

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760  
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 Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

I have had the great privilege of pilgrimage the past three weeks in Montreat, North Carolina. Over this time I have chaperoned high schoolers for a youth conference, worked with senior high Bible study for the Worship and Music Conference (a big THANK YOU to the session for granting me that opportunity!), and spent hours with members of our own congregation who attended the Worship and Music Conference as well.

These weeks also afforded me the opportunity to encounter many of my heroes of the Church, people who have shaped my Christian identity and who continue to shape the person I wish to be in Christ. They are former pastors in my life, mentors, preachers whose words have reshaped my vision of God's work in the world, and friends who have grown up into ministry with me.

And so as I sit by the waterfall at Lake Susan outside the Huckleberry Snack Shop, I am left pondering what it is that causes us to welcome people into our lives as heroes, mentors, and friends. What do we look for in people when we need someone to look up to or someone to listen to us or someone to guide us?

The common denominator among the cloud of witnesses who I have been surrounded by this week is their constancy of character. They are men and women who strive to be people of honesty, who live by their values in private as well as in public. Learning to be who we are consistently, I think, is one of the lifelong challenges of the Christian life, and these people I have been with this week have reminded me of the great opportunity we have as children of God to cultivate our truest lives.

That requires trust in God's good word of creation, that we are made in God's image. If we trust the poetry of the Psalmist that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made," then there is something in each of us that God has crafted for God's glory. Our task, therefore, is to immerse ourselves into discovery of how we grow into the people God has crafted us to be. That can be a challenge when outside pressures, feelings of inadequacy, unforeseen

family crises, or major life transitions seem to create giant potholes that must be navigated along our journey of faith.

Yet that is the gift of the Church for each of us, a place to encounter our fears and our shortfalls, to hear a word of grace, to hear again from God that we are "very good" and to grow into people whose lives become a consistent Christian witness.

Rabbi Zusha, an eighteenth century Hasidic Jewish luminary, is quoted as saying, "When I die and come before the heavenly court, if they ask me, 'Zusha, why were you not Abraham?' I'll say that I didn't have Abraham's intellectual abilities. If they say, 'Why were you not Moses?' I'll say I didn't have Moses' leadership abilities. For every such question, I'll have an answer. But if they say, 'Zusha, why were you not Zusha?' for that, I'll have no answer." May we strive to grow into the people God has made us to be, discovering our goodness, celebrating our unique identities, and growing into our truest selves which glorifies our Lord and makes God smile.

Gratefully,  
 Andrew

Announcements

STAFFING DISCUSSIONS



There will be three opportunities to meet with the session to discuss the position descriptions and financial implications of an additional pastoral position and to glean from you the feasibility of this new venture. Please make plans to join us Sunday, July 13 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m. with dessert and coffee, or Sunday, July 20 after worship over lunch. All gatherings will meet in the Fellowship Hall. At these meetings, the session will conduct an anonymous straw poll to gauge potential giving increases to measure our ability to step out in this new direction.

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MISSION UPDATE: SUNSET GAP

Sunset Gap was a recipient of our Mission Yard Sale funds in 2012. Here's a brief update on what they've been doing lately:

They've operated a food pantry since 1994, and currently provide about 100 boxes of food per month to needy families. Hot meals are delivered once weekly to approximately fifty people. This year the trial food garden is being expanded for use by community members and some fruit trees are being planted. Sunset Gap has also been designated as a distributor for the Second Harvest school backpack program, and a new food pantry building is under construction.

A relationship with a food company named Midwest has resulted in monthly trips to pick up \$5000-\$6000 worth of free food, with no restrictions on distribution. The 2005 diesel truck purchased with the proceeds of FPC Mission Yard Sale in 2012 is in constant use with the trips to Atlanta and other sites for bulk

food. The truck now has a camper top, but they could use a 16 ft. box trailer to expand hauling capability.

Sunset Gap is publishing a cookbook as a fund raiser, \$10.00 each. More news of that later!



