



The Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Tullahoma, Tennessee

October 2025
Volume 54, Issue 8

October Happenings at First Presbyterian Church

The Salon: A Rave for the Soul - It is our intention to resume the Salon: A Rave for the Soul service on **October 1**. If you haven't attended, this service, which is much less formal, but still Presbyterian in style, is a thirty-minute worshipping experience held in the Fellowship Hall. The service is geared towards youth; however, it is very helpful if non-youth attend this service, as it is a way to connect our congregation with our youth. In addition, the "sermon" is presented by an adult in a discussion format. If you are interested in helping us out with the service or knowing more about Salon: A Rave for the Soul, please reach out to Bethany Sterling. We'd love to see you on October 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Celebration of World Communion Sunday on October 5 – Congregations around the world will celebrate World Communion Sunday. Most of us have heard about World Communion Sunday but may not know much about where the celebration originated. World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches in 1940. Since then, the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity.

The key word for World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering the night of Jesus' betrayal when he instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion as a lasting remembrance. World Communion Sunday is on the Christian calendar for a reason: it can and should be a time of profound Christian unity, marked by our shared celebration of the Lord's Supper.

We encourage you to be a participant in the worldwide celebration of Holy Communion by being in worship on October 5 and participating in the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

Peace and Global Witness Offering is a special offering of the PC(USA) and will be received up through World Communion Sunday on **October 5**. In Romans 14:19, Paul calls us to know our neighbors, both around the corner and around the world, not as "them" but as "us," friends and siblings in Christ. Pursuing peace is central to the gospel and the mission of the Church. The local portion of this offering will go to the Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center. *Additional information about this offering is in the Mission Committee Report on page 8.*

Stewardship Emphasis in October - Stewardship is more than just managing the physical and financial resources that God has given to us. It includes our time, energy and talents. Our stewardship of what God has given to us begins when we see the potential for how we can use those gifts for the betterment of our church and our lives. *More on stewardship in the Stewardship Committee Report on page 9.*

One Day of Hope on Saturday, October 18, at Coffee County Fairgrounds – There are ways that you can bring hope to our neighbors in need.

- Make a monetary donation for the purchase of shampoo. You can write a check or donate online; designate it "shampoo" or "One Day of Hope." **Deadline is October 5.**
- Bring new or gently used coats for men, women, and children and place them in the narthex closet. **Deadline is October 12.** *More details in the Mission Committee report on page 8.*

In this issue: Group Happenings, Joys/Concerns, October birthdays, Good Sam Ministry Report, p. 2; Pastor's Page, p. 3; Minute with Mike, p. 4; Offering from the Office, p. 5; Around and About FPC, p. 6,7; Session Committee Reports, pp. 8,9,10.

Here's what's happening!

Presbyterian Women

Women's Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, October 8, at 10:00 a.m. Our Horizon Bible study *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter, will feature Mary "of a Certain Village." Scripture: Luke 10:38-42. Main Idea: Mary's story teaches us that spending time listening to and learning from Jesus is the better part. We will share a time of fellowship with a light lunch after the meeting. All women are invited to attend.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be October 12. Gathering time is 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is provided. All men are welcome.



If you have a birthday in October and your name is not on the list, please call the church office and let us know. We would like to add your name to the birthday calendar.

October 2 – Mason Sanders
 October 8 – Mary Etta Ward
 October 10 – Don Jones
 October 12 – Ann Marie Lawson
 Yevonne Yoder
 October 14 – Jo Ward
 October 20 – Bene Cox
 October 23 – Sam Hall
 October 27 – Gaye Johnson
 October 30 – Dennis Scharf



Parish Joys/Concerns

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ed Crenshaw,
 Ardeana Patterson's brother
 Ted and Beverly Elsasser
 Dot Gilfillan
 Robin Gorman
 Amy Hinds
 Sandy McKinney
 Vanessa McKinney
 Dave Paulis, Kevin Patterson's
 father-in-law and friend of
 Ken and Ardeana Patterson
 Avery Scheider, a former
 Learning Place student
 Drew Sterling
 Don Stuck, Greg Sterling's
 father

Please remember in your prayers the following people who are unable to attend worship regularly:

Jean Carter (home)
 Patra Escue (home)
 Connie Flath (NHC)
 Dot Gilfillan (Life Care)
 Sue Harvey (home)
 Hilde Joellenbeck (home)

Thank you note –

Thank you for all the cards and visits while I was recuperating. It is taking longer than I hoped.

