

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

LECTIONARY

5th Sunday of Easter—May 6th

Acts 8:26–40

Ps. 22:25–31

1 John 4:7–21

John 15:1–8

6th Sunday of Easter—May 13th

Acts 10:44–48

Ps. 98

1 John 5:1–6

John 15:9–17

Ascension of the Lord—May 17th

Acts 1:1–11

Ps. 47:1–9 *or* Ps. 93:1–5

Eph. 1:15–23

Luke 24:44–53

Day of Pentecost—May 27th

Acts 2:1–21 *or* Ezek. 37:1–14

Ps. 104:24–34, 35b

Rom. 8:22–27 *or* Acts 2:1–21

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

Meetings This Month

Building & Grounds —Tuesday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Mission Committee — May 2nd at 4:30 p.m.

Worship Mtg. — May 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship & Evangelism Mtg.— May 9th at 5:45 p.m.















Session—May 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report April 2012

April 1	\$7,693.00
April 8	\$3,494.00
April 15	\$2,519.00
April 22	\$3,158.00
April 29	\$0,000.00

TOTAL	\$16,864.00
--------------	--------------------

(We need \$16,955.58 to meet the monthly budget. A completed April Treasurer's Report will be available in the church office on Monday, April 30th.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>Communion Sunday School-9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>GRADUATE BREAKFAST</p> <p> Kent & Susan Clouser</p>	<p>7</p> <p> Rich Harlan</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Building & Grounds Committee 6:30 p.m.</p> <p> Jim & Joyce Cornett</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mission Conn. 4:30 p.m. Worship Committee 6:30 p.m.</p>			<p>5</p> <p> Claud & Kay Gowan</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>YOUTH SUNDAY</p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p> Charlie & Dian Wise</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p> Sally Meredith  John Ryan Scarlett</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m.</p>		<p>18</p> <p>Sit n Knit Group 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p> Doug Berryhill</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>YOUTH LUNCHEON</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p> Doug Dykstra  John Rinehart</p> <p> Jama Seahorn</p>			<p>25</p> <p>Hiking Club 8 a.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p> Connie Harlan</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>PENTECOST</p> <p> Jack O'Hare</p>	<p>28</p> <p> MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p> J Moser</p>		

The Amen Almanac

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760
 Phone/Fax: 865-475-2761 E-mail: fpcjctn@bellsouth.net Website: www.fpcjeffcity.org
 Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk...

In the summer of 2001, following my freshman year of high school, I had the opportunity to travel with several other teenagers from the Presbytery of East Tennessee to Purdue University for a week-long youth rally and retreat of the Presbyterian Church (USA), known as Triennium. Held every three years (hence the name), Triennium is a national gathering of 5,000 Presbyterian youth from our 173 presbyteries from around the country. It is a week of worship and Bible study, a time of faith formation wherein young people begin to ask what God is calling them to do in their lives.

I remember sitting in the upper balcony of the auditorium where the worship services occurred, taking part in the uniquely Presbyterian art form known as "energizers," holding hands and swaying as we sang, and listening to fantastic preachers from throughout our denomination. I remember my small group, though the faces are fuzzy and the names are long forgotten. We had an energetic leader, a young man who served as a youth director in a church, whose energy inspired us and whose honesty allowed us to speak God's truth about our own lives.

I can remember that as the week came to an end, I confessed to that small group that I felt God might be calling me into ministry, and one of the chaperones in the group, an older Presbyterian minister, gave me his card and encouraged me to call on him if I wanted to explore that feeling more deeply. A sense of awe, a feeling of terror, excitement at the possibility of this call all flowed through me in that week, a week of joy and hope and challenge.

My t-shirt from that retreat has become part of a quilt in our home made up of former youth retreats, and the song book from the week remains on my shelf in the church office over ten years later. Triennium is a unique experience and shaped my faith as I began to wrestle with God's call in my own life.

Triennium is one of the programs of our denomination that is funded by this month's Pentecost Offering. This special offering, collected on the birthday of the church, goes to support ministries of passion and compassion within the PC(USA). 40% of the offering collected by each congregation is to be designated for a local ministry that works with children at risk. 25% of the offering goes to support ministries of our denomination working with youth, and 25% goes to programs working with young adults. The remaining 10% is used by the denomination for national programs for children at risk.

