our church, so your prayers at that time will be much appreciated.

I'm looking forward to all the adventures of faith that our church will encounter and fulfill this year. This is a good congregation filled with multi-talented and faithful people whose enthusiasm to serve the Lord is a wonderful blessing to behold.

May we all have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May we serve the Lord together with goodness and gladness.

John

*(Pastor John writes a daily devotional each weekday which can be found on the Internet at [www.glenkirk.blogspot.com](http://www.glenkirk.blogspot.com). Audio podcasts of the devotional can be downloaded at [www.stushie.libsyn.com](http://www.stushie.libsyn.com) )*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Knox County Schools will begin classes January 8.**

**Knox County Schools will be closed January 21-22  
FOR Martin Luther King Jr.**

***January Sundays*****January 6****Epiphany of the Lord  
Communion Sunday**Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12  
“Taking Our Treasures to Jesus”**January 13****Baptism of the Lord**Isaiah 42:1-9 & Matthew 3:13-17  
“Pleasing God”**January 20****2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**Isaiah 49:1-7 & John 1:29-42  
“Passing on the Dream”**January 27****3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**Isaiah 9:1-4 & Matthew 4:12-23  
“Impacting the Community for Christ”**February 3****4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time****Communion Sunday**  
Psalm 99:1-9 & Matthew 17:1-9  
“A Cloud of Witness”**SESSION NEWS**

The 2008 Elders' Retreat will be on Saturday, January 12 from 8:30-noon in the Family Life Center.

Annual Reports are due January 11. Please email your articles to [admin@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@erinpresbyterian.org).*The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday January 27. New Elders will be ordained and installed as well.***January Birthdays***(This may not be an accurate list and some names may be missing. If so, please accept our apologies)*

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
Mary Nelle Cate	January 6
Tracy Foster	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 Luis 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
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
Carl McHargue	January 30
Kathy McClellan	January 31

***First Days of February***

Ginger Thompson	February 2
Julie Blanchard Stubblefield	February 4
Randy Bishop	February 5
Margaret Casteel	February 6

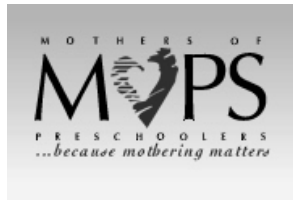
*Your birthday not listed?  
Please call the office at 588-5350.*

## 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)).



## YOUTH NEWS

### Youth Events this Month:

Our middle and high school youth had a busy Christmas season! First they served dinner at the Presbyterian Center and learned that college students eat 3x as much as regular people. The next weekend, they rang the Salvation Army bell for many hours in the cold and rain one Saturday. A HUGE thanks to Tammy Murphy, Carla Hoskins, and Anna McKay for chaperoning! Finally, the weekend before Christmas, they got up at 6 AM to work the Empty Stocking Fund!

Youth programs will start back **January 6th** with some big changes! George and Susan Hannah will be leading the Guys devotional, while the Gals will stay with Becca. We will all spend some time planning what we'd like to accomplish in the spring, so come with ideas!

### Sunday Night Youth Programs:

**5:00** Meet in the Narthex for our "picnic"-  
Bring some dinner!  
**5:30-6:00** Youth worship in the Sanctuary  
**6:00-7:30** Bible Study and Games with Becca  
or Sean and Justin!

### Montreat 2008 News:

The Montreat deposit has been sent in and now we're waiting to hear what week we got! Youth: watch your facebook for the date as soon as Becca gets it!

## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

### **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?????**

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Here's one to consider: join one of Erin's many Sunday morning adult classes. There's sure to be one that you will find stimulating and helpful in your faith journey.

Kim Jaynes' Java Scriptures class meets in the mini kitchen where you'll find about a dozen "baby boomers" studying books by John Ortberg and other well known Christian authors. John House is tackling "Hard Sayings of Paul" with his group which gathers in the library, while John Stuart's class uses current movie clips to discuss current issues in the Noah's Ark room. Don Quinley leads a traditional Bible study in the classroom next to the Heritage Room and the Young Adults/Families class convenes in the Heritage Room. This class, led by Tom and Eva Quinley, deals with issues relevant to this age group.