I was very glad my girls were able to get me to the reception for Stephen. It was good to see everyone. *Dot Gilfillan*

Good Samaritan Ministry

Ministry Office was open 21 days in August.

(Code: F-families; A-adults, C-children)

Utilities - 25F, 37A, 33C

Project Help – 2F, 2A, 0C

Rent - 6F, 17A, 2C

Medication – 0F, 0A, 0C

Food - 96F, 168A, 82C

Dignity - 96F, 168A, 82C

All clients are given two dignity items per month, and they may choose 3 extra items from our bookcase in the ministry office. These items may be lotions, candles, candy, spices, protein drinks, hand sanitizer, or over the counter medications

Baby Boom - 7F, 12A, 10C

Gifts/Giveaways - 3F, 5A, 0C
 (Clothing & Shoes)

Homeless - 4F, 4A, 0C

Pet Food - 28F

We are very thankful for your support.

Cindy Kinney, Director



First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
P. O. Box 847
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Vision statement: Worshipping God,
growing together, serving others,
welcoming all

Sunday school – 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Church Office: 204 E. Grundy

Phone: 931 455-9328

FAX: 931 455-9306

E-mail addresses

Jim: pastorjimmoran@gmail.com

Martha: m2bradley@lighttube.net

Katie: katherineprasser@gmail.com

Bethany: bethanybsterling@gmail.com

Robert: robertwright621@gmail.com

Mike: michaelrbradley@lighttube.net

Church Web site:

www.fpctullahoma.org

Youth Website:

www.pyc-tullahoma.com

Preschool Office: 931 455-1515

Preschool Email:

learningplace@lighttube.net

Preschool Website:

www.learningplacetullahoma.org

Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Jim Moran

Minister to Children: Katie Prasser

Minister to Youth: Bethany Sterling

Secretary: Martha Bradley

Choir Director: Robert Wright

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care:

Michael Bradley

Learning Place Preschool Director:

Bethany Sterling

Members of Session

Murray Brown

Charlotte Broyles

Alan Harris

Charles Harvey

Karla Haws

Bob Huffines

J. Ray Joellenbeck

Karla Keough

Shirley Levine

Helen McClure

Bethany Sterling, Clerk

Brad Sturgill



Pastor's Message

My friends,

Every year we must consider what we choose to give to the church on Stewardship Sunday. The preacher can begin to meddle where the preacher is forbidden to be, if care is not taken. A very biblical perspective emphasizes the need of the giver to give, not the church to receive. Though the Finance Committee needs to track the income and expenses fastidiously, the first question for church members is not, "What do the bills total?" Instead, the key question addresses the spirituality of each of us. The first question, writes Herb Miller, is "*What does God call me to give as an expression of my relationship with God?*" (116, *The Vital Congregation*). Stewardship is a very spiritual act between you and God. Miller writes about stewardship:

Tithing is clearly the form of stewardship taught in both the Old and New Testaments. When Jesus discussed proper stewardship of money and resources with the most religious people of his culture (the Pharisees), this was the form he took for granted that they were using – the giving of one-tenth of their income before taxes to God's work. In ancient Hebrew society, the tithe was like an income tax payable to the 'Department of Eternal Revenue.' ... (T)o tithe was to perform their basic duty. They assumed the first 10 percent belonged to God already....

