

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

July 2008

Dear Friends,

This month, I'm going to let my daughter Lauren write the front page. Through your kindness and support, she is now working in Tabora, Tanzania in Africa, with children whose parents have died from HIV/AIDS.

Lauren writes a blog each week about her fascinating experiences. If you haven't read them yet, you can find them on the internet at

<http://www.theroadtoafrika.blogspot.com/>

Thank you for all of your prayers and words of encouragement. Lauren will still be in Africa when she celebrates her 20th birthday on August 9th. Evelyn and I will be sending her a package with birthday cards. If you would like to send her a note or a card and have it included in our package, please bring it to the church office by Wed 10th July

God bless you all.

John



On my very first day of work, I was drawn to one little girl in particular. Her name is Masele and she has so much sass and personality that I can't believe she's only 9 years old. What drew me to Masele was how much attitude she had (in a good way) and how sarcastic she was...even in Swahili I picked up on it. She always shows up in these beautiful dresses and knows how good she looks. A few days after starting work, I looked through the kids' files to get a background on them all. While going through the files, I came across something that broke my heart: Masele is HIV positive. Not only did it break my heart, I couldn't believe it at first. How could this spunky, sassy nine year old



possibly have such a destructive virus? Not only is Masele HIV positive, both of her parents died of AIDS. Masele has been orphaned by AIDS, and thankfully she has an amazing Grandmother who has raised her. But how can a nine year old already know so much about life and death and all the scary things of the world? And how is she so strong?

The first week of work, there were also some kids missing. One was Elizabeth, who was in the hospital with malaria. As soon as she came back, she and I bonded very quickly. Elizabeth is without a doubt the smallest of all the children and is very shy. But when you start getting to know Elizabeth, she has an incredible personality. She laughs constantly and truly enjoys the simple joys in her life. Her personality is so contagious that whenever I see her, I can't help but smile. Not only does she enjoy the simple things in her life, she makes you enjoy the simple things in your own life. Elizabeth is also HIV positive. And because of her size, we think she may actually have AIDS. So a simple sickness like malaria that can easily be cured for white people could possibly kill Elizabeth if she does have AIDS. And yet she always has that smile on her face and seems to have so much joy in her life. It's as though she's overflowing with joy. And I know that the closer she and I get, Elizabeth is going to change my life for the better.

Masele and Elizabeth are the reason I'm here in Tanzania. I know I was sent to meet these two girls so that they could have an affect on my life. But these two little girls are also the reason I can't sleep well at nite. They're the reason I fight with God constantly. How could such a loving God allow these two amazing girls to be suffering like they are? And how am I supposed to have faith and unconditional love for a God who does that? I know before coming here that God and I would be having issues, but now that the time is here, I don't know how to handle it. This experience is going to test my faith so much and as angry as I may get at God, I can only hope that this experience will also strengthen my faith. But for now, I'm going to cling on tightly to the bonds I've made with these two wonderful girls and learn through them how to have faith.

July Sundays

July 6

Communion Sunday

Isaiah 26:12-15 & Philippians 2:12-18

“Johnny B. Goode”

July 13

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 15:20-26 & Philippians 2:19-30

“I’ll Be Home for Christmas”

July 20

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Youth Service

July 27

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 145:3-7 & Philippians 3:1-11

“There Goes My Everything”

August 3

Communion Sunday

Psalm 119:33-40 & Philippians 3:12-16

“Runaway”

July Birthdays

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



Patty Britton-Pierce	July 1
Shawn Bailes	July 5
Harry Boyd	July 5
Mike Sharp	July 5
Carolyn Gahan	July 6
Jodi Geschickter	July 7
Jean Johnson	July 9
Ron DuBois	July 10
Chloe Levering	July 10
David White	July 10
Pat Sexton	July 11
Noah Foster	July 13
Marion Sanks	July 13
David Frierson	July 14
Edie Yeager	July 15
Robert Hewgley	July 19
Liam Quinn	July 20
Courtney Backous	July 21
Lynsey Stuart	July 22
Ron Roberts	July 24
Barb Luedeka	July 25
Steven Gilliam	July 28
Margot Emery	July 29
Bob McLean	July 29
Katie Bailes	July 30
Jason Cable	July 30
Dave Leckie	July 30
Mary Scarbrough	July 30
Jackson Sharp	July 30
David Stinnett	July 30
Becca Berry	July 31

