



GOOD NEWS
September 2009
United Presbyterian Church
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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*Faith and Money*

I once heard about a preacher who gave some really powerful sermons. Membership in his church grew rapidly as people came to hear what he had to say. His ministry changed lives. What he had to say spoke to people's daily lives, and also to their eternal lives. He didn't avoid the hard topics out of fear that it would alienate his audience. There was no such thing as "stewardship season" in this church – it was year-round. In fact, this person preached more on money than just about anything. Not everyone appreciated this. Some stopped coming to hear him because of this. Others got downright angry. But his message didn't change, all the way to his death. I'm speaking, of course, about Jesus.

Many preachers today avoid the topic of money, with some notable exceptions. Last month the Southwest Believers' Convention drew thousands from 48 states and 27 countries to hear some of the top names in the Prosperity Gospel movement – Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Creflo Dollar, and others. Their message is that if you have enough faith in God and donate enough money to their ministries, you will be materially blessed beyond your wildest imagination, even if this economic recession. They are living proof; they have private boats and airplanes, luxury vacations, extravagant jewels, and multi-million dollar mansions that testify to God's blessing. The logical conclusion to this kind of "gospel" is that if you are still struggling, you either don't have enough faith or aren't giving enough money.

It is in part because of preachers like these that many preachers avoid the topic of money. Or it is because we feel unqualified or undereducated. Or it is because we know it is a lightning rod issue, especially in a recession. Everyone faces economic pressures of one kind or another, and we ministers don't often know exactly what trials our members are facing. Preaching about giving might seem like we are assuming that most people can and should be giving more to the church. It is difficult for preachers to talk about money because we are talking about the very resources that pay our own salaries, among other things. We are afraid that sermons on stewardship or giving will come across as either judgmental or motivated by our own self-interest, and probably a little bit of both.

And yet here we are, approaching "stewardship season," and again coming to the congregation with numbers that show deficit spending and evaporating "reserves." We didn't arrive here suddenly, and we can't even blame it on the recession. This pattern has been repeating itself for a number of years. The Session is currently looking at budget proposals for 2010, unsure yet of how we will fund our commitments for 2009.

According to our *Book of Order*, "The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world." All of this takes resources – time, talent, and treasure. God gives us those gifts – time, talents, and treasure – and asks us to return just a portion of what we are given as a thanksgiving offering to support the ministry to which God calls us.

We ask you to keep the Session and the Stewardship and Finance Committee in your prayers as they seek to be good stewards of our church resources. We ask for you to join us all in prayerful discernment for the mission to which God calls us as a church. We ask for you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share your gifts in ministry – time, talents, and treasure. Pray that it will all be done to God's glory.

Grace and Peace,  
*Stephanie and Andy*

## *Habitat for Humanity*

It's football parking time again for MCSHS Friday night home games. From 6:00 - 8:00 PM Habitaters direct traffic in the parking lots.

We have a good Leader, David Weber, who provides instruction and orange vests for our safety. We are a team of just 5 people for each game. We are grateful to TRIM MASTERS for providing a whole team for a game each year. We also need churches to volunteer to take a game. Salvisa Baptist provided a team last year and we are grateful to them. Individual volunteers make up the team for games not scheduled for a group.

If you are available or can suggest someone who is over 18 and not enrolled at MCSHS, please let us know. Volunteers do not have to do any other project with HFH to help with Football Parking. (Our Partner Families do work Sweat Equity at these games when it fits their work schedules.)

The games I need to schedule for groups or individuals are: Sept. 18, Sept. 25, and Oct. 16. For more information call 734-0267 or 734-5086. The e-mail is habitatmercer@yahoo.com.

## *Grace Notes*

*In Communion, we bring our offerings as a response to the Word read and proclaimed.* In our order of worship, the Offering follows the Word read and proclaimed. In gratitude for the Good News of God's Word, we offer the gifts of our life and the fruits of the earth in Thanksgiving. In the early Church, the offering was linked very closely to the Lord's Supper. "In early centuries, Christians brought to the Lord's Day assembly gifts of bread and wine from their own tables."<sup>1</sup> After these were gathered together and shared in a celebration of Communion, the leftovers were distributed to those in need, along with alms that would have been collected after the service for distribution.

## *PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN*

### *New Women's Circle*

The New Women's Circle will begin regular meetings on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm in the Ladies' Parlor. We will be using the Bible Study on Joshua published by the national Presbyterian Women office. If you would like to place an order for a copy of the Study Book (\$6), please let Stephanie Wing know by Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### *Kate Riker Circle*

Kate Riker Circle will resume meetings on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> (yes, Labor Day!) at 10:30am. The Circle meets on the first Monday of each month down in the Fellowship Hall. If you have not yet picked up your copy of the Joshua Bible Study, please do so. A limited number of copies are available in the church office. There is also an envelope for your payment. Questions can be directed to Jane Adrian, Moderator.

