

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

February 2008

Ecclesiastes 3:1

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

Dear Friends,

Easter is right around the corner! It's being celebrated on March 23 of this year, which is almost as early as it can ever be. In fact the last time that Easter was this early took place in 1913 and the very next time it will occur on March 23 is in the year 2160! So Easter is very and unusually early this year.

As we came out of the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year, it suddenly dawned on me that Fat Tuesday was going to occur on February 5. This has given no real time to prepare for the event and caught us all off guard. So, this year, we're not going to have the traditional pancake supper and music. Instead we'll take this unusual opportunity to do something different.

We've never recognized Ash Wednesday at the church since I became minister. Presbyterians in Scotland look upon Ash Wednesday as a Roman Catholic celebration and it has nothing to do with Reformed Theology. But some Presbyterian congregations in America are beginning to re-think their views about Lent and hold some sort of service to prepare their people for the season of Lent.

So for this year, we're going to have a special discussion, after the Wednesday night dinner, about Ash Wednesday and Lent. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall and everyone is welcome to participate. And, as Easter will resume a later schedule next year, this will probably be the one and only opportunity that you will have me presenting an Ash Wednesday Commemoration. Make sure that you sign up for the dinner (which may be pancakes and sausages).

Lent commences on Feb 6, and it's meant to be a time when we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. Some of you may be thinking about giving something



up for Lent – chocolate, candies, red meat or desserts are the usual things that people deny themselves – but how about doing something for Lent? Why not use the next six weeks as a time to get yourself re-connected to God? Make worship a priority on Sundays. Join a ministry team or participate in a church study group. Read the Bible each day or sign up for our church's daily devotions which are emailed to members in our congregation and Christians throughout the world.

Doing something for God, instead of denying something for ourselves, will make Lent a truly spiritual event in our lives and fully prepare us for Holy Week and Easter.

God bless you and all your loved ones,

John

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Have you been Coffee Clubbing at the church yet?

Each week, members of the church are given the opportunity to read, study, and discuss a chapter of the Bible. This month we're looking at the Gospel of Mark and will be reading chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Participants take home the text and study questions, along with some notes, and work on the chapter. They then come back together on Wednesdays, at 10.00am in the morning or 6.30pm in the evening to discuss and share their ideas.

And if you can't make it on Wednesdays, then you can sign up for the study online. Just send an email to Leslie at the office (admin@erinpresbyterian.org), and she'll add your email address to the growing list.

So, with all these opportunities to study the Bible, the only question to ask is this: when are you going to start?

February Sundays

February 3

**Transfiguration of the Lord
Communion Sunday**
Psalm 99:1-9 & Matthew 17:1-9
“A Cloud of Witnesses”

February 10

First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 3:1-7 & Matthew 4:1-11
“Facing the Enemy”

February 17

Second Sunday of Lent
Psalm 122:1-9 & John 3:1-8, 16-18
“What Must I Believe?”

February 24

Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 17:1-7 & John 4:4-14
“What the World Needs Now”

March 2

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
Communion Sunday**
Psalm 23:1-6 & John 9:1-7
“Seeing is Believing”

February Birthdays

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



Ginger Thompson	February 2
Julie Blanchard Stubblefield	February 4
Randy Bishop	February 5
Margaret Casteel	February 6
Betty McHargue	February 8
Eva Quinley	February 10
Bette Brasher	February 14
John Lamson	February 17
David McKay	February 17
Marc Miller	February 19
Anna McKay	February 20
Ashley Coke	February 21
McLain Miller	February 24
Mike Cate	February 27
Bob Luedeka	February 27
Harter Crisp	February 28
Robbie Levering	February 28
Gaevin Miller	February 28
Mary Alice Tabor-Vowell	February 28

First Days of March

Kim Jaynes	March 1
Jane Yancey	March 1
Kristi Bailes	March 2
Erika Licklilter	March 3
Kari Matthews	March 3
Katy Smith	March 5

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

The WordPlayers offers

"A Woman Called Truth"

by Sandra Fenichel Asher

A One-Act Play with music Celebrating the Life of Sojourner Truth

FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Monday, February 4 @ 7:30 p.m.

at Middlebrook Christian Ministries

1540 Robinson Rd. @ Middlebrook Pike

For directions call: 865.539.2490

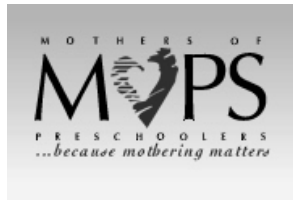
or visit www.wordplayers.org

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

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).