One of the young adult programs this offering supports is the Young Adult Volunteer program of the PC (USA), where recent college graduates travel for a year to an alternative context where they live out their calling in the mission field. Like Triennium was for me, this experience of mission work is life-changing for those who

participate. In this newsletter, you will find testimonies for this program from two of my friends, the Rev. Kristin Stroble, pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Poland, Ohio and Lauren Slingerland, a Clinical Pastoral Education resident in Seattle, Washington. Read their stories (on page 6) to learn more about how our support of this offering impacts the lives of people around the world.

As we celebrate the birth of the Church in this month, I encourage you to consider giving to the Pentecost Offering, so that programs for youth and young adults in our denomination may continue to thrive and to support ministries with at-risk children here in Jefferson County.

Gratefully,
 Andrew

P.S. The next Youth Triennium is in 2014, and if you will be in high school at that time you are eligible to go. Let me know!

Announcements

GRADUATE RECOGNITION BREAKFAST



This year we will be honoring our 2012 graduates with a special breakfast at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 6th. If you know someone graduating, please be sure to give their name, degree earned, and academic institution to Heather in the church office by calling or emailing her at fpcjctn@bellsouth.net no later than Wednesday, May 2nd.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next breakfast for the men in our church family is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, May 13th. Please plan to attend this Service lead by the Youth of our Congregation. If you have any questions, please see Madison.



Family Night Supper

MAY FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Our Family Night Supper for this month will be on Wednesday, May 16th, at 6:30 p.m. The program will be Doug Moody, sharing his experience with Kingswood School. Please plan on joining us for good food, fellowship and information.

SIT 'N KNIT GROUP

The Sit 'n Knit group will be meeting on Friday, May 18th, at 7 p.m. at the home of Libby Moser. If you have any questions, please see Libby.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, May 26th, at 8 a.m. We will be hiking to **Juney Whank Falls**. We'll venture to the North Carolina side of the park for a 2.7 mile loop past Juney Whank Falls, a 90 foot cascade; it'll be our first trip to this trail. Don't forget to pack a lunch and join us.



PENTECOST SUNDAY



On Sunday, May 27th we will be having a special joint service with the United Methodist Church. Please join us following the service for a special fellowship time on our lawn to enjoy cake and punch.

**SAVE THE DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
APPALACHIAN OUTREACH WEEK**

APPALACHIAN OUTREACH WEEK is fast approaching. Our week is Monday, July 2 - Friday, July 6, 2012. We need many VOLUNTEERS to help us cook, serve and clean-up. For Breakfast (Monday-Friday) times are 6:00 a.m. preparation and 7:00 a.m. serve and Dinner (Monday-Thursday) with a 4:30 p.m. preparation time and a 5:30 p.m. serve. On Thursday, the dinner will be served at the new Pavilion on the property that has been acquired by Appalachian Outreach for the future Samaritan House building. Sign-up sheets for those who wish to help will be posted on one of the back hall bulletin boards soon! We will have 70 AO workers to feed. Thanks in advance for your help to make this Mission Project a success. If you have any questions, see JoAnne Vest at 865-475-5111 or JAV124rb@msn.



DIAPER DRIVE

To honor the arrival of Andrew and Rebecca's son, we are instituting a new mission which will provide diapers for women with infants at Samaritan House and SafeSpace. The cost of diapers is a strain on these mothers' finances, and this ministry will provide us with a method of helping others while celebrating new life in our midst.

Whenever a new baby is born to members of our congregation (including grandchildren), the church administrator will send an email to the congregation with notice of the birth. Each family will be asked to bring a package of diapers to church the following Sunday and place it around the baptismal font. Displaying the diapers in the sanctuary will be a visible reminder of our call to serve others in the name of Christ, for all are children of God.

Diapers can be of varying sizes, like the babies at SafeSpace and Samaritan House. A representative of our church will deliver the diapers to the organization. If you would like more information about the Diaper Drive or would like to help with diaper delivery, please see Kathy Juroff.



MAY 2012 — Ushers and Nursery Schedules

MAY 6

Ushers — Pat and Mary Ellen Patton
Nursery — Stacy Kirkpatrick

MAY 13

Ushers — Tom Kirkpatrick and Rich Harlan
Nursery — JoAnne Vest

MAY 20

Ushers — J Moser and Jake Moser
Nursery — Dianne Reagan

MAY 27

Ushers — Dick Gombert and John Zirkle
Nursery — Juanita Dykstra



YOUTH MISSION TRIP SANDWICH LUNCHEON

In an effort to raise money for the summer mission trip, the Youth Group will be hosting a sandwich luncheon immediately following worship on **Sunday, May 20**. All funds donated will be used to purchase the needed supplies to do their mission work as well as for their room and board. **Please give generously!**