Yet, there is another sense in which the tithe is not what Jesus is talking about. Jesus answers the question of 'How much is enough?' by saying that this is not the question! As Jesus does in all his teaching, what he says about giving goes far beyond any legalistic use of the Old Testament. Jesus teaches that our giving to God cannot be reduced to a 10 percent formula. Our most basic stewardship is to give *our whole heart* to God's work (God's spiritual kingdom). Our gift of money is a *symbol* of that total self-giving, but money itself can never be classified as our ultimate stewardship; that is always a matter of the heart. The Pharisees tended to 'materialize their spiritual relationship with God' into rituals and offerings. Jesus did the opposite: He 'spiritualized the material' into an expression of loving relationship with God and unselfish giving to help the less fortunate. (52-53, *Money Isn't Everything: What Jesus Said about the Spiritual Power of Money*)

Miller also records a story about the legendary entertainer Jackie Gleason. Being interviewed by Bishop Fulton Sheen, Jackie Gleason was asked, "When you come to meet Jesus, what will you say?" Gleason immediately replied, Miller says, "All I could say would be thanks." (Miller, *Money Isn't Everything*, 56) When we come to offer our stewardship to God and the church, thanks is really all we are saying to God for such a blessed relationship of love. Let us generously say, "Thanks!" on the day we pledge.

May the grace of God be with you,
Jim

Minute with Mike by Michael Bradley, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Autumn Comes Again

Only yesterday it was New Year's Day and now autumn has come again! How did the long, slow days pass so quickly? Autumn, with its cool, crisp air and dazzling display of colors, is a season of profound and gentle transformation. It is the poignant transition from summer's vibrant growth to winter's quiet rest, offering a period of both reflection and celebration. Known as the "fall" in higher latitudes, this season's beauty lies not just in its aesthetics but in its deeper symbolism of change, maturity, and preparation.

The most striking characteristic of autumn is the dramatic change in nature. Deciduous trees, in a final, spectacular flourish, trade their summer greens for a rich palette of crimson, gold, burnt orange, and fiery red. This brilliant foliage, set against a backdrop of shorter days and softer light, paints a breathtaking landscape.

The sight of leaves drifting lazily to the ground, creating a rustling carpet, is a soothing and nostalgic experience. The air itself changes, losing its humid summer weight and gaining a crisp, invigorating scent of decaying leaves and earth.

Beyond its visual appeal, autumn is a season of deep cultural and natural significance.

For farmers, it is the crucial harvest season, a time to gather the bounty of the year's labor, with harvests of apples, pumpkins, and other crops filling orchards and fields. For many animals, autumn is a period of intense preparation for the winter ahead. Squirrels and other small creatures diligently gather and store food, while some animals, like bears, seek out places to hibernate. Birds, like cuckoos, begin their long migrations to warmer climates. This instinctual activity reflects a deeper, seasonal rhythm of anticipation and survival that is mirrored in human activity.

The season also holds a powerful symbolic meaning. It represents the maturity of the year, a time of endings that are essential for new beginnings. The shedding of leaves, while seemingly a "dying" of the natural world, is a necessary process that allows for rejuvenation in the spring. This cyclical nature offers a powerful meditation on the impermanence of life and the beauty found within change. It encourages us to pause, savor the moment, and find beauty in the inevitable cycles of growth and decay.

For many people, autumn is also a season of comfort and festivity. The pleasant, mild weather makes it perfect for outdoor activities like walking, hiking, and enjoying picnics. The

transition indoors brings with it the warmth of crackling fires, the comfort of warm drinks, and the joy of seasonal holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving. These traditions, which often center on family and gratitude for the year's harvest, strengthen community bonds and offer a sense of coziness before the cold of winter.

In conclusion, autumn is more than a seasonal transition; it is a profound and poetic time of year that captivates the senses and touches the soul. With its stunning visual spectacle, crucial natural processes, and rich cultural tapestry, it serves as a powerful reminder of nature's elegant cycle. As the world slows down and prepares for winter, autumn invites us to appreciate the artful beauty of change, to find comfort in the warmth of tradition, and to reflect on the fleeting, exquisite moments that define our experience.

