



GOOD NEWS
June 2010
United Presbyterian Church
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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How important is worship? Is this a trick question?

The church that I attended in Boston has just over 1200 members, but each week approximately 2200 people worship there. Two traditional morning services are enhanced by a magnificent pipe organ and a large and gifted choir. Two afternoon services are led by a praise band, complete with drums, guitars, and lyrics projected on an overhead screen. Worship in both formats was vibrant and meaningful, and while many people had their preferred service time and style of worship, there is more crossover than one might imagine.

Worship was my lifeline. I desperately needed it each week to feed my spirit and sustain my soul, to ground me in God's presence and Word and carry me through the week, to reorient my focus on Christ, to help me discern my call to mission in the world, and to equip me for that service. I have specific memories of particularly powerful worship services that were healing, transforming, or challenging.

Though our worship at UPC looks quite different, it is our prayer each week that our worship is just as vibrant and meaningful, that the Holy Spirit moves through the gathered body, healing, teaching, transforming, challenging and equipping each of us. Our church has around 140 members, but we have been averaging a little less than half of that in worship each Sunday. Certainly there are reasons for absence – illness, travel, bad weather, or mobility issues, to name a few. According to data from 2006, average attendance for Presbyterian churches is 51% of the membership, with the smallest churches having the highest percentage of members attending weekly (81% for congregations with fewer than 50 members), and the largest churches having the lowest percentage (just under 42% attendance for churches with more than 1600 members).

One thing these numbers *suggest* to me is that corporate worship is not very highly valued as a practice of Christian living and spirituality. But where else can “the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives...respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, ...[be] transformed and renewed...offer themselves to God, and [be] equipped for God's service in the world?”<sup>1</sup> Certainly there are practices and disciplines that we can follow individually, such as private prayer and Bible study, but as our *Book of Order* asserts, “A Christian's *personal* response to God is in community.”<sup>2</sup> As individual Christians, we need to come together for worship. It's that simple.

When you (yes you!) miss worship, we miss you! If there is some way that we can help you get to worship (providing a ride, for example), please call the office and let us know. We don't want you to feel guilty for being gone, but we want you to be here in order to worship God, respond, be transformed and renewed, and equipped for God's service. Worship is formational and transformational for individual Christians and the community of believers, and we don't want anyone to miss out.

This summer, we will be leading a Pastors' Study on Sunday nights at 6pm, and our focus for the study will be worship – what we do, why we do it, and why it matters. We will organize “field trips” to worship in other churches and settings, and we will look at the elements of worship in the Reformed tradition as we seek to deepen our understanding and appreciation of worship. Field trips will be announced in the bulletin and open to all, and we hope to have many people join us in the Sunday night study, too. Until then, we hope to see you in Worship!

*Grace and Peace,*  
*Stephanie and Andy*

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<sup>1</sup> Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order*, Directory for Worship, W-1.1001.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, W-1.1005, emphasis added.

## *Grace Notes*

This month we celebrate communion on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. After the weeks of Lent and the Easter season, we are back in “Ordinary Time,” according to the church calendar. Ordinary time continues through to Advent, interrupted only by the final Sunday of the Christian year, “Reign of Christ” Sunday. During this Ordinary time we will go back to celebrating communion on the third Sunday of the month, except for October and November, when we will celebrate communion on World Communion Sunday (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) and on “Reign of Christ” Sunday (November 21<sup>st</sup>). Though “ordinary” in time, worship and communion are anything but “ordinary,” for through them, we experience the very presence of God, a mystery that should remain extraordinary and transformational, no matter how often we do it.

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.

## *Introducing our Seminary Intern!*

We are pleased to welcome Ashley Drake as our Seminary Intern for the summer. Ashley brings great enthusiasm and experience. She just completed her first semester at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Before coming to Louisville, Ashley served as a Young Adult Volunteer through the PC(USA) in Ghana, Africa, and she also worked with the American Red Cross in San Antonio, and served as Interim Middle School Youth Director at First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio. Ashley is a graduate Trinity University in San Antonio, and she is an Inquirer for Ministry under care of Mission Presbytery. Ashley grew up in Danville, and is excited to be back in this area for the summer. She and her family enjoy eating regularly at the Bus Station, and on Sundays they often go to Cloud’s, so chances are, you’ve already seen her around!

Ashley has worshiped and worked in medium and large-sized churches, but she is particularly interested in working in our small church. She will be working with our youth teaching Sunday school each week. She is also interested in congregational care, outreach, and mission, so she will be doing some of all of that during her time with us this summer. She is already looking into Mission opportunities in the Nashville area following last month’s flooding. We are excited to welcome Ashley into our congregation and we look forward to the gifts that she will bring. This is also a great opportunity for our church to expand our educational mission as we provide nurture and a training ground for this budding church leader.

## *Presbyterian Women*

The Kate Riker Circle is on summer break and will resume meeting in September with continued leadership from Jane Adrian, Moderator, Ruth Young, Secretary, and Pat Alexander, Treasurer. The evening women’s study will gather for one final meeting in June to finish the Joshua study and make plans for the fall. Please watch the bulletin for further details.

