



# The Bell Tower

FEBRUARY 2012

## FROM THE PASTORS

Jesus told a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector, both of whom were in the temple praying. The Pharisee's prayer is a word of thanks that he is not like other sinful men, like this tax collector, for example. The tax collector's prayer is simply, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." The difference between the Pharisee and the tax collector is not what each one has done or not done, but who each man thinks he is before God. If we are faithful, we are still in need of God's mercy. If we are faithless, we are still in need of God's mercy. We are never dealing with God from a position of strength. If we are to be reckoned as righteous before God, we need to realize who God is and who we are in God's eyes, and believe in God's mercy.

The fact that Jesus taught in parables is a little humbling. Parables make us think, and tease our minds into active thought. Jesus didn't want us to think we had all the answers. Only God has all the answers. Lest we begin to think that we know who is in and who is out, Jesus is going to tell us a parable that shows us we don't have all the answers. Thieves, adulterers, tax collectors and all kinds of unloving, unlikely people may get into heaven before the outwardly righteous, clearly obedient religious establishment.

Jesus taught in parables because Jesus wanted us to keep our ears open to the cries of those begging for mercy, who have sunk so low that they cannot look up at the cross, who have no more religious training than the phrase, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

It's a challenge for us to let our good deeds go rewarded, to trust in God's mercy and not in our own righteousness. It's a challenge not to regard others--particularly those who appear less righteous than we are--with contempt. It's a challenge to humble ourselves, and by doing, so, exalt God through how we treat others.

The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is hard to hear. Because this parable declares righteousness begins and ends with God, just as mercy begins and ends with God. It's not about our religious family tree, our trail of goodness; it's not about how far below the surface we've sunk or how many times we say we're sorry, only to sin again. This is not just a parable that Jesus told, it's the God's story told to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ--that all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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*If you have information, articles or ideas for the newsletter, please email it to Lynn Zak at: lynnzak@historicfranklinpc.org, or call the church office at 794-9094. Send information for the website to Adam Deslauriers webmastir@gmail.com,*

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Congratulations of the birth of Sophia Grace, daughter of Jeremy and Linda Townsend, baby sister of Claire Isabella and great-granddaughter of Bob and Betty Townsend. She was born on Wed. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- We welcome back Christi & Mike Enschede, who have moved back to Franklin!
- Gretchen & Jake Westhoven spent a week in Hawaii during January.
- Ulric Henegar took a trip to Florida to visit his sister, Martha.
- Roxanne Williams moved to the Manor at Steeplechase the first week of January.
- Recently, Dennis and Carolyn Johnson were delighted by a visit from daughter Denise Case (who lives in Texas), granddaughter Christen, and great-granddaughter Riley!
- So many January birthdays--Starr Atwood, Sara Anne Berger, Laura Lee, Nancy Warden, Carol Warren. Happy Birthday!
- Congratulations to Robert and Halle Walker on the birth of their new little girl, Madeleine Frances (congratulations, too, to the grandparents, Otey & Susan Walker).
- Paul and Diane Parker were in London, England for Christmas with their daughters.
- Betty Astleford is in Nebraska, visiting her son and his family. Her address is 3410 Tasha Circle, Omaha, NE 68123.
- Sara Wigglesworth graduated from City College in San Francisco in December, 2011.
- Andrea Paine went to Hawaii to deliver a paper comparing the writings of Walt Whitman with the Japanese poet, Matsuo Basho.



**Please keep these folks  
in your thoughts and  
prayers**

Dewees Berry (NHC Cool Springs),  
Michelle Borgman,  
Walter Carlisle (NHC Cool Springs),  
Allene Clarkson (Grace Healthcare),  
Martha Green (Belmont Village),  
Dwight Pennington (ongoing health problems),  
Garnet Reed (Carestone),  
Adelle Walker (at home)  
Jim Bernhardt (Robert Smith's friend),  
Julia Munroe Woodward (Susan Walker's mother),  
Lelia Gibson (Marcia Fraser's mother),  
Martha Jackson (Scott Jackson's mother),  
Martha Henegar (Ulric Henegar's sister),  
Michael Ross (Brenda Borgman's nephew),  
Stanley Pauluch (Carol Edge's father),  
Merrill Strand (Staci Johnson's uncle),  
Carolyn Weaver (Laura Hollis' mother)



Beginning Sunday, February 26th and through Lent, the Rev. Jeanne Hoescht will be leading a study on the book, "Unbinding the

Gospel: Real Life Evangelism." This book suggests ways that we can share our faith with those around us in our workplace, home, and community. The exact time of the study hasn't been set but if you are interested in being part of this six-week Lenten study, call or e-mail the church office.



