

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION OF MARS HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2008



Lenten Season

Let Everything Praise the Lord!

The Psalms are the Bible's hymnbook. There are Psalms of praise and lament and thanksgiving; there are Psalms for the times of enthronement and the seasons of distress; there are Psalms that teach wisdom. The Psalms speak to virtually every aspect of our human existence; they do not avoid the unpleasantness of life; they do not shy away from the difficult times.

If you will read the last of the Psalms you will find that Psalms 145-150 are known as the Laudate Psalms—that means they are songs of praise. The Bible's hymnbook closes with Psalm 150. It is a Psalm of praise that includes all of life. It is a Psalm that is especially appropriate as we look to dedicate our new organ and some renovations to our sanctuary.



- 1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
 - 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
 - 3 Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
 - 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
 - 5 Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
 - 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
- Praise the Lord! Psalm 150, ESV

This is a song that resounds with every note, every breath, and every vibration of life—with all the instruments and all the voices and all the intensity of life itself! Oh, that our praise of God would reflect this always!

Our new organ will offer us new ways of hearing just such praise. It will produce sounds in ways that our old organ could never have done. It will help to lift our voices with greater strength. It will be a blessing that will continue to assist us in worship for years and years to come. There will be times when we hear the trumpet sounds and times that we have the sounds of strings and pipes.

It has been many years in the process, but it will be worth the wait. As we admire the beauty of this fine instrument, as we listen to the delicate subtleties of sound, as we meditate on the music which is offered to us, let us thank God for all the reasons that we can offer our praise to the highest! Alleluia!

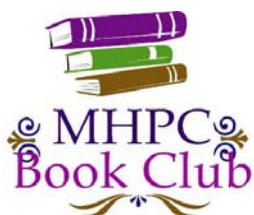
Women's Circle I



Circle One will meet at 11:00 on Monday, February 11th and car pool to Shop the World in Englewood. Then we will go to the C&W restaurant in Etowah and have lunch. Please call Reba to reserve your place. We will have a short devotion at the restaurant and pick up on our study book in March. You are welcome to join us.

Circle II will meet at Denise Earls' home on Tuesday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. For carpooling, please meet in the church parking lot at 6:45. We will be filling student boxes and collecting much needed items for the Animal Shelter. We welcome any ladies who would like to join us.

Women's Circle II



Book club will meet at the home of Peggy Hallenberg at 1:30 p.m. We will be discussing *In an Instant* by Bob & Lee Woodruff.



All children are invited to a bowling party on February 10th starting at 4:00 p.m. We will bowl and have pizza and other treats!



Let Stephanie Linkous, 568-2331, know if you can come out for some fun and fellowship!



February:

1st Elder on call – Judith Dyer

2nd Elder on call – John Goins

Acolyte – Alison Dyer

Communion Preparers: Jack and Connie Allen

Communion Servers: Annette Burger and Don Schubert

Men's Prayer Group Devotional Schedule

February:

6th – Les Rust

13th – Jim Harrison

20th – (open)

27th – Marc Adams



High Nooners

We will be staying in Athens this month (19th), going out to the Gondolier. We will meet out there at 11:30. Don Schubert (744-8895) will be making reservations; please let him know if you are planning to attend. Hope to see everyone then.



Our Annual Meeting will be part of our service on Sunday, February 3. Since we are having a catered lunch on the 10th, we will meet in the sanctuary at the close of worship. Please pick up an annual report and read about what we've been doing as part of God's church.



Contemporary Problems
Discussion

MHPC Session is sponsoring a Conference on *Contemporary Problems Facing the Christian World* on February 16th. It will be moderated by the Rev. Ed Langham, a retired Presbyterian Minister. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend. Come hear and share with other Presbyterians your thoughts regarding the questions we all are asking about our world. We will start at 9:00 a.m. at MHPC and will go until we get tired. Thanks! John Mackersie.



We've just returned from a weekend retreat in Gatlinburg with around 8 thousand other youth. We were invited to the retreat – called Resurrection – by the Trinity United Methodist youth, who are just up the street from us. All I can say is “Wow!” I believe I speak for everyone in our youth group and Trinity's in saying we were challenged and deeply moved unlike any way we had been before. We had lots of fun doing silly dances and songs and very liberating times of worship. There were plenty of hard-core, raw, biblical truths put to us in a way that left us no choice but to respond. We were challenged to move from spiritual complacency to a place of passion for our purpose in Christ. I believe that when our time of commitment came on the last night, every single individual from our group and Trinity's made a decision to be intentional about their relationship with God, “getting in the game” instead of just watching from the stands.