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 MISSION COM. 6:30 P.M. WORSHIP COM 6:30 P.M. FINANCE COM. 6:30 P.M.	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
APPALACHIAN OUTREACH WEEK						
6 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.  Bob and Sue Rhein	7	8  Jake & Roxanne Moser	9 FELLOWSHIP 5:30 P.M.  SESSION 6:30 P.M.	10  Mary Ellen Patton	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.  9:45-10:30 A.M. STAFFING DISCUSSION	14	15	16 7:00 P.M. STAFFING DISCUSSION	17	18	19 HIKING CLUB 8:00 A.M.  Linda Noonkesser
YOUTH MISSION TRIP						
20 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.  12:00 P.M. STAFFING DISCUSSION	21	22	23 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 7:00 P.M.	24  Johan Koppier	25	26  Johan & Ineke Koppier
27 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.  Peggy Hypes	28  Scott Kusternann	29	30  Denny Pryor Beth Folsom	31		

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING GROUP

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, July 19, at 8:00 a.m. and hike to Mingus Mill Trail: We will pay a pre-hike visit to the Pioneer Farmstead at Ocu-naluftee, then proceed to Mingus Mill and begin our hike, a 4 mile round trip past an old slave cemetery and an old CCC camp. Elevation gain 730 feet over two miles. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water and join us!



## ANNUAL YARD SALE FOR MISSIONS

Mark your calendars for the annual Yard Sale for Missions, October 4, 2014. The recipients for this year's sale are 1) Ruth Brown, mission co-worker in the Congo, 2) Girls, Inc., Morristown and 3) Friends of the Jefferson City Library. Please give prayerful consideration for the ways...large or small... you can help make this year's yard sale another record breaking event for FPC mission efforts.

**Clothing for the Yard Sale:** Please sort clean, useable clothing into white kitchen garbage bags. Label bags...men, women, children...using permanent markers; tie bags in "bow" for easy/quick opening at yard sale time.

**Storage for Yard Sale:** Collection of donated items for the yard sale will begin in August. Dates and times for receiving items in August and September will be announced. However, storage space is available before August if special circumstances arise that necessitate the early pickup or delivery of items to be donated. Please call Eva Zirkle or Linda Noonkesser if you have questions or needs.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Dottie Hux, Brian Williams' grandmother, who passed away on Tuesday, June 17

### SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Tyler and Rachel Cameron, Jennifer Bates' cousin, whose unborn child has been diagnosed with a multicystic kidney  
All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas  
The unemployed

### ILL AND RECOVERING:

Trevon Williams, Sara Piper's Great-Grandson, as he is hospitalized with viral encephalitis  
Nikki Seals, friend of Jennifer Gowan, who has two young children and was recently diagnosed with LAM disease an incurable lung disease  
Rhonda McClanahan, Donna Jenkins' daughter, as she begins another round of chemotherapy and radiation  
Calvin Metcalf, former intern pastor of FPC, who will be undergoing surgery on July 17<sup>th</sup>  
Elizabeth Felknor, who is in hospice care  
Dawn Twine-Johnson, Gail Twine's daughter, who will be undergoing treatment for melanoma  
Dale Rutherford, Kay Williams' brother, who is recovering from a triple bypass  
Wendy Rhein, Bob and Sue Rhein's daughter, who will be undergoing hip replacement and bone restructure  
Eunice Leith, friend of Sue Rhein, who has stage 3 colon cancer and beginning treatments  
Mark Knisley, Pastor of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, who has been diagnosed with liver disease  
Joe Simpson, friend of Greg & Anne Woodruff, who is recovering slowly from a very serious operation  
David Frazier, former member of FPC, who is continuing to recover at home following brain surgery

### THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US:

Lucille Tinsley Celeste Reneau

### IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe; Rachel McCurley

CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor

THE HERITAGE CENTER (Morristown): Bonnie Young