



*GOOD NEWS*  
*January 2010*  
*United Presbyterian Church*  
*Harrodsburg, KY 40330*

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Welcome to the year 2010! When I was in elementary school, once a year we used to file into the gym to have our vision and hearing checked. Throughout elementary school my vision was right around 20/20 (though it went sharply south soon after that!), but I remember one boy in my class bragging that his vision was 20/10 – better than perfect! When I think of the year 2010, that story comes to mind.

Vision is central in our lives, and in Scripture. In 1 Samuel 3:1b-3a, we read: “The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out...” This is the beginning of the story of God’s call to Samuel, the prophet and priest who guides Israel through the transition from the period of tribal identity and rule by judges to a unified kingdom ruled by monarchy, anointing both Saul and David as kings. The context into which he enters as leader is a grim one; it seems that God is silent. Even Eli, then high priest, has lost his vision – literally and figuratively. And yet, “the lamp of God had not yet gone out.”

God’s lamp continues to burn today, more than 3000 years later. If we rely on our own eyesight for vision, it will fail us. We might be discouraged by what we see or by what we don’t see. We might feel overwhelmed by the task of ministry in light of the needs that surround us. We might feel helpless to meet those needs in light of our own limited resources. But time and time again, we see in Scripture that true vision comes only from God.

As we enter a new year at United Presbyterian Church, let us pray for God’s vision for this church and our ministry. May our eyes be opened to the needs around us, and our hearts opened to be transformed and used for ministry to God’s glory. Let us pray for better than perfect vision – not just 20/10 eyesight, but vision that comes only from the Light of the World.

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Grace and Peace,  
Stephanie and Andy

## Grace Notes

### **What is Communion?**

“The Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. . . . [It is] a participation in Christ and with one another in the expectation of the Kingdom and as a foretaste of the messianic banquet.”<sup>1</sup> Literally, Eucharist derives from the Greek word for Thanksgiving, and it is perhaps the most ecumenical term for the Sacrament. “The name ‘Lord’s Supper’ evokes the sense of koinonia (fellowship), enjoyed by the people of God . . . as they gather at Table with Christ, their host. The words “Holy Communion” accent the congregation’s intimate spiritual relation with the Christ whose presence is given in the Sacrament.”<sup>2</sup>

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.

## Presbyterian Women

The Kate Riker Circle will meet Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. They will be studying Lesson 5 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua. The evening circle will meet on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Ladies’ Parlor, and will study Lesson 5 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua. There are still copies of this study available in the church office for purchase (\$6 each).

Margaret Knapp and Lee C. Russell attended a Taize’ Service at Wilmore Presbyterian Church on October 25, 2009. The candle-lit service of music, scripture, and meditation in the lovely old sanctuary was relaxing and inspirational. It is to be noted that other area churches also are including this service in their regular calendar. The half-hour service was an opportunity to leave the stressed world outside as we shared prayer and fellowship in the reverent atmosphere.

## Session Notes

We would like to offer a special thanks to our outgoing Elders: Howard Howells, Sr, Irene Mitchell, and Gwen Wickliffe. These three have served with exceptional energy, intelligence, and imagination, and we are grateful for their years of service. We are also grateful to Elder David Bradshaw, who will continue for a second term of active service through the class of 2012.

On Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will ordain to the office of Elder Mary Baxter, Morgan Lewis, and Crystal Nichols, and install Mary, Morgan, Crystal and David Bradshaw as Elders of the Class of 2012.

The Session will gather on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> for a day-long retreat and meeting. We will meet at Aspen Hall at 9am. We will not meet on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Christian Education

### **Children and Youth**

Check out the 2010 Camp and Retreat Schedule from Camp Burnamwood, posted on the bulletin board to the left of the church office. There are weekend retreats throughout the Spring as well as week-long retreats and camps during the summer. Scholarships are available to cover half of the registration fee from the Jan Hylen fund.

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

Stephanie will lead the Youth Sunday School class for the month of January. We will be looking at the themes of worship and prayer. Why do we do what we do? What does our worship mean? How are we to pray? Don’t miss it!

We will have another 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Celebration this month, on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars now for a movie and discussion. All youth, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older, are encouraged to attend and bring friends.

We are currently organizing a Youth Mission Trip for this summer for Middle School and High School youth. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details!

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order*; Copyright 2007, W-2.4000.

<sup>2</sup> Peter C. Bower, editor. *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003), p.35

## **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 authors of the student book for the Winter Quarter include some familiar names – Sheldon Sorge and Stephanie and Andy Wing!

## ***Living Wills***

Rev. Beth Mosier Silence, who was a guest preacher in May, will be coming to lead a workshop on living wills and directives for anyone interested. Many of us know the importance of letting our friends and loved ones know our wishes in cases of medical crisis, but there is no substitute for a written living will. Watch the bulletin for more details on the scheduling of this workshop.