All times and all seasons are in God's hands. Let us enjoy them and give thanks for them all.



Fall's Splendor

Offering from the Office by Martha Bradley, Church Secretary

Do we come to church expecting to get definitive answers to our questions?

I have been a Presbyterian for more than 50 years and an attendee at church for all 84 years of my life, and I still don't know if I believe everything I should.

Are questions allowed? Could my questions be as important as my beliefs? Sometimes I wonder if we make enough room in the church to question in a meaningful way.

The Reformed tradition of which the PC(USA) is a part, takes pride in its intellectual strength. Our theology traces back to John Calvin, who started his *Institutes* by claiming that true wisdom involves knowing God and knowing oneself. But over time, many have changed this search for wisdom into a hunt for certainty. We've traded the sacred unease of questions for a simulated comfort of quick answers.

The Bible is full of people who ask God tough questions. Job wants to know why he suffers. The psalmist asks, "How long, O Lord?" Even Jesus on the cross quotes Psalm 22 and asks, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" These questions do not demonstrate weak faith. Instead they show a real connection with God, one strong enough to handle doubt and not knowing.

Maybe we don't like living with questions because we don't like feeling exposed. Questions show what we don't know. They point out the holes in what we understand. They highlight our lack of knowledge. In a society

that values expertise and surety, saying "I don't know" feels risky. Questions can seem like risks.

When people are facing life's hardest moments (identity crises, life threatening illness, status of one's marriage, imminent death either one's own or that of a close relation), one's perspective may begin to shift. Honest questions often lead to deeper connections, both with God and with each other. Stories from Scripture remind us that faithful questioning has always been a part of our tradition.

Prayer and reflection on these experiences may cause us to question and wonder – what if our questions are not roadblocks to faith but instead lead us towards it? What if God cares less about our certainty and more about our inquisitiveness?

Reformed theologian Karl Barth once said that faith doesn't mean having no questions but having the guts to ask them and to live with them. When we accept our questions – even the ones that bother us most – we give God a chance to connect in an honest way.

Thomas Parker, a Puritan leader from the 1600s, said, "God allows us to interrogate our faith because true faith can withstand such interrogation." Questioning does not weaken our faith. It changes faith from a passed-down custom to a real-life experience.

Presbyterian communities shine brightest when we allow them to be places where questions are welcomed as gifts and as mysteries to explore. When we welcome sacred

questioning, we indicate a faith that is strong enough to admit its limits and modest enough to stay open to the unexpected.

Over my many years as a member of First Presbyterian Church, I have participated in a discussion-format Sunday school class where questions are expected and respected. Such a class has been an important aspect of my faith development.

Perhaps the greatest gift questions offer us is not just a pathway to God but a bridge to each other. In our shared wondering, we find not only divine connection but also profound human community. There in that sacred space of collective questioning, we might just glimpse the face of God.

Note: Much of this newsletter column comes from the article "Finding God in the questions we dare not ask" by David Zepf in the June 2025 *Presbyterian Outlook*. Reading the article brought home to me the role that questions have in our faith formation. I firmly believe as John Hutchinson wrote that "Unthinking faith is a curious offering to the creator of the human mind."

Our curiosity moving us to ask questions is a God-send.



Around and About FPC

Clerk's Report

The Session met with our Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Commission on Ministry liaison David Sadler at the September Session meeting. He conducted an exit survey regarding Stephen as well as asked questions about what we saw as needs for the future. David noted that we were moving along in the right direction, particularly since we already have an interim pastor in place and had begun the Holy Cow! survey.

Bethany Sterling
Clerk of Session

Holy Cow!

Thank you to everyone who completed the Holy Cow! congregational assessment tool survey. This survey is your opportunity to share your experiences and priorities for our congregation and will be used in the near future in the search for a new pastor.

