



GOOD NEWS
October 2009
United Presbyterian Church
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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I recently read an article on pastoral visitation called “Who Else Needs to Hear This?” which gave me the opportunity to reflect on our time with the congregation here in Harrodsburg. During this time, both Stephanie and I have had days when we share with each other, “I just had the most amazing conversation with (name of a congregation member).” There are few things that build us up in our ministry more than hearing the stories of your lives. Upon reflection, we are really honored that you have opened yourselves up to us. One of the most remarkably wonderful things about being a pastor is that people invite us into their lives in ways that few other professions afford. Pastors are there to see the happy new families at the time of the birth of a new baby and leading up to the time of baptism. We get to be there to celebrate with a couple as they prepare to marry. And we have the honor of being there to hear the honest emotions surrounding the death of a loved one. Pastors are invited into the “Thin Places” in the lives of people. These times have been both joyful and exhausting for Stephanie and me. But, what an honor it is to be part of what have become Holy Conversations.

For everyone reading this, we would love to have you share your answer to one question with us. When in your life has a pastoral visit been particularly meaningful? If you are reading this, this is your homework. Please write your answer in an email or if you prefer hand it to Andy after a worship service. We thank you for inviting us into your lives as Pastors, and we look forward to our continued journey together in the coming years.

*Grace and Peace,*  
*Andy and Stephanie*

### *Grace Notes*

*Baptism happens once, but is remembered often!* Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s work of grace in our lives. Baptism signifies the forgiveness of sins, and our adoption as God’s children through Jesus Christ. Baptism is, in part, a response where we come to God and make a public profession of our faith, either on our own or through the witness of our parents (in the case of infants). But Baptism is even more about the work that God has already accomplished and the grace already at work in our lives, and thus it is only necessary to receive the sacrament once. We are continually a “work in progress,” being transformed and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Though Baptism is received just once, we remember it often, formally and informally, in worship and in daily living. In our weekly worship service, we are called to remember our baptism in the Assurance of Pardon after the Confession of Sin. As water is poured into the Baptismal font, we remember the waters of our Baptism that symbolize forgiveness of sins, cleansing, and newness of life in Jesus Christ.

If you have not been baptized and would like to be, please contact either of the pastors.

### *Called Congregational Meeting*

There will be a called meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> following worship. The two items of business will be presenting the 2010 budget to the congregation and electing Elders for the class of 2012.

### *Presbyterian Women*

For many years the Women of the Church have had an active prayer chain to pass along prayer requests and concerns. The Kate Riker Circle is organizing a new prayer calling list as a mission and service to the church. If you would like to receive notification of prayer concerns and requests, please sign up on the bulletin

board with your name and preferred method of contact - phone number or email – or you may call the church office. The only commitment from you is to pray. If you would like to volunteer to help notify others, you can also sign up to do that.

The Kate Riker Circle will meet Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. A study on Lesson #2 of the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua will be lead by Karen May from Lexington. She has been the Moderator of Transylvania PW Coordinating Team and over Horizon Resources. The evening circle will meet on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Ladies' Parlor, and will study Lesson 1 from the Horizons Bible Study on Joshua. There are still copies of this study available in the church office for purchase (\$6 each).

### **Men of the Church**

There has been some interest expressed in studying the *Joshua* Bible Study published by Presbyterian Women. This is a wonderfully written, in-depth study with excellent maps, historical information, and resources pertaining to the Book of Joshua as well as to the social, religious, and political context of the Middle East. Each lesson has a guide and suggestions for leaders to facilitate rotating leadership among the group. If you are interested in studying this book, please sign up on the sign up sheet outside of the office. Contact Andy with questions.

### **Christian Education**

#### **Children and Youth**

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school) will have a potluck meal after church, and then get right to work! They will be cleaning, painting, and organizing the Youth Room. Friends and guests are welcome!

#### **Confirmation and Baptisms Scheduled**

We will officially confirm and welcome into our church membership our confirmation youth on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and we will have 3 baptisms\* on that day as well! We celebrate the lives of these youth (\*Tyler Garrett, \*Elizabeth Lewis, Joe Mitchell, Emily Rawlings, and \*Morgan Turner) as they publicly affirm their faith in Jesus Christ. Please keep them in your prayers as we pledge to nurture them in their faith journeys.

#### **Youth Gatherings**

Watch the bulletin for more information on youth gatherings during the week. Also, mark your calendars for Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will kick off a new 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday program for our youth with a meal at church followed by a movie and discussion. See the bulletin for details. If you would like more information or want to get involved with any of this, contact Irene Mitchell or Lee Russell.

### **Thoughtful Christian Sunday School Class**

Too much to discuss – what a great problem to have! The Thoughtful Christian Class is now meeting at 9:30am in the Ladies Parlor in order to have a full hour for discussion but still allow for some time for fellowship before church (or choir practice!). The schedule has changed slightly in order to add a Session on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> on the issue of Health Care Reform. The Bible says much about binding up wounds and healing of all ailments. How does our faith speak to this issue? Come find out! There hasn't been a week yet where everyone has agreed on everything, and all voices are welcome. Come and be thoughtful! The class meets in the Ladies Parlor and is open to all adults.

