

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

November 2008

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Dear Friends,

If ever there was a verse written for uncertain times, it's this one from Jeremiah. A number of people that I know say that this is their favorite verse from scripture. It has so many promises and blessings from God, that it gives them confidence to overcome the challenges in their lives.

It's also very Presbyterian in a predestined sort of way. The Lord states that He has plans for His people and that He is working for their benefit. God is on their side and prosperity is just around the corner. The bad times are over and a new hope is just beginning to dawn.

Within days of reading this newsletter, we will have elected our 44th President. The hopes of our nation will be pinned to the leader of our choice. It will be very important for all of us to get behind our next Commander in Chief, because he will have many issues to face and problems to overcome. I know that our prayers will be important and, no matter who wins, I will be praying for him each and everyday.

Perhaps a new dawn will break through after this election. Perhaps our divisions will minimize and our unity will become our strength. I think it's very important for the entire world to have a strong United States. A lot of the freedoms that we have enjoyed across the planet, in the last one hundred years, have been achieved through the sacrifice of men and women in our Armed Forces. It's very fitting that exactly one week after the Presidential Election, we'll be commemorating Veteran's Day. We will have practiced our freedom by voting; we are only allowed to vote through the liberty that past generations have fought and died for. Their past gave us a future; their deaths have given us life.

As well as national and international plans, we look to God, here at Erin, for His blessings upon our future. We are in the midst of our annual Stewardship Campaign and seek to expand the work God has given



us to accomplish. There's a new dawn breaking across our congregation and we are getting ready to employ a Christian Education Director. It will be a remarkable achievement for our church and one that shows how much we are growing in faith, as well as in numbers.

Perhaps we should all make this verse from Jeremiah our motto for next year. God has plans for us, to prosper and bless us, to give us hope and a great future. I'm excited by the possibilities that lie ahead of us, and I'm thankful to God for this wonderful opportunity. Our 'wee church' can impact this community for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel. We have the potential to make great things happen here, and God is inviting all of us to join Him in this new dawn for Erin.

I hope and pray that you will feel the same, and continue to support the life, work, and ministry that Christ has given to our church.

God be with you and all your loved ones.

John

Monday Night Bible Studies continue looking at and discussing the new best seller, "The Shack," by William P. Young. Please feel welcome to join us in the parlor any Monday at 7.15pm.

The Wednesday morning **Coffee Club** will be studying and discussing four chapters from the Book of Judges this November. We take a chapter each week and discuss the history, cultures, and relevancies of the passages. The discussion begins at 10.30AM in the church parlor. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

November 4 ELECTION DAY



Parents of Youth: remember to check the blog for dates and times: www.erinyouth.blogspot.com

November Sundays

November 2

Communion Sunday

Psalm 107:1-7 & Matthew 23:1-12

“One Father & One Teacher”

November 9

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 78:1-7 & Matthew 25:1-13

“The First Oil Crisis”

November 16

Pledge Sunday

Psalm 123:1-4 & Matthew 25:14-30

“Heavenly Accounting”

November 23

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Psalm 100:1-4 & Matthew 25:31-46

“Being Sheepish”

November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 & Matthew 13:24-35

“Tell Me a Story”

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 2	
Tim Jenness	Jennifer Gahan	Larry McKay
	November 9	
Linda Quinley	Kelcey Levering	Heather Ritchie
	November 16	
Eva Quinley	Joy Bornhoeft	Kim Pennington
	November 23	
Julie Simpson	Siri Hamilton	Kelli Crisp
	November 30	
Pam Pfeifer	Susan Hannah	Kristie Bailes

November Birthdays

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



Pfeifer, Lindsay*	November 3
Matthews, Hanna*	November 4
Scarborough, Amanda*	November 5
Fortune, Ashley	November 6
Miller, Julie*	November 8
Pennington, Dusty	November 11
Chesney, Tom	November 12
Jenness, Logan*	November 12
Siedentopf, Alma	November 14
Vowell, Don	November 14
Backous, Connor	November 15
Cowen, Matt	November 15
Berry, Nancy	November 16
Cameron, Rob	November 17
Leckie, Sara	November 17
Webb, Joey*	November 17
Quinn, Connor*	November 18
Blind, Scott	November 19
Breasseale, Loretta	November 20
Brazelton, Bill	November 25
Pulsipher, Sam	November 25
Webb, Tina	November 26
Bridwell, Kylie*	November 28
Simpson, Ellie*	November 28

