

The Amen Almanac

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760 Phone/Fax: 865-475-2761

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Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk...

"And God spoke these words," and with that introduction the twentieth chapter of Exodus begins and a compiled list of ten ethical, moral, communal commands are given to the chosen people of Israel. The Ten Commandments have served as a summary of the Hebrew Torah (or law) for generation after generation, and have been central to Christian communities for ages. They are the subject of Hollywood films and their presence on the walls of state courthouses arouses communal controversy. They have inspired the creation of "ten commandments" for everything from umpiring to water skiing.

But if you ask the average church-goer to actually list the Ten Commandments, and you begin to find while they are a cultural phenomenon, we seem to spend less time exploring their fullness and committing these ethical principles to our personal and communal life together. That is a shame, especially in the Reformed tradition, where for centuries we made the learning of the commandments and their application an essential part of worship and catechesis.

The Ten Commandments are, for us, not a list of "rules" we are challenged to follow, but they are a summary of the way we seek to live in gratitude to the God who has loved us in Jesus Christ. They are the means by which we dedicate our lives to loving God and neighbor. John Calvin referred to this as the "third use of the law" (the first two being that the law convicts us of our sin and the law restrains even godless human beings from destroying one another). We celebrate the law of God in our church, not because it is a bridle to keep us on the straight and narrow way, but because it is a way of learning how we can live in God's pleasure.

Recognizing the need for a renewed focus on the commandments, and celebrating our heritage of allowing them to shape our lives, we are committing our summer to exploring the Ten Commandments together. Over the course of ten weeks, beginning on June 9 (with a few interruptions in the middle), we will have a combined adult study of the Ten Commandments that I will lead, helping us to engage their historical context and application both in the time of Israel and our time. Each commandment will then also be part of our weekly worship, with the sermon exploring the commandment, paired with a New Testament passage wherein Jesus interprets (or often reinterprets) this commandment for his followers.

In this time of vacation and travel, church renovations, and outdoor fun, I hope we can commit to deepening our relationship and love for God through this study together, continuing to "grow up into him who is the head" (Eph. 4:15) of this body of Christ we call the Church, our Lord Jesus.

Gratefully,
Andrew

Announcements Announcements

SPECIAL COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 2nd, we will be having a special combined Adult Sunday School Class with Rich Fifield, Executive Presbyter of Holston Presbytery, who will be updating us with what is going on in the Presbytery. Rich will also be preaching the sermon during Worship.



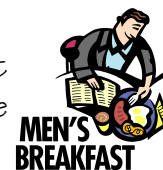
Women's Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will not have our Women's Bible Study for the month's of June or July. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 1st, at 7:00 p.m. at The Creek in downtown Jefferson City. Childcare will be available in the church nursery for those with small children. If you have any questions or would like further details, please speak to either Jennifer Gowan or Rebecca Whaley.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

There will be **NO** Men's Prayer Breakfast during the summer. Breakfast will resume on Saturday, September 14th at 8:00 a.m.



CHURCH PICNIC AT THE PATTON'S

Mark your calendar for June 9th at 4:00 p.m. for our annual church picnic to be held at Pat and Mary Ellen Patton's house on the lake. Please bring your chairs and one of your favorite dishes for our potluck dinner. Drinks will be provided. We will eat at approximately 6:00 p.m. We hope to see all of you at 7472 Circle Point Dr. in Talbott! (see directions below). There will be swimming, boating, and just plain visiting so come and ENJOY!!! If you have any questions, please contact Pat or Mary Ellen (423-585-0822).

Church Picnic



DIRECTIONS TO PATTON'S HOUSE

Follow 11E towards Morristown, for approximately 4 miles. At the first stop light (Shell Station on left) turn left onto Lakeshore Dr. Follow Lakeshore Dr. for 0.7 of a mile and turn left onto Pratt Rd. Follow Pratt Rd. for 1.4 miles and turn left onto Allen Rd. On Allen Rd. you will come to a street sign that says Lebanon Church Rd. Bear to the right and Allen Road becomes Windy Cove Rd. Follow Windy Cove for 0.5 miles until you see a sign that says, "Point Seven". Turn left here onto Circle Point Dr. Drive to the top of the hill and turn left. (That starts our circle) Our house is on the left with two stone pillars flanking the driveway.