Each one of these classes is looking for new people to join them on Sunday morning. Please don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith and get to know your fellow "Erinites" on a more intimate level.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES**

Middle schoolers, beginning January 6 your Sunday morning class will have new leaders. Sean Gahan and Justin Bornhoeft have chosen a very interesting curriculum that you're sure to enjoy. Come and join Sean and Justin in the middle school classroom across from the Noah's Ark room at 9:30 Sunday morning and bring a friend.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Beginning January 6, the rotation Sunday School classes (ages 4 through 5th grade) will be studying the story of the prodigal son. We'll meet in the Gathering Room in the Family Life Center at 9:30 for an introduction to the unit and our new bible verse, sing some songs and collect our offering. Our workshop leaders will be Joe Jaynes-Apostles' Playhouse, Mike Pierce-games, Mary Alice Vowell-Creation Station and Anna McKay-Hollywood. Come and hear the Good News and bring along your friends!

### ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE

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

January 6		
Erin McCallum	Denise Bilbrey	Jessica Webb
January 13		
Pam Pfeifer	Jennifer Gahan	Peter McKay
January 20		
Anna McKay	Kristi Bailes	David McKay
January 27		
Tim Jenness	Heather Ritchie	Joey Webb

### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

**SAM** would like to thank everyone who contributed to the **Zion Nursing Home**, especially to the Young at heart Sunday School Class for their generous monetary offering.

**SAM Sack Lunch** will meet January 17 at noon. The Foster Family will discuss Adoptions. SAM Council will meet prior to lunch at 10:30.



then!

**Body Recall** is taking a break for the holidays. We will begin our spring classes. January 14 will begin our regular Spring semester. We look forward to seeing you

### FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

#### Wednesday Night Programs

Wednesday Night Dinner will begin January 9<sup>th</sup> with **“Unhanging of the Greens.”** The regular schedule is as follows:

5:45 DINNER

6:30 PROGRAMS

Sonshine Company (Noah's Ark Room)

The King's Club (Gathering Room)

Youth Talk (Sr. High Room)

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

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays!

**Men's Breakfast** will be Saturday January 19 in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30

### OUTREACH

#### A New Vision For A New Day

*Mark your calendars now for the Presbytery of East Tennessee sponsored experience!*

**What:** Workshops & Forums - Catch a New Vision for your life, your church, & God's World

**When:** April 4-5 2008

**Where:** Rivermont Presbyterian Church  
Chattanooga, TN

Event Preacher Dr. Charles L Campbell

Keynote Speaker- The Reverend Eugenia A Gamble, a featured preacher on the Protestant Hour International; her articles essays and poems have appeared in Horizon Magazine & Presbyterian Outlook.

Childcare, Kids camp & and scholarships for young families are available. More details available from Sonja DuBois.

Registration Fees: adults \$40.00 for Friday and Saturday (30.00 if postmarked by February 22); youth (12-17) \$20.00 for Friday and Saturday (\$15.00 if postmarked by February 22); children (11 and under) FREE.

**ANGEL TREE 2007**

Thanks to all Erin members who purchased gifts from our Angel Tree this year. 80 needy children received Christmas presents this year because of your generosity!

The children's Sunday school class also donated \$66.00 for a child's gift. A four-year old girl who wished only for new underwear also took home a beautiful warm pink coat with matching scarf and gloves for Christmas. A big thank you to all the children who made her Christmas a lot brighter!

**LAUREN STUART'S  
AFRICA MISSION UPDATE**

This past semester was very busy and tough for me, which is why I never got around to writing more newsletter articles. I am going to try very hard in the new year to keep up with writing one every month. It will be a resolution of mine.