The session will be meeting with a Holy Cow! consultant in early October to receive their interpretations of the survey. Once we have the results of the survey, our congregation can begin the next step and present a slate of candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The survey will greatly assist the PNC, since it provides information about our congregation and what our congregation needs and wants in the next pastor.

Note of Thanksgiving

Dear FPC Family,

We wanted to express our sincere appreciation for your warm welcome after at my first Worship Service with you as Interim

Pastor. We were so grateful to be honored with a Welcome Reception and wanted to express our thanksgiving to those who prepared the delicious food, assisted in serving, and for the fellowship around the table.

I look forward to serving FPC during this time of transition, getting to know you and your families, and to participating in your ministry. May the blessings of God be with each of you as we journey together.

Sincerely,
Pastor Jim and Denise

Meet church committee members

During the next few months in the *Newsletter* we will be introducing the members of the Session Committees to help congregants feel more familiar with the people who lead various church activities and the role that each committee has in helping our church fulfill its mission. We will make available contact information so you can contact the chair if you have ideas which you wish to share or if you would like to serve on the committee.

This month the committee we are featuring is the **Mission Committee co-chaired by J. Ray Joellenbeck and Brad Sturgill.** Other committee members are Debbie Brown, Kristi Fruechtel, Keith Kushman, and Dottie McCallie.

Their responsibilities include (1) overseeing mission education and promotion through worship, displays, brochures, newsletter, programs, and other means; (2) selection of mission projects, local and abroad, that the congregation will support; and (3) promote involvement of members in

mission projects via special offerings, as well as hands-on participation.

The committee welcomes new ideas and depends on members of the church family to keep them informed of ways that they can better fulfill their responsibilities.

If you have a suggestion that you would like for the committee to consider, talk with one of the committee members or contact the committee chairs **Brad Sturgill** (sturgillbs@gmail.com) or **J. Ray Joellenbeck** (juergenj@lighttube.net)

Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday is the Sunday each month during which we bring items for the Good Sam Ministry. Please bring some of the following items with you to worship on **October 12.** There is a recurring list and special requests for particular months.

Requests for October

Regular food request: canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup, soda crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned chicken.

Special food needs: canned soup, crackers, and ramen noodles

Dignity request: Laundry detergent

Dear FPC: Mission Committee and Congregation,

Thank you for thinking of Good Samaritan of Tullahoma and giving us your remaining rummage sale items. Donations such as yours are the "lifeblood" of our thrift store. The sale of these items provides much needed funds for our ministry.

Blessings,
Cindy and Team Good Sam

Children's Ministry

We have been gaining several younger children in our programming over the last couple of months. We love that we have new friends coming on both Wednesdays and Sundays. We would love to have new adult friends join our programming also in the form of volunteers. On Sundays we are in need of volunteers for the nursery. We currently have 1 little one that is of nursery age coming to church regularly. We need to have 2 volunteers in the nursery when children are present. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Ms Katie know.

Our Kingdom Kids program is also growing some, if you are interested in helping out on Wednesday nights, we would love to have you. Volunteering can come in many forms from preparing a meal for the kids, helping with music or plays, filling in as a sub, helping with special events, or helping weekly with the kids' lessons.

Our **Halloween festival** will be on **October 29**. If you are willing to participate in trunk or treat, run a station, or help with set up, please let Katie know. If you are unable to help in person but would still like to do something to help, let Katie know. There are always behind-the-scenes preparations that she could use help with, such as organizing prizes, prepping games, candy donations, organizing bake walk, and more.

We also will be starting to get ready for the **Christmas parade** this month. For the past several years pastor Stephen drove the truck with the float for the parade. With Stephen gone we will be looking for someone with a truck

that can pull a trailer willing to drive in the parade for us. If this is something you are interested in doing, please let Katie know. If you are interested in helping design and/or build the float, please let Katie know also.

We appreciate all the support that we receive from our church members. We couldn't do it without you all.