## ***Christian Education and Young Adult Surveys***

We have two surveys online – one for all young adults/adults regarding Bible studies, classes, and other activities at church, and the other geared specifically towards young adults. We would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to fill out either or both of these surveys (both 10 questions or under). If you know of young adults that are not active in church anywhere or sometimes active here or elsewhere, please encourage them to fill out this survey, as well! For the Christian Education Survey, go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=PFd\\_2bnQYMea6dXOjrJu\\_2f3IA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=PFd_2bnQYMea6dXOjrJu_2f3IA_3d_3d), and for the young adult survey, go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2BTJMd8BlvHV7GPQ0rJWeQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2BTJMd8BlvHV7GPQ0rJWeQ_3d_3d). Thanks for your help!

## ***Stewardship and Finance***

### **Special Offerings this Month**

This month we will collect the Hunger Offering as usual on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (January 24<sup>th</sup>). The Hunger Offering is sent to the Presbytery for hunger relief work. We also collect food donations throughout the month for the Christian Life Center food pantry, benefiting individuals in our local community. We will also collect our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering for Bellewood and Buckhorn on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Living Waters Fundraiser**

The Synod of Living Waters has a well-established mission, Living Waters for the World, which trains mission teams to install drinking water filtration systems in areas where clean drinking water is not accessible. Most of this work has happened in developing countries, but they have also been expanding to provide home units in some areas of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. The Session has approved a new fundraising project to begin raising money so that we can fund a team and an installation project in Appalachia in the future. Mary Weber has already raised several hundred dollars for a local installation through the sale of her necklaces, in addition to the thousand of dollars raised and still being raised for the Synod-wide project. If you would like more information about this, please contact Mary Weber, and keep an eye on the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Day of Prayer**

As part of a statewide day of Prayer, the Mercer County Ministerial Association is organizing a 24-hour day of prayer here in Mercer County. Churches across the county will join in praying together from 6am Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> until 6am Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Session has offered to host an hour of prayer here from 1pm to 2pm on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. As Presbyterians we don't often spend a whole hour in prayer all at once – especially not in the gathered body, so this is a wonderful opportunity to do just that. Please join us if you are able as we enter into a time of prayer together. Any and all are welcome to come!

## **Congregational Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Congregation will take place after worship on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. We will review the Annual Report, hear from each of our committees, and elect new members to the Nominating Committee and Foundation Board. All reports need to be submitted to the Church Office by January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Have you moved? Do you have a new address, phone number or email address? Keep us posted! 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.

## **Thank You**

We would like to thank the members of the Evangelism and Outreach Committee for their success and hard work during the Church Open House on December 13<sup>th</sup> and thank David Lynn and David Bradshaw for their success and hard work during the Christmas Open House on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

A huge thanks you to Dr. John Hankla for his generous donation to the church. Funds have been dedicated to the purchase of new kitchen appliances for the Fellowship Hall – a dishwasher and a new stove.

## *Calendar at a Glance for January 2010*

|                 |                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 1       | New Year's Day – church office closed                                                                                                              |
| January 3       | Morning Worship - Elder Installation<br>All Committee reports are due                                                                              |
| January 4       | 10:30 Kate Riker Circle<br>6:30 Property Committee Meeting<br>7pm New Elder training                                                               |
| January 9       | Day of Prayer begins at 6am – Session will host an hour of prayer from 1-2pm                                                                       |
| January 10      | 1:15 Worship Committee Meeting                                                                                                                     |
| January 11      | 7pm Evening Circle                                                                                                                                 |
| January 13      | 6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting                                                                                                         |
| January 14      | 6:30 Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting                                                                                                       |
| January 16      | 9am Session Retreat at Aspen Hall                                                                                                                  |
| January 17      | Morning Worship – Communion<br>1:15 Evangelism & Outreach Committee Meeting                                                                        |
| January 18 – 25 | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity                                                                                                                 |
| January 24      | Morning Worship – Hunger Offering                                                                                                                  |
| January 31      | Morning Worship – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering for Bellewood / Buckhorn<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday celebration with Youth – movie and discussion |

### *January Celebrations*

#### *Birthdays*

|   |                  |    |                |    |                     |
|---|------------------|----|----------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Susan Haven      | 10 | Bill Lively    | 19 | Carter Baughman     |
| 3 | Margaret Lynn    | 11 | Wilma Curry    | 20 | Jack Newton         |
| 4 | Mary W. Baxter   | 12 | Dorothy Shuman | 24 | Jason Britton       |
| 9 | Jannette Johnson | 15 | Tom Howells    | 24 | Elizabeth A. Lawson |

#### *Anniversaries*

4 Howard “Buddy” & Kathy Howells

*Revs. Andy & 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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326 S. Main Street  
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*Lectionary Readings for January 2010*

Henry Grall – Elder Host

**January 3, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 147:12-20**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

**Ephesians 1:3-14 and John 1: 10-18**

**January 10, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 29**

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

**Acts 8:14-17 and Luck 3:15-17, 21-22**

**January 17, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 36:5-10**

**Isaiah 62:1-5**

**I Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11**

**January 24, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 19**

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

**I Corinthians 12:12-31 and Luke 4:14-21**

**January 31, 2010**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 71:1-6**

**Jeremiah 1:4-10**

**I Corinthians 13:1-13 and Luke 4:21-30**