

GENERAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
*Classes for children and adults
10:45 a.m. Worship service
*Nursery is provided

Monday

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

- 6:00 p.m. Girls Scouts

Wednesday

- 6:45 Youth Group
7:00 Choral choir
*Nursery is provided

Thursday

- 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels
Volunteers are needed!

Friday

- 4:30-6:30 Girl Scouts

Pastor: The Rev. Leslie Rust
Home: 500 Linden Circle
Athens, TN 37303
Home Phone # 1 423 745-0497
Web Site: www.marshillpres.com
MPC E-Mail: mhpc1398@bellsouth.net
Church Office 745-1403

Clerk of Session: Reba Powers
Treasurer: Don DenUyl
Church School Superintendent: Jim Harrison
Choir Director: Deborah Bare
Organist: Johnny Coffman
Nursery: Connie Dalton
Financial Secretary: Don DenUyl
Bookkeeper: Susan Tullock
Secretary: Connie Dalton
Youth Director: Harrison Hart
Newsletter Editor: Susan Tullock

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MARS HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
205 N. JACKSON STREET
ATHENS, TN 37303

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION OF MARS HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2008



Easter Comes Early

It has been a strange spring for me so far. One of the reasons is how early Easter falls this year. It seems that we have barely gotten past Christmas and the New Year and Easter is already only a few weeks away. When Ash Wednesday comes before Valentine's Day, then we've got an early Easter.

For those of you who may not know. Easter is a movable feast of the church. It varies from year to year. It is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This year that full moon falls on March 21 at 2:39pm EDT (eastern daylight time) according to the Old Farmer's Almanac. The vernal equinox, that astronomical calculation that marks the change from winter to spring occurs at March 20 at 1:48am EDT. With Sunday coming on March 23 we have Easter coming about as early as possible.

There is another old piece of weather lore that might be fitting this year. The old adage is that "a green Christmas means a white Easter." It was fairly warm this past December; and we all know that March can be very unpredictable in the Tennessee Valley. So we'll have to be watching the weather for the right clothing to wear this Easter.

But Easter comes in more ways than just on the calendar or through the spring fashion lines. Easter comes to us as God's gift of eternal life in the here and now. Yes, it marks the day that we remember and celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. Yes, Jesus Christ is called the first fruits of the resurrection. But because we have faith in Jesus Christ we know that our new life begins now—in this present day, in this present age. We do not have to wait any longer to know how it all ends—the resurrection is God's gift to us to let us know.

My Granddaddy Stockton had a saying, "take care of the dying, so that you can get on with the living." It was his way of saying take care of all those arrangements and details so that someone else doesn't have to worry about them. But it also means that once you've faced the issue of death, then you will be much more free to enjoy the life that is given to you. Those who have faced major illnesses and diseases and surgeries will often tell you that they are now living each day as if it's a gift—and in a real way it is!

Easter means that God has taken care of the dying so that we can get on with the living right now, right here; since that is the case, Easter, the awareness of our new life in Christ, can never come soon enough!

Have a blessed and joyous Easter!

Women's Circle I



SHOP THE WORLD, that is what Circle One did in February. We traveled just north of Englewood to a little shop called "Shop the World" and found lots of items from different countries. Then we had lunch at the C&W restaurant in Etowah.

In March we will study from chapter 34, "Thinking Like a Servant," from *The Purpose Driven Life*. Flo Percy has an idea she will bring to share with us in March also. Bring your lunch, dessert will be furnished.

See you at noon on March 10th, in the fellowship hall.

Denise Earls hosted our February meeting and we had some delicious red velvet cake for Valentine's. The boxes for our students away from home were filled to the brim (and then some). Shawna Whiting also attended and spoke with us about the need for volunteers at Full Circle Women's Services.

We will meet at Pat Adams' home on Tuesday, March 11th. One of our projects will be to collect funds and donate to the EG Fisher Library for the purchase of new children's books and we will also be filling Easter baskets. Our meeting begins at 7:00; please join us! .

Women's Circle II



Book club – will meet on, March 24th, at the home of Kay Moses at 1:30 p.m.. We will be reading and discussing, *In an Instant*, by Lee Woodruff. This was originally scheduled for last month, but due to availability issues we are going to do it this month. Everyone is welcome to come and join us.

THANKS TO ...

Walthall Family for their generosity to our community...

All the committee members who helped with our organ project...

Don Powers for all his help with the brackets for the organ...

Stephanie Linkous & Christy Walker for our bowling outing for the kids ...

Our Sunday School teachers who devote their time and talents so that we can learn ...

John & Lyn Mackersie for bringing Ed Langham here for a great discussion...

Congregational Support for all the wonderful meals on Wednesday nights...
 The families that have provided us with beautiful flowers in our Sanctuary...



