



GOOD NEWS
April 2010
United Presbyterian Church
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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As most of you know, last summer we purchased a beautiful home on Beaumont Avenue. The yard has been slumbering over winter, and our first spring in this home provides new surprises and learning opportunities for us each day. We have seen plants poke through the ground, buds appear on trees, and it really will be quite a revelation for us to see all that is growing in our yard! We also are both terribly lacking in knowledge and experience for yard care, planting, and growing things, and so we have quite a learning curve ahead of us. Keep that in mind as you drive past our yard, and trust that we will continue to learn and grow!

Jesus often talked about planting in his parables. Agricultural metaphors were very effective because they were concrete and familiar to his audience. Often parables were used to illustrate an individual's response to God, or God's response to the individual. In the case of a fruitless fig tree, the gardener pleads for mercy and another year to cultivate and fertilize the plant before it is destroyed, symbolizing God's mercy towards us. The parable of the sower and the seeds illustrates how environment and cultivation matter in our spiritual lives. The vine and branches metaphor from the gospel of John remind us that we are dependent on and must abide in God, the source of all life.

Our church is also like a garden. Every winter the pews are a bit more bare, as many of our members travel south for part of the season. Cold weather and flu or other illnesses cut back on our numbers, as well. Our church membership is comprised mostly of perennials - those who are here year after year, season after season, whose roots are deep and help hold our soil together. But to have a thriving garden, we need to continue to plant new seeds, to add some annuals and biennials, perhaps, and some new perennials.

I don't know enough about gardening to draw the metaphor much further, but we can ask ourselves, what can we do to cultivate this soil? First, we must recognize that God is the Master Gardener, and we are the laborers in the fields. We are called as laborers to go into the world and show God's love to others, to spread the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. We are called to feed God's sheep - to meet the physical needs of our community. We are called to spend time with the Master Gardener on a daily basis, to learn and study and grow in relationship with our Teacher and Friend. We are called to fish for people, to invite others into relationship with our beloved Gardener, and to teach them and nurture them in the way of faith. And just as sunshine and water are critical for plant growth, we must soak up the love of God, and share that with the world, starting with the people we see every day.

We have a lot of room to grow. We need to make sure our soil is fertile, we need to tend the perennials we have, and plant new seeds, as well. Individually as members and together as a church, we should bear the fruit of the Spirit at work in us. We could toil endlessly in vain, but if we heed the direction of the Master Gardener, then we, too, can watch with delight to see what blooms and grows here in our church and beyond.

*God, bless your church with life! May all our branches thrive,  
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.  
From you, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;  
Sustain us in our mission, Lord, your love and peace to show.*

- John A. Dalles, "God Bless Your Church With Strength" (PH #418)

Grace and Peace,

*Stephanie and Andy*

## *Grace Notes*

This month we celebrate communion on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. This is indeed a joyful celebration, where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the very thing that makes it possible for all of us today to gather at the table, to be united as one body, and to experience with full confidence and assurance the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that our Savior prepares, where all are invited guests of the risen Christ.

In the early church, it became the custom for new converts to join the church on Easter, after an intense time of preparation. For months, and sometimes years, catechumens (candidates for membership) studied the Scriptures, and learned how God had been at work in the world since the beginning of creation. They learned about Jesus' ministry, life, death, and resurrection. They learned what it meant to follow The Way, to be a disciple of Christ. The season of Lent was a particularly intensive time of preparation, reflection, and discipline, and it all led to the joyful celebration of salvation, redemption, and reconciliation. Catechumens were baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and then the whole community together would celebrate the Lord's Supper, reconciled to God and each other through the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate communion this Easter Sunday, may it be just as joyful a meal. Let us give thanks for Jesus Christ, for the redemption and salvation that we are promised, and look ahead to the day when we will join with God's children of every time and place at the great banquet of the Lord.

Do you have questions about our Sacramental theology or practice? Questions about Baptism or the Lord's Supper? Pass those along, and we can answer them here.