Mark your calendars:

October 5 – Monthly Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

October 8 – No Kingdom Kids (Fall Break)

October 29 – No Kingdom Kids (Fall Festival)

November 2 – Monthly Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

November 16 – Kids sing in church, arrive by 9:30 a.m.

November 26 – No Kingdom Kids (Thanksgiving Break)

December 5 – Christmas Parade (details coming soon)

December 7 – Sunday School & Kids Play Practice

December 10 – Kids Christmas Program

December 14 – Kids sing in church, arrive by 9:30 a.m.

December 24 – No Kingdom Kids (Christmas Eve Service)

December 31 – No Kingdom Kids (New Year's Eve)

January 4 – No Monthly Sunday School

Katie Prasser
Children's Minister



The deadline for the **November** issue of *The Newsletter* is noon on **Tuesday, October 21**.

The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.

Session Committee Reports

Mission Committee – J. Ray Joellenbeck and Brad Sturgill

One Day of Hope of Coffee County

One Day of Hope of Coffee County is entering its 15th year. This year's event will occur on Saturday, October 18th at the Coffee County Fairgrounds. This ecumenical effort relies solely on volunteers and the financial support of churches, community organizations and individuals. Our neighbors in need that attend the event are able to obtain clothes, shoes, groceries and hygiene products; they receive lunch; they are able to receive medical and dental attention; they can get haircuts and family portraits; they can obtain children's books; and they can visit representatives from various groups and organizations to discuss job support and community services.

There are a few ways that you can support One Day of Hope Coffee County. The Mission Committee will be collecting new or gently used coats for men, women and children through Sunday, October 12th. Donated coats can be placed in the closet in the narthex. In addition, we will be collecting monetary donations that will go towards shampoo. The Mission

Committee will be contributing \$1,000, and any money donated by the congregation will be added to this amount, and the total will be sent to the organizers of One Day of Hope to help pay for a large order of about 2500 bottles of shampoo. If you donate online or via check, please designate it "shampoo" or "One Day of Hope."

Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering, a special offering of the PC(USA), will be received up through World Communion Sunday on October 5th. In Romans 14:19, Paul calls us to know our neighbors, both around the corner and around the world, not as "them" but as "us," friends and siblings in Christ. Pursuing peace is central to the gospel and the mission of the Church.

Half of the offering is directed to efforts at the national level for peacemaking and global witness work around the world. 25% goes to the Middle Tennessee Presbytery for peace and reconciliation work at the regional level, and the final 25% is retained by local congregations for local peace and reconciliation work.

The Mission Committee has chosen to donate the local portion of the offering to the Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center. The mission of this center is to serve local children who are victims of severe abuse through prevention, education and intervention. The specific benefits to children are: less trauma to the child due to a single interview; more immediate follow-up to reported cases; more efficient mental health treatment; increased successful prosecution; and consistent support for child victims and the non-offending caregiver. The center's vision is for a community where children are safe, families are strengthened, and victims are healed. The Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center does not discriminate. All clients who are eligible for services will receive services regardless of race, color, national origin, religion or gender.

Please consider making a gift to the offering, and may the offering be used by God and by agents of change, both near and far, to pursue what makes for peace today and in the future.

Family Activities and Outreach Committee – Shirley Levine and Helen McClure

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the church picnic such a grand success. The food was wonderful and the companionship even better. Blessings and thanks!

We continue to encourage members to provide light snacks for the fellowship time following worship each Sunday. Beverages, plates, etc. are provided by the

committee. Sign-up sheet is on the lectern in the narthex.

Chair yoga classes continue on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 PM, in Williams Family Center gym. Shirley Levine is the instructor.

Our next dining out experience will be on **Thursday, October 16, at Ragu II**, 111 W. Lauderdale St, at 6:00 PM. There will be reminders in the church bulletin on October 5 and October

12. Please sign up if you plan to attend so we can notify the restaurant how many to expect.

Men's Breakfast time continues on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 8:00 AM, in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited.