I Dad

Don't forget Father's Day on Sunday, June 16th.



Knitting Group

SIT 'N KNIT GROUP

The Sit 'n Knit group will be meeting on Friday, June 21st, at 7 p.m. at the home of Libby Moser. If you have any questions, please see Libby.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN (NON COMPETITIVE) HIKING CLUB

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, June 22nd, at 8 a.m. to **Juney Whanks Falls**. This is a delightful loop hike totaling 2.7 miles and passing three different waterfalls. The hike is not strenuous, and the riverside parts of the trail are immensely pleasant. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water and plan to join us!



TEN COMMANDMENT SUMMER SERIES

10 the COMMANDMENTS

Over the summer (June 9-August 25), our adults will meet together for one combined study of the Ten Commandments led by Andrew.

The group will meet in the sanctuary initially and move to the fellowship hall once our renovation work down there is completed. This class will be reinforced in worship each week as the sermons will also focus on each of the ten commandments. Below you can find the outline of how the class will play out over the next several weeks.

- June 9: Prologue
- June 16: You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me
- June 23: you Shall Not Make For Yourselves an Idol
- June 30: You Shall Not Make For Yourselves an Idol
- July 7: Remember the Sabbath Day and Keep it Holy
- July 14: Honor Your Father and Your Mother
- July 21: You Shall Not Murder
- July 28: You Shall Not Commit Adultery
- August 4: You Shall Not Steal
- August 11: You Shall Not Bear False Witness
- August 18: You Shall Not Covet
- August 25: The Role of the Commandments for the Covenant Community.

We hope you make plans to join us! If you have any questions, please see Andrew.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for your generosity and support during my student teaching and graduation. I appreciate all of you and not sure I could have made it through without your love and support! Thank you again!

—Heather



MISSION YARD SALE SAVE THE DATE



Our annual Mission Yard Sale will be Saturday, October 5th, this year and the Mission Committee is already planning for a super event! The recipients of the proceeds will be **Safespace and Senior Citizens Home Assistance**. We are already collecting and have new off-site storage to make it easier to receive goods. Plans include a silent auction of various interesting items, antiques booth, baked goods, on-site lunch, garden shop, and many interesting "stores".

While school is out and you are cleaning your closets, garages, and attics, don't forget our sale! Your surplus will not only generate funds for missions, but also will benefit the low income shoppers in our community. This sale involves recycling clean, usable goods! We have sold almost everything---jewelry, cars, boats, furniture, old silver, and front loaders. Of course, the larger or more valuable the item, the more money it is likely to generate. Start looking around now and see what you can contribute, and contact either Linda Noonkesser or Eva Zirkle with any questions.

Clothing donations should be separated and sorted if possible into reasonably sized bags and labeled Men, Women, Kids, Shoes, Purses, and so forth. This is a huge help to those workers who must handle the clothing.

Speaking of workers, please **mark your calendar for October 5, Saturday**, and the weeks prior to that date. Pricing crew, set-up crew, clean-up crew, bakery donor, store worker, truck crew, and many other important jobs are vital to the success of our Mission Yard Sale. Sign-up sheets will be posted later in the summer.

Your suggestions/input are welcomed and new workers are encouraged to get involved. The Mission Yard Sale is an important outreach effort to the community and a blessing to those participating as workers, support personnel, and donors.