## *Holy Week and Easter*

Our church is hosting midday services, sponsored by the Mercer County Ministerial Association, March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon each day. A light lunch will follow downstairs in the fellowship hall. We encourage you to attend all of these services! If you are able to volunteer to host in the fellowship hall, contact Mary Weber. If you can help usher and greet visitors during the week, talk to Doug Ferguson or Henry Grall. Stephanie is preaching on Tuesday, and our church will be responsible for bringing sandwiches and desserts. If you can help, talk to Mary.

We are also joining with Burgin Christian Church (BCC), Harrodsburg Christian Church (HCC), and Harrodsburg United Methodist Church (HUMC) for other special services. Wednesday night we will have our final service of Taize worship at 7pm in our sanctuary. Thursday night we will have a Maundy Thursday Agape Feast at BCC, starting at 6:30. This service will take place around dinner tables, where we will eat, worship, and discuss together the commandments Jesus gave his disciples. You can meet us in Burgin, or meet at our church, and we will leave at 6pm to travel over together. Friday evening we will have a Tenebrae Good Friday service at HUMC, starting at 6:30 (note the change in time from 7pm). This is the most sober of all services, ended in darkness and silence. Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have the annual Easter Egg hunt on the lawn of the Academy at 2pm. We will join with these churches again for a sunrise Easter service on Sunday morning at 7am at Ft. Harrod State Park (note the change in location from Old Mud). Immediately following the service, we will all return to our church for Easter breakfast.

Our Easter Breakfast will be potluck style, as usual. We will provide drinks. There is a sign up sheet in the Sanctuary for other food items. We will also put together the flower cross, so don't forget your flowers! Breakfast will be served starting around 7:30am, through 9:30am, at which point Sunday school will begin. There will be Sunday school options for all ages, and we invite all to come and join in, even if you do not regularly attend Sunday school. Our regular Easter service will begin at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.

Remember that Easter is often a time when those who aren't regularly in church come to church, so please invite all of your friends, neighbors, church members who you have missed seeing, and anyone else you can think of to any and all of these events and worship services. In a world full of so many problems, we all need to hear the Good News. Also, let us all reach out in welcome and hospitality to all!

## *Presbyterian Women*

The Kate Riker Circle will meet Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. They will be studying Lesson 8 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua. The evening circle will meet on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Ladies' Parlor, and will study Lesson 7 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua.

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond. The featured speaker/song leader is Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, OH. She was the song leader at the Triennial Gathering last summer. Registration is \$10 per person, and we need to send our registration in before the event. Talk to Margaret Knapp to sign up, or call the church office with questions.

The Triennial Gathering for the Synod of Living Waters Presbyterian Women will be June 3-5<sup>th</sup> in Huntsville, Alabama. A brochure is available at [http://www.pwslivingwaters.org/files/Triennial\\_Gathering\\_2.pdf](http://www.pwslivingwaters.org/files/Triennial_Gathering_2.pdf), including registration information. All women are invited and encouraged to attend. The cost is \$115 per person before May 15<sup>th</sup> or \$125 after, which includes conference fees and catered lunches and dinners during the conference. Lodging and breakfast are on your own. If you have any questions, talk to Mary Weber.

### *Session Notes*

If you have questions or comments about any church business, you can always approach an Elder, or talk specifically to the Committee involved. If you are interested in getting involved on a Committee, please talk to the Committee Chair.

#### Session Committees and Chairs:

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Christian Education:     | Nadine White                   |
| Hospitality:             | Sue Saufley Sullivan           |
| Mission:                 | Carrie Shewmaker               |
| Nominating:              | Doug Ferguson                  |
| Outreach:                | Lee Russell                    |
| Personnel:               | David Weber (Clerk of Session) |
| Property:                | Harry Woodard                  |
| Stewardship and Finance: | Henry Grall                    |
| Worship:                 | David Bradshaw                 |

### *Safe Place Policy*

If you need to be trained and certified to work with youth, please let us know. We will be scheduling a make-up training for those who were unable to make it.