Sandwich Choices:

- ___ Turkey Club ~ Turkey, bacon, Swiss, lettuce, tomato, and mayo on a croissant roll
- ___ Italian Caprese Panini ~ Mozzarella cheese, sliced tomato, and basil pesto layered on ciabatta bread and grilled
- ___ Egg Salad ~ Homemade egg salad served with lettuce on toasted wheat bread
- ___ Ham & Cheese Minis (2) ~ Ham, Swiss, and honey mustard piled on a dinner roll, drizzled with poppy seed dressing, and baked until melted

Gluten free bread available upon request

Side Choices:

- ___ Fresh fruit salad
- ___ Greek pasta salad
- ___ Chips

Dessert Choices:

- ___ Banana pudding cup
- ___ Lemon bar
- ___ Killer brownie

Kids Meals are also available and include:

- ___ Grilled cheese sandwich, chips, pickle, and a cookie

Join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall or take yours to go!

- ___ Eat in
- ___ To go

Your name and phone number

(Please fill out one order form per person)

Please complete and return all order forms to the church no later than **Sunday, May 13th**. See Roxanne Moser or Pam Kustermann with any questions

ELDERTORIAL

Janie Gates
Am I Presbyterian?

My answer to this question has always been, "Sure I am! All the way back to Scotland!" The truth is I've never known anything else. Both my paternal and maternal ancestors who immigrated to America in the 1700's and 1800's were Presbyterians, but does this make *me* Presbyterian? Rich Fifield explained to our combined adult Sunday School group that the Presbyterian Church is distinguished by its form of government (representative), celebration of the sacraments (signs of God's grace) and tradition (reformed). I embrace all of these, but does that make me Presbyterian? Presbyterian churches are not "cookie cutter" churches and are not bound by precedence. I value these qualities, but does that make me Presbyterian?

"The Shorter Catechism" from *The Book of Confessions* is a series of 107 questions, the answers to which were once required to be memorized in order to become a communicant member of most Presbyterian churches. *When!* Our youth should shout for joy that FPCJC no longer requires this!!!! Question #1: What is the chief end of [every human being]? Answer: [Every human being's] chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy [God] forever. Now *that* is something worth committing to memory! So, let's study the words *glorify* and *enjoy*.

The scriptural references cited in the [BOC], 1 Cor. 10:31 and Rom. 11:36, are all-embracing concerning when and how we are to "glorify God": ALWAYS! Webster's definition of *glorify* is: To raise to celestial glory; to shed radiance or splendor on; to worship, to adore. Roget's thesaurus refers to *exalt, honor and praise*. This sounds like quite a spiritual work-out, with the emphasis on *work*. Am I Presbyterian? **BUT WAIT** (just like in the commercials)! If we take this, we get much more...

The scriptural references cited in the [BOC] for "enjoying God", Ps. 73:24-26 and John 17:22 & 24, make it clear that God is doing the work-out and pulling us along for the ride! Webster's definition of *enjoy* is: To take pleasure or satisfaction in experiencing and owning; to have and use with satisfaction; to have the benefit of. Roget suggests: like, relish, savor, have, hold, possess. Now THAT'S what I'm talking about! Am I Presbyterian?

Let me make a stab at some techie talk: We have anywhere, anytime WI-FI provided by God that we should use no matter what we are doing; All updates are automatic and free forever; All apps, both present and for eternity, are already activated with instantaneous tutorials awaiting our demand; The power supply is infinite - we must merely maintain *our* connection!

Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt (Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg) celebrates that grace is far and wide in the Presbyterian tradition. We live a life of gratitude because God has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. So, to God be the glory and this Presbyterian will endeavor to enjoy Him forever.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Jason and Ina (Hoxha) Carhart

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

The unemployed

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Dave Folk, friend of Phil Williams, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Barbara Wilson, Carol Bergman's sister, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Bill Briggs, Barbara Wilson's brother, whose cancer has returned

Bili Ledgerwood

Shane Fowler, friend of Janie Gates, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Freida Hunley, Judy Finley's daughter, who is not doing well

Ken Fuhrmann, Frances Wolf's nephew, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer

Ardelia Evans, Allan Evans' mother, whose cancer has returned

Janice Sutter, Jennifer Bates' mother

Wilma Hunt, friend of JoAnne Vest, who is undergoing radiation for lung cancer and not doing well

Sammy Beck, Neal's son, who has been diagnosed with cancer

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

Bob Barton, Frances Wolf's brother-in-law, whose cancer has returned

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, Frances Woodruff, Isabel Sites

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

LCpl Dennis Pryor IV
2019 Riverglen Forest Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77345

Major Michael Stinnett
9 Lost Valley Dr.
Huntington, WV 25705

Spec. Taylor Belton
1706 SW 8th St.
Lawton, OK 73501

Lt Col. Chris Hornburg
25617 Creek Run Terrace
South Riding, VA 20152

Major Kevin Hornburg
Major Amy Carpenter
13355 Cedarville Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80922

LCOL Boyd Hodges
1670 Great Fork Rd.
Suffolk, VA 23438

If you have a family member or friend who is serving in the Armed Forces, please let us know so that we can add him/her to our list.