This was not just some emotional weekend of learning how bad we are and then finding how Christ makes that all better, so we can go home and tell everyone we cried but don't really know why. It was a wake up call, a cry to come alive! To embrace the Christian life as a 24/7 mission, where everything done for Christ, whether small or big, is another “domino” in God's plan for peoples lives. To love like we mean it, and to live like we love people. It was not just another “movement” within the church, but a “resistance” to conformity (see Romans 12:1-2). Our teenagers are different because of it. Just ask them.

Phew! There's more coming. Check out our spring line-up so far:

Weekly – Tuesday Bible Study @ 6:30 at the Beanery / Wednesday Youth Group @ 6:45 at Mars Hill

January 26-28 D.Y.E – Diocese Youth Event at Episcopal School in Knoxville

February 16-18 – Ski trip to Sugar Mountain, NC.

March 2-4 – Presbytery-wide Youth Summit in Gatlinburg (9-12 grade)

March 9-11 – Diocese-wide Junior High Retreat at Ocoee, TN (6-8 grade)

April – Youth Sundays and 30-hour Famine

Journeying on in “Victory.”

Harrison

Stewardship and Treasurer's Comments



A total of 58 pledges were received for 2007 representing an income of \$181,860. Looking back, 58 pledges were also received for 2006 and represented an income of \$26,860 less than for 2007. We have two less active members on the rolls than was reported for 2006. A total of 54 pledges was the highest number of pledges received in prior years for which records were found.

A months' record Pledge Income was received in December. Additionally, a stock contribution with a value of \$2,860.80 was received mid December. The negative Other Income was an adjustment for some income that was included in the wrong place. Our positive 2007 year-end result was due to receiving significantly greater income than estimated and our costs were less than budgeted.

December 2007 Financial Report

Operating Fund

Income	December	Year-to-Date
Pledges	\$28,334.00	\$ 163,033.00
Non-Pledging Members	\$ 2,155.00	\$ 19,560.00
Friends of the Church & visitors	\$ 1,265.00	\$ 11,664.00
Loose Contributions	\$ 163.00	\$ 1,650.16
Sunday School	\$ 214.10	\$ 1,596.59
Other	\$ (1,061.00)	\$ 15,858.21
Total Operating Income	\$31,070.10	\$ 213,361.96
Expenses		
Payroll	\$12,500.05	\$ 82,363.17
Administrative	\$ 2,894.05	\$ 36,684.19
Benevolence	\$ 616.67	\$ 29,073.75
Christian Education	\$ 1,381.34	\$ 6,415.79
Congregational Support	\$ 21.08	\$ 354.58
Worship	\$ 212.46	\$ 1,202.43
Property	\$ 2,140.18	\$ 39,771.01
Total Operating Expenses	\$19,765.83	\$ 195,864.92
Net Income/Expense	\$11,304.27	\$ 17,497.04

THANKS TO ...



All those who came out and helped to take down the browns ...

Our outgoing class of elders: Don Den Uyl, Davis Haynes, Merna Jaquish, and Sherree Reed...

Our hand chimes groups for adding their gifts of music at Christmas time ...

Blair Boyd for her solo on Christmas Eve ...

Annette Burger, Reba Powers, and Laura Rust for providing our lunch during the Session Retreat...

Anonymous donors and the Linkouses for new toys in the Nursery....



*Thank You
Organ Committee*

A task as large as a new organ takes a great deal of work, time, patience, and prayer. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Organ Committee: John Goins, Don Schubert, Jay Bott, Don Den Uyl, Bill Moses, Mike Jaquish, Janet Martin, Pam Thigpen, and Johnny Coffman. They have been working on this project for some time, and their efforts are to be applauded.

THANKS FROM ...

I would like to express my thanks for your love and support after the home-going of my Mom. Your prayers, visits, cards, flowers and offers of food were very much appreciated. Again, I would like to thank the choir members who were kind enough to sing at the funeral. I never forget but it's wonderful to be reminded of the loving nature of our congregation. God bless you all.