All children (anyone under the age of 18) who participate regularly in our activities, Sunday school, etc... must have a Child Information Sheet on file with the church office, including an Emergency Medical Form and Permission to Administer Medicine, if applicable. Forms must be on file before children or youth can participate in an overnight event (such as the upcoming Lock-In) or any event off church property (such as the upcoming youth Mission Trip). Forms are available in the church office, in the back of the Sanctuary, and online, and will be stored securely once they are completed. In addition, all parents must also read the Safe Place policy and sign an acknowledgement of receipt.

The purpose of the Safe Place policy is first and foremost to insure that our church is a safe and nurturing environment for all of God's children, especially for those under the age of 18. The policy also helps to raise awareness about potential areas of concern, and we hope that all church members take time to read through the policy. Members of the Safe Place Team for 2010 are: Nadine White, Harry Woodard, David Weber, Stephanie Wing, and Crystal Nichols.

### *COMMITTEES*

#### **Christian Education**

#### **Lock-In at the Church**

There will be a Lock-In at the church for youth Grades 3 and up. We will start at 7:30pm on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and end at 8:30am on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Guests are very welcome, but ALL youth under the age of 18 must have a completed Child Information Sheet in order to participate. Contact Andy with questions, or if you would like to help out in any way. All help is also welcome!

#### **Offering**

We will start collecting an offering in the elementary and Youth Sunday school classes. Even if it is a

nickel or dime each week, this helps our children learn about the importance of giving to God in a planned and regular way.

### **Youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade through High School)**

The Youth Sunday school class is starting a new curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit. This curriculum is based on the readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, which Stephanie and Andy usually follow for preaching and Sunday worship, and it incorporates different learning elements. We are excited to have this new resource!

There will be a Youth Mission trip to Chattanooga, TN this summer, July 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. We will leave Sunday after church and return Friday. We have already sent in a deposit to secure our spots, but if there are other youth who will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall of 2010 who would like to join us, we want to make sure to include them! Contact Andy as soon as possible for details. We will be going with an organization called YouthWorks, which coordinates all of the worksites, activities, food, lodging, and devotions throughout the week. There will be other youth groups participating at the same time, so it will be a good opportunity to meet new people and better get to know members of our group, as well.

### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

The Thoughtful Christian Class meets at 9:30am in the Ladies Parlor. All studies are available for download and reading online at <http://defaoite.us/UPCWeb/Index.htm>. Whether or not you have a chance to look at the study in advance, we welcome any and all to join in the discussions on Sunday mornings.

The “Stage Class” meets in the classroom adjacent the Fellowship Hall in the Basement, using “The Present Word” as its curriculum. The Spring study looks at the books of Ruth, Jonah, the teachings of Jesus, and some stories of the early church to demonstrate how the community comes together in response to God’s will.

### **New Sunday School Policies**

The Christian Education Committee has made our Sunday School program one of our top priorities this year. The committee feels that an organized, well run program is essential for growth. The Committee proposed, and the Session adopted, new policies for our program. These policies are outlined below. If you have any questions, talk to the Christian Education Committee.

- 1. All classes use an approved curriculum.** Our adult classes are currently using *The Thoughtful Christian* and *The Present Word*. The elementary class is using a Bible story book and handouts. The Youth have just started using *Seasons of the Spirit*.
- 2. All classes begin at the same time.** A 9:30 a.m. start time allows adequate time for Sunday School Class. By having all classes begin at 9:30 a.m. no one is left waiting 15 minutes for their class to begin, and children are not left unsupervised in the church, in accordance with our Safe Place Policies.
- 3. The Christian Education Chair should be notified if a teacher is unable to teach on a particular Sunday morning.** Having one person obtain all substitute teachers will prevent some from being over-used and insure that those obtained for youth classes have been through the proper Safe Place Training. Twenty-four hour notice should be given when possible. Nadine can be reached at 859-325-5050.
- 4. All classes should collect a Sunday School Offering.** Even giving a nickel or a dime is acceptable and it starts a habit of giving early.
- 5. We would like all Sunday School Teachers to be included on the Christian Education Committee.**
- 6. Training for Sunday School Teachers should be available if they desire it.** There is an excellent training program available online at no cost to our members for any who would like to take advantage of

it. Training can be done individually or in a learning group organized through the Christian Education Committee.