## *CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*

### *New Sunday School Class*

Nadine and Del White are facilitating a new Sunday school class using resources from TheThoughtfulChristian.com. The class will start at 9:45am and will meet in the Ladies' Parlor. The class is open to all adults – invite your friends and neighbors! Here is a schedule of the study for each week through the end of the year. Click on any of the links below to download the class material, or go to <http://defaosite.us/UPCWeb/Index.htm> for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter C. Bower, editor. *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003), p.33

- [6 September - History of Religion and Politics 2](#)
- [13 September - Separation of Church and State](#)
- [20 September - Christians and Patriotism](#)
- [27 September - How Should Christians Vote](#)
- [4 October - \*The Shack\*](#)
- [11 October - The Theology of \*The Shack\*"](#)
- [18 October - End of Life Issues in the Terry Schaivo Case](#)
- [25 October - Trick or Treat](#)
- [1 November - Should Churches Pay Taxes?](#)
- [8 November - Torture](#)
- [15 November - Hezbollah, Israel & Lebanon: Why Should Christians Care?](#)
- [22 November - The Meaning of Thanksgiving](#)
- [29 November - Learning Compassion](#)
- [6 December - Reclaiming Christmas](#)
- [13 December - Pro-life Pro-Choice: Any Common Ground?](#)
- [20 December - tbd](#)
- [27 December - New Year's Resolutions](#)

The "Stage Class" will continue to meet in the classroom adjacent the Fellowship Hall in the Basement, using "The Present Word" as its curriculum.

#### **New Bible Study**

The Fall Pastors' Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet each Tuesday at 7pm and Wednesday at 2pm in the Conference Room. We will be exploring the books of Joshua and Judges through the end of October. In November we will switch gears to a Book Discussion (see below).

#### **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. 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 & FINANCE***

#### **Per Capita: What is it?**

One of the line items in our church budget is the "Per Capita Apportionment" that is assessed of all Presbyterian Churches. "Per Capita," for short, goes to support the work and ministry of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly of the PC (USA). For 2009, the Per Capita total for each church member is \$33.31. Of this, \$6.19 goes to the General Assembly, \$3.62 to the Synod of Living Waters, and \$23.50 to the Presbytery of Transylvania. By pooling our resources with Presbyterians from across the country, our giving can have a much bigger impact on ministry locally, nationally, and internationally. This money helps to fund the operating costs and staff of our church work at each level. It supports programs that reach out to the world in mission and help to strengthen the church from the local level all the way to the national church. It supports our ecumenical work with churches around the world. It provides for resources accessible to any church and any member, from the Presbytery Resource Center to the multitude of resources available on the PC(USA) website, [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Part of the Presbytery Per Capita goes to support the staffing and operations of Camp Burnamwood. It is quite amazing when you think about all that is accomplished with such a relatively small contribution per member.

Our church is assessed the Per Capita fee based on our active membership numbers from the previous year, which in our case is 181. Last fall, the Session moved a number of members to the inactive list, and we have also transferred some members to the Church Triumphant. At \$33.31 per person, for 181 people, our Per

Capita bill for this year will total just over \$6,000. In recent years, the Session has invited our members to make a one-time special gift above and beyond regular tithes and offerings to offset this cost. Some have responded and already made special contributions, but we would like to invite everyone once again to consider making this special gift. You might also consider paying for another member – perhaps one who is now inactive or active elsewhere, or making a gift in memory of someone. While the Per Capita fee is relatively low per person, the line item in the church budget is more substantial. Please prayerfully consider a direct contribution to this expense.

You can read more about Per Capita on the PC(USA) website at <http://www.pcusa.org/percapita/index.htm>.

### **Special Offering – Peacemaking**

We will collect the Peacemaking Offering on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, which is World Communion Sunday. Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#). In accordance with the action of the 217th General Assembly, congregations are urged to consider directing a portion or all of their 25 percent of the Peacemaking Offering as a faithful Christian response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. For more information, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering/>.

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

### **Retreat to Montreat!**

Our church is in the process of planning a church trip to go to Montreat for the Evelyn Green Retreat October 22-25. The conference is for those who are asking how they can experience God more closely in their lives. The leaders will lead us through worship as well as teach us some ways to pray in new ways. **The registration fee is \$95 before September 11.** We need to have our list of participants by Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up by then on the bulletin board outside of the church office or by calling the church office.

### **The Assembly Inn**

We will need housing for three nights, but have a couple of options. The Assembly Inn includes meals beginning at dinner on the Thursday when we arrive. The cost is as follows for the entire conference.

