

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION OF MARS HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2008

*"When a prophet of the LORD
is among you, I reveal
myself to him in visions, I
speak to him in dreams."*

Numbers 12:6, NIV



Planting Time

I know that you will be reading this in April, but today I'm writing on St Patrick's Day—and what a fine day it is! The sun is shining, the wind is warming, the birds are singing and the earth is turning green as if on cue. In a day or two we will welcome the first official day of spring—a few days after that we will experience Easter and the joyous celebration of the resurrection. It is a great day to be alive.

It is also one of those days that people look forward to the life that is yet to come. I know of folks who say that you should plant potatoes on St Patrick's Day; I know of others who say that they should be in the ground on Good Friday. I know that there are regional variations as to what gardeners should be getting things in the ground. I know that it depends a good bit, too, on the weather of that particular year. This year we seem to be ahead of the average schedule.

I don't know what you may or may not be putting in the ground this time of year, but I do want us to think about what we should be planting in the soil of our spirits. Jesus Christ used the image of a seed falling to the ground as an illustration of what his death and resurrection might mean. His disciples could hardly grasp the harvest that was to come from this one life. They went about scattering the seeds of the good news of the gospel and it took root around the world. It springs up in people and places that we might not suspect. It is growing in the harshest of conditions where one would not think that it could get enough light or nourishment to make it. It is growing in places where many are set to strike it down and uproot it and eradicate it. It is growing in places where the very mention of Jesus Christ is liable to land one in trouble or worse. And yet it is thriving!

May we be ready to tend the seeds that God is planting in our lives. May we be watching for the signs of new things coming forth from God's hand. May we enjoy these blessed days of light and warmth so that the harvest God intends in our lives may be fruitful beyond our expectations.



In the beginning of March, our youth group was blessed to be a part of the 2008 **Presbytery Youth Summit** in Gatlinburg. This was the fourth Summit I've been to with the group, and it may have well been my favorite! Through the speaker, Casey Thompson, God really challenged us to be an example of Jesus service to us by serving others. We were led to worship God through song by our new friends the UTC Presbyterian House Worship Team. We enjoyed small group discussions, and plenty of fellowship with other youth from the Presbytery. And, as far as fun: the finger rocket Olympics, gummy worm bobbing, alka-seltzer challenge, inflatable obstacle courses, and free time in Gatlinburg did more than suffice.

As the first quarter of 2008 draws to a close, "The Journey" continues to roll on. In April, we will attend the **Mark Shultz Concert** here in Athens, followed by a **Junior High Retreat** in Ocoee, TN. (Basically, we'll all go to the concert, and then the Junior Higher's that are attending will go on to the retreat.) We still have plenty of tickets unclaimed, so if you would like to go to this concert with the youth – you are more than welcome! We need drivers!

I ask that you would be in heartfelt prayer for our **30-Hour Famine**, FRI MAY 2 and SAT MAY 3. God has really touched our hearts and challenged us in years past through this event, and we're excited to see what He will do this year. We are only getting the details together right now, so bear with us, and you will hear from the youth about sponsorships again very soon. We will need ****several**** chaperones, and will try to work it in shifts if possible. Please consider being a part of this humbling, yet amazing experience.

Our **Mission Trip to John's Island, SC** is also nearing, coming up on Saturday July 26 – Sunday Aug 3. Please continue to be in prayer as we prepare for this, and for those who will be going. Our "team" is not finalized yet, and we need two adults besides myself to chaperone. Please pray on and think about this opportunity as well.