### **Save the Date – Back to School Festival!**

We will have a Back to School Festival on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, here at the church. Proceeds will help fund mission projects. Watch for more details, but mark your calendar now! You won't want to miss this event.

### **Hospitality**

The Hospitality Committee is planning another Dinner Theater/Talent Show evening! Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> we will have dinner at the church, and we need YOUR talent! Watch the bulletin and May newsletter for more details, but for now, save the date, and start working on your talents!

Also, save the date for the Annual Early 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic! We will start the festivities at 6pm on Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Music will be provided by Andy Alexander and the Young at Heart band. Make plans now to join us on the lawn.

Thanks to all who came and participated in the Pot Luck Lunch and Bible Trivia. It was a close race, but the Stars of David (David and Mary Weber, Jane Adrian, and Jo Holbrook) narrowly beat out the other teams. Congratulations, and watch out for the rematch!

### **Mission**

On Easter Sunday we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. For more information, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/>.

### **Outreach**

Do you need a ride to church? Know of anyone else who does? We would like to start using the church van to pick up members who need a ride on Sunday mornings. Please help us by letting us know if you need a ride, or if you know of someone else who might. We are also interested in having a list of individuals who would be willing to drive the van on some Sunday mornings. Please contact Lee Russell or the church office for more information.

The World Equestrian Games are coming! Do you have ideas for ways that we can welcome visitors from all over the world into our church during the games? We need your creativity! Talk to Lee Russell for more information.

The Outreach committee is hard at work expanding our outreach to current active and inactive members, to get word out in the community as to what we are doing as a church, and to help develop our church membership. If you have suggestions or would like to get more involved, talk to Lee Russell.

### **Property**

The Property Committee has been hard at work on many things. Perhaps most noticeably, the nursery and Sunday school classroom downstairs have received a total facelift! Plaster has been repaired, fresh paint has been applied, and new carpet will be going into the nursery. Thanks to all who came, scraped, painted, and worked hard to get those rooms in top shape.

The Property Committee has scheduled a Work Day at the church and Academy for Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We need all hands on deck to do some spring cleaning, yard work, and other projects that have been waiting for

better weather. See Butch with any questions.

## **Stewardship and Finance**

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is hard at work, focusing on many different aspects of our budget and stewardship in the church. One of those new developments will be establishing a sub-committee to oversee the Memorial Trust Fund. Watch for more exciting things to come from this committee in the coming months!

### *Other Items*

#### **Presbytery Meeting**

The first stated Presbytery meeting of 2010 was held Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10am at Beaumont Presbyterian Church in Lexington. Elder Henry Grall served as the Elder Commissioner with Morgan Lewis as alternate. Doug Ferguson was also in attendance for the special presentation on Stewardship. The worship and the presentation on Stewardship were inspiring and informative, and you will see some of what we learned in the next few months.

The Presbytery also discussed moving to a "Mobile Office" setup rather than maintaining a large physical office in Lexington. The idea was discussed, and feedback was offered at the meeting. For more details on what this would look like, go to the Presbytery of Transylvania Website, <http://www.transyby.org/article232553c3286707.htm>.

All Presbytery meetings will now have a special focus designed to equip churches in areas of common need. June 26<sup>th</sup>, the focus will be on Technology, and the meeting will be at 1pm in Corbin. Lee Russell is the Elder Commissioner, and Nadine White is the Alternate. The September 17-18<sup>th</sup> meeting (location TBA) will have a focus on Hospitality and Church Growth. The Elder Commissioner is Jean Buchanan and alternate is Lee Russell. The December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Mt. Sterling, and the focus will be worship. Doug Ferguson is the Elder Commissioner. If you are interested in any of these topics, we would love to have you come to the Presbytery meeting. Talk to Andy, Stephanie, or any of the Elder Commissioners.

