

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

May 2008

Nehemiah 9:21 For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing...

Dear Friends,

There are many references to forty years in the Bible. Symbolically, it's described as a time of God's providence and grace. In our society, we talk about life beginning at forty; and for those who are fortunate enough to celebrate forty years of marriage, a ruby wedding anniversary is their reward.

Way back in May, 1968, two members of our church, Joe and Lou L Tate started their school of Discovery in our building. They took a risk at that time, but being the entrepreneurs and hard workers that they are, they successfully developed a school that has blossomed into a magnificent campus on Cedar Bluff. Tate's School of Discovery has earned a great deal of respect across our city, and this year they are celebrating their fortieth anniversary.

Our wee church has been truly blessed by our association with the Tates and the school. When we went through some lean times, the revenue that the school brought into the church through being based here, helped us finance church programs. And when they established an After School program here, it also aided our church in maintaining the building.

And when our church began to grow, the Tates helped us to refurbish and redecorate the Education Wing, where their school was originally situated, so that we could transform it into the Family Life Center that we enjoy today.



Over the years, some of our church families have sent their children to Tate's school. When the Stuarts arrived in 1995, Joe and Lou L offered Lynsey and Lauren places at the school in order to help them deal with the transition. My wife Evelyn taught there for several years, and our family has been blessed in many ways because of the Tate's kindness, friendship, and faith. In fact, if they hadn't helped us initially when we emigrated from Scotland, we probably would never have taken that leap of faith to come to Tennessee.

It's wonderful to note this great accomplishment that the Tates have achieved in our community. It's also a special blessing to have them associated with our church. All of us at Erin would like to take this opportunity of expressing our thankfulness to the Tates and wish them every blessing for the next forty years for their school.

May God bless them and everyone at the school.

John Stuart



New Church Member Class

We postponed our advertised April class and have rescheduled it for Sunday May 4. It will take place in the Noah's Ark Room from 9.30am – 10.30am. Members of the Connections class will help the minister lead this special class. The pastor will inform participants about the current life, work, and ministry of Erin Church.

Invitation letters have already been sent out to 27 regular attenders. Hopefully, many of them will choose to participate in the class and then join our church on Sunday May 11. Please pray for God to help these regular visitors make a commitment to Christ and His church here at Erin.



May Sundays

May 4

Communion Sunday

Psalm 68:32-35 & John 17:1-11
 "This Eternal Life"

May 11

Day of Pentecost

Mother's Day

Psalm 104:24-30 & John 7:37-44
 "Holy Spirit, Living Water"

May 18

Trinity Sunday

TBA

May 25

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 13:1-3 & Matthew 6:24-34
 "Think About It"

June 1

Communion Sunday

Psalm 46:7-11 & Matthew 7:21-29
 "I Never Knew You"

YOM HASHOAH 2008

Holocaust Memorial Day is Wednesday, April 30. The Knoxville Jewish Alliance invites the community to remember the Holocaust and commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz with a showing of the film *The Grey Zone* at 7:00 at Regal's Downtown West Theatre.

Our own Sonja DuBois will be a guest on the Style show on WBIR on Wednesday April 30th at 4:00pm. She will be discussing her experiences as a survivor of the holocaust.

Sunday, May 4th at 4:30pm, Temple Beth El will host a discussion of *The Grey Zone*. For more information, contact the Knoxville Jewish Alliance at 690-6343.

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 |
| Peggy 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.*

**May 22
 LAST DAY
 OF SCHOOL**

ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE

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

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | May 4 | |
| Kelli Crisp | Jamie Webb | Denise Bilbrey |
| | May 11 | |
| Mike Sharp | TBA | Shane Crisp |
| | May 18 | |
| Tim Jenness | Linda Quinley | Heather Ritchie |
| | May 25 | |
| Eva Quinley | Anna McKay | Susan Hannah |

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008 NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!

June 16-20

Register kids for VBS week and to volunteer at www.erinpresbyterian.org

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Training will be Sunday, May 18th from 12:30-2:00 in the Family Life Center. Childcare and a light lunch provided. Contact Kelli Crisp or Kristi Bailes for more information.