In case you do not know, I am writing articles about a mission trip to Africa I will be taking in June for 3 months. I am completely dependent on donations from churches in the Presbytery, and especially all of you as my home church. So far, the fundraising is not going very well. I am nowhere near where I need to be in order to make this trip happen. It has become very hard to stay positive about the fundraising, but I still have my faith in God's ability to provide.

Sadly, I now have a deadline set of when I will need to start giving back donations in case I do not receive the money that is needed. Many of you have told me of your intention to send in donations, so I am asking that you please do that as soon as you can. At this point I need all the help I can get, and any kind of donation would be very helpful. If you cannot donate, please pray for me, this trip, and the fundraising process. I still believe that this is a real calling from God and that it will happen. But in order for it to happen, I desperately need your help. If you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!

\*Amount Raised: \$1,585.00\* Amount needed: \$6000  
Donations can be given through the church. Make your checks out to the church and put "Lauren's Africa Mission" in the memo line.

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**

If you have not yet received your pledge envelopes for 2008, please check the table in the parlor.

Stewardship Team members will meet after worship in the Heritage Room on January 6<sup>th</sup> to make out this year's budget. Lunch will be provided. Thank you to all the ministry teams for submitting your budget requests – it will assist greatly in the budgeting process.

**Stewardship Figures  
YTD December 2007**

	<b>Dec 1-30 2007</b>	<b>Jan 1- Dec 31 2007</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>undesignated</b>	-20,000.00	0.00
<b>Administration</b>	35.05	314.60
<b>Property</b>	11,987.00	42,173.13
<b>Discipleship</b>	1,258.00	8,415.46
<b>Fellowship</b>	10,585.00	17,742.29
<b>Stewardship</b>	190.00	355.00
<b>Memorial</b>	50.00	6,845.00
<b>Outreach</b>	2,918.24	17,791.62
<b>Offerings</b>	39,449.00	303,381.72
<b>PW Income</b>	206.98	212.98
<b>Worship</b>	0.00	650.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>46,679.27</u>	<u>397,881.80</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Administration</b>	4,693.72	30,681.24
<b>Property</b>	27,411.89	82,003.36
<b>Discipleship</b>	424.27	22,539.22
<b>Fellowship</b>	7,300.12	17,413.14
<b>Outreach</b>	9,461.37	56,575.57
<b>Stewardship</b>	38.57	811.92
<b>Worship</b>	402.70	3,203.30
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	8,529.94	103,498.37
<b>Personnel</b>	5,989.64	73,234.41
<b>Memorial</b>	0.00	1,753.74
<b>Session</b>	0.00	328.94
<b>PW expenses</b>	125.47	467.12
<b>Payroll</b>	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>64,377.69</u>	<u>392,510.33</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>-17,698.42</u>	<u>5,371.47</u>

**PW NEWS**

**Circle IV** will meet at 7:00PM at Mary Scarbrough's house on Monday January 14. **Circle II** will meet at 10:00AM in the parlor on Tuesday, January 8.

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF  
December 30, 2007****IRAQ***Joseph McLeod**Don Gunter* (husband of Paula Tate-Gunter).**TENNESSEE***Yancey Krebs* (friend of Katina Sharp)*Karen Easter* (friend of Patty Britton-Pierce)*Bush Landstreet**Mae Brandon Pershing**David Leckie**Earl White**Harold Chambers* (relative of Denise Bilbrey)*Laurie Paine and Family* (best friend of MOPS mother Sarah Gardner)*Marian Sanks**Kally Elliott**Lina Ambrose* (wife of Peter Ambrose, Becca Berry's co-worker)*Margo Puckett* (friend of Donna Schall)*Mike* (friend of Gary Blackburn)*Mary & John Mebine**Mrs. Pat Swain***VIRGINIA***Rev. Erin C. Sharp* (pastor of Ray Schall's former church)**CALIFORNIA***Linda Gaspar* (sister of Dave Leckie)**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 **Friday, January 25** 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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