A brief look at what's ahead:

APR – FRI 4/11 Mark Shultz Concert – Athens Junior High
FRI-SUN 4/11-13 Junior High Retreat ***need at least one more chaperone*

MAY – FRI – SAT 5/2-3 30 Hour Famine ***need chaperones*
SUN 5/4 Youth Sunday
SUN 5/18 Lake Outing and Graduate Recognition

JULY => 7/26 – 8/3 Mission Trip to John's Island, SC *** need chaperones*

"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." – Mark 10:43-44 (NIV)

- Harrison



Birthdays

Melonye Adams	3 rd	Amelia Brock	17 th
Darrell Linkous	3 rd	Kevin Hayes	19 th
Grover Thurman	7 th	Lacey Barr	21 st
Carole Haynes	7 th	Maggie Rust	22 nd
Sylvia Pelley	9 th	David Mahery	24 th
Cameron Earls	10 th	Hollis Martin	24 th
Patti Greek	12 th	Tim Mayfield	29 th
Jordan Bare	14 th	Laura Hutson	30 th

Anniversaries

Jack and Connie Allen	17 th
Don and Helen Kettenbeil	17 th
Charles and Willa Engle	21 st
Tony and Dana Ferrigno	25 th
Allen and Lucille Boyd	26 th

Older Adult Spring Event-

“HEY GOD, LISTEN!”

Featuring noted children's author Roxie Gibson

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

9:30am to 1:30pm

Mars Hill Presbyterian Church

Athens, TN

You're Invited!

Brochures and registration forms will be out soon!





Starting March 1st applications for the Mars Hill Presbyterian Church Scholarships will be available in the church office. If you are interested in making an application for the Fall Semester 2008 or Spring Semester 2009, please come by and pick up an application.

The following criteria shall be required for all applicants in order for them to be considered for the scholarship award:

- Must be an active member of MHPC;
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from their high school guidance office or from a faculty or staff member of the college in which they are enrolled;
- Must submit a brief summary about their involvement with the MHPC Youth Group (if a graduating high school student); or, their involvement with some campus organization or their work experience. Minimum of 250 words; maximum of 500 words. Topics could include: activities you have enjoyed, mission trip experience, helping others, personal growth, spiritual growth, or some related topic that shows how your involvement or work experience has helped you and/or others;
- Must be a student who is enrolled or who is accepted to be enrolled into a undergraduate, accredited institution of higher learning (college, university, technical school) and who is in pursuit of a degree or certificate from that school. Home study programs are not eligible for consideration;
- Complete the application and return to the church office by May 31, 2008.

From the Stewardship Committee...



**VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATED & NEEDED**

We are looking for news about our members and friends on how they are using their time, talents, and resources to benefit our church and God's kingdom, or how in their work that they still have needs that other of us might be able to assist with. We would like to publish this information on a regular basis (i.e. monthly). However we need your help. Please make a note of anything you consider worthwhile. Be sure to include names, dates, and any other pertinent details. We have so many groups and individuals who work so hard, and many do so "behind the scenes". These people are engaged in ongoing stewardship for the Lord, and our committee would like to publicize these efforts and help connect our other members in this work. Please feel free to e-mail us at the church, write the information down and drop your news or request by the church office, or give to John Mackersie. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Stewardship Committee

Treasurer's Report

February & March 2008 Financial Report

Operating Fund		
Income	February	Year-to-Date
Pledges	\$ 12,522.00	\$ 22,655.00
Non-Pledging Members	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 3,080.00
Friends of the Church & Visitors	\$ 605.00	\$ 985.00
Loose Contributions	\$ 411.00	\$ 448.00
Sunday School	\$ 63.25	\$ 143.91
Other	\$ 59.69	\$ 172.17
Total Operating Income	\$ 15,465.94	\$ 27,484.08
Expenses		
Payroll	\$ 7,356.97	\$ 14,434.24
Administrative	\$ 4,304.64	\$ 8,511.02
Benevolence		\$ 8,155.04
Christian Education	\$ 3,594.02	\$ 3,313.02
Congregational Support	\$ 175.95	\$ 230.45
Worship	\$ 214.68	\$ 315.06
Property	\$ 4,896.72	\$ 8,039.40
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 20,542.98	\$ 42,998.23
Net Income	\$ (5,007.04)	\$ (15,514.15)



*Rejoice always
Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
For this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.*

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

SUMMER IS COMING!