Vacation Bible School 2008 ~ Outreach Project

This year the mission of the children will be to "use our serving hands." Raising money and collecting items are both wonderful ways of outreaching; however, sometimes it's just plain important to get our hands dirty and sweat a little. While the kids and leaders of VBS will be raising money this year through selling items and service projects, our end result will hopefully prove to be something different than before.

We will be building a Play"church" on our church property. Further we are teaming up with SAMS to put in a Butterfly Garden. This beautification area will allow our children a new place to play, offer a spot for adults to watch, and, of course, butterflies! Further, once our beautification area is complete our children will invite other children from our community to play in Erin's Big Backyard! This project ties into the lessons the children will learn throughout the week and also with the mission our church has of continuing to be a Welcoming Church.

The children and adults alike will use their serving hands to complete this area. Watch for more information soon.

MARK 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'^[E] 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'^[E] 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[E] There is no commandment greater than these."

Middle and High School Youth:

See you Sunday nights at GET! (Gathering Erin Teens) Come and join us, 5-7:30, for Bible study, games, and fun! Our last meeting before Summer Break is May and no Youth meetings on May 11 (Mother's Day).

New Church Bible Study: Oprah Winfrey and "A New Earth."

In the next couple of weeks, our church will be studying a book that has been highly recommended by Oprah Winfrey. It's called "A New Earth" and is written by Eckhart Tolle. He writes about a new evolutionary spiritual transformation that he believes will take place this century amongst enlightened people. He draws from the teachings of Christ and Buddha, as well as the theories of Carl Jung. It's a typical new age type of book, but his hope is that it becomes sacred scripture in the years to come.

I've read the first chapter and already I've come across several areas where Tolle's teaching misinterprets Christ. He relies upon his own feelings about Jesus as a great teacher and messenger to make his points. He does not proclaim Christ as the Son of God or Lord of all creation. Tolle also avoids calling our mistakes sinful; instead he declares them to be a form of madness which, in effect, does two things: it takes away personal accountability and it discards the need for Jesus to die for our sins.

The book troubles me and I am sincerely sorry that Oprah has become involved and infatuated with this false teaching. It is countering Christ's message and duping many women into believing the old heresy that salvation comes from within us.

I will be leading a ten week discussion about the book to show people where it dangerously digresses from Christian teaching, in order to help them avoid the pitfall of accepting popular superficial spirituality, as opposed to the deep meaning of Christ's Gospel.

The discussions will take place at the church on Monday nights at 7.15pm in the church parlor, beginning May 5. On Sunday mornings, the class will be held in the Noah's Ark Room at 9.45am, beginning on May 11. I'll also be starting a new online study class during the week of May 5 -11, so if you would like to be included, please send me an email at pastor@erinpresbyterian.org. Put "A New Earth" in the subject line of your email.

Some people may wonder why I am tackling this. It's because in every generation, we have to defend our faith from misconceptions, mistaken beliefs, and misleading spiritual teachers. It's properly called Apologetics, and has been in existence ever since the New Testament was written down.

Everyone is welcome to attend the class. It's very important for us to be aware of the hidden persuaders in culture today that can potentially lead us away from Christ.

Spring Cleaning?

If you are cleaning out you children's clothing, book and toy closets, bring them to church. One of our fundraising projects for VBS this year will be consigning these items. You can place them in the labeled container in the Family Life Center.

Annual Silent Auction

Thank you Erin members! Thanks to you, our Silent Auction was a big success! There were even a few items left over: they are in the Senior High Room today for you to bid on! If you won an item last week, please pick it up in the Narthex under the tables. You can put your payment in the offering plate today with the word "Silent Auction" on the memo line!

The youth group would like to thank everyone who donated items or purchased items (or both!!) in our Annual Silent Auction. If you still need to pick your winnings up, they are in the middle office, on the desk. Also, a huge thank you to Cici's Pizza, Mr. Gatti's, and Ham 'n Goody's who generously donated gift certificates. Please support these local businesses!

