

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

November 2009

*Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD! Psalm 31:24*

Dear Friends,

The last two months of this year are going to be the most important since September 1955. In a couple of days, many of our church members will be gathering together at Bearden Banquet Hall to hear about the final plans for the construction that is already taking place. We will know how much has already been pledged and will be given a challenge for each of us to step up to the plate. Our response will testify to our faith and our generosity will reflect our love of God's work at Erin.

Almost 55 years ago, we were given a beautiful building to worship and study in by a generation that had come through two World Wars and the Great Depression. They faithfully and courageously took steps to ensure that we would have our church today. They prayed and they gave. They pledged and they gave. They built and they gave.

Every time that we walk into our church, worship God in the sanctuary, study in a classroom, or attend a meeting in a church room, we experience continuous blessings from the good Erin folks in 1955. It's now our turn to do the same and the question that we must honestly ask ourselves is this: are we content to take from those who came before us, or are we willing to give for those who are yet to come?

We are constantly improving our lives, our health, and our homes. We buy the latest gadgets, wear fashionable clothes, make home improvements, and update our TVs, computers, and entertainment systems. We increase our spending on sports, leisure, and entertainment. We do all of these marvelous things because we live in a wonderful country, but here's something to consider. Are we willing to give to God in order to improve His House?

In 1955, just ten years after rationing and twenty years after the Great Depression, the members at Erin built a



bigger church. They could have said that times were hard and that the economy was turbulent. They could have saved their money for themselves and bettered their living conditions. They could have done lots of other important things, but they chose to build a bigger church. All that we're being asked is to improve the building that they gave us. Are we worthy of their sacrificial blessings and equal to the present task? Will a future generation arise at Erin and call us blessed?

God knows that we have the potential to do great things. Are we ready to pray, pledge, build, and give?

May God bless the desire of His heart and make all of His plans succeed at Erin.

John

.....
SAVE THE DATE!

During the month of November, several important Capital Campaign events will be taking place.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

**Our Capital Campaign
Congregational Dinner**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH
& SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7TH**

**Training of our Capital Campaign
Visitation Teams**

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

Every Member Contact Day

**Save the dates and look out for more
information in the mail.**
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November Sundays

November 1

All Saints' Day & Communion

Psalm 146:1-8 & Mark 12:28-34

“What is Important?”

November 8

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 127:1-5 & Mark 12:38-44

“Everything She Had”

November 15

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 16:5-11 & Mark 13:1-8

“Trouble Ahead”

November 22

Christ the King

Psalm 93:1-5 & John 18:33-37

“Kingdom People”

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Micah 6:6-8 & Luke 10:30-37

“Real Mercy”

KCS schools will be closed
November 25-27 for
Thanksgiving Holiday



Erin Stage Co. and The Wordplayers present

"The Miracle Worker"

By William Gibson

Directed by Matthew Lloyd

The powerful, heart-warming story of Annie Sullivan and her blind, deaf student, Helen Keller.

Nov. 6-14 @ The WordPlayers' Theatre
1540 Robinson Rd.

Nov. 21-28 @ Erin Presbyterian Church

November Birthdays

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



Sherry Draper	November 3
Lindsay Pfeifer	November 3
Hannah Matthews	November 4
Ashley Fortune	November 6
Kay Harrington	November 11
Dusty Pennington	November 11
Mia Avery Quinn	November 11
Tom Chesney	November 12
Logan Jenness	November 12
Alma Siedentopf	November 14
Connor Backous	November 15
Matt Cowen	November 15
Nancy Berry	November 16
Rob Cameron	November 17
Sara Leckie	November 17
Joey Webb	November 17
Bette Brasher	November 18
Connor Quinn	November 18
Loretta Breasseale	November 20
Bill Brazelton	November 25
Sam Pulsipher	November 25
Tina Webb	November 26
Ellie Simpson	November 28

First Days of December

Heather Ritchie	December 1
Rylan Elliott	December 2
Charles Montgomery	December 3
Lionel Sands	December 7

First Wednesday Dinner and Hanging of the Greens December 2nd

Plan to join us for First Wednesday Dinner at 5:45 pm on December 2nd. The meal will center around the birth of Christ featuring shepherds, wise men and angels- can you guess the menu?

