

*GOOD NEWS - April 2009*  
*United Presbyterian Church*  
*Harrodsburg, KY 40330*

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As we ponder what is happening in the life of our congregation now, we cannot ignore the recent number of our members and friends who have passed away from this life into everlasting life in Jesus Christ. Our hearts are heavy with those who grieve for:

Betty "Boo" Coleman Cole, d. February 25<sup>th</sup>; Hugh Dorsey (Nancy Lively's brother), d. March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Judy Lay, d. March 7<sup>th</sup>, Clyde Little, d. March 17<sup>th</sup>, Marti Will, d. March 19<sup>th</sup>, and Emma Rogers (Joe Gill's sister), d. March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Even as we write this list, there are certainly others close to us who have passed on, and others yet who continue to struggle with serious health issues.

We long for the vision given us in the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of the book of Revelation:

*"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." Rev. 21:3b-4*

This has all been during the course of the liturgical season of Lent. In our Lenten Bible Study, we have been looking at what it means to be alive in Jesus Christ through the lens of Baptism. In each of the Memorial Services or Committal Services that we have done, we celebrate that the deceased's baptism is now complete in death. What a thought! Our rhythm of life ebbs and flows with the waters of Baptism. And now, as we look forward to Easter Sunday and the Joy of Resurrection, which we will celebrate in just less than two weeks, we also celebrate the promise of resurrection and eternal life that we have through the work of Jesus Christ.

As we read in Romans:

*When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:3-5*

This good news of new life is promised to all of us! It is not something that we have to wait for until after we die. Because of God's love for us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are promised new life in Jesus Christ. Living with Christ means living into a new identity, and living into the life-giving transformation that the Holy Spirit continues to work in our lives.

It has been a long and difficult winter. Everyday it seems there is more evidence of the deepening economic recession, touching our lives in ways expected and unexpected. We are touched by increasing needs – economic, physical, material, and spiritual. We are all in need of some new life and transformation – individually, as a church, as a community, a nation, and a world. Our prayer is that as we gather together in worship and community in this particular place, that this will be a place where the Holy Spirit blows wildly through us, breathing into us new life, filling us with hope, and sending us out into the community and beyond with a message of resurrection hope and new life in Jesus Christ.

*Easter Blessings,*  
*Stephanie and Andy*

## Stewardship

Some years ago, we would do an every member canvass during stewardship month. One of my assignments was Miss Lilly Hunter. She looked and pointed at me and said,

“Young man, you do not need to visit me. I give more than 10%. I give until it hurts and God seems to always take care of me.”

I have not executed my stewardship as well as Miss Lilly, but I keep getting closer to that 10%. I do much better with raises in social security and second stimulus funds.

*Henry Grall*

## Holy Week Services

Holy Week Services: The Mercer County Ministerial Association will host Holy Week services at noon April 6<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup> at Harrodsburg Baptist Church. A light lunch will be available following each service. Leadership will be shared with a number of churches. Andy and Stephanie are providing the message and liturgy for Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Please join us if you are able.

This year we are joining with St. Philip's Episcopal Church for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Both will take place at St. Philip's at 6:30 pm (April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>). This will be a very special way to remember the days leading up to and including the crucifixion, to reflect upon Jesus' death on the cross, and to prepare for the joy of Easter resurrection. We hope many of you can join us.

## April Phone Challenge

This month we challenge you to think of people you know who don't go to church anywhere, and invite them to come for our “special” services in April! Many who don't normally come to church are more likely to come on Easter Sunday, so let's invite them to come back the following week, too.

Every Sunday is Special in April!

We know that Easter is a particularly special Sunday and worship service for many people, but here are some of the other “special” Sundays to look forward to this month in church:

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday. We will have palms ready for waving.

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday and our annual Easter Brunch. Please see the bulletin or call the church for more details.

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday, with special participation from our Children! Our kids have been working on a song to sing for the congregation, and they will be taking part in the service in other special ways. Please encourage all children of the church to come for this special Sunday!

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Guest preacher, TBA. We will also collect the Hunger Offering.

## *Christian Education*

The Christian Education Committee wants your input! What kind of Christian Education classes or offerings would you like to see offered, and at what times? Are you interested in joining with others in study or fellowship? We are in need of leaders who are willing to facilitate classes for all age groups – no experience necessary! We can help provide guidance and materials. Help us strengthen this area of our church's ministry, and deepen your own spiritual practices in the process. In the words of Home Depot, "You can do it; we can help." If you are interested, talk to Irene Mitchell, Lee Russell, Andy or Stephanie Wing, or contact the church office. The next Christian Education Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the church. This is open to everyone. If you have ideas or just want to hear what is going on, please join us.