The Triennial Gathering for the Synod of Living Waters Presbyterian Women will be June 3-5<sup>th</sup> in Huntsville, Alabama. At this gathering, Mary Weber will conclude her 3-year term of service as moderator of the Synod PW. We celebrate Mary’s offering of time, talent, and treasure as she has served faithfully and ably in this position. 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 \$125 per person, 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 Church*

If you need to be trained and certified to work with youth, please let us know. 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 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.

## *Christian Education*

### **New Pastors' Study This Summer**

The co-pastors will lead a study on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm, starting Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the study will be Worship. In conjunction with the class, we will organize some "field trips" to go worship in some other churches and locations. These "field trips" will be announced in the bulletin and will be open to anyone interested in going.

### **Burnamwood is Calling!**

Camp Burnamwood has a full schedule of conferences and retreats this summer for children and youth from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through Senior High. There is also a "Mother/Daughter Camp" scheduled for July 10-11 for mothers and daughters of all ages. The church provides 50% scholarships for youth to go to camps or conferences at Burnamwood through the Jan Hylen Youth Fund. A complete schedule is on the pastors' office door, or available online at <http://www.burnamwood.net/rates10.htm>.

### **Offering**

As a reminder, we are 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 will continue to use the curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit, through the summer. Our Seminary Intern, Ashley Drake, will be leading the Sunday school class. 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. As a reminder, Sunday school starts at 9:30am and ends with the 10:30am second bell.

## *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 Summer study starts June 6<sup>th</sup>, and the theme is "Christian Commitment in Today's World." In June, the studies will focus on 1 Thessalonians; July's studies will add 2 Thessalonians. In August, the study focuses on Philippians and wraps up with a passage from the book of Acts.

## **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 annual Early 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic will be held on Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. Bring a dessert or side dish to share, and invite your friends and neighbors! We will enjoy music from the Young at Heart band, featuring our own Andy Alexander. Make plans now to be there!

When you are downstairs, take a look at the dishwashers and range. Much research was done before purchasing to insure their energy saving efficiency and safety of the dishes while staying within the budget. We are grateful to have these appliances and wish to thank our benefactor, Dr. Hankla, as well as Butch Woodard and John Voll and his staff for their expertise in installation. Many thanks!

## **Outreach**

We will have a casual cookout in honor of our neighbors at the Academy, and to get to know them better! Feel free to stop by the Academy lawn at 6pm on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, to get to know our neighbors better.

The Outreach Committee wants to help make us a more welcoming church! Each month we will share a few tips from "Being a Welcoming Church," a document produced through the Evangelism and Church Development area of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

- As part of your preparation for worship, pray for God's guidance in extended the gift of hospitality to visitors.
- Remember that a few moments spent with a visitor may be a turning point in that person's life.
- Let your faith and joy of being part of the congregation show!

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.

## **Stewardship and Finance**

Do you ever wish you could get a better handle on your household finances? Coming this fall, we will be starting a 13-week "Financial Peace University," a program designed to help singles, couples, or families get out of debt and become better financial managers. Jesus spoke more about money and possessions than about any other issue except for the Kingdom of Heaven. Money is not just a material issue, but a spiritual one. The cost for participants is \$100 per family, and for that you receive a Financial Peace University workbook, audio CDs with all 13 lessons, budgeting forms, and other materials. This is a 50% savings from the regular cost. The class will start in September and run through the first week of December. Free "preview" classes will be held on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm, and on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We would like to open this event to the entire community, so please invite anyone to sign up or attend one of the preview sessions. If you would

like to go ahead and sign up now, contact the church office.

The \$100 fee might seem prohibitive, but if you set aside \$1.09 a day in June, July, and August, you can get there. On average, families in the program reduce their debt by \$5,300 and save \$2,700 in just 91 days. That's an \$8,000 turnaround! Contact Stephanie, Andy, or any of the members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee for more information. Class schedules will be set based on those who register for the class.

### **The Jan Hulen Fund**

We are very grateful for those who have contributed to the Jan Hulen Fund for youth, a special designated fund that supports our Youth programs that are beyond the church's budget. Funds are being used to support the mission trip this summer to Chattanooga, scholarships for church children to attend Camp Burnamwood, and the stipend that Ashley will receive for her work this summer. We would especially like to remember the generosity of Emma Rogers, Joe Gill's sister, for her estate gift of \$5000 to this fund, as well as Alec Russell for a recent monetary gift as well lawn care services in order to continue to build this fund.

### **Other Items** **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.

### **Presbytery Meeting**

The second stated Presbytery meeting of 2010 will be Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm at First Presbyterian, Corbin. Elder Lee Russell is the Elder Commissioner and Nadine White is the alternate. This meeting will have a special focus on Technology, and the Presbytery is encouraging visitors to attend. If you are interested in going to the meeting, please call the church office.

**ANNUAL EARLY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC!**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2010**  
**6:00PM ON THE ACADEMY LAWN**



Bring your side dish or dessert to share. Meat and drinks will be provided, along with music from Andy Alexander and the "Young at Heart" band! You won't want to miss it! Invite your friends and neighbors.

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

(859) 734-4710

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|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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   |
| Seminary Intern: | Ashley Drake    |                                   |