JUNE 2013—USHERS AND NURSERY SCHEDULE

JUNE 2

Ushers —Phil Williams and Dick Gombert
Nursery —Dianne Reagan

JUNE 9

Ushers —Martha Sanders and JoAnne Vest
Nursery —Stacy Kirkpatrick

JUNE 16

Ushers —J Moser and Jake Moser
Nursery —JoAnne Vest

JUNE 23

Ushers —John Zirkle and Tom Kirkpatrick
Nursery —Stacy Kirkpatrick

JUNE 30

Ushers —David Noonkesser and Johan Koppier
Nursery —Juanita Dykstra

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

—Winston Churchill

JUNE—ELDERTORIAL

Jimmy Hodges
"The Solid Rock"

The famous old hymn *"On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand"* reminds us of the true foundation of a church. This past fall the building and grounds committee voted to remove the stone wall at the west side of the church that supported an embankment. Yours truly boastfully volunteered to remove the stones, believing the work to be an easy task for a 72-year-old. In February the command to commence the work was given by General (Pat) Patton. This lowly servant grabbed two large crowbars, a shovel and my small tilt back trailer, and headed off after work to *"do the deed,"* as the U. S. Navy Seals say just before they embark on a mission! I was ready to remove the very foundation of an old rock wall built years ago by members of First Presbyterian Church.

The first hour went without hesitation as each small stone came out as easily as a child's first tooth, but the next few stones exposed from underneath the embankment were larger, appearing in my mind as massive as those the ancient Egyptians somehow moved from one remote area to another. Friends, students, teachers, church members, and unknown people at times walked by and gently uttered remarks like "such work is for the young at heart and not for those with weak backs and weak minds!" On that afternoon I removed a total of 27 stones and proudly carted them home with the help of my close Baptist friend, Reverend Jim Wilson of Appalachian Outreach.

Later in the week I returned to the "dig" and once more attacked the project with new zeal and strength, but after 15 minutes I came to the conclusion that only a miracle could help me in removing the remainder of the stones that lay both under the sod and in plain view. I started recalling all of those sermons from my youth about how Jesus approached his disciples, asking them who they believed he was. Peter proclaimed him to be the Christ, and in Matthew 16: 13-20, Jesus replied, "Upon this rock I will build my church."

I commenced wrestling with a 200 lb. piece of granite, reminding myself that Jesus knew his future church had to be supported by a solid foundation, and not on a marsh such as that which supports the leaning Tower of Pisa. While I knew he was speaking figuratively, it occurred to me that I was removing rock that had served as a support for the churchyard for many years. The task became more difficult. Forty-five minutes later I was able to drag that one rock onto the trailer and drive home. As we crept down the old AJ Highway I prayed that the cheap hemp wrapped around the stone would not break and cause it to slide off the small trailer in front of the Musicks' beautiful home.

Several more days drifted by; one or two rocks at a time were dug out. Some members came along and were able to take a few of them, but unlike me, they used sanity and gathered friends for help! The day that the workers arrived with the Bobcat to grade off the embankment, Jim Wilson, without my knowledge, stole a tractor from Carson-Newman, went to the site and scooped up the remaining rocks. He transported them

to a vacant lot at my home, where they now lie in anticipation of once again being utilized for some unforeseen project when my back is once again healed. The deed was done, but only with the help of a caring friend! And amazingly the bank that the rock supported was gone, and the need for the stone was erased. The yard remained stable.

Now as I stand among the stones and think of what Jesus told the disciples about Peter as the one who would be his foundation for the Christian church, I formed a better picture of our own church. I envision the rocks laid years ago on the corner of Manning Avenue and Deborah Street as seeds used to plant a spiritual foundation from which our church has grown and has lasted almost 150 years. In the past two years we have witnessed the foundation of our church being stronger as the membership is growing, the pews are filling up, and children are making joyful noises – and an unsteady bank has been removed!