First Days of August

Amanda Baucom	August 2
Carl Dent	August 2
Agnes Kirby	August 3
Olivia Baucom	August 6

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

Are you getting the Daily Devotionals?

Each weekday, the pastor tries to write a daily devotional and then send it out via email to over a hundred people worldwide. Sometimes these devotionals are published as sermon illustrations and used by pastors all over the world. On other occasions, the Presbyterian Church of Canada includes them in their devotional pages. This means that thousands of people read John’s devotions.

If you would like to receive them by email, just visit our church’s website at www.erinpresbyterian.org . You will find a link to subscribing to the devotions on the front page.

Traci Vandiver would really appreciate photos of the children she worked with for the past four years to make a scrapbook. If you are interested, please leave your photo(s) in the envelope on the front office door. For more information, contact Leslie or Jamie.

**I want to thank everyone for the prayers, telephone calls, visits and chocolate cake during my recovery from surgery.
Bill Brazelton**

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY**ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE**

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

July 6

Joy Bornhoeft Siri Hamilton Denise Bilbrey

July 13

Mike Sharp Anna McKay Pam Pfeifer

July 20

Kelli Crisp Susan Hannah Apryl Quinn

July 27

Tim Jenness Kristi Bailes Anna McKay

Thanks to everybody who helped with the VBS video, especially those who took the pictures, including Bill Brazelton, Joyce Johnson (Jennifer's mother), Kelli, and Jennifer.

*Also special thanks to Jennifer for finding the music!
Don Vowell*

Sunday School News**No adult or children's Sunday school in July & August**

Our lives are often spent rushing from one event to another with little time to actually enjoy what we are doing. This can be true in our religious lives also. Too many obligations can leave us with little time or energy to adequately reflect upon God's word. For July and August Erin will be taking a sabbatical from all adult and children's Sunday school classes. Please take this extra time on Sunday mornings to rest, read your bible and reflect upon God's word. Then come to church and worship with family and friends. Sunday school classes will resume again in the fall with Rally Day on September 7th.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

LET'S DO DINNER

meets Tuesday, July

1st at 5:15pm. Join us

at Aubrey's at Middle Brook Pike and Cedar Bluff Rd. for good food, fun and fellowship!

K1, P2, K2, YO, K3TOG, SLIP 2

Do these sound familiar? If they do, you have to join us! If they don't, you really have to join us! Sonja Dubois, a "real" knitter, and Jenny Boyd, a "pretend" knitter, want to get together once a week, month, or whenever, to have some knitting fun. We would like to first know if anyone is interested. So please email Jenny at ginnigurl@gmail.com, or call her at 691-2503 and let her know. I'm sure we have some knitters out there in the congregation who want to show off their talent, or those of you, like me, who want to learn more. Hope to hear from you soon!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Happy Summer – Body Recall will meet Monday afternoons only at 4:00pm throughout the month of July. We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Thank you Ray Schall and Robin Cuany for your diligent care of the Butterfly Garden!

PW NEWS

Circles will start back in September
Save the Date: Saturday, September 6th
we will have an overview of our Bible Study for next year, "Jubilee, Luke's Gospel for the Poor."

Happy 4th of July



OUTREACH

Appalachia Habitat Mission Trip – 2008

By Ron DuBois

This year five volunteers went to Robins, TN to install a floor in a new home. Charles Snodgrass went up for one day as he was scheduled to attend General Assembly in California. Other volunteers were Becca Berry, Mary Bryan McLeod, Charles Montgomery and Ron DuBois. We arrived on Wednesday June 11th, checked in with the Habitat office and settled in at the new bunkhouse. In the evening we had dinner at the Fireside Restaurant in Huntsville. Back at the bunkhouse we prepared lunch for the next day. We all went to bed early, 9:30.