March:

- 1st Elder on call – John Goins
- 2nd Elder on call – Carole Haynes
- Acolyte – MaryBeth Ronne
- Communion Preparers:- Maundy Thursday- Shirley Bott
 Easter – Reba Powers
- Communion Servers: – Marc Adams & Chris Adams

Men's Prayer Group Devotional Schedule

March:

- March 5th Les Rust
- March 12th Jay Bott
- March 19th Doug Harrod
- March 26th Bill Moses



Highnooners will be going back to our local Cracker Barrel next month. We will meet out at the restaurant at 11:30. Please give the church office (745-1403) a call if you are planning to attend.



Adjust Your Calendars and Your Clocks ...

They've changed Daylight Saving's Time. It will begin on Sunday, March 9th this year. Please mark your calendars, change your clocks, and come on to learn and worship God on that Lord's Day.



We've just returned from our annual youth **Ski/Snowboard Trip**, and this year's was as exciting as ever. There were nineteen of us, including 15 youth and 4 chaperones. We enjoyed plenty of skiing, snowboarding, energy drinks, snowball fights, energy drinks, card games, energy drinks, riddles, jumping of car batteries and of course, energy drinks. Need I say more? We have countless stories to tell, and I haven't really stopped laughing at all our "adventures" since I returned home last night.

On **Wednesday nights**, we've been studying some things about the season of Lent, and what it really looks like to humble ourselves before the Lord. We've had some good open discussion about the origin of sin, and talked a bit about God's promise of paradise restored.

I'd like for you to continue to be aware that our **Mission Trip** is coming up on July 26-Aug 3. We will be traveling to John's Island, SC to work with several other churches in renovating homes in the area. We have enough spots for 12 youth and 3 chaperones. Please be in prayer about helping as an adult chaperone. We're really excited about this opportunity.

Please be in prayer for our youth as we are heading to Gatlinburg for **Youth Summit**, March 7-9. Summit has always been an opportunity for God to move in special ways in the hearts of teenagers, and we pray this year is no exception. We are taking quite a few this year, and I am very excited to see what God will do in us and through us at this event.

Please also remember our **30-Hour Famine** in prayer, as we prepare for that and **Youth Sunday** on the weekend of May 2-4. We could also use help for this event as well.

- MAR => 3/7-9 Youth Summit (High School) in Gatlinburg, TN
- APR => 4/11 Mark Shultz Concert – Athens Junior High
 4/11-13 Junior High Retreat *need at least one more chaperone
- MAY => 5/2-3 30 Hour Famine (With YOUTH SUNDAY on 5/4) **need chaperones
- JULY => 7/26 – 8/3 Mission Trip to John's Island, SC ** need chaperones

May you remember: "The JOY of the Lord is your strength." – Nehemiah 8:10

- Harrison

Summer will be here before you know it.

It's time to plan your camp adventure.

John Knox Camp

It's a great place to grow in Jesus.

See bulletin board for more information or check them out online

www.johnknoxcenter.org.

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.

March Birthdays

End 2007				Correct Year Report for
	Charles Engle	3 rd	Tiffany Barr	15 th
	Bob Lucas Jr.	3 rd	Lindsey Reid	16 th
	Linda Reid	3 rd	Matthew Reed	20 th
	Don Reid	7 th	Elizabeth Earls	21 st
	Hannah Thurman	7 th	Trevor Heator	21 st
	Janet Martin	11 th	John Harrod	23 rd
	Alex Randle	11 th	Susan Tullock	23 rd
	Mary Watkins	13 th	Laurie Powell	31 st

and
=
4-5

March Anniversaries

Kevin and Nancy Hayes	12 th
Abner and Arliss Mulinix	16 th
Danny and Sherree Reed	16 th
Jim and Freddie Nelson	26 th

Loaves
Fishes
April

=

Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga

Once a year the Presbytery of East Tennessee gathers together to learn, to share, to grow, to have fellowship—it is called Loaves and Fishes. This year we will be blessed to have the Reverend Eugenia Gamble as our keynote speaker; she is an accomplished speaker and writer. There will be workshops covering a wide variety of topics. There will be Friday Forums (one lead by our own Mike Jaquish) encouraging the exchange of ideas and information. There are brochures on the tables outside the sanctuary, or call the church office for more information. Registration deadline is March 20th.

Stewardship Report & Treasurer Comments

Total 2007 operating fund income exceeded the budget by 3%. Expenses for the year were 1% less than budgeted. Reserve funds were used to purchase music, for church maintenance and sanctuary renovations.

Mars Hill Presbyterian Church's total funds at year end 2007 were \$132,305.84 less than at the end of 2006. Much of the reduction was due to the use of the reserve organ funds. Of significance is the \$20,520.79 (13.5%) reduction in the Un-Restricted Funds.