John Knox Center

Summer is coming and that means Summer Camp. Remember that the church will cover half the cost of sending our kids to Camp John Knox. Check out their website www.johnknoxcenter.org for details and remember to register early for a \$25.00 discount.

Camps

- Day Camp I
- Pioneer Day Camp
- Mini Camp I & II
- Critter Camp
- Elementary Camp
- Native Ways Camp
- Elementary Marathon
- Jr. High Camp
- Jr. High Marathon
- Night Owl Camp
- Jr. High Adventure Sampler
- Sr. High Adventure Sampler
- Covenant Partners
- Jr. Counselor Program

ST JUDES EVENT

Oneheart Dojo is sponsoring a fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital on Saturday, April 5, at Athens Regional Park. There will be karate demonstrations including board breaking. The J-103 Van will be there with music and prizes. There will be food and fun for everyone. Please come out and check it out. If you are approached by someone trying to raise funds for the event, please give as God directs.

MADCAT TOWN MEETING

The McMinn Anti-Drug Coalition Assisting Teens (MADCAT) will be holding a Town Meeting on Monday, April 7, at the Athens Junior High School to address the issues surrounding drug use and abuse in our community. We want to have people from all areas of the community to be here and be part of the conversation on this critical topic. Please join us.

MARC SHULTZ CONCERT

Marc Shultz, nationally known Christian songwriter and artist, will be performing at the Athens Junior High School on Friday, April 11, at 7:00 pm? Tickets are available from the Chamber of Commerce. Don't miss this chance to catch one of Christian Music's best right here in the Friendly City.



Mars Hill Children's Event

Skating Party on April 27th
at the Roller Skate Rink
starting at 4-6pm.

Please plan to come and bring a friend.
Free with regular skates, in-line are \$3.00.

THANKS FROM...



From Our Missionaries

To my devoted prayer warriors-
I hope and pray that you had an incredible Easter. Mine was AMAZING! I just want you to know that I thank my God for you! Please keep on letting me know how I can pray for you.

Can you please consider taking the first Sunday of April to fast and pray for Nepal, and have your church pray also. The elections in Nepal are supposed to take place on April 10th. There is a good possibility this will not happen, but there is also a really good possibility things could get a bit crazy here in Nepal. I don't want to give to many details here, but you can find out more on the news about Nepal. Please pray as the communist party the Maoist is determined to take over at any means. Also pray as the problems in Tibet are greatly affecting those here in Nepal because they rely on the tourist industry and with all the problems tourists are not coming. Please pray for these people that God has given me to love.. pray for the nation of Nepal. If you would like more specific requests let me know.. and if your church decides to take this day and fast and pray would you let me know also!

Thank you guys so much for your support.. it means the world to me!!

Blessings <><

Jenn Hand

Joyous Tidings-New Arrivals



Congratulations to:

Broeck Alexander Moses

born on March 4th to
Alex and Jennifer Moses
Grandparents
Bill & Kay Moses

Jacob Alexander Randle

born on March 22nd to
Alex and Emily Randle
Grandparents
John & Melissa Goins

“Make time for the quiet moments, for God whispers and the world is loud.”



April:

1st Elder on call – Darrell Linkous
 2nd Elder on call – Carole Haynes
 Acolyte – Kennedy and Connor McJunkin
 Communion Preparers: Bill and Kay Moses
 Communion Servers: Sylvia Pelley and Stephanie Linkous

Men's Prayer Group Devotional Schedule

April:

April 2nd	Les Rust
April 9 th	Open
April 16 th	Jim Harrison
April 23 rd	Jay Bott
April 30 th	Marc Adams



Highnooners on Tuesday, April 15th (Tax Day) are going to the Mexi-Wings in Sweetwater. They will meet in to the church parking lot at 11:00 am and car pool to the restaurant. If you are planning to attend please let Jay Bott, 746-0403 know.