Pentecost Offering



The PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is a national and international program of mission service for young adults of faith. I spent a year in this formative program

serving in the Philippines. The tag line for this program is “a year of service for a lifetime of change.” I could write a book about my experiences in the Philippines and about the way that this year of service continues to impact my life. Instead I’ll offer you some highlights about the transformational effect that the YAV program has had on my life and ministry.

In the YAV program I learned how to live in community, both with those who are similar to me and those who have little in common with me. In the Philippines I started out living in an intentional community with other young adults from the US, Germany, and Indonesia. Together we struggled with culture shock, language, witnessing the harsh realities of this country, and how to live in community through it all. I then went to live with a Filipino family, who taught me about hospitality and the bonds that can be formed with people who initially seem to have nothing in common with you. I learned how to live simply and what is truly important in life. I learned acceptance, how to accept myself and my own vulnerabilities as well as the stranger in our midst. I learned how to ask questions and to accept that they might not have easy answers or any answers at all. I learned the risk involved in truly following God’s call for peace and justice. I grew in my spiritual journey as I sought to find God in difficult places and to theologically reflect on my experiences in the Philippines. I learned that ministry isn’t about programs, having all the answers, or being the best preacher. Instead I learned that ministry is about relationships, being present with each other and being present with God. Life in relationship is walking beside each other through the joys and the sorrows, knowing that Christ is our companion in the journey.

I’m not the only one who has been impacted by the YAV program and I pray that this program will continue to thrive and transform the lives of young adults in our denomination. I know of no other program in the Presbyterian Church that has this kind of impact. Support the Pentecost offering so that others may experience a year of service and a lifetime of change.

Rev. Kristin Stroble
Pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church
Poland, Ohio

In the year I served as a Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland I came to treasure the words of St. Patrick, “He who gave his life for you, it is he who speaks within you.” I started to



hear God’s voice more intimately and see God’s face all around me as I witnessed God at work in reconciliation in Northern Ireland. God changed my view and my heart forever, teaching me about simplicity, humility, authenticity and discipleship. I went to Belfast with 2 suitcases and lived on a stipend of about \$200 a month. I learned about all the things I didn’t need in life and I lived in solidarity with my neighbors in the most impoverished area of North Belfast. As a volunteer in the afterschool program, I learned to put aside my pride and my degree in education and make toast with humility so I could build relationships with my coworkers and the children. I served alongside people on both sides of the deep divide of the Troubles in Belfast, people seeking peace and healing with one another after deep hatred, pain, and loss. I worked at Whitehouse Presbyterian Church, which sat on the divide of Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods. The church had been destroyed in an arson attack just two years before and they rebuilt with a commitment to cross-community peacemaking efforts. For example, on Tuesdays I supported a lunch program for older adults from both communities, people who had been enemies for over 30 years were sitting at table together. My other placement was a community center where I volunteered with the afterschool program and groups for youth and adults with disabilities. Often, people with disabilities would be targeted by paramilitary groups; they were vulnerable, easy to attack. Our group organized events for them to socialize safely, build relationships and life skills. In these placements I saw the deep rifts that still exist in Belfast’s society and I saw how God was bringing people together to heal them. I was a stranger, but these communities welcomed me in and blessed me with the chance to join in on the good work they were doing. God changed my heart and my view, offering me a chance to see the world through the eyes of Christ who is re-creating and reconciling. He who gave his life for me grew new gifts and parts of me far more abundantly than I ever imagined. God is at work in the world in vibrant ways and invites us to be a partner in it in ways that will change us forever, shaping us as we respond to God’s loving invitation. He who gave his life for you, it is he who speaks within you.

Lauren Slingerland
Chaplain Resident, Harborview Medical Center
Seattle, WA

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

During the Easter season we collected the One Great Hour Sharing Offering. This year we collected \$982!! Thank you to all those who gave so generously this year!