- [4 October - \*The Shack\*](#)
- [11 October - Healthcare Reform](#)
- [18 October - End of Life Issues in the Terry Schaivo Case](#)
- [25 October - Trick or Treat](#)
- [1 November - Should Churches Pay Taxes?](#)

The “Stage Class” meets in the classroom adjacent the Fellowship Hall in the Basement, using “The Present Word” as its curriculum.

## *Pastors' Bible Study*

The Fall Pastors' Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 7pm and Wednesday at 2pm in the Conference Room. We are exploring the books of Joshua and Judges through the end of this month. Studies on Judges will be led by Stephanie on Oct. 6/7 and Oct. 20/21. The final study on Joshua will be led by Andy on Oct. 13/14. We will not meet Oct. 27/28.

## *Diana Butler Bass Study*

The pastors will lead a book discussion of *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass in November and December. This book looks at mainline churches like ours that are thriving and growing spiritually and otherwise. Though they are very diverse from one another, there are some characteristics that they all share. We will look at these and discuss how our church is already doing some of these things, and where we might be challenged to grow in the near future. If you would like for us to order a copy of this book for you, please contact the church office by **Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**. Copies will be approximately \$12 each.

## *Stewardship and Finance*

### **Peacemaking Offering**

On Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> we will collect the Peacemaking Offering in conjunction with World Communion Sunday. This is the third of four annual, churchwide offerings that we collect each year. The Peacemaking Offering was started in 1980 to help us live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as a church. Half of the offering goes to the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Twenty-five percent goes to the Presbyteries and Synods for Peacemaking work, and the local congregation is encouraged to keep 25% for local ministries of peacemaking in the church and community. For more information, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering/>.

### **“Benevolence” or “Unified Giving”**

Last month we looked at the “Per Capita Apportionment” that is assessed of all Presbyterian Churches, and where that goes. This month, we are looking another line item in our Evangelism and Mission budget: “Benevolence,” also known as “Unified Giving.” While Per Capita underwrites the costs of running offices, employing staff, and other operating costs of ministry at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, “Unified Giving” is the heart of what is used to support the mission, service, and outreach work of the church. Like “Per Capita,” Unified Giving is divided between the Presbytery (74%), the Synod (5.4%), and the General Assembly (20.6%). Unlike Per Capita, is it not assessed of any churches – it is a voluntary offering from congregations to further the ministry and mission of the church.

Unfortunately, because it is voluntary, it is often one of the “easiest” places to cut the church budget when finances are tight. Multiply these cuts by the over 11,000 congregations nationally, 753 congregations in the Synod of Living Waters, and 93 congregations in the Presbytery of Transylvania, and the figures really add up. Budget shortfalls have forced entire programs to be shut down, numerous staff to be laid off, and mission and service work on each level to be cut.

This year our Unified Giving from the church is \$2500. It has been at that level for many years, but it used to be higher. As other costs that we couldn't control continued to rise, this was one of the easiest places to make cuts in order to make ends meet. In September the Session approved increasing our Unified Giving from \$2500 to \$4500 for 2010. Especially in times of recession and hardship, there are increasing needs for mission and service in our local communities, the state, the country, and throughout the world. In times where so many people are battling hopelessness, we need more than ever to spread the message of hope in Jesus Christ, and to be the hands and feet of Christ in service in the world.

United Presbyterian Church has a long history of rising to the challenge to meet the needs of ministry in the world. The church building was opened to the wounded Civil War soldiers from the Union and the Confederacy; the Food Pantry was started here, as was the Mercer County chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Throughout the year, you give faithfully to the Hunger Offerings, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings for Bellewood and Buckhorn, and to the special offerings taken throughout the year. Increasing the Unified Giving is another

example of this congregation rising to meet the needs for mission and evangelism as the Body of Christ on earth. Let us all be in prayer for the ministry of this church as we rise to meet this new challenge.

### **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. If you would like more information about this, please contact Mary Weber, and keep an eye on the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

### **New UPC Bookmarks**

We have new UPC bookmarks with our church information and a brief church history on the back. If you would like to take some to post around town, just let us know. We hope this can be a tool for church outreach. If you would like to “purchase” bookmarks with a donation to help offset the costs, you can do that as well.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Trip to the Newport Aquarium**

We will go to the Newport Aquarium on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost of Admission is \$18 per person, but the church will cover the ticket price for all youth through college age with funds from the Jan Hylen fund. All participants are also asked to bring money for food. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside of the office.

#### **Christmas Open House**

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm. The Evangelism and Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a Christmas Open House at the church. Come one, come all, and invite your friends and neighbors!

#### **Christmas Caroling and Christmas Day Gathering**

We will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Mark your calendars now for this festive annual event! Also, please mark your calendars for a special new event on Christmas Day. From 2-4pm, we will open up the church for a Christmas Day drop-in for hot chocolate and Christmas treats, singing songs, and enjoying fellowship on this day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Christmas is typically a time for families to gather, but many in our community and even in our church find themselves alone on Christmas day. Please come join us to celebrate Christmas together with our church family. Think of those individuals or families you know who might especially appreciate this time to gather with others and share God’s love. Both of these events are sponsored by the Worship Committee. If you have any questions, contact David Bradshaw.