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hung on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, and the Easter Brunch on Easter Sunday. **We need your help!** If you can help in any way with either of these events, please contact Lee Russell.

Also, a reminder to everyone about Easter Sunday: Please remember to bring your flowers on Easter morning to place in the Easter cross we will be making during the brunch!

Are you interested in joining the church? We would like to start an Adult New Members class this spring. If interested, please contact Stephanie or Andy at the church office or by emailing us at [upcpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:upcpastor@bellsouth.net). Let us know what days and times work best or don't work at all for you.

We invite you to continue to share your testimony in story by submitting stories to the church office. More importantly, we invite you to share your testimony with friends, family members, current and former church members, or those who have never been in the church at all. In our lives of uncertainty, the church offers a message of hope eternal. There is a place for everyone here, from "cradle" Presbyterians to "un-churched" seekers with more questions and doubts than answers. The Good News of the Gospel still changes lives, and seems even more relevant today than it did thousands of years ago. Let's not keep it to ourselves!

Congratulations to Jackie Lindberg, winner of our first annual Chili Cook-Off! After the heat from the chili, the ping-pong tournament really heated up. Rev. Andy Wing was disqualified from the championship game versus Alex Prigmore because of Session responsibilities, but there was plenty of talent to go around the room a few times. For those who participated – keep those paddles warm for the next competition!

Are you crafty? There have been suggestions of starting a group of scrapbookers, knitters, or some other handiwork to meet at the church. Do you have skills to share? Would you be willing to gather once a twice a month for something like this? Let us know.

## *What Happened at Presbytery?*

The Presbytery of Transylvania met on March 10<sup>th</sup> in Paris. Doug Ferguson, Lee Russell, and Stephanie and Andy were there representing UPC. At this meeting the Presbytery reviewed and voted on a set of proposed changes to the PC (USA) Constitution coming out of last summer's General Assembly meeting in San Jose. After approval from the GA, the changes must be approved by a majority of the 183 Presbyteries before the changes are made and go into effect. Many of these proposed amendments have already received enough Presbytery votes of support to pass. Others are still pending until the required number of votes is achieved.

One amendment in particular has garnered quite a bit of attention in the media concerning a change in wording to our ordination standards. We have prepared a more complete statement regarding this proposed change which you can access on our website at [http://www.upcharrodsburg.org/?page\\_id=135](http://www.upcharrodsburg.org/?page_id=135). If you would like a copy in print, please contact the church office.

To learn more about these amendments, you can go to <http://www.pcusa.org/generalassembly/amend.htm>, and for an up to date tally on presbytery votes, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/generalassembly/vote08.htm>. Included in these votes are some exciting ecumenical statements between the PC (USA) and the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church, the Korean Presbyterian Church, and the Moravian Church that expand our ecumenical dialogue and unity with the larger body of Christ. We encourage you to learn more! You are welcome to talk to Doug, Lee, Stephanie, or Andy further about any of these issues.

## *Co-Pastor News*

Did you know that Stephanie and Andy spent Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, in Louisville for a day-long training event? We are now certified administrators of the Prepare and Enrich program. PREPARE/ENRICH is a counseling tool for couples of all kinds – dating, engaged, newly married, married for years, step-families, couples with and without children, couples of different faith or cultural backgrounds, etc.... The program involves a customized, comprehensive inventory that is taken by each person, followed by sessions in which we help to interpret the results and build relationship skills. The program focuses on relationship strength areas and identifies areas for growth, using tools to help couples grow in needed areas. If you are interested in going through this program or know of someone who might be, please let us know! You can find more information online at [www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com).

Andy and Stephanie took a few days of Continuing Education to attend a conference at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The theme was “New Ways of Being Church.” Keynote speakers were Diana Butler Bass, Brian McLaren, and Marcus Borg. All three spoke to some of the ways that our culture and society has changed over the past 50 years, and how that has impacted church growth and vitality. Conventional wisdom from the past few decades has seen only decline in mainline churches like ours, and has emphasized the growth of mega-churches of more conservative denominational or non-denominational affiliations.

But that isn't the full story! Real and vital growth can take place in churches just like ours – in numbers, but more importantly, spiritual growth and growth in our ministry. In speaking with many of the members at United Presbyterian Church, there is a strong feeling that we offer an authentic and viable “alternative” for worship and fellowship in our traditional service. New growth can happen here! As we seek to engage intentionally with our tradition, with Scripture, with the Confessions, we can also engage authentically with a changing culture, and the changing needs around us – physical and spiritual. This involves practice, too – including Biblical and theological study, prayer, discernment, service, hospitality, and other practices, and all of this is grounded in and shaped by our worship together. Do you have a vision for our church? Please share it with us! In the next couple of months, we hope to engage in more intentional conversations about God's calling for us as a church.

