

First Presbyterian Church
721 Church St.
Jefferson City, TN 37760

LECTIONARY

January 1st
1st Sunday after Christmas
Isa. 61:10—62:3
Ps. 148
Gal. 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

January 6th
Epiphany of the Lord
Isa. 60:1-6
Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14
Eph. 3:1-12
Matt. 2:1-12

January 8th
Baptism of the Lord
Gen. 1:1-5
Ps. 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 15th
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)
Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor. 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 22nd
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Ps. 62:5-12
1 Cor. 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29th
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Deut. 18:15-20
Ps. 111
1 Cor. 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Meetings This Month

Worship Committee—January 4th at 6:30 p.m.
Session—January 11th at 6:30 p.m.
Mission—January 11th at 8:00 p.m.
Christian Education—January 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report December 2011

December 4	\$5,807.00
December 11	\$3,198.00
December 18	\$3,104.33
December 25	\$0,000.00
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TOTAL	\$12,109.33

*A completed report will be available following
collection on Sunday, December 25th.*

*(We need \$15,387.83 to meet the monthly
budget.)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	2 OFFICE CLOSED		4 Worship Committee 6:30 p.m.			7
8 Fellowship Sunday Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Rachel Shockey Phil Williams		9	11 Session 6:30 pm. Mission Committee 8 p.m.			14 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
15 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.. Josh Adams Ellison Berryhill David & Melissa Needs		16	18 Family Night Supper Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation 6:30 p.m.		19 Sit 'n Krib Group 7 p.m.	21
22 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	23 Rebecca Whaley	24 Kay Rutherford-Williams	25 CE Committee Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	26 Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan Travis Folsom	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28
29 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	30 Dianne Reagan Carolyn Berryhill	31				
Lucille Tinsley						

The Amen Almanac

January 2012

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760

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Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk...

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12.

The beginning of the year often comes with resolutions. For many of us, those resolutions involve what we do with our bodies- going on a diet, trying to quit smoking, exercising more regularly. While we recognize that we are physically able to function in our current condition, the fresh start to the new year often motivates us to seek to improve on our overall physical health.

These same kind of resolutions and fresh starts do not only apply to our individual bodies, but to the life of our Church, the body of Christ. In October, the session appointed a task force of five members: Carolyn Berryhill, Beth Folsom, Mike Kustermann, Tom Kirkpatrick, and Melissa Needs. They have been charged to help us as a congregation, begin to explore our life together as the body of Christ.

The title of the project we are undergoing is *Our Congregational Check-Up: Exploring our Life Together, Discerning God's Future*. Much like many of us go to the doctor for an annual physical, we are striving to evaluate our congregation's life and explore where God is leading us in the future. This "check-up" is not in response to some kind of "symptom" that needs to be treated, but is an intentional exploration into who we are as a community and where we might seek to improve our ministry.

The first part of this exploration will be a comprehensive congregational survey to be completed in January. On January 8th, packets will be available for each household in the congregation with surveys to be completed by all family members in the 6th grade or older. We hope each person will take their packet and thoughtfully complete the survey. In addition to the paper copies at the church, we will also be e-mailing the survey in an Adobe PDF file for those who would rather complete it online and e-mail it in. *Please only complete one survey per person.* We ask that you return the survey by January 22nd.

In addition to the survey, we will have opportunities to come together in small group discussions through the month of February. Some elements of our life together are better explored in community than through a written document, so we hope these discussion times will help us clarify our strengths as a congregation as well as help us focus on possible new ministries God may be calling us to begin.

At the March Family Night Supper, the task force will present the findings of the survey and the conversations and make recommendations to the session about where we should be focusing our attention over the coming two to three years. The session will then take

that information and begin to explore how we faithfully respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in these particular areas. There is also the possibility that some serious capital improvements need to take place in order to enhance our ministry for the twenty-first century, with the possibility of initiating a capital campaign to fund these building and ministry needs.

Be in prayer for this task force and the session as we continue the work of discerning God's Spirit among us. Find ways to participate in this time of evaluation and visioning for our future. And may we all remember that Jesus Christ remains the head of the church in all times and places, and our job is to respond to his calling, striving to strengthen our collective body to be faithful stewards of the ministry he entrusts to us.

Gratefully,

Andrew



SECRET SAINTS

Everyone in the church family is invited to play "Secret Saints" during the month of February. All those wishing to participate should place their name in the designated box located in the library (one for the adult to adult exchange, and one for the children to children exchange). After church on January 29th you will draw a name out. This person will be your Secret Saint for whom you will do many nice things anonymously during the month. On the last Sunday in February you may reveal yourself as Secret Saint. Join the fun – put your name in today!