#### **Pastors’ Travel**

Andy and Stephanie will be traveling with the church group to Montreat on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will return late Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday after church, they will be traveling to Nashville, TN for a gathering with the Company of New Pastors, a program that focuses especially on enriching and deepening the specifically theological vocation of new pastors, starting in the second year of Seminary and continuing through the first four years of ministry. Since starting the program, Andy and Stephanie have been in covenant with other colleagues to engage in daily prayer and Scripture reading. Every 8-12 months, they gather in small regional groups to engage in extended theological reflection on ministry and pastoral work with other new pastors and with the guidance and support of experienced Pastor mentors. Engaging in these gatherings and events further equips Andy and Stephanie to serve faithfully as Co-Pastors here at UPC, and provides structures for further learning and professional growth and development. During our absence, the Rev. Beth Garrod-

Logsdon from Wilmore Presbyterian Church will be on call for Pastoral Care emergencies. The office will be open as usual.

## *Christian Education Committee*

### **Rally Day**

Rally Day was capped with a tasty lunch. Special thanks go to Sue Sullivan, Jack Newton, Nadine White and Jean Buchanan who contributed special food. Also, special thanks to those who pitched in to help set up and to clean up – We appreciate you!

### **Children**

Thanks to the children who collected the dull, old pew pencils and sharpened them and replaced tons of new pencils in all the pew racks. Remember to thank them when you write a note or sign the pew pads. Good job, girls – Christian Education Committee.

## *Congratulations*

Morgan Lewis has been appointed the new leader of the National Guard Family Readiness Group for the HSC 1204th out of Independence, Ky. Family Readiness Groups work with the families of National Guard members to provide support, training, and education to address all aspects of Guard and family life before, during, and after deployment. Join us in recognizing this call to service, and in praying for Morgan as she takes over this outreach.

## *Church Keys*

This is a reminder that the lock to the church has been changed. If feel you need a key to the church, please contact Butch Woodard or any member of the Property Committee.

## *Financial Report*

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance as of <b>August 1, 2009</b>  | \$ 1,038.05  |
| August Receipts                      | \$ 12,454.97 |
| August Disbursements                 | \$ 10,736.03 |
| Balance as of <b>August 31, 2009</b> | \$ 2,756.96  |

## *October Celebrations*

### *Birthdays*

|                    |                         |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Stacy Blacketer  | 16 Buddy Howells        | 25 Pat Rockas       |
| 3 Mike Lively      | 16 Julie Semrau         | 26 Jim Alexander    |
| 4 John Nicholson   | 19 Valerie McDermitt    | 27 Bailey White     |
| 5 Carter Johnson   | 20 Margaret Fitzgerald  | 28 Amy Graham       |
| 6 Chris Cooper     | 21 James Graham         | 29 Elizabeth Harris |
| 10 Holly Mitchell  | 21 Dean Romero          | 29 Jan Woodard      |
| 13 Crystal Nichols | 22 Leslie Mattacola     | 30 Genie Carpenter  |
| 14 Casey Lawson    | 24 Mary Margaret Baxter |                     |

### *Anniversaries*

|                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 Jim & Lisa Graham            | 30 Chris & Sarah Cooper |
| 28 Charles & Valerie McDermitt | 31 Jill & Andy Romero   |

## *Calendar at a Glance for October 2009*

- October 4 Morning Worship – World Communion Sunday – Peacemaking Offering
- October 5 10:30 Kate Riker Circle - Karen May from Lexington will be leading Lesson #2 on Joshua. She has been the Moderator of Transylvania PW Coordinating Team and over Horizon Resources. Let's have a great turnout to support her.  
6:30 Property Committee Meeting
- October 6 7pm Evening Bible Study Group
- October 7 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group
- October 8 6:30 Stewardship and Finance Committee Meeting
- October 11 Called Congregational Meeting immediately after Morning Worship  
1:15 Worship Committee Meeting
- October 12 7pm Evening Women's Circle
- October 13 7pm Evening Bible Study Group
- October 14 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group  
6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting
- October 18 Morning Worship – Communion  
1pm Session Meeting
- October 17 6:30 Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting
- October 20 7pm Evening Bible Study Group
- October 21 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group
- October 22 – 24 Stephanie and Andy will be at Montreat
- October 25 Morning Worship – Hunger Offering  
Gideon's Presentation

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

(859) 734-4710

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

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*Lectionary Readings for October 2009*

Lee Chadwick Russell – Elder Host

**October 4, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 26**

**Job 1:1, 2:1-10**  
**Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 and Mark 10:2-16**

**October 11, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 22:1-15**

**Job 23:1-9, 16-17**  
**Hebrews 4:12-16 and Mark 10:17-31**

**October 18, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c**

**Job 38:1-7 (34-41)**  
**Hebrews 5:1-10 and Mark 10:35-45**

**October 25, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)**

**Job 42:1-6, 10-17**  
**Hebrews 7:23-28 and Mark 10:46-52**