The 2008 Operating Budget has a short fall of \$18,242.00. In summary:

-Pledge units decreased by 4 with pledge income 3.8% less than for 2007

-Of the 54 pledges received

2007 FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS

Income	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget
Pledging Members	\$ 187,495.00	\$ 181,860	\$ 174,920
Non-Pledging Members	\$ 13,565.00	\$ 12,840	\$ 22,550
Friends & Visitors	\$ 4,267.00	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,100
Youth Program - St. Pauls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Other	\$ 6,196.20	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 216,523.20	\$ 209,500	\$ 212,570
Expenses			
Payroll	\$ 92,417.29	\$ 93,491	\$ 95,530
Administrative	\$ 41,743.77	\$ 41,813	\$ 46,172
Benevolence	\$ 33,047.27	\$ 33,875	\$ 36,050
Christian Education	\$ 7,229.05	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,650
Congregational Support	\$ 882.48	\$ 850	\$ 850
Worship	\$ 1,962.32	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400
Property	\$ 41,276.27	\$ 42,200	\$ 43,160
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 218,558.45	\$ 220,679	\$ 230,812
Income/Expenses	\$ (2,035.25)	\$ (11,179)	\$ (18,242)

24 increased their pledge,

- 26 remained the same,
- 3 were reduced,
- 1 pledged who did not pledge the prior year,
- 5 members who submitted a pledge for 2007 did not submit a pledge for 2008.
- Budgeted 2008 expenses are 4.6% higher than budgeted for 2007 and 5.6% higher than actual 2007 expense.
- The increases in comparison with 2007 actual are;
 - 3.4% Payroll,
 - 10.6% Administrative,
 - 9.1% Benevolence,
 - 5.8% Christian Education
 - 4.6% Property

**January 2008 Financial Report
Operating Fund**

Income	January
Pledges	\$ 10,133.00
Non-Pledging Members Friends of the Church & visitors	\$ 1,275.00
Loose Contributions	\$ 380.00
Sunday School	\$ 37.00
Other	\$ 80.66
	\$ 112.48
Total Operating Income	\$ 12,018.14
Expenses	
Payroll	\$ 7,077.27
Administrative	\$ 4,206.38
Benevolence	\$ 8,155.04
Christian Education	\$ (281.00)
Congregational Support	\$ 54.50
Worship	\$ 100.38
Property	\$ 3,027.59
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 22,340.16
Net Income	\$ (10,322.02)

Holy Week Services – March 17-21

During Holy Week we gather at different churches in the community to worship God and to fellowship with other sisters and brothers in the faith. These services are held each day at 12:05pm and last about 30 minutes. Different ministers bring the message, the churches provide special music, and some even offer a light lunch. Come and participate in these special times for us as a community. Watch the bulletin for the specific schedule as we get closer to Holy Week.

Sunrise Service

March 23, 7:00am

Mars Hill Presbyterian

We will host the community Sunrise Service on Easter morning at 7:00am. It is a great way to greet the Easter day. Come and join us!

Maundy Thursday Service

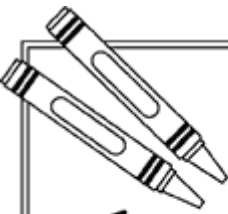
March 20, 7:00pm

On that fateful night that our Lord was arrested and his trial began, he sat at the table with his disciples and shared a meal—the meal that would become the Lord’s Supper. Join us on Maundy Thursday as we remember our Lord’s words and actions. This is a special time of

worship for all;
child care will be
provided



M




Just for KIDS

For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

perish but have eternal life." N "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not

John 3:16, NIV



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>Charles Engle</i> <i>Bob Lucas Jr.</i> <i>Linda Reid</i> 5:30 C.E. Cmte 7:00 BSA	4 6:30 GSA	5– 0645 MPBG 5:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Lenten Study 6:30 Supper 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	6 7:00 Autism Spt Grp	7 <i>Don Reid</i> <i>Hannah Thu</i> 4:00 GSA	8 Youth Summit
9 Day Light Savings begins!	10 10:00 Equip Team 12:00 Circle I 7:00 BSA	11 <i>Janet Martin</i> <i>Alex Randle</i> 9:30 COM 7:00 Circle II	12– 0645 MPBG <i>Kevin & Nancy Hayes</i> 10:00 Crafty Fellowship 5:30 Lenten Study/Children's Choir 6:30 Supper 6:45 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	13– 8:00 Athens City School Counselors <i>Mary Watkins</i> 7:00 BSA Trng	14 10:00 FCE 4:00 GSA	15 <i>Tiffany Barr</i> Church Clean Up Day
16—Palm Sunday 12:00 Session <i>Abner & Arliss Mulinix</i> <i>Danny & Sherree Reed</i> <i>Lindsey Reid</i>	17	18	19– 0645 MPBG 5:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Lenten Study 6:30 Supper HOLY WEEK	20 <i>Matthew Reed</i> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	21 <i>Elizabeth Earls</i> <i>Trevor Heator</i>	22 Easter Egg Hunt
23 Sunrise Service @ MHPC Easter - Communion <i>John Harrod</i> <i>Susan Tullock</i>	24 6:30 ADK	25 6:30 GSA	26– 0645 MPBG 10:00 Crafty Fellowship <i>Jim & Freddie Nelson</i> Rev. Rust on Vacation	27	28 4:00 GSA	29
30– Pulpit Supply– Rev. Schaffer	31 1:30 MHPC Book Club <i>Laurie Powell</i>					