The real rock foundations in our congregation are those who provide countless hours of unselfish devotion, those who preach, teach, sew, cook, paint, sing, ring, transport, donate, and provide for those in need. I believe Jesus would say to Peter about our church, "You have created a most formidable foundation of folks at that small church, and it will stand strong against all storms." Samuel Stone captured the true meaning of the church when he penned the beloved hymn, *"The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord."*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ADDITIONS

Thank you to everyone who has pledged for the Capital Campaign our pledges came in at \$387,145!! In light of your generosity, the Capital Campaign Committee and Construction Work Group recommends the following items to be added to the capital campaign project:

- Patch plaster walls and ceilings, caulk the trim in the saddle rooms and paint the walls, ceiling and trim.
- Renovate the two hall baths by installing new plumbing fixtures, one being a handicap commode in the main level bath, new vanity cabinets, new flooring and paint the rooms. Install new grab bars at the handicap commode in the main level bath and new accessories in both baths.
- Refinish wood floors on both levels of the education wing
- Extra Brick Point allowance.
- Add West End Waterproofing at the fellowship hall
- Paint and stain all remaining furniture in the Narthex and Sanctuary to match the new paint scheme

It was also approved to add an additional expense for the campaign for 100 new stack chairs from David Paul Chairs in Morristown for the fellowship hall at the cost of \$2,500. This allows the current 50 stack chairs in the fellowship hall to be redistributed to the upper floors of the education wing and as overflow seating for the sanctuary and some of the older chairs to be donated to the yard sale for 2013.

My name is Phil and I have Attention Deficit Disorder. Alright so maybe I haven't been officially diagnosed with it, but every day my mind is constantly pulled in many directions. So for the purpose of this Eldertorial for the month of May, I'm going to embrace it and let my thoughts just take over.

The Boston Marathon Bombings left me with some sleepless nights trying to figure out how I felt about two individuals who want to destroy the very country that gave their family over \$100,000 dollars in welfare, an education and real freedom. First impressions sometimes lead us to condemn on a wholesale level.

While that may be somewhat normal, it's only after stepping back and examining the facts, one realizes just because the hand may be hideously crippled, the body itself can have the desire to do good. Judging and condemning are not my job. However I have to say that no matter the religion, nationality or skin color, these two misguided individuals were just plain evil. Jesus warned us of evil, and Jesus instructed us to forgive, he never said it would be easy.

May is the time for everything to grow and blossom...except for those d@#* bare spots in my backyard. Three separate times I have tilled, topsoiled and seeded till my back ached and still...nothin. Kay's garden looks great though, I think she could grow zucchini on pavement.

On a serious note, an uncooperative backyard can be like a church. First Pres is growing like a lovely fairway at Augusta National, but even there if you look close enough you'll see some ground under repair. It is my job and yours too, in the coming weeks as parts of our home course are marked as "ground under repair"...that we not make divots, and look for bare spots that can go unnoticed. Fixing a bare spot can be as easy as shaking a stranger's hand and saying "Welcome...we're glad you're here". That's the kind of fertilizer we have to keep applying, so the ball rolls into the Jesus cup...if only it were that easy in my backyard...

So that's my May A.D.D. Eldertorial...ohhhhh look something shiny..

SAVE THE DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APPALACHIAN OUTREACH WEEK

APPALACHIAN OUTREACH WEEK is fast approaching. Our week is Monday, July 1 - Friday, July 5, 2013. We need several 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. Sign-up sheets for those who wish to help will be posted on one of the back hall bulletin boards soon! We will have at least 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.

FAMILY and FRIENDS OF:

Janice Sutter, Jennifer Bates' mother, who passed away on Monday, May 27th
Ardella Evans, Allen's mother, who passed away last weekend
Ursuline Whitney, Sherri Van Bruggen's grandmother, who passed away last week in Texas
Ann Balch, Carolyn Berryhill's mother, who passed away last week
Wayne MacKintosh, Jake Moser and Libby Moser's step father, who passed away last week
Dr. & Mrs. Hal Morrill's (friends of the Zirkle's) oldest daughter, Allison, just had a pregnancy terminate in a stillbirth.