Thursday morning we got up early around 5:45, had breakfast and went to the job site at 7:00. We met with Les and Scott, who work for Habitat, and were briefed on our task assignments. By 10:30 we had made up the center beam, placed the sill plate around the perimeter of the block walls, and arranged floor joists over the walls in preparation for spanning between wall plate and center beam. At this point we took a 15 minute break. See photos on the hallway bulletin board. Then we began placing the floor joists. By lunch time we had most of the floor joists in place. We completed placing floor joists and squared the corners by measuring the diagonals before nailing the sill plate to the block wall strap anchors. The next step was to start placing the 4x8 floor sheeting. We were each assigned a task. Mary Bryan placed liquid nail caulking on the floor joists. Les and Scott carried the floor sheeting and placed same, nailing the four corners. Ron's task was to line up the floor joists with dots on sheeting spaced on 16 inch centers. Becca and Charles did the bulk of the nailing on each sheet. We placed two runs of floor sheeting by quitting time! After work we went to the Burnt Mill Bridge area for a swim. The water refreshed us. Back at the bunkhouse, we prepared to go to dinner in Oneida.

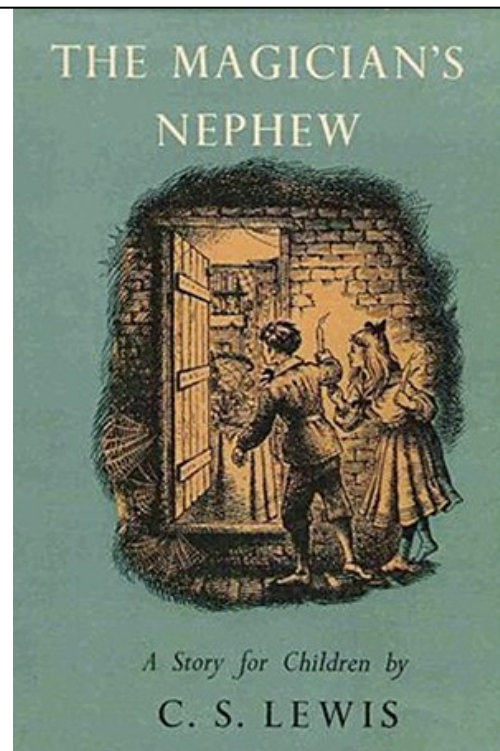
The next morning we beat Les and Scott to the job site at 6:00 o'clock. They wanted to get an early start and try to beat the heat, thereby finishing an hour earlier. We continued placing and nailing the floor sheeting. The balance of the nailing was done by the four of us by 12:30. Les and Scott laid out the exterior and interior wall lines on the completed decking. After lunch we went to the warehouse and loaded up door and window frames. Back at the job we unloaded and placed the frames in the location noted on the floor plates.

Since we finished the assigned tasks we did not need to work on Saturday morning, so we returned to the bunkhouse to pack up and return home.



Thanks to all the VBS Volunteers for helping to make this year such a great success! We reached approximately 100 kids in our community daily throughout the week. We could not do it without YOU!

Attention all bored middle and high schoolers!! Sick of sitting around all day? Want something to do? Join the Erin Youth Book Club! Our meetings are at Becca's house (660 Shadywood Lane, off Gleason Rd.) Our first book is....drumroll please...."The Magician's Nephew" by C.S. Lewis! This is the first book in the Chronicles of Narnia series. Don't worry if you didn't make it to the first meeting, just be ready to talk about the 2nd half of the book. Join us for discussion and snacks! Contact Becca for more information: 865.659.5040





STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Stewardship Figures

YTD June, 2008

A study conducted some years ago illustrated a human characteristic related to responsibility. The experimenter, a young woman, entered an elevator with a handful of pencils, only to "mistakenly" drop them once inside. This was done over and over, each time with different passengers, and it was noted that when there was only one other person on the elevator, he or she was very likely to help her pick up the pencils. However, the greater number of passengers on the elevator when this happened, the less likely any of them were to help.

