



The Memorial Messenger

November 2010

Walking Communion: A Family Affair

Did you know we are radicals? In fact, the way we have traditionally celebrated the Lord's Supper hasn't always been the way it's been celebrated. During the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, a radically new method of celebration was proposed: "pew communion" (in which believers remained seated and received the elements), although this was considered too radical for that time and not at all resembling a meal. What was the most common practice before this radical innovation? "Walking communion," in which believers would walk forward to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and the cup, and then return to their places in the sanctuary.

Recently our Session voted to provide our communing members with the option of either "pew communion" or "walking communion." Why this additional option? Primarily because "walking communion" emphasizes the biblical focus on the corporate or "family" character of the Lord's Supper. As we see one another walk forward as brothers and sisters in God's family, it makes our Lord's Supper celebration more and more obviously something that unites us, something precious and sacred that we do together. We come together to the loaf and to the cup. Young and old, men and women, we all come to receive the bread and the cup.

After all, what is undoubtedly and emphatically an important part of this "Supper" is that it is a meal taken together. It was in the first instance and has been ever since. It is a family meal and we are the family of God. It is not a private act but a familial one. By walking forward we are reminded that the Supper is not about "me" so much as it is about "us" and about "Him." Coming forward in response to the call and command of Christ breaks the reverent silence with happy shuffling and maybe even a little sacred chaos. People are naturally encouraged to look up and around instead of down and in.

It's also appropriate to remember this is a "thanksgiving" meal, which means we ought not to come to it mindful of our failure as sinners, but of Christ's victory over our failure. It's a celebration feast! There is a place for self-examination, for repentance and for mourning for sin, to be sure. But it is *before* the Supper celebration, not during it: "Let a person examine himself *and then* let him eat" (1 Cor. 11:28).

When we come to the Supper we are called to look out and away from ourselves to Christ, who was crucified for our sins but who now lives and reigns at the right hand of the Father, from where he feeds us with his flesh and blood by the mysterious working of his Spirit.

When do we begin? This coming Sunday, November 7. Further instructions will be given at that time but for those who are unable to come forward, we will be happy to serve you at your seat. Children who have not received their first communion may come forward with their parents or grandparents and one of the Elders will pray a special prayer for them (and for anyone adult who wishes to be prayed for but is not eligible to receive communion).

Please be assured: in no way do we wish to create an embarrassing situation for anyone associated with our church family. Individuals who have not been admitted by the Session to the Lord's Table upon profession of faith may still come forward but will not be expected to partake of the elements. Neither are they required to ask for prayer by the cup server — only if they wish to do so. We want to be as inclusive as possible in extending Christ's gracious invitation for sinners to "come and dine" while respectfully "fencing" his Table for believers only.

Join us as Christ says to us, "Come be with your family."

Yours in the Lamb, *Dwight*





Are They In Yet?



As I've been reading through the many suggestions coming in to the Vision Planning Team, I'm so impressed with the variety and quality of the ideas from our congregation. Memorial Presbyterian is certainly blessed with many thoughtful and resourceful people!

Sunday, November 7th, is the deadline for the **Idea Suggestions Forms**. Take this important opportunity to share your ideas about how you can be involved in God's vision for Memorial. Forms are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary as well as the Copy Room in the Church Office.

If you need a kick start to your ideas, please check out the worship bulletin announcements from October 10th and 17th. On October 10th we talked about the surveys done earlier this year and the proposed ministry areas you think need improvement at Memorial. On October 17th we discussed the wonderful advantages we enjoy as a smaller church and encouraged you to help us benefit from those strengths.

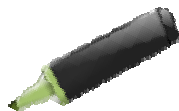
We have been asked, "Who can submit ideas?" If you are reading this then we invite you to fill out a form and offer your suggestions. We want to submit the best possible vision plan to the Session and every idea will be considered.

We are counting on each of you to pray fervently for wisdom, clarity and unity as our church family develops a clear and challenging picture of the future of Memorial Presbyterian Church.

On behalf of the Vision Planning Team,
Andy Perkins



October Leadership Team (Deacons/Elders) Highlights



Deacons

- Approved replacing broken sound board in Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$299.
- Recommended to Session-kitchen renovation for 2011 budget at an estimated cost of \$3000.
- Recommended to Session-installation of digital projector and pull-down screen for Fellowship hall for 2011 budget.
- Action taken to address water leak in east parking area.

Elders

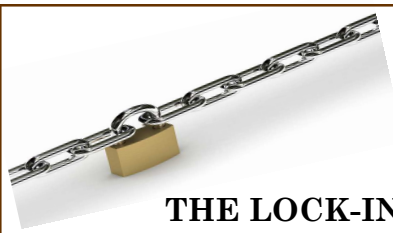
- Discussed "Shepherds Lead the Sheep" in preparation for Shepherding Ministry within the congregation.
- Received update on Choir Director screening process.
- Adopted "walking communion" procedure for celebrating the Lord's Supper beginning November 7.
- Approved drafting of brochures for Ministry Teams for distribution to visitors.
- Approved Children's Ministry Team "Trunk-or-Treat" Outreach for October 29.
- Received update from Vision Planning Team.
- Approved gift of \$200 to Metokos Ministries for Vision Planning GAP Analysis.
- Received update on military family outreach ministry.
- Received update on officer nominations process.
- Approved two facility requests
- Received requests from Ministry Teams for 2011 budget.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

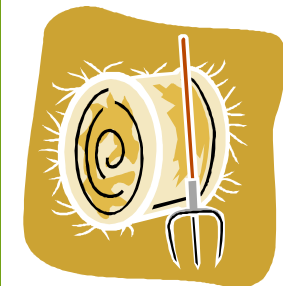


TRUNK-OR-TREAT FUN FOR ALL!!

STUDENT MINISTRIES—Jacki McCartt & Josh Richardson



THE LOCK-IN WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! Thanks to all who came out!



The Corn Maze was fun and we **did not** get lost!!! A special thanks to those who came out and participated!

Junior & Senior High Youth

We are learning how to understand Jesus better through Christian music. We are exploring songs and the themes behind the songs to apply them to our lives so we can better live for Christ!

During *Worship Wednesday* we are going through the book "97" by Justin Lookadoo. It gives us examples of random thoughts and experiences we Christians could undertake in our relationships. A special thanks to Sam Adams who leads worship for us on Wednesdays.

Work-Day

Thanks to all who made the
All-Church-Work Day
a success!!!!



The POWER of a SIMPLE GIFT Samaritan's Purse CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX



Operation Christmas Child is a great way to bring joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need of hope. Pick up one of the pamphlets that will give you ideas on what to send and give you guide lines on packing your shoe box.

Generous gifts have been given to pay for all the "mailing fees" for the boxes that Memorial collects. So with the money you are saving on postage per box (\$7) - pack another box!!!

Start collecting your items today!
Due date— Sunday, Nov. 21 here at church



Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 21
6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Elizabethton

Memorial Presbyterian Church

100 East F Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643
423-543-2711
memorialchurchtn@embarqmail.com
www.memorialpresbyterianpca.org



Senior Pastor—Rev. Dwight Basham

Assistant Pastor for Evangelism—Rev. Jim Thornton

Youth Ministries Coordinator— Jacki McCartt
Josh Richardson

Accompanist—Terri Money

Organist—Sarah Roberson

Office Manager—Pam Yarberrry

Custodian—Denise Dugger