Family Activity Committee will meet October 13 at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Finance and Personnel Committee – Alan Harris

Our Finance and Personnel Committee hasn't yet met in September before the newsletter deadline, so I will briefly summarize what has been happening within our committee and our church since August 17.

Our interim pastor began work on September 2, so Clark entered his approved Terms of Call into the BOP system. Interestingly, we (Ken Patterson) also had to notify our insurance provider to document the termination of coverage of Stephen and replace it with Pastor Jim Moran.

In other news, you have noticed our musician/pianist

situation has stabilized with the addition of Colman Connolly, a student at MTSU. Colman will be considered a temporary supply; that is, he will be paid weekly. He's a great young man and, as we have all heard, he plays beautifully.

During our recent Session meeting, a suggestion was made to hire a "financial secretary" to manage our payroll and other tasks. Ministry Works was mentioned as a service used by many churches in our Presbytery. We will investigate how they might augment our operation.

We have, for many months, asked for a couple of folks in

our congregation who have good bookkeeping skills (QuickBooks gurus) who can learn the ropes from Clark and Don. Please consider serving in this capacity, as Don and Clark have, and other members have before them.

Finally, we all are thinking about Ted Elsasser as he recovers from surgery.

Alan Harris

Stewardship Committee – Charles Harvey

Stewardship is more than just managing resources; it is a way to approach life that encompasses our time, energy, and talents. When we embrace stewardship, we begin to see the potential in what we already possess.

Stewardship is rooted in the understanding that everything we have is a gift and we are caretakers of these gifts. Gifts change from mere possession to purposeful management. True stewardship encourages us to cultivate our resources, allowing them to flourish rather than merely exist. It invites us to engage actively with our lives and communities, fostering growth and connection.

At its heart, stewardship is about trust—trusting in God's

provision and trusting ourselves to manage our resources wisely. This dynamic relationship empowers us to navigate life with confidence and purpose.

Time is a precious, non-renewable resource. However, through stewardship, we can learn to redeem our time, making the most of every moment. This practice encourages us to live with intention, prioritizing what truly matters.

Generosity is a natural byproduct of stewardship. When we manage our resources well, we open ourselves up to opportunities for giving back to our communities and supporting those in need. As we navigate the complexities of stewardship, it's vital to remember that it is a journey of growth and

transformation. Each step taken in the intentional management of our resources leads us closer to a fulfilling and purposeful life.

Stewardship is not merely a responsibility; it is an invitation to engage fully with the gifts we have. The journey of stewardship encourages us to be disciplined, innovative, and proactive. As we see progress and results, we experience joy and fulfillment in our efforts, echoing the master's delight in our actions.

Learn to enjoy your stewardship journey as you commit your resources to the church as part of your stewardship pledge.

Property Committee – Bob Huffines

As most of us were aware, we experienced a failure of the Williams Family Center gymnasium HVAC unit. Stroop's investigated and determined that the motor and breaker failed. After three visits, items were replaced; unit has been working well since.

Ron Gault finished up working on apartment 1-U, and it is now ready for occupancy.

New knob/latching assembly was installed by Jim Johnson on the minister's Annex office door.

The two new Fellowship Hall doors were painted with 3 coats each with Outdoor Satin paint.

P/M Security performed their annual maintenance on the fire alarm system.

We experienced a fire in the mulch around the front "First Presbyterian" sign; it was extinguished by the Tullahoma Fire Department.

Our janitor Shannon Prasser resigned after finding a better job. We are in the process of filling his position.

There were a couple of items listed on our "wish list" regarding the Annex for a number of years. At the September Session meeting Session approved the purchase and installation of new windows and a new HVAC unit. Martha will no longer have to remove icicles from her nostrils (LOL)!

Again, the Committee appreciates the participation and input from the congregation regarding property issues.

Respectfully,
Bob Huffines, Chairman
931 581-4959