While this does seem to be a durable human characteristic, on the whole, it is not very Christ-like. Jesus instead implores us to recognize the needs of others, and to act with selflessness and to do so no matter what others do. Studies also demonstrate over and over that when one person does stop to help, others tend to join him or her.

As members of Christ's church, we must remember that every little bit we can do helps. And, we cannot assume that someone else will take care of needs we see. Buildings have burned to the ground in front of numerous observers who all thought **someone else** must have called the fire department.

Erin is working to grow, and to improve what it has to offer to the members here, to potential new members, and to the world outside that we seek to serve for His sake. We cannot assume that someone else will take care of it, however. If we approach things that way, we will hardly realize our potential. Real growth will not come from someone else taking care of it. Initiate action, respond to need, be the first to act and to give.

Make things happen. Only if we all "take care of it" will we be able to really make our church grow and become what it can be.

In Christ,

Erin Stewardship Team

	Jan-June, 08	Jan-June, 07
Income		
Bequests	33,146.05	0.00
Creative Expression	1,478.00	445.00
Property	10,598.00	6,531.13
Discipleship	4,406.00	4,921.51
Fellowship	2,357.20	3,697.30
Stewardship	361.14	115.89
Memorial	100.00	955.00
Outreach	11,869.30	5,265.30
Offerings	155,795.54	142,869.91
Worship	500.00	550.00
Total Income	220,611.23	165,351.04
Expense		
Property	23,480.67	35,438.22
Discipleship	16,306.75	10,846.18
Fellowship	3,808.79	5,504.34
Outreach	39,953.84	22,222.43
Stewardship	51,656.16	54,971.11
Worship	2,521.64	2,106.04
Pastoral Ministry	51,137.03	53,101.21
Memorials	1,835.29	989.75
Session	380.30	328.94
PW expenses	0.00	100.00
Payroll	500.00	0.00
Total Expense	191,580.47	185,608.22
Net Income	29,030.76	-20,257.18

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF**June 29, 2008****IRAQ***Joseph McLeod**Don Gunter* (husband of Paula Tate-Gunter).*Andrew Alger* (nephew of Susan Hannah)**TENNESSEE***Peggy Dean* (friend of Robin Cuany)*Jimmy* (friend of Apryl Quinn and Kari Matthews)*Anne Latimer* (mother of Jill Burger)*Jody McKenry* (cousin of John McKenry)*Henry Thomas Ritchie**Stephanie Montgomery* (co-worker of David Eggers)*Anne Estes* (friend of Sue Rayburn)*Jennifer Shaw* (MOPS mom)*Joanne Hill* (Friend of the Hickmans)*Marion Sanks**Marjorie Swanner**Kari Matthews**Mrs. Pat Swain**Alicia & Charlie Gross* (friends of Bud & Lora Yard)*Georgia Parry* (friend of Ruth White and Jane Yancey)

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.

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

200 Lockett Road

Phone: (865) 588-5350

Knoxville, TN

Fax: (865) 584-7775

37919-4808

www.ErinPresbyterian.org**ILLINOIS***Dorothy Burns* (aunt of Allyson Streckfuss)**MICHIGAN***Flora Hudson* (sister of Mae Brandon)**MARYLAND***Robert L. Cutts* (friend of Ray and Donna Schall)**CONNECTICUT***Barbara Hyman* (cousin of Ruth White)**CALIFORNIA***Linda Gaspar* (sister of Dave Leckie)**SOUTH CAROLINA***Sara Mantle**Janie Cross* (friend of Jane Yancey)**GUATEMALA***Luis Angel* (student at the Guatemala School)

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Friday, July 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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