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

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

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Tom Romine, Nancy's son, who had a loss of consciousness episode and they do not know why
Sandy Jaros, who is hospitalized
Fred Gochey, cousin of Gail Twine, to continue cancer treatment in Mobile, Alabama
Paisley, Donna Jenkins' infant great-granddaughter, who has reflux
Chelsey, Donna Jenkins' granddaughter
Brenda Brooks, friend of Donna Jenkins', who has been diagnosed with cancer
Dr. Matthew Sellers, friend of Jennifer Bates, who has been diagnosed with rectal cancer
Rodney Dyer, has been dealing with health issues of MS and cancer
Karen Burchfield, who is a former organist at FPC, has been diagnosed with kidney cancer
Regen Morris, 10-year-old friend of Sean and Erin Jolley
Susan, Matt LeClerc's mother, who has been diagnosed with cancer

THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US:

Lucille Tinsley Bonnie Young

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe
CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor
JEFF. COUNTY NURSING HOME: Elizabeth Felknor,
Frances Woodruff

MISSION YARD SALE ITEM FOR SALE!!

A medium size Kenmore frost-free upright freezer is currently available. It is in good shape and has been and is currently in operation at Tom Sites' house. Anyone interested in seeing it, call Eva Zirkle (475-4329) or Lyle Juroff (475-8634). The price is \$35.

"Whether you call on him or don't call on him, God will be present with you."

—Frederick Buechner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 John Ribbe Esther O'Hare Jimmy Hodges
COMMUNION 2 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	3	4	5 Mission Com. 4:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance. 6:30 p.m. William Gowan	6	7 Andrew & Rebecca Whaley	8 George Twine
9 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Church Picnic 4:30 p.m. Sylvia Ribbe	10 Matt & Jennifer Gowan JoAnne Vest	11 Fellowship & Evangelism 6:00 p.m. Garry Kelley	12	13 Alex Van Bruggen Jim Smith	14 John & Eva Zirkle	15
<hr style="border: 1px solid purple;"/> YOUTH MONTREAT CONFERENCE <hr style="border: 1px solid purple;"/>						
16 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Gifts of Men Father's Day DJ Needs Zee Troutman Carly Kirkpatrick	17	18	19 Session 6:30 p.m. John Zirkle Jim & Anne Smith	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Anne Smith	21 Sit 'n Knit 7:00 p.m.	22 Hiking Club 8:00 a.m. David Needs Jim Cornett Denny & Alice Pryor
23 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	24	25	26	27	28	29
<hr style="border: 1px solid purple;"/> YOUTH MISSION TRIP <hr style="border: 1px solid purple;"/>						
Greg Woodruff	Allen Evans Allen & Susan Evans	Sara Piper Jim & Mary Hodges	Jennifer Bates	Phil & Barb Dietz		
30 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.						

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721 Church St.
Jefferson City, TN 37760

LECTIONARY

Second Sunday after Pentecost—June 2
Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 18:20–21 [22–29] 30–39; Psalm 96
Galatians 1:1–12; Luke 7:1–10

Third Sunday after Pentecost—June 9
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 17:8–16 [17–24]; Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11–24; Luke 7:11–17

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost—June 16
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 21:1–10 [11–14] 15–21a; Psalm 5:1–8
Galatians 2:15–21; Luke 7:36–8:3

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost—June 23
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:1–4 [5–7] 8–15a; Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23–29; Luke 8:26–39

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost—June 30
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14; Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20
Galatians 5:1, 13–25; Luke 9:51–62

Meetings This Month

Mission Mtg.—June 5th at 4:30 p.m.
Finance Mtg.—June 5th at 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship & Evangelism Mtg.—June 11th at 6:00 p.m.
Session—June 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report May 2013

May 5	\$6,702.78
May 12	\$4,484.00
May 19	\$1,265.00
May 26	\$3,298.00
TOTAL	\$15,749.78

(We need \$18,309 to meet monthly budget.)