- Single, Private Bath: \$352.50
- Single, Connecting Bath: \$295.50
- Double, Private Bath: \$235.50 per person
- Double, Connecting Bath: \$220.50 per person

### **The South Carolina Home**

The cheaper option is the South Carolina home. Meals are not provided here. The cost is \$ 32 per person per night with double occupancy or \$37 per person per night with single occupancy. Currently, there are 5 Rooms with Hall bathrooms available. Room 14 and 15 have double beds. Breakfast will be available at the South Carolina Home, but price is not included. Meals can be purchased in dining halls in Montreat.

For more information on the conference, talk to Jane Adrian and visit [www.montreat.org/current](http://www.montreat.org/current).

### **Presbytery Meeting**

Please pray for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Transylvania, Tuesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at Buckhorn Lake Area Church.

### **Sexual Misconduct Training**

There will be a Sexual Misconduct Training on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am in Lexington,

sponsored by the Presbytery of Transylvania. Stephanie and Andy will be at the workshop, which is required for all minister members of the Presbytery. The class is also open to any church members. If you are interested in attending, contact Stephanie and Andy, or call the Presbytery office directly to confirm your attendance.

### *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!

### *Pastors' Vacation*

Andy and Stephanie will be on vacation for the week of September 27<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Fred Hood will preach in our absence, and Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon of Wilmore Presbyterian Church will be on call for Pastoral Emergencies. The church office will be open as usual, Monday through Friday from 9am to noon.

### *Financial Report*

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of July 1, 2009  | \$ 1,662.37 |
| Received for July 2009      | \$15,072.98 |
| Distributed for July 2009   | \$15,697.30 |
| Balance as of July 31, 2009 | \$ 1,038.05 |

## *Celebrations for September 2009*

### *Birthdays*

|   |                        |    |                    |    |                   |
|---|------------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Tim Prigmore           | 6  | John Cottrell      | 21 | Kevin Mattox      |
| 1 | Carrie Shewmaker       | 7  | Caroline Batterton | 21 | LeAnna Romero     |
| 2 | Jim Baxter             | 10 | Mary Weber         | 24 | Alexander Logue   |
| 2 | Lou Hurlbert           | 12 | Conchita Grall     | 24 | David Thomas Lynn |
| 2 | Suzanne Voll           | 15 | Glenda Terhune     | 27 | Pat Davis         |
| 2 | I.C. (Chris) James, IV | 16 | Pat Alexander      | 29 | Chuck Dedman      |
| 4 | Gertrude Reed          | 16 | Jim Baxter, Sr.    | 29 | Nick Dedman       |
| 4 | Opal Lee Taylor        | 16 | David Hall         | 29 | Gertrude Sheegog  |
| 5 | John Dedman            | 16 | Emily Rawlings     |    |                   |

### *Anniversaries*

|   |                     |    |                        |
|---|---------------------|----|------------------------|
| 6 | John & Suzanne Voll | 11 | John & Genie Carpenter |
| 7 | David & Letha Berry | 23 | Phillip & Jenny Dobbs  |
| 8 | Jim & Mary Baxter   | 30 | Bill & Gwen Wickliffe  |

## *Calendar at a Glance for September 2009*

|              |                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 1  | 7pm Evening Bible Study Group                                                                                     |
| September 2  | 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group                                                                                   |
| September 6  | Completion of Confirmation Classes                                                                                |
| September 7  | 10:30 Kate Riker Circle resumes – new books are available in the church office<br>6:30 Property Committee Meeting |
| September 8  | Presbytery Meeting at Buckhorn<br>7pm Evening Bible Study Group                                                   |
| September 9  | 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group<br>6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting                                     |
| September 13 | 9:45 Sunday School – Youth will begin preparations for mural<br>1:15 Worship Committee Meeting                    |
| September 14 | 7pm Evening Women's Circle Meeting                                                                                |
| September 15 | 7pm Evening Bible Study Group                                                                                     |
| September 16 | 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group                                                                                   |
| September 17 | 6:30 Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting                                                                      |
| September 20 | Morning Worship – Communion<br>1pm Session Meeting                                                                |
| September 22 | 7pm Evening Bible Study Group                                                                                     |
| September 23 | 2pm Afternoon Bible Study Group                                                                                   |
| September 27 | Morning Worship – Hunger Offering                                                                                 |

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

(859) 734-4710

Choir/Organist: Susan Shewmaker  
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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326 S. Main Street  
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*Lectionary Readings for September 2009*

Jean Buchanan – Elder Host

**September 6, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 125**

**Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23**  
**James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17 and Mark 7:24-37**

**September 13, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 19**

**Proverbs 1:20-33**  
**James 3:1-12 and Mark 8:27-38**

**September 20, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 1**

**Proverbs 31:1-31**  
**James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a and Mark 9:30-37**

**September 27, 2009**

Old Covenant Lesson:  
New Covenant Lesson:

**Psalm 124**

**Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 and 9:20-22**  
**James 5:13-20 and Mark 9:38-50**