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY



Seeking Vacation Bible School Planners!

If you would like to take part in planning this wonderful week for our children and outreaching to nearby children, please plan to attend a meeting at Erin, *Friday, February 8th beginning at 9:30 a.m.* If you are unable to meet at and are still interested in working with the VBS coordinating team, or finding out more information, please call the church office at 588-5350. Vacation Bible School at Erin has grown each year, and we are excited about planning for the next great VBS week!!



Snack and Sign

A new exciting program for fun and fellowship at Erin

Don't miss this opportunity to learn sign language!

When: Sundays, 10:30 to 10:55

Where: In the Family Life Center – Temple.

Who: All (from preschooler to seniors) are welcome and encouraged to attend,

What: Basic sign will be taught in a video format with reinforcements as needed by facilitators

A healthy snack will be provided AND you can talk (with your hands) while your mouth is full!

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:

	February 3	
Kelli Crisp	Jamie Webb	Kelcey Levering
	February 10	
Mike Sharp	Tracy Foster	Denise Bilbrey
	February 17	
Joy Bornhoeft	Carla Hoskins	Larry McKay
	February 24	
Eva Quinley	Linda Quinley	Siri Hamilton

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

SAM Sack Lunch will meet February 21st at noon. SAM Council will meet prior to lunch at 10:30.



Body Recall has resumed! We look forward to seeing you every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:00pm.



Valentine Dinner!

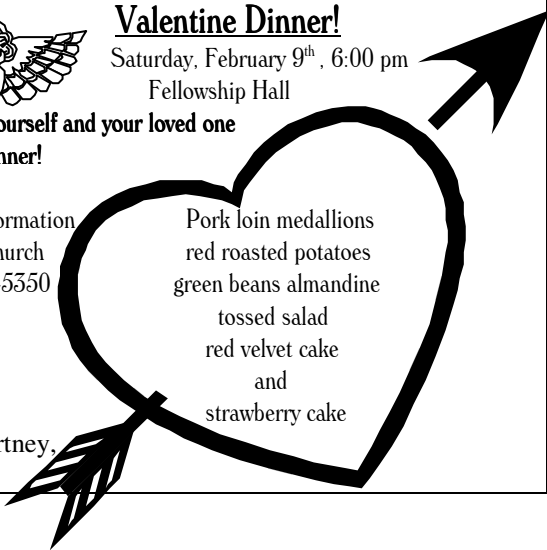
Saturday, February 9th, 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Come treat yourself and your loved one to a lovely dinner!

For more information contact the church office at 588-5350

Pork loin medallions
red roasted potatoes
green beans almandine
tossed salad
red velvet cake
and
strawberry cake

David Courtney,
Caterer



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Wednesday Night Programs

Wednesday Night Dinner begins at 5:45 with Wednesday Programs following:

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 February 16 in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30

PW NEWS

Circle IV will meet at 7:00PM at Mary Scarbrough's house on Monday February 11. **Circle II** will meet at 10:00AM in the parlor on Tuesday, February 12.

PW CoTeam will meet February 4th at 11:00AM in the parlor.



OUTREACH

LOAVES AND FISHES

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.



Erin Goes Green!

Did you know approximately 70% of what ends up in landfills is recyclable? You may have noticed the new recycling posters and containers around the church created by our elementary school children.

Please do your part in supporting this new endeavor taken on by our youth to keep God's earth green. While using the Erin facilities, you can help by placing your bulletins, hand-outs, plastic drinking cups, cans, and other recyclable items in each of the appropriate containers. Keep your eyes open! We now have containers marked separately for plastic, paper, metal and trash.

Each month, a volunteering elementary student will take Erin's recyclable items to a recycling center to complete our part of the cycle. Thank you for your support. Questions? Ask Jennifer Gahan, Kelli Crisp, or an elementary student.

The monthly **Compassion Coalition** meeting will be February 28 at 11:30AM at Fellowship Church (8000 Middlebrook Pike).

LAUREN STUART'S AFRICA MISSION UPDATE

I want to start out by saying how humbled and appreciative I have become over the past month. Since my last newsletter article, my amount of money raised went up a lot. Thank you to everyone who donated. It truly is such a gift to have people supporting me in this endeavor. I have been trying to keep up with thank-you notes, but there have been a few anonymous donations. If you are one of those anonymous donators, I want to thank you as well. With all of that being said, my goal has still not been met. I need about \$2500 more dollars in order to make all of this happen. I almost feel guilty for asking for more money after having so much given to me in the last month. If you still have not donated, or if you feel it in your heart to donate more, it would really help.