Friday April 4th – at Wal-mart 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
 Monday April 14th - at Lowe's 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Circle One continued our study of *The Purpose Driven Life* in March. We rejoice with Kay Moses on the birth of her new grandson and have several in our Circle we are praying for at this time.

We will meet in fellowship hall April 14th at 12:00 pm and we would be happy to have you join us.

Circle Two will meet at the home of Marsha Tuesday, April 8th. We will be collecting for a donation to the United Way as our project month.

Women's Circle II



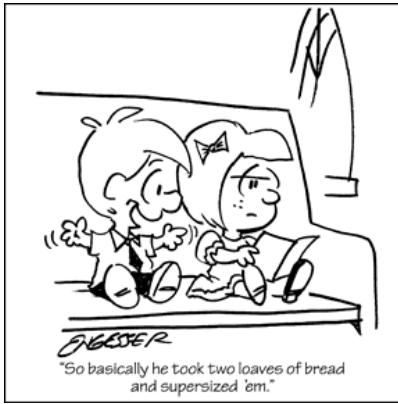
Lucas on money of the

Book club met late in March, so April info is not ready at this printing, please watch for information in the bulletin for April.



THANKS TO ...

All the folks who came out and helped with our Church Work Day ...
All the teams who provided such great meals during our Lenten Study...
Blair and the Children for their music on Palm Sunday ...
Debbie, Johnny and the Choir for their music on Easter ...
All those who provided lilies for our Easter Worship ...
The "Auto Angel" who took care of a repair for Les' little car ...
Those who have given their time to chaperone the Youth on their adventures...



Just for KIDS

Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.

1 gives 11 is 29 it 8 clouds 12 to 5 Lord 25 of 4 in
 2 storm 10 sat 27 the 16 the 28 for 30 the 3 the
 6 field 18 rain 9 he 15 mates 22 the 20 showers 14 who 17 plants
 10 16 5 28 18
 4 22 26
 29 11 3 19 14 15
 27 2 8
 9 1 20 31 23
 12 7 21 17 25
 30 6 24 13

Zechariah 10:1 omg

Answer: "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone." Zechariah 10:1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 -0645 MBPG—Rust 6:00 pm Youth Parent Mtg 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	3 Melonye Adams Darrell Linkous 7:00 pm Autism Spt	4 Loaves & Fishes at Rivermont 4 pm GSA	
6—Communion	7 Grover Thurman Carole Haynes 5:30 pm CE Meeting 7:00 pm BSA	8 0900 COM 7 pm Circle II	9 -0645 MBPG-Open 9:30 OAM 10:00 Crafty Fellowship Sylvia Pelley 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	10—0830 School Mtg 10:00 Equip Team Cameron Earls 11:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 pm BSA	11 10:00 FCE 12:00 MADCAT 4 pm GSA Mark Schultz Concert/Jr. High Retreat	12 Patti Greek
13	14 12:00 Circle I Jordan Bare 7:00 pm BSA	15 11:30 Highnooners 6 pm GSA	16 -0645—Harrison 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	17 10 am Pres. Planning Mtg Amelia Brock Jack & Connie Allen Don & Helen Kettenbeil 7 pm Trout Unlimited	18 4 pm GSA	19 Kevin Hayes
20	21 Lacey Barr Charles & Willa Engle 7:00 pm BSA	22 Maggie Rust 6 pm GSA	23 -0645—Bott 10:00 Crafty Fellowship 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	24 David Mahery Hollis Martin	25 Tony & Dana Ferrigno 4 pm GSA	26 Allen & Lucille Boyd
27	28 1:30 pm Book Club 6:30 ADK	29 Reverend Rust on call Chaplain for Athens Regional Medical Center Tim Mayfield 6 pm GSA	30 -0645—Adams Laura Hutson 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir			