

The Amen Almanac

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Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk...

Any of you who have spent time in inservice or continuing education activities in your professional lives can remember tedious hours spent in conference rooms listening to speakers drone on about things that have no application for your daily work tasks. These same continuing education events have been held in the ministry as well, but I am grateful that there is innovation taking place in our field which allows groups of colleagues to join together to study topics of particular interest to them.

This month, five other pastors and I will travel to Atlanta, Georgia for a time of study and reflection on ministry in our various contexts and to meet and learn from two experienced pastors in our denomination who have carried out faithful ministries for many years. It is through the College of Pastoral Leaders program at Austin Presbyterian Seminary that we have this opportunity, and I look forward to learning from my peers and these ministry coaches.

The six of us will gather in Atlanta from Haddonfield, NJ; Rocky Mount, NC; Tupelo, MS; Hudson Falls, NY; Olathe, KS; and Jefferson City. Three of us serve as solo pastors in our communities, two are associate pastors for youth, and one is a Presbyterian campus minister. We represent five different seminaries of the PC(USA) and are each in our first five years of ministry. It is a group that pushes me to study harder, reflect deeper, rejoice more regularly, and challenge me when I'm wrong. I am grateful for them.

In Atlanta we will be meeting with Dr. Tom Tewell, former pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church who now leads the Macedonian Ministries program through the Cousins Foundation. Dr. Tewell helps pastoral support groups to form and deepen their relationships and brings many years of faithful ministry experience to his work. We will also be meeting with the Rev. Pam Driesell, the senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in the Buckhead area of Atlanta. Both of these leaders will be guiding us through the process of "congregational visioning," how a congregation goes about assessing its gifts and challenges and grows together to reach out in faith to proclaim the Gospel message more powerfully in their community.

We have selected books to read in preparation, intentional time to share with each other and pray for one another, and time to worship and listen for God.

I covet your prayers during this time of study and growth, and I hope it is an experience that will yield fruit within the ministry of our congregation here. Groups and study opportunities like this are one of the many reasons I rejoice at being part of a connected church,

where we have resources and colleagues who bring their unique identity and experience but a shared tradition together to grow in grace.

Gratefully,
Andrew

Announcements

Souper Bowl Sunday

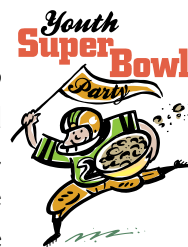


SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

We are participating in Souper Bowl of Caring through our Five-Cents-A-Meal Offering on Sunday, February 2nd. The children/youth will collect the offering & are encouraged to wear their favorite team colors! All money given will be sent to Holston Presbytery, and the total amount collected will be reported to The National Souper Bowl Organization. Please plan to give generously!

YOUTH SUPERBOWL PARTY

On Sunday, February 2nd the youth group will be meeting at the home of Jake and Roxanne Moser (2410 Moser Road) at 6:00 p.m. for a Super Bowl Party. The party will last through half time. The youth are asked to bring drinks, chips, snacks or sweets to share. A main dish will be provided. If you have any questions, please see Andrew.



Women's Bible Study

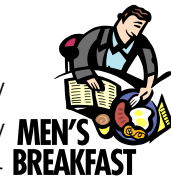


WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Thursday, February 6th, the Thursday Night Women's Bible Study group will meet and continue to discuss the women of the Old Testament through *A Faith of Her Own* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Join us at The Creek from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month as we grow in faith together through education, discussion, and companionship. If you have any questions, please see Rebecca Whaley.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men's Prayer Breakfast for February has been moved to Saturday, February 15th. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our study on the Book of Revelation. If you enjoy biscuits, bacon, and the Bible, join us for a time of study and fellowship.



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Saturday, February 15th, at the home on Alice Pryor (1421 Laurel Hills Dr.) Our study will be led by Gail Twine and we will study lesson 4 on "Simple Prayer". Be sure and bring your Bibles. We hope to see you there.





SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, February 15th, at 8:00 a.m. to hike to **Hen Wallow Falls**: Another favorite in the Cosby area. We'll do a 4.2 mile round trip to the falls on the Gabes Mountain Trail, constructed by the CCC, which passes several home sites. Elevation gain 1,000 feet over 2 miles. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water, and plan to join us!

FEBRUARY FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Our February Family Night Supper will be on Wednesday, February 19th, with dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Please watch your weekly bulletins for the program title. Please bring a dish and join us for an evening of fellowship!



SIT 'N KNIT GROUP



On Friday, February 21st at 7 p.m. we will be having the Sit 'n Knit gathering at Libby Moser's house. If you have any questions, please see Libby.

GRACE NOTES FLUTE CHOIR



We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, February 23rd the *Grace Notes Flute Choir* will be with us during our worship service. The *Grace Notes Flute Choir* is a group of professional and amateur flutists based in Maryville. This inspiring group of flutists, including our own Dr. Sue Swilley, is sure to enrich our worship experience together. Following worship, we will be having a covered dish luncheon with the church providing the meat, bread, and drinks. We ask that everyone please bring a covered dish to share. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnne Vest (475-5111).

ELDERTORIAL—PHIL WILLIAMS

Happy February, (the love month that is), if you buy into the whole Cupid and Valentine thing. Jesus said "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," this is the greatest commandment.

So there you have it..all you need to know for February.....hmm this looks a little short. Maybe I better tell you what I think about love. After Andrew's sermon on January 19th, I want to be a "Radical Extremist of Love." It all comes back to love..unconditional love. The kind of love a parent has for their newborn baby, the kind of love God has for us as his children.

Radical extremists of love do not see color, gender or even sexual preference. Radical extremists of love do not pick and choose who they love, nor do they harshly judge others...Radical extremists of love do not wear camouflage, nor are they self appointed reverends with an agenda. They love unconditionally.

Love is expressed in action..whether it be serving as a volunteer, a leader, or simply a respectful follower. Love is Pat Patton tackling a tough thankless job making sure the building does not fall down around us. Love is Joanne Vest hand delivering newsletters to save on postage...and all the other things she does..I think she could be an extra terrestrial.

Love is also vocal...that's good for me. I have no problem looking into the eyes of someone like Sara Piper and saying "I love you." The truth is now that I'm a radical extremist of love I can say it to anyone I love and expect nothing in return. So don't be surprised if you overhear me telling someone like Neal Beck "I love you brother"....but I don't expect chocolates on Valentine's Day.

JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

JOY:

Hal Cole, friend of the Rheins, who following testing at the Mayo Clinic has been able to return to work

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Justin and Alana Carroll, friends of Zirkles, who are trying to adopt 2 boys from Congo
All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas
The unemployed

ILL AND RECOVERING:

David DeZan, friend of Dennis Cureton, who is in hospice care
Alyssa Mirrada, niece of Gary Bates, who was in a car accident on Christmas Day and is in recovery
Helen Reno, former pastor of FPC Bob Reno's wife, who is undergoing testing and treatment for liver disease
Ruth Hatfield, great-grandma of Sean & Erin Jolley, heart problems
Ron Boatwright, Eva Zirkle's cousin, who is undergoing testing
Rhonda McClanahan, Donna Jenkins' daughter, who is undergoing chemotherapy
Adyson Tilton, Annabelle Tilton's cousin, who has been diagnosed with leukemia

THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US:

Lucille Tinsley

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

JEFF. COUNTY NURSING HOME: Elizabeth Felknor
DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe
CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor
THE HERITAGE CENTER (Morristown): Bonnie Young



February 2014 Ushers and Nursery Schedule

February 2

Ushers — Jim Deaton and Phil Williams
Nursery — Juanita Dysktra

February 9

Ushers — Dick Gombert and John Zirkle
Nursery — Kate Pinkerton-Long











February 16

Ushers — Johan Koppiet and David Noonkesser
Nursery — Dianne Reagan

February 23

Ushers — Doug Dykstra and Tom Kirkpatrick
Nursery — Stacy Kirkpatrick

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Eva Zirkle
2 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Youth Super Bowl Party 6:00 p.m.	3  Mike Van Bruggen	4 Building & Grounds 5:00 p.m.  Melissa Needs	5 Worship 6:30 p.m. Mission Com. 6:30 p.m.  David Skeen	6 Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	7 Family Retreat	8 Family Retreat
9 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Family Retreat	10	11	12 Fellowship & Evangelism 5:30 p.m. Session 6:30 p.m.	13	14 	15 Hiking Club 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
16 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Mike & Pam Kustermann 	17 Lucas Kirkpatrick 	18	19 Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m.	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  Wayne King	21 Sit 'n Knit Group 7 p.m. Helen Jolley 	22  Harry Finley
23 Grace Notes Flute Choir Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Covered Dish Luncheon 12:00 p.m.  Bill & JoAnne Vest	24	25	26 Christian Ed. 6:30 p.m.	27	28	

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LECTIONARY

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany— February 2

Micah 6:1–8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18–31
Matthew 5:1–12

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany— February 9

Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]
Psalm 112:1–9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]
Matthew 5:13–20

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany— February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 *or* Sirach 15:15–20
Psalm 119:1–8
1 Corinthians 3:1–9
Matthew 5:21–37

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany— February 23

Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18
Psalm 119:33–40
1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23
Matthew 5:38–48

Meetings This Month

Building & Grounds—February 4th at 5:00 p.m.
Mission—February 5th at 6:30 p.m.
Worship February 5th at 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship & Evangelism—February 12th at 5:30 p.m.
Session—February 12th at 6:30 p.m.
Christian Education—February 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report January 2014

January 5	\$3,622.80
January 12	\$2,981.00
January 19	\$5,063.00
January 26	\$5,982.00

TOTAL	\$17,648.80
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*(We need \$19,735.08 to meet the
monthly budget.)*