After dinner, and beginning at 6:30, we'll prepare the church for the Christmas season with our annual "Hanging of the Greens." Please join us for this time of fellowship and service even if you can't make it to dinner.

DISCIPLESHIP



Every shoe box. . . A Gospel Opportunity

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse. The mission of OCC is to fill shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, and hygiene products to be shipped to needy children throughout the world. Since this project began in 1993, more than 69 million shoe box gifts have been delivered to boys and girls in some 130 nations.

With each box, children also receive colorful storybooks and Bible Lessons to teach them about the Gospel and encourage them to know Jesus. In this way, these small boxes are a gift, not only for the children receiving them, but for their parents, families, and community.

Shoe boxes are packed according to gender and age. Age categories are: 2 – 4 years old, 5 – 9 years old, and 10 – 14 years old. You can participate in this project by donating some of the following items:

- *shoe boxes or small plastic storage containers with lids (shoe-box size)
- *small toys: cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, jump ropes, etc.
- *school supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring books
- *hygiene items: toothpaste, bar soap and washcloths, socks, t-shirts
- *other: hard candy and lollipops, sunglasses, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

We will be collecting items from Nov. 1 – Nov. 12 in designated boxes in the Narthex. Gifts of money are also appreciated. Such donations will be used to cover the cost of shipping the boxes (\$7 per box). Checks may be written to Samaritan's Purse or to Erin Presbyterian Church (with Operation Christmas Child noted in the memo line).

Boxes will be wrapped and packed by Erin MOPS group on November 12th, 9:30am – 11:30am, in the Family Life Center. Please feel free to join MOPS in helping to pack and wrap these special gifts!



From the CE Coordinator

The season of Advent is almost upon us, as it begins at the end of this month on November 29th. In the modern day we tend to think of it as the time of year when we are Christmas shopping, going to and hosting holiday parties, visiting family and friends and having guests in our own homes, and so forth—but it's also the time for preparing—or *re-preparing*—our hearts and spirits for the coming of Christ. We look back and celebrate the coming of the Christ child, but we also look ahead to the time of Christ's return, and our lectionary texts give evidence of that: they are passages full of prophetic language and imagery, stories of John the Baptist and Mary and Joseph, parables that tell us to "keep awake" and "be prepared" for the master's coming. It may seem strange to us, especially if we're new to church life or if we come from a church tradition that doesn't pay attention to the seasons of the church year. But paying attention to the traditional seasons of church life can provide us a wonderful framework for developing our faith.

Author Charles Olson of the Alban Institute sees three repeating motifs in the movement of the church year—motifs which correspond with the persons of the Trinity. Advent/Christmas has as its motif the image of the Father who gives in love. Lent/Easter takes as its theme the risen Son, "who by grace sacrificed his life for all;" and Pentecost/ Ordinary Time, which remembers and celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in all believers. Each season moves through three elements of spiritual formation: a time of yearning and waiting, a time of celebrating God's presence, and a time of taking hold of the faith by proclaiming and sending. These motifs give our church year rhythm and movement and allow us to find a pace for spiritual growth that is outside of the normal busyness of our daily lives.

May you find Christ through and in each season of the church year.

Peace,
Sharon

FALL RALLY is November 14-15 at Fall Creek Falls! See Becca for more information.

Yarn Overs is back! Join us November on the 5th & 19th @ 6:30 in the parlor.



The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Monday, December 28** for inclusion in the next month's issue. Please send articles and/or calendar events via e-mail to "admin@erinpresbyterian.org".

OUTREACH

The red bucket campaign is not over yet! Collections as of the end of September are \$13,000. Churches are still collecting so we will not receive a final accounting for a while. Erin's collection totaled \$500!

Sept. 2009 Lebanon/Syria Churches

The purpose of the conference conducted in Louisville was to encourage each other in our faith and to work together in International partnership.