First Days of December

Ritchie, Heather	December 1
Vowell, Antonio*	December 1
Elliott, Rylan*	December 2
Montgomery, Charles	December 3
Sands, Lionel	December 7

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



**Hear Rev. Stuart on Mon 10AM-12noon on
WQBB 1040AM as a regular guest on the talk
show "The Voice."**

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY**YOUTH NEWS**

Here are some dates to look forward to in November:

1-2: High School Retreat – NO Youth (SR.H or M.S.)

9th: 5-7:30 - Youth programs (at Erin)

16th: Sr. Highs will be serving dinner at the Presbyterian Center on UT's Campus!

23rd: PACK meeting at Westminster Presbyterian, 6:30-8.

**Spotlight on
Erin Youth:**

Each month, I'll be introducing you to one of our awesome youth! This month's youth is:

**Name: Hillary Pearson
Grade: 10th
School: West High**

Name some stuff you do: Volleyball, track, student council, Youth in Government, Honor society. Out of school: cooking and anything outdoors

Favorite snack and why: It's not really a snack but, any kind of cajun food like jumbo and crawfish. Oh, and pralines, because its the best kind of food around!

Favorite day of the week: Friday, because it's the end of the week and I can sleep in the next day.

What do you want to be when you grow up?: Pastry Chef or something in the cooking field

Favorite thing about Erin Pres: How well everybody knows everybody

Best thing about youth group: The people and the activities we do.

One thing people don't know about you: I'm extremely competitive when it comes to sports and also a lot of other things (*Also, this girl can shoot a gun! Something you may not know is that Hillary is a licensed hunter!*)



Having Hillary in our group has brought so much laughter, fun, (and occasional trips to the emergency room) to youth meetings! She is a sweet, caring girl who's always smiling and we love having her around!

Graduated Erin Senior Highs:**Where are they now?****Class of 2003**

Logan Luedeka: Logan got married in 2006 and bought her first home in 2007 in Greenville, SC. Since then she has worked for Aflac as an insurance agent and Springbrook Behavioral Health as a dietary aide. She is the proud mom to 2 kids: Melody and Hunter!

Lily Fitch: Lily currently lives in Lansing, Michigan and is the proud parent of a little boy, Reznor!



Erin's MOPS Group is off to a great start this fall semester. We have 20 moms registered this year (including 6 moms new to our group) and 26 children in our Moppets program. Rev. Stuart spoke to our group in September about finding balance in our lives. In October, we collected canned goods and non-perishable items in support of World Food Day (October 16th). We collected 173 items which were donated to the Morgan-Scott Project. Many thanks to Sonja DuBois who delivered the food items for us. This month, we will pack and gift wrap shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child at our November 13th meeting. Our goal is to pack 100 boxes for this wonderful mission project. Please feel free to join us on Nov. 13th at 9:30 am in the Family Life Center if you would like to help pack and wrap these special gifts. -- Joy Bornhoeft (see p. 4 for more info.)

Reminder: Knox County Schools will be closed November 4. KCS will be on ½ day schedule Wednesday November 26. They will be closed November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving Holiday.



The Fellowship Committee would like to thank Lou L and Joe Tate for hosting Erin's annual Halloween Party on Sunday evening, October 26th, at their Tate School of Discovery. There were many spooky goblins of all ages in attendance, and even Elvis was seen "working the crowd"! It was a perfect evening, and a great time was had by all. Many thanks for a wonderful party!





Operation Christmas Child A Project of Samaritan's Purse

It's that time of year again. . . time for Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The mission of OCC is to fill shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, hygiene products, hard candies, and other small gifts to be shipped to needy children throughout the world. These boxes will be wrapped in colorful Christmas paper and then delivered to a nearby OCC Collection Center. At the collection center, volunteers will inspect the boxes for shipping and add Christian Literature in the native language of the recipient.