Johnny



On Sunday, February 10th, we will dedicate our new organ during our morning worship. This will be a special service of music and song. We will join together for a catered lunch graciously provided by the Walthall Family following the service. We want everyone to be here to add to the glorious praise that morning. Mark your calendar and make sure you fill out a reservation form or call the church office by February 4th.



MESSIAH LENTEN STUDY

Once again we will be looking at the text, music and message of Handel's Messiah during Lent.

We'll gather on Wednesday evenings for study (5:30), supper (6:30), and fellowship.

Please join us as we learn and grow together.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On Ash Wednesday, Feb 6, we'll gather in the sanctuary at 6:00pm for a special service of worship. We will begin our Lenten journey towards Easter with the imposition of ashes and a time of silence and meditation. Please join with us as we walk with our Lord through these days of spring.



Lenten Devotions

Lenten Devotionals will be available for you and your family during this season.

Listening to Lent for daily devotions to discover what Lent has to teach you. A calendar is available for our teens with daily activities and thoughts to help them discover more about their Lenten experience. For the families there is a daily mealtime activity through the Lenten Season.



Blood Mobile: February 12th at Lowe's 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays February

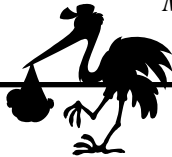
Raymond Barr	2 nd	Zack Reed	17 th
Jay Bott	2 nd	Randy Ayres	18 th
Laura Rust	3 rd	Stephanie Linkous	18 th
Hamilton Hacker	9 th	Lisa Bacon	21 st
Brook Bare	9 th	Janet Adsit	25 th
Denise Earls	10 th	Betsy Allen	26 th
“Al” Rogers	11 th	Jerry Trotter	27 th
Marissa Tullock	12 th	Pam Thigpen	27 th
John Mackersie, Jr.	14 th	Abbey Whaley	27 th
Blair Elizabeth Boyd	15 th	Michael Brock	28 th
John Dyer	17 th	Michael Tullock	28 th

Anniversaries

February

Dean and Annette Burger 18th

Matthew and Jennifer Ronne 20th



Happy and Joyous News

Carter Hobson Perry born on January 9th to
Chris & Shelly Perry
Grandparents Phillip & Suellen Perry

FEBRUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Raymond Barr Jay Bott
3—Communion Annual Meeting Laura Rust	4 7 pm BSA	5- Presbytery Mtg Sequoyah Hills Rev. Rust Hospital Chaplain February 4th through the 10th. 6:30 Youth Bible Study 6:30 GSA	6—MPBG(Les Rust) 6pm -Ash Wednesday Service	7—Athens School Counselors 12- 3:00 Garden Club 4 pm Madcat Grp 7 pm Autism Support Grp	8 10am FCE 4 pm GSA	9 Hamilton Hacker Brook Bare
10 Organ Dedication Bowling Party 4 p.m. Denise Earls	11 Al Rogers 10am Equip Team 12:00 Circle I 5:30 Coordinated Charities 7 pm BSA	12 Marissa Tullock 9am COM 6:30 Youth Bible Study 7 pm Circle II	13- MPBG(Jim Harrison) 10am Crafty Fellowship 5:30 Lenten Study 6:30 Supper 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	14 John Mackersie, Jr.	15 Blair Boyd 4 pm GSA	16 9am Conf. on Problems Facing the World Today hosted by MHPC <i>Youth Ski Trip</i>
17 12:00 Session John Dyer Zack Reed	18 Randy Ayres Stephanie Linkous Dean & Annette Burger	19 11:30 High Nooners @ Gondolier's 6:30 Youth Bible Study 6:30 GSA	20—MPBG Matt hew & Jennifer Ronne 10am Crafty Fellowship 5:30 Lenten Study 6:30 Supper 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	21 Lisa Bacon 7 pm Trout Unlimited	22 4 pm GSA	23
24	25 Janet Adsit 12:00 Madcat Mtg 1:30 MHPC Book Club	26 Betsy Allen Presbytery Youth Ministers Mtg 6:30 Youth Bible Study 6:30 GSA	27- MPBG(Marc Adams) Jerry Trotter Pam Thigpen Abbey Whaley 5:30 Lenten Study 6:30 Supper 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	28 Michael Brock Michael Tullock	29 4 pm GSA	