To Love our neighbors it is important to know who they are and how they live. The conference gave a glimpse into the Presbyterian life in Lebanon and Syria.

The first Synod was established in 1920 but Christianity has been in existence in the Middle East since 1848. Presently there are 16 churches in Syria with 11 Pastors, and 20 in Lebanon served by 14 pastors. There are three Presbyteries led by one Synod.

An example of one of the churches in Lebanon was depicted in a wonderful video at Rabya'. We saw activities including drama, puppets and of course lots of music.

The civil war has changed the numbers of worshipping Christians from 54% to 2% in Lebanon and currently 13% in Syria.

Higher education for clergy began in 1885 and NEST has been in existence since 1932. Most or 95% of clergy who work in the Middle East have been taught at the Near East School of Theology or NEST. It has been at its present location in Beirut since 1971. It has both graduate and under graduate degrees. NEST also provides resources for dce's and is supported by the Presbyterian synod, Lutherans and the United Church of Christ.

The school's president Dr. Mary Mikail, had a great day as 5 out of the 7 clergy attending this meeting were her graduates. NEST has an open door policy and many times the school has protected the public from bombings. Anyone in need of temporary shelter is welcome.

Dr. Mary Mikail is the author of the Horizon bible study "Joshua." Much more can be said about NEST.

We could view their video, which gives a good picture of the vitality of the school. Erin has supported NEST through the mission budget in 2007.

The United States has welcomed Middle Eastern immigrants for 110 years. According to 2000 census 75% of all Arab immigrants are Christian. Early settlers came to Brooklyn, NY and in Dearborn, MI. One of the first Syrian/Lebanese churches was formed in 1907 in Brooklyn followed by Dearborn. The Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn was built in its present location with the labor of its own members. Until WW II the services were conducted in Arabic. Ron DuBois attended this church until 1962.

Stay tuned...the DuBois will visit the Brooklyn church in October and share impressions in our next newsletter.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

BODY RECALL

Join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday @ 4:00 for exercise class – it is never too late to get in shape! Hope to see you there.

~Ron Roberts



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

LET'S DO DINNER

WILL NOT MEET

in November due to the Capital Campaign Banquet.



Breadbreakers



Breadbreakers is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow church members in a relaxed, home environment. Everyone is welcome and for the families with young children, childcare will be provided at the church.

Join us **Saturday, November 21st** for food, fellowship, and fun! Contact Suzanne Levering for more information.

PW NEWS

.....*All the people rejoiced because of what God had done.....*

2 Chronicles 29:36



Presbyterian Women 2009 Thank Offering will be celebrated on Sunday, November 22, at Erin. This year's goal is to receive contributions totaling \$1 million which is not far from the 2008 receipts of \$684,900. Twenty-seven projects were chosen to receive grants from this amount.

One such project is located in our Synod of Living Waters....Youth at the Family Room in Nashville was awarded a \$50,000 grant to continue their work of empowering Nashville youth and adults through education, spiritual development, cultural enrichment, social justice advocacy and civic engagement.

Criteria for receiving a grant are consistency with the mission concerns and policies of the PC(USA), a purpose that meets basic human needs, provides a form of aid that relates directly to the people being served and is a creative project less than 3 years old or a new direction for an existing program. At least 40% of the Thank Offering funds each year go to health-related projects.

Help PW to enable more worthwhile projects to receive the funds they deserve. Help others to **REJOICE WITH THANKSGIVING** for the blessings we can give.

Circles – Circle II meets at 7:00pm, Monday, November 9th at Mary Scarbrough's house. Circle IV will meet Tuesday, November 10th at 10:00am in the parlor.