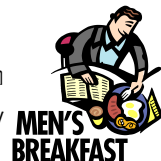
WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

We will *not* be having a Women's breakfast in January. Our next Women's Breakfast will be the first Saturday in February at the home of Sue Rhein (1240 Groseclose Rd.).



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next breakfast for the men in our church family is scheduled for Saturday, January 14th at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Our January Family Night Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program will feature the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will hear reports on church programs and activities for the year just past, as well as plans for the new year. Bring a dish and join us!





January 2012 Ushers, Greeters, & Nursery Schedule

January 1

Ushers —Pat and Mary Ellen Patton
Greeters —Mike and Pam Kustermann
Nursery —Martha Sanders

January 8

Ushers —John and Sylvia Ribbe
Greeters —Doug and Juanita Dykstra
Nursery —Stacy Kirkpatrick

January 15

Ushers —Tom Kirkpatrick and Rich Harlan
Greeters —Ted and Beth Folsom
Nursery —Juanita Dykstra

January 22

Ushers —Martha Sanders and John Zirkle
Greeters —Frances Wolf and Mary Winslow
Nursery —Dianne Reagan

January 29

Ushers —J Moser and Jake Moser
Greeters —David Noonkesser and Rich Harlan
Nursery —JoAnne Vest

IN MEMORIAM...



Aileen Wilson

Doug and Juanita Dykstra
John and Eva Zirkle
Tom Sites
Beverly Miller
Joseph and Winnie Word
Joan Cox
Sue Swilley
Larry and Mev Musick

Mike Boley

John and Eva Zirkle

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas
The unemployed

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Sammy Beck, Neal's son, who is dealing with breathing complications following surgery
Ken Jones, friend of the Folsom's, who is undergoing chemotherapy
Charlie Piper, who is at home under hospice care
Ginny Ruth Carroll, Eva Zirkle's cousin, who is on a ventilator after surgery complications
JoAnn Haberbusch, friend of Debby Rinehart, who is under hospice care
Perry Todd, friend of Debby Rinehart, who is undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma
Sandy Jaros, who is recovering from jaw surgery
Ray Mittelstaedt, friend of Nancy Romine, who is suffering with melanoma
Janice Sutter, Jennifer Bates' mother, who has suffered another stroke
Danny Sutter, Jennifer Bates' father, who has been diagnosed with stage 3 cancer
Nita Jean Randle, Rebecca Whaley's grandmother, recovering from a stroke in Houston, TX
Nancy Johnson, Debby Rinehart's sister-in-law, who is undergoing chemotherapy
Cheryl Rice, Roxanne Moser's step-sister, who is beginning aggressive cancer treatment on an inoperable tumor
Bob Barton, Frances Wolf's brother-in-law, whose cancer has returned
Freida Hunley, Judy Finley's daughter, who is undergoing another round of chemotherapy

THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US: Lucille Tinsley, Bonnie Young

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:
DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe
CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor, Helen Hodges
JEFF. COUNTY NURSING HOME: Elizabeth Felknor, Isabel Sites
Frances Woodruff

ELDERTORIAL—CAROL BERGMAN

Jesus said, "I am the light of world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

A new year has arrived and I am still in Christmas mode. Not the anxious, exhausting state we reach about gift giving, holiday foods to prepare, the mess the house gets to before reaching a state somewhere between okay and perfection for holiday entertaining. I just don't want to see the tree taken down and holiday lights disappear. I love the lights of Christmas. They are reminders of why we celebrate.

In Genesis 1:3, God commanded light to appear. Without it life as we know it would not exist. We read in Exodus 10:21-23 of the miraculous light of the Hebrews enjoyed while the Egyptians lived in total darkness for three days. The word light appears many times in the Old Testament. The Hebrews knew it as another word for Messiah. Time and again God brought them out of darkness by His love and grace. Still they did not understand the way, even when given the most wonderful gift of all one holy night two thousand years ago.

Jesus tells us "let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 This verse brings to mind a favorite hymn learned as a child in Sunday School.

"Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light.
Like a little candle burning in the night
In this world of darkness so we must shine
You in your small corner, and I in mine."

Gracious loving Father, thank you for the mercies we receive, for the means of hope glory through Jesus Christ our Lord...Amen.

Have a happy after Christmas and a blessed new year!