Andy and Stephanie will be on vacation from April 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>. During this time, if there are any pastoral emergencies, Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon, Pastor of Wilmore Presbyterian Church, will be on call in our absence. She can be reached at the church at 859-858-3074 or on her cell phone at 859-940-1512. Bobbi will be in the office as scheduled, so for general questions please call Bobbi at the church office, 734-4710, or speak with one of the Elders.

### *Raising the Bar*

2008's total giving was \$124,000 to God's work. This is an estimated 7.2% of the member's income. The total giving was approximately 10% greater in 2007. This is “Raising the Bar.” Can we do it again this year? Let's do it!

Thought:

*A penny saved equals 1.2 pennies earned because there is no taxes levied.*

*A penny given is only .8 of a penny because it reduces your taxes.*

Stewardship & Finance Committee

### *Refrigerator Needed*

The Church is in need of a good, used refrigerator for the downstairs kitchen. If you have one you would like to donate to United Presbyterian Church, please contact Gwen Wickliffe, Sue Saufley Sullivan, or the Church Office. We can provide a donation receipt for tax purposes.



## *Calendar at a Glance for April 2009*

- April 1 2:00 pm Lenten Bible Study Group
- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 6 10:30 Kate Riker Circle  
12:00 Community Holy Week services at Harrodsburg Baptist Church (HBC)  
6:30 Property Committee Meeting
- April 7 12:00 Community Holy Week services at HBC  
7:00 Lenten Bible Study Group
- April 8 12:00 Community Holy Week services at HBC – service by Andy and Stephanie  
2:00 Lenten Bible Study Group  
6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting
- April 9 12:00 Community Holy Week services at Harrodsburg Baptist Church  
NO Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting  
6:30 Maundy Thursday at St. Philips Episcopal
- April 10 12:00 Community Holy Week services at Harrodsburg Baptist Church  
6:30 Good Friday services at St. Philips Episcopal
- April 11 Easter Egg Hunt
- April 12 9:00 Easter Sunday Brunch  
Easter Sunday – Communion – One Great Hour of Sharing  
1:15 Worship Committee Meeting
- April 19 Morning Worship – Communion  
1:15 Evangelism & Outreach Committee Meeting  
2:00 Session Meeting
- April 26 Morning Worship – Hunger Offering

## *Celebrations for April 2009*

### *Birthdays*

|   |                    |    |                 |    |                   |
|---|--------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 5 | Helen Dedman       | 11 | Kathy Mattox    | 21 | Clyde Little      |
| 6 | Lee Roy Prewitt    | 11 | Clinton Woodard | 23 | Mary M. Gravely   |
| 7 | Mattie Cammack     | 11 | Gordon Woodard  | 24 | Richard Selleck   |
| 7 | Nadine White       | 13 | Susan Shewmaker | 25 | David Weber       |
| 8 | Icie Leonard       | 14 | Lisa Graham     | 28 | Nancy Lively      |
| 8 | David Shewmaker    | 14 | Doug Ferguson   | 30 | Charles McDermitt |
| 9 | Sara Delaney Smith | 17 | Margaret Knapp  |    |                   |

### *Anniversaries*

|   |                             |    |                       |
|---|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 4 | Harry “Butch” & Jan Woodard | 16 | John & Mary Nicholson |
| 5 | Charles & Helen Dedman      | 20 | Jim & Jennifer Baxter |

Revs. Andy & Stephanie Wing – Co-Pastors  
(859) 734-4710

|                 |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Choir/Organist: | Susan Shewmaker | Sunday School @ 9:30 am              |
| Secretary:      | Bobbi Rightmyer | Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:45 am    |
| Nursery:        | Dorothy Shuman  | Tuesday Lenten Bible Study @ 7:00 pm |
| Treasurer:      | Pat Alexander   | Wed. Lenten Bible Study @ 2:00 pm    |
| 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 2009*

Harry "Butch" Woodard – Elder Host

**April 5, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 118:1 – 2, 19 - 29**

**Isaiah 50:1 – 9a**

**Philemon 2:5 – 11; Mark 14:1 – 15:47**

**April 12, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 118:1 – 2, 14 - 24**

**Isaiah 25:6 - 9**

**Acts 10:34 – 43; John 20:1 – 18; Mark 16:1 - 8**

**April 19, 2009**

Epistle Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 133**

**Acts 4:32 - 35**

**John 1:1 – 2:2; John 20:19 - 31**

**April 26, 2009**

Epistle Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 4**

**Acts 3:12 - 19**

**I John 3:1 – 7; Luke 24:36b - 48**