Once again, Erin PW will be collecting items for the Children's Christmas Shop at Sunset Gap Community Center, an outreach of the Presbyterian Church. It is located in Cosby, TN near Newport. The children can buy gifts for their family members for 25 cents. They can earn this money by doing small chores by donating a canned good for the food pantry. A list of suggested items is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Remember items can be new or "good as new!" We all have things we've never used- so be generous. The box will be in the narthex November 15th, 22nd, and 29th. The circles will be providing gifts for a family of 4. Thank you,
Pat Sexton

Sr. High Calendar November 2009

1st: Youth programs, 5-7:30, last day to turn in Fall Rally forms (Sr. High)

4th: (Wednesday night) All Erin Youth are invited and encouraged to attend the church dinner at Buddy's Banquet Hall at 6 pm. This will be a free dinner followed by a presentation of all the big changes happening at Erin Church, including remodeling the Fellowship Hall. I really want our youth to be a part of this, so please come!

8th: Youth programs, 5-7:30

14-15: Fall Rally (Sr. High)

15: No Senior Highs

22: PACK @ Farragut Presbyterian. 5:45-8 pm

29: Thanksgiving Holiday! Be thankful! :)

www.erinyouth.blogspot.com

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

You may have thought about your annual pledge to our church as an indication of your love and commitment to Christ and his teachings, which, of course it is. But have you ever thought about how pledging is also critical in planning for the operation of the church in the coming months?

Without your pledge to help us estimate the monies coming in, it is extremely difficult to plan for the various functions and activities we would like to initiate and/or sustain. If you have already submitted your pledge for 2010, we thank you. If you haven't submitted your pledge yet, please help the Stewardship Team by completing your pledge card and returning it as soon as possible. We must begin the budget process soon, and that will help.

As always, we realize that a pledge is based upon your financial capabilities at the time of the pledge and that unforeseen circumstances may make it necessary to amend your commitment later, but it is important for us to know what you intend to do. So that we can know what is possible to do. Thanks so much.

In Christ,
The Stewardship Team

Our prayer list is refreshed at the first of each month. Aside from those in missions or military, please notify the office when you have a new or recurring prayer need. Prayer requests may be called into the office @ 588-5350.

October Stewardship Figures

	Jan 1 - Oct 27, 09	Jan 1 - Oct 27, 08
Income		
Bequests	2,000.00	33,146.05
Creative		
Exp.	6,027.50	5,291.80
Property	18,270.31	19,917.00
Discipleship	5,991.07	6,333.26
Fellowship	8,321.86	5,995.20
Stewardship	827.57	786.56
Memorial	2,454.00	200.00
Outreach	10,552.50	12,246.75
Offerings	298,847.60	268,237.13
PW	344.25	50.00
Worship	140.50	630.00
Total Income	353,777.16	352,833.75
Expense		
Creative		
Exp.	16,012.82	15,398.23
Property	102,780.27	55,471.59
Discipleship	19,966.70	21,709.43
Fellowship	8,661.63	9,296.87
Outreach	37,194.25	43,594.44
Stewardship	124,994.37	90,906.36
Worship	2,947.24	3,662.71
Pastoral	91,297.73	85,886.87
Memorial	2,578.35	2,636.35
Session	976.81	544.46
PW	332.25	228.00
Payroll	0.00	500.00
Total Expense	407,742.42	329,835.31
Net Income	-53,965.26	22,998.44

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK OF
November 1, 2009****MILITARY SERVICE***Joseph McLeod* (son of Allyson Streckfuss)*Todd Breasseale* (son of Loretta Breasseale)*Brian Alger* (brother of Susan Hannah)*Jamey Waters* (grandson of Ruth White's cousin)*Andrew Alger* (nephew of Susan Hannah)**TENNESSEE***Family & Friends of Charles Humpston**Cecilia Stinnett**Susan Hannah**Betty Davy* (mother of Sharon Carter)*Marion Sanks**Cole Hammond* (young friend of the Vowells)*Marjorie Swanner**Alma Siedentopf**Mae Brandon***CALIFORNIA***Linda Gaspar* (sister of Dave Leckie)**SOUTH CAROLINA***Sara Mantle* (friend of Sara Leckie)**VIRGINIA***Ted Ambrose and Family* (brother of Estelle Duncan)**ILLINOIS***Dorothy Burns* (aunt of Allyson McLeod Streckfuss)**MARYLAND***Robert Cutts* (friend of Ray and Donna Schall)

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