Once again, Erin MOPS will be participating in this heartwarming ministry. Our goal this year is to pack 100 boxes. You can help by donating shoe boxes or small gift items and placing them in the collection boxes 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 we send a \$7 donation with each box 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 it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

MOPS will be collecting OCC items from Nov. 1 – Nov. 13. We will pack and gift wrap the boxes at our November 13th meeting, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, in the Family Life Center. Please feel free to join us to help pack and wrap these special gifts. A simple gift-filled shoe box is a tangible expression of God's love. Help share this love by being a part of this special Christmas project!

-- Joy Bornhoeft

**Session meets Thursday, November 20th @
7:00pm in the Heritage Room**

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY



SAM Council will meet Thursday November 20 at 10:30am. SAM Sack Lunch will follow at 12 noon! the guest speaker will be Tommy Aydelutt, owner of the store "Safety Smart." He will be discussing precautions one may take to ensure his/her safety in the home, some of which you may have not considered. Please join us for a time of fellowship!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN BODY

RECALL - If you have been thinking about joining a workout class, think no longer, just come give it a try.



We meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4:00-4:55 PM, ending with a cool down. For more information contact Ron Roberts, Certified Body Recall Instructor.

PW NEWS- Mission Month

Circle II will meet Monday November 10 at 7:00pm at Mary Scarbrough's home.

Circle IV will meet in the parlor at 10:00am on Tuesday, November 11.



Once again we will be collecting items for the **Sunset Gap Children's Christmas Shop**. A list of suggestions will be on the hall bulletin board. They can be new items or lightly used. The children can shop for Christmas gifts for members for their families. The box will be in the narthex on Nov. 16 & Nov. 23. We will also be providing gifts for a Sunset Gap family for Christmas.

On Nov. 23 we will do our annual collection of **Birthday Cakes** for patients at lakeshore. These are put in their freezer to be brought out to celebrate birthdays and also to celebrate achievements by the patients.

Put December 7 on your calendar for the **Family Christmas Potluck Supper** – and we will have a visit from Mrs. Claus!

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

CONGREGATIONAL CARE UPDATE

Our congregational care teams continue to organize to provide support. The "call/visitation" and the "special needs" team leaders are looking for your help in two ways:

FIRST: Do you know of someone with a special need because they are going through a difficult time? It may be a need for transportation or a meal or just an understanding conversation. Or are there folks you know who would appreciate a regular call or visit because they are not able to get out? If so, please notify the pastor or the appropriate team leader listed below.

SECOND: These two teams need more volunteers. Perhaps you can only make calls, or because of work you're just available on the weekend. That's fine. The leaders will call on you in ways you can serve.

During this season of stewardship emphasis, remember that God's church is made strong by all kinds of giving, including our time. Please take a moment now to contact the team leaders listed below and volunteer for this important ministry at Erin. Both leaders are experienced in providing support to those in need and will help you feel comfortable if these ways of serving the church are new to you.

Calls/Visits Team Leader

Denise Bilbrey 584-6453

cdbilbrey@bellsouth.net

Special Needs Team Leader

Carol Alver 694-4164

cbalver@bellsouth.net



Men's Breakfast will meet Saturday, November 15th at 8:30ish. Contact Dale Webb for more information.

LET'S DO DINNER

November 4th @5:15

Bravo's on Bearden Hill

Contact Maud Hoover for more information



*Erin's Fall Retreat
For Women
November 14th-15th
Join us at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center
in Maggie Valley, NC to explore
Integrating Spiritual Disciplines into Our Daily Live
with
Rev. Sharon Carter*

Programs will begin Friday evening with dinner. Planned activities will conclude Saturday afternoon. If you have signed-up, look for information in the mail soon. Also if you have not done so, please to submit payment to the office. Checks should be made to Erin Presbyterian Church with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line. The cost is \$50 (Friday night stay, Saturday breakfast and lunch). For an additional \$30, lodging will also be available Saturday night for those who are interested in staying another night for reflection and relaxation. Spaces are still available. Contact Jennifer Gahan, gahans@comcast.net; 909-0633 for additional information.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

ERIN PLAYERS PRESENTS

It's a Wonderful Life

by James W. Rodgers

Based on the film by Frank Capra

Story by Philip Van Doren Stern

Directed by Suzanne Curtis

George Bailey, the Everyman from the small town of Bedford Falls, dreamed of escape and adventure. However, his dreams were quashed by family obligation and civic duty. Fortunately, his guardian angel descends on Christmas Eve to save him from despair and to remind him—by showing him what the world would have been like had he never been born—that his has been, after all, a wonderful life. Join us for this fine dramatization which celebrates the faith of the season and the American philosophy of life.