#### **Communication**

Have you moved? Do you have a new address, phone number or email address? Keep us posted! It has come to our attention that some mailings have not been received by all of our members. If you suspect that postal mail or email are not reaching you from the church, please call the church office during regular office hours so that we can address the issue. Thanks for your patience!

We currently have 3 methods of distribution for the newsletter. The newsletter is always posted online, with emails sent out letting subscribers know when the new edition is available. We also have hard copies available for pickup at the back of the Sanctuary. This allows members to continue to receive a paper newsletter, but helps to save on postage. The third option is regular 1<sup>st</sup> Class mail delivery. If you would like to change your method of receiving the newsletter at any time, simply call Bobbi in the church office.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, just send us an email at [upcharrodsburg@bellsouth.net](mailto:upcharrodsburg@bellsouth.net), and we will add you to the email list.

### *Celebrations for April 2009*

#### *Birthdays*

|   |                    |    |                 |    |                       |
|---|--------------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------------|
| 5 | Helen Dedman       | 11 | Kathy Mattox    | 17 | Margaret Knapp        |
| 7 | Mattie Cammack     | 11 | Clinton Woodard | 23 | Mary Mitchell Gravely |
| 7 | Nadine White       | 11 | Gordon Woodard  | 24 | Richard Selleck       |
| 8 | Icie Leonard       | 13 | Susan Shewmaker | 25 | David Weber           |
| 8 | David Shewmaker    | 14 | Lisa Graham     | 28 | Nancy Lively          |
| 9 | Sara Delaney Smith | 14 | Doug Ferguson   | 30 | Charles McDermitt     |

#### *Anniversaries*

|   |                             |    |                       |
|---|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 4 | Harry (Butch) & Jan Woodard | 16 | John & Mary Nicholson |
| 5 | Chuck & Helen Dedman        | 20 | Jim & Jennifer Baxter |

## *Calendar at a Glance for April 2010*

- April 1                    12 noon Community Holy Week Service and Lunch at UPC  
6:30pm Maundy Thursday Agape Feast at Burgin Christian Church
- April 2                    12 noon Community Holy Week Service and Lunch at UPC  
6:30pm Tenebrae Good Friday Service at United Methodist Church
- April 3                    2pm Easter Egg hunt on the Academy lawn
- April 4                    7am Easter Sunrise Service at Fort Harrod  
7:30-9:30 Easter Breakfast at UPC  
Easter Worship – Communion – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
7:30pm Lock-In at the church for youth Grades 3 and up – will end at 8:30am
- April 5                    8:30am Youth leave Lock-In  
10:30 Kate Riker Circle  
6:30 Property Committee Meeting
- April 6                    5:30 Outreach Committee Meeting  
6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting
- April 8                    6:30 Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting
- April 12                   7pm Evening Circle
- April 14                   9am-3pm Woman to Woman Health Fair at the Mercer County Health Department  
Free screenings include: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, height, weight, bone density scan, derma-view, smoking cessation, nutrition, and more.
- April 18                   Morning Worship - Communion
- April 24                   10am Work Day and Spring Cleaning
- April 25                   Morning Worship – Hunger Offering  
2pm Session – (Note: Session has changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday only for April)

*Revs. Andy and Stephanie Wing – Co-Pastors*

(859) 734-4710

|                 |                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Choir/Organist: | Susan Shewmaker | Thoughtful Christian Class @ 9:30 |
| Secretary:      | Bobbi Rightmyer | Sunday School @ 9:30              |
| Nursery:        | Dorothy Shuman  | Present Word Class @ 9:45 am      |
| Treasurer:      | Pat Alexander   | Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:45 am |
| Custodian:      | J. L. Devine    | Wed. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 pm   |

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United Presbyterian Church  
326 S. Main Street  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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*Lectionary Readings for April 2010*

Henry Grall– Elder Host

**April 4, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

**I Corinthians 15:19-26 and Luke 24:13-49**

**April 11, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 118:14-29**

**Acts 5:27-32**

**Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31**

**April 18, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 30**

**Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)**

**Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:1-19**

**April 25, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 23**

**Acts 9:36-43**

**Revelation 7:9-17 and John 10:22-30**