VBS Fundraiser

Hot off the press! Erin Presbyterian Church magnets with the stained glass art work of Rev. Stuart will soon be available for purchase. These colorful magnets are a great way to share our church information with the community by placing them on your cars. Or, use it on your refrigerator to post your daily devotions, volunteer schedule or Erin calendar of events. Look for the table in the narthex after church to purchase yours!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

In lieu of the traditional **SAM Sack Lunch**, Seniors will meet at the Annual Spring Event sponsored by PresOAM. On Wednesday, May 14 from 9:30am to 1:30pm, you may meet with Roxie Gibson, noted author of children's books. Her presentation is titled "Hey God! Listen!" Join us at Mars Hill Presbyterian Church in Athens, TN. The program cost is \$10:00 and includes lunch. A sign up sheet is located in the narthex if you plan to attend.



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

PW NEWS



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

Serenity Shelter Mission Project

Thank you to everyone who donated items and funds to the Serenity Shelter. Our efforts were a great success!

SAVE THE DATE
PW Birthday Picnic June 7



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

LETS DO DINNER will meet May 6 at Amerigo on Kingston Pike at 5:15. We look forward to dining with you!

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday May 17th in the Fellowship Hall! Contact Dale Webb for more information



Wednesday Night Programs

April 30th is the last Wednesday Dinner of the season. Please check with your program director for the summer schedule.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

All the women of the church are cordially

invited

To a Spring Tea Luncheon

Date: May 10, 2008

Time: 1:00

Place: Tea at the Gallery

Menu Price: \$16

(includes tax and gratuity)

RSVP: Jennifer Gahan

909-0633; gahans@comcast.net

PROPERTY

Erin has scheduled a work day on Saturday, May 3rd! We will begin at 8:30ish and continue throughout the morning. Any questions – call Shane Crisp. Bring your tools and cleaning supplies and help us help Erin’s building and grounds!

OUTREACH

**The Outreach Ministry
will conduct the monthly meeting
May 4 at 12:30**

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 and youth 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. The theme this year is “When you send forth your spirit...” (Psalm 104:30). When God sends forth his spirit, wonderful things happen like they did on the first Pentecost Day. We will receive this offering on Sunday, May 11, 2008, the Day of Pentecost. May the Spirit move us as it did those Christians on that day so long ago.

Thank You,
The Outreach Committee

Please pray for Lauren Stuart as she leaves this month for the Africa Mission trip. Your support is greatly appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

**Stewardship Figures
YTD April, 2008**

| | <u>Jan 1 - Apr 08</u> | <u>Jan 1 - Apr 07</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Income | | |
| Creative Expression | 935.00 | 415.00 |
| Property | 4,050.00 | 3,856.00 |
| Discipleship | 1,041.60 | 1,952.61 |
| Fellowship | 1,999.20 | 2,777.55 |
| Stewardship | 138.90 | 81.99 |
| Memorial | 0.00 | 165.00 |
| Outreach | 10,385.76 | 2,840.23 |
| Offerings | 104,431.39 | 89,881.32 |
| Worship | 500.00 | 50.00 |
| Total Income | 123,481.85 | 102,019.70 |
| Expense | | |
| Property | 15,440.21 | 19,884.65 |
| Discipleship | 4,671.11 | 6,906.10 |
| Fellowship | 1,911.90 | 3,435.69 |
| Outreach | 24,675.96 | 13,247.53 |
| Stewardship | 30,197.40 | 33,652.25 |
| Worship | 2,063.86 | 1,558.83 |
| Pastoral Ministry | 27,438.43 | 27,903.47 |
| Memorial | 795.31 | 989.75 |
| Session | 207.30 | 328.94 |
| Payroll | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expense | 107,901.48 | 107,907.21 |
| Net Income | <u>15,580.37</u> | <u>-5,887.51</u> |

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, April 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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**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF April
27, 2008**

IRAQ

Joseph McLeod

Don Gunter (husband of Paula Tate-Gunter).