Performance Dates:

Friday, Nov. 28, 7:30

Saturday, Nov. 29, 7:30

Sunday Nov. 30, 2:00

Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2:00 & 7:30



OUTREACH

The Peacemaking Offering

Thank You! Your contributions for the Peacemaking offering totaled \$918.31. 25% of the Offering will be used by our congregation for peacemaking activities in our local area. The other 75% will help our partners in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly as they work on behalf of God's peacemaking throughout the world.

MISSION MATTERS

After another day of meeting new folks, and attending the Sunset Gap day, Dionisia and Jimmy enjoyed a bountiful dinner at Erin. Pat Wallin and committee members welcomed our International Peacemakers with great hospitality. Dionisia finally had a chance to speak in her native tongue since both Don Vowel and Cecilia Stinnett were chatting during dinner. We learned a lot about poverty in Lima during the video presentation. The Bridge of Hope, which is the agency supported by Presbyterians, provides an opportunity for Peruvians to work themselves out of the poverty, which is so prevalent. About 40 Erinites also shopped at the International Market, which netted better than \$375 in sales.



Dionisia who is usually shy, agreed to pose for a picture. We are wearing the hats made by her textile group, comprised of four other industrious women.

From Lauren Stuart's Blog...Charles



TO SEE MORE CHILDREN IN TANZANIA,
VISIT LAUREN'S BLOG AT
THEROADTOAFRICA.BLOGSPOT.COM/

As I've said before, I'm starting to learn a lot more about my kids through the social work classes I'm taking. Charles is

one of the kids I'm beginning to understand a little better because of my classes. He is a fantastic kid and a lot of fun to be around. But after you spend some time with him in a classroom setting, you realize that he's not fully developed for his age.

Charles had a lot of trouble in class. He could usually get the answer right, but sometimes it would take a very long time. Tasks that would take the other kids almost no time at all would take Charles much longer. I would guess that Charles is 11 or 12, but he's grouped with the 8 and 9 year olds because of how behind he is.

From what I've learned, I would guess that Charles went through some kind of childhood trauma. Yes, almost all of these children have gone through trauma, but Charles is one of the only ones it has affected developmentally. We've been learning that neglect in the first year of a child's life could lead to major disabilities. Children need to be comforted and held when their babies. It's proven that if they aren't given the care they long for, their brains won't develop at the rate they should. Because of the environment Charles has grown up in, it is very likely that this is what happened. He can also get very angry and frustrated at things. It's likely that this is also due to the possible neglect. And unfortunately, just because he may have been neglected as a baby, his brain isn't developing at the speed it should.

But there are so many other things that really make Charles who he is. Like I said, he's so much fun to be around. He doesn't laugh a lot, but when he does it's contagious. Plus, he has a HUGE crush on Sitta which is a lot of fun to talk to him about. He gets so shy and bashful. What Charles really needs is an advocate. Someone who can help him catch up in school and help him control his anger. But the person shouldn't just focus on the negatives. He also needs someone he can talk to about his major crush on Sitta. Because in the end, even if he may not be developing at the rate a normal child would be, he just needs someone to listen to him and make him feel loved.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY***A Family Matter***

John House gave the 2009 Stewardship Sermon entitled A Family of Faith. He stated clearly and scriptural what it means to be a fellowship of believers here at Erin. He told us how Jesus called us to love one another as a family. He used the Greek word Agape. Agape is the love that puts another's best interest at heart. It means that there are times when a member or members of our family have needs that we should place before our own.

Our church family has such a need, a very special and great need. We can say it is a wonderful need to have. A need that proves we are a growing and Christ centered church.

I'm sure you have noticed that over the last few years Erin has been blessed with outstanding growth. That growth has brought with it great numbers of young families. It is a highlight of every Sunday worship service to see the vast numbers of children of all ages coming forth to hear the Family Sermon. Our Christian Education program and Vacation Bible School has seen a remarkable increase, the largest growth in the history of Erin.

We have now reached a point where we need to add a Christian Education Director to our staff if we are to be able to continue to provide the spiritual guidance and nurturing necessary to feed these inquiring young souls.