On another note, I just found out I will be living with two other girls from the US! Most volunteers are from the UK, so it was very surprising that all three of us are living in the US. Tara is a junior at Ohio University, and Berkley is a high school senior in St. Louis, Missouri. We are all planning on flying together, so I feel a little more at ease about all of that. I cannot wait to actually meet Tara and Berkley because I know we will all become lifelong friends!

That's all for now, but please continue sending in your support. I will be speaking in church on February 10th, and will be giving you more specific details about the work I will be doing in Tanzania. Thank you again!

-Lauren

Amount Raised: \$4,385.00 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

*Reprinted letter to the editor of
The Wall Street Journal*

God Is So Reasonable,
Only Asking For 10%

We encourage tithing at our church, not as a legalism, but as a means of grace. Indeed, not just tithing, but what our pastor terms "hilarious generosity," to the church, to the poor, to worthy God-centered causes.

WHY?...First, God is worthy of our best. Giving is an act of worship that, at its best, reflects a genuine response to God's many gifts to us, including the gift of His Son.

Perhaps the proper question to ask isn't "how much of my income do I need to give to God?" but "of all God has entrusted to me, how much can I justify spending on myself?"

Second, the needs are great. It doesn't take much analysis to notice that small shifts in our consumption can make a huge difference in the lives of many who are in need.

Finally, giving, with tithing as a discipline, helps us unhook from the grasp of our materialistic culture. Give until it hurts? NO... give until it helps!

God's grace, our gratitude, generous giving: a recipe for a life of great freedom and joy.

Margaret L. McKinley

Elder

Narberth Presbyterian Church

Narberth, Pa.

TEAM KARI WEBSITE

There are many of us that want to help Kari and her sweet family so, with permission from Kari, I created a website for her. The site is named Team Kari. Hopefully it will provide you with the opportunity to help if you wish and provide the Matthews family an easy way to communicate with a group. To join the site use the link- <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/601963/login/> and fill out the right-hand side of the form. Once you do this you will be a 'pending' member. You will then be approved and you can volunteer for things or post get well wishes. The site will send you reminder emails.

Rob and Kari are posting updates for us through a blog available on the site. Please check the site periodically, as the needs of the family will change throughout her treatment. It's our desire to use this tool so everyone can do as little or as much as they want to. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to email me.

In His love, Denise Bilbrey (cdbilbrey@bellsouth.net)

**Stewardship Figures
YTD January 31 2008**

	<u>Jan 08</u>	<u>Jan 07</u>
Income		
Administration	12.62	11.58
Property	835.00	898.00
Discipleship	0.00	215.00
Fellowship	210.00	81.00
Outreach	2,959.00	484.20
Offerings	19,384.59	17,668.00
Total Income	23,401.21	19,357.78
Expense		
Administration	226.45	2,396.05
Property	3,294.65	3,351.49
Discipleship	1,533.93	2,038.08
Fellowship	88.19	672.17
Outreach	2,243.81	281.98
Stewardship	145.56	42.35
Worship	401.40	283.45
Pastoral		
Ministry	8,030.75	8,629.17
Personnel	6,155.09	5,932.08
Memorial	443.70	935.00
Session	39.69	0.00
Payroll	500.00	0.00
Total Expense	23,103.22	24,561.82
Net Income	297.99	-5,204.04

Prayer Requests for the Week of February 3, 2008

TENNESSEE

Marjorie Swanner

Demeris Coppenger (sister of Dale Webb)

Robert Watson (brother in law of Dale Webb)

Cecilia Stinnett

Kari Matthews

Yancey Krebs (friend of Katina Sharp)

Karen Easter (friend of Patty Britton-Pierce)

Harold Chambers (relative of Denise Bilbrey)

Margo Puckett (friend of Donna Schall)

Mike (friend of Gary Blackburn)

Mrs. Pat Swain

ARKANSAS

Edna Anderson (grandmother of Kari Matthews)

VIRGINIA

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

CALIFORNIA

Linda Gaspar (sister of Dave Leckie)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sara Mantle

IRAQ

Joseph McLeod

Don Gunter (husband of Paula Tate-Gunter).

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, February 22** 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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