TENNESSEE

Henry Thomas Ritchie

Elijah Newman (MOPS child)

Stephanie Montgomery (co-worker of David Eggers)

Olaf Miller (friend of Hugh & Eleanor Jaynes)

Logan Jenness

Loretta Breasseale

Mary Lou Crail and family

Jennifer (friend of Samantha Korniyenko, MOPS mom)

Anne Estes (friend of Sue Rayburn)

Jennifer Shaw (MOPS mom)

Joanne Hill (Friend of the Hickmans)

Mike Harter (uncle of Kelli Crisp)

Dave Leckie

Becky Francik (sister of Mike Cate)

Dave Thomasson (friend of Bud and Lora Yard)

Howard Crabtree (friend of Bud and Lora Yard)

Marion Sanks

Marjorie Swanner

Kari Matthews

Karen Easter (friend of Patty Britton-Pierce)

Mike (friend of Gary Blackburn)

Mrs. Pat Swain

ILLINOIS

Dorothy Burns (aunt of Allyson McLeod)

MICHIGAN

Flora Hudson (sister of Mae Brandon)

ALABAMA

Justice Crisp (brother of Shane Crisp)

CONNECTICUT

Barbara Hyman (cousin of Ruth White)

VIRGINIA

Enid Clarke (sister of Ruth White)

Louise Brunson (friend of the Schall's)

CALIFORNIA

Linda Gaspar (sister of Dave Leckie)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sara Mantle

David White

GUATEMALA

Luis Angel (student at the Guatemala School)

DEVOTION

***Isaiah 8:9 Raise the war cry, you nations,
and be shattered! Listen, all you distant lands.
Prepare for battle, and be shattered! Prepare for
battle, and be shattered!***

Late on Friday nights, during my old drinking days, you would usually find me in a pub with a whole lot of other hardened drinkers. We would swap stories and tell jokes, take the mickey out of one another, and generally have loud conversations that annoyed the rest of the people in the bar. The drunker we got, the louder we became. The more whiskies that we drank, the less our brains would operate. I think I enjoyed myself at the time, but I was usually too drunk to know.

Towards the end of the evening, a person from the Salvation Army would come in and sell their weekly newspaper, "The War Cry." The Salvationist went from table to table, successfully selling their bundles of papers because no one wanted to offend them.

Usually, we would buy a "War Cry" between us at the table and then we would read the articles. We would all laugh at these stupid Christians, in their stupid uniforms, selling their stupid newspapers. We thought that we were way too intelligent for all that Jesus stuff, but it had a weird affect upon us; we would all start to talk about God, life, and meaning.

Sometimes I would take the paper home with me and when I was sober the next day, I would glance at the articles. For a couple of minutes I would reflect upon my own life and where it was heading, but then I would start to think about which pub I would go to drink in the evening.

I cannot say for certain that the "War Cry" had any affect upon me and led me back to Christ. But perhaps seeds of faith were being planted by God for my eventual rescue from alcoholism.

That's why I like to write these devotionals because of the seed planting that mysteriously occurs in other people's lives. I've had emails from readers all around the world telling me that something I've written helped them through a crisis or enabled them to reconnect to God. It's a wonderful blessing, but it all belongs to God. He's the One who started the process on Friday nights, in Scottish bars, more than thirty years ago.

Prayer: Lord God, Your ways are mysterious and it's only when we look back that we can see where You were leading us. Thank You for shaping, forming, and directing our lives. Thank You for Your Holy presence throughout our days. In Jesus' Name, we gratefully pray. Amen.

John Stuart

GRACE GIFTS

1. **HELPS:** The ability to invest the talents one has in the life and ministry of other members of the body, enabling them to increase the effectiveness of their own Spiritual Gifts (Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28).

2. **LEADERSHIP:** Insight and ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future, and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God (Acts 15:7-11; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 5:17 Hebrews; 13:17).

3. **SERVICE/MINISTRY:** The ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results (Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:2; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14).

4. **ADMINISTRATION:** The ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals (Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28).

5. **DISCERNMENT:** The ability to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or satanic. The purpose of this gift is to prevent confusion and false teaching from infiltrating the church (Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6).

6. **FAITH:** Simple trust in, and unusual reliance on, God. The ability to discern with extraordinary confidence the Will and purpose of God, and to propel the body of Believers into actively claiming the promises of God (Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4: 18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11).

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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