In order to fulfill this heaven sent need and to continue to build a strong Christ centered future for Erin we will require approximately a 15% increase to our annual budget.

As you consider your pledge for 2009 we ask that you prayerfully ask for Gods guidance on how you can increase your pledge so that this vital need can be realized.

May God bless your decision!

**Stewardship Figures
October 2008**

	Jan 1 - Oct 30, 08	Jan 1 - Oct 30, 07
Income		
Bequests	33,146.05	0.00
Creative Exp	5,291.80	5,721.45
undesignated	0.00	20,000.00
Property	19,907.00	28,694.13
Discipleship	6,333.26	7,157.46
Fellowship	4,060.99	6,516.04
Stewardship	786.56	417.88
Memorial	200.00	1,770.00
Outreach	13,650.96	7,352.52
Offerings	268,267.13	240,511.42
PW Income	50.00	6.00
Worship	630.00	650.00
Total Income	352,323.75	318,796.90
Expense		
Creative Exp	15,398.23	9,989.91
Property	55,540.07	51,722.06
Discipleship	21,709.43	20,548.22
Fellowship	6,812.80	9,537.85
Outreach	42,561.12	30,839.76
Stewardship	90,989.49	87,402.27
Worship	3,662.71	2,487.56
Pastoral	86,735.49	86,628.24
Memorial	2,636.35	1,753.74
Session	544.46	328.94
PW	228.00	341.65
Payroll	500.00	0.00
Total Expense	327,318.15	301,580.20
Net Income	25,005.60	17,216.70

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Friday, November 21** 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**November 2, 2008****TENNESSEE*****EI Sharp******Jeanne Ayers******Barry Robinson******Carol Hatfield*** (friend of Jane Yancey & Ruth White)***Tom Quinley******Manjay Kanneh and family******Cindy Funk Estes*** (daughter of Sonya Funk)***Mary Scarbrough******Kari Matthews & Family******Lora Yard******Jimmy*** (friend of Apryl Quinn and Kari Matthews)***Anne Latimer*** (mother of Jill Burger)***Jody McKenry*** (cousin of John McKenry)***Anne Estes*** (friend of Sue Rayburn)***Marjorie Swanner******Mrs. Pat Swain******Alicia & Charlie Gross*** (friends of Bud & Lora Yard)***Georgia Parry*** (friend of Ruth White and Jane Yancey)**ILLINOIS*****Dorothy Burns*** (aunt of Allyson Streckfuss)**MARYLAND*****Robert L. Cutts*** (friend of Ray and Donna Schall)**MASSACHUSETTS*****Marise Fallon*** (friend of Cecilia Stinnett)**CALIFORNIA*****Linda Gaspar*** (sister of Dave Leckie)***Sandy Murchison*** (niece of Evelyn Lowry)**SOUTH CAROLINA*****Frances Gunter*** (sister of Diane Montgomery)***Sara Mantle*** (friend of Sara Leckie)**GUATEMALA*****Luis Angel*** (student at the Guatemala School)***Janie Tabor*** (sister of Mary Alice Vowell)**MIDDLE EAST*****Randy Genau*** (grandson of Bob and Carol Alver)***Jamey Waters*** (grandson of Ruth White's cousin)***Andrew Alger*** (nephew of Susan Hannah)

November is National Adoption Month. This is when those of us whose families are built through adoption, just like to create awareness and celebrate the gift of our children! Our family (extended), The Tabors and Vowells, feel VERY blessed with the amazing gift of our children as many other families at Erin do as well. It is pretty amazing the number of different countries that God has woven together to build our church family!!

We as Christians are not biological children of God, but we ARE adopted children of God that takes place through Jesus Christ (Gal.4:5; Eph. 1:5). Adoption is a choice...AND WE ARE CHOSEN BY GOD!!! (how cool!!) Simply this: all that God has prepared for Christ in "the fullness of the times" is going to be ours as well (Rom. 8:15-17). This includes salvation from sin (Heb.1:14), everlasting life (Matt. 19:29), and the kingdom of God (25:34). In fact, we will inherit God Himself!! God "seals" us, assuring we remain in God's family and not lose our inheritance. Meaning: nothing can separate us from God!!

Join the families built through adoption in celebrating our families and as Christians, let's celebrate our spiritual adoption.

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