## LENTEN OBSERVANCE

We will begin the observance of Lent with our Ash Wednesday noonday service on Wednesday, February 22nd. The service itself will begin at 12:05 p.m.



**The theme for HFPC's 2012 Women's Retreat is**

**"Practicing Hospitality in a Sometimes Inhospitable World."**

Our families, our co-workers, our friends, even fellow church members have the ability to "push our buttons" and what do we do? Is it "an eye for an eye" or is it "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"? From Friday night, February 17th through Sunday morning, February 19th, we'll study the scriptures that help us live graciously with one another in this life. The retreat is at Camp NaCoMe, and the cost for the entire weekend (meals included) is \$100.00. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office or put your name on the sign-up sheet at church.



**Women's Bible Study**

Linda Badger-Becker, Interim Executive Presbyterian of the Middle Tennessee will lead the Bible Study at the meeting of the HFPC Presbyterian Women February 21, 2012.

The lesson from Confessing the Beatitudes Lesson Six, "Greatly Honored are the Pure in Heart" will be discussed. All ladies are encouraged to attend and to bring a friend!

# ADOPT A SUNDAY

Graceworks – HFPC has Adopted Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Feb. 12 as Graceworks' Sundays where we will be collecting food and other items. A collection bin will be set up in Memorial Hall. These donations will support Graceworks in a number of ways. They sell used items at their store, provide food for needy families, and have a new program called "Fuel Bags".



We are going to be doing our very own PICTURE DIRECTORY! We are NOT having a company take the pictures, instead will have some of our own members taking pictures before and after worship. (thus no pressure to buy anything) We want to make this as fun and effortless as possible for everyone, so that we can have this directory to help us all get better acquainted. Please watch for more information and details regarding dates and times.!

# SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Also on Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> the youth will be collecting donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. All proceeds will be given to Graceworks

# CONGRATULATIONS!



Mary Lou Greenwood and Billy Becker were married on December 31st, 2011 in a beach ceremony. Mary Lou joined HFPC in September and Billy attends regularly with her.



## Last Wednesday Fellowship

The speaker February 29th is Rick Warwick, who will be speaking on:

Fellowship Meals

**"Presbyterians I Wish I had Known."**

# Treasurer's Report

Our budgeted operating income exceeded expense for the month of December 2011 by \$13,472.61. Year-to-date our budgeted operating expenses exceeded income by \$25,226.31.

Operating Budget Income and Expenses:

<u>Income and Expenses</u>		<u>December</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>\$34,081.00</b>	<b>\$255,178.93</b>
	<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$20,608.39</b>	<b>\$280,405.24</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$13,472.61</b>	<b>-\$25,226.31</b>

Our operating account balances increased in the month of December by \$37,491.03. Our loan principal was reduced by \$3,553.14.

	<u>Nov. 30, 2011</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2011</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Operating Account</b>	<b>\$4,890.37</b>	<b>\$42,381.40</b>	
<b>Operating Reserve</b>	<b>\$25,339.07</b>	<b>\$25,339.07</b>	
<b>Operating Total</b>	<b>\$30,229.44</b>	<b>\$67,720.47</b>	<b>\$37,491.03</b>
<b>Capital Account</b>	<b>\$24,364.61</b>	<b>\$29,763.52</b>	<b>\$5,398.91</b>
<b>Loan Principal</b>	<b>\$661,524.24</b>	<b>\$657,971.10</b>	<b>-\$3,553.14</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>\$95,141.82</b>	<b>\$96,614.96</b>	<b>\$1,473.14</b>
<b>Organ Fund</b>	<b>\$41,729.46</b>	<b>\$42,143.09</b>	<b>\$413.63</b>

Please let me know if you have questions or if you would like further information.  
John Kells, Treasurer

## GRACEWORKS

The Backpack Program (Fuel Bags) meets the needs of hungry children by providing them with a nutritious and easy to prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations when other resources are not available. The following items are needed in the bag:

### ALL INDIVIDUAL SIZES PLEASE

Cereals	tuna/chicken salad	<u>Microwavable meals</u>
Pudding cups	small water bottles	
4oz fruit cups	Zero Propel packets	
8oz boxed milk	juice boxes	
Goldfish/pretzels	granola bars	
Fruit snacks/raisins	100cal. Cookies	
Cow path dippers w/ cheese		
Cheese crackers with peanut butter		





# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10am-Bible Study 6:00pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 1st Sun. Fellowship 8:30-Worship 9:45-Sun. School 11:00-Worship 12:00-HS Youth 5:00-MS Youth	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10am-Bible Study 6:00pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	<b>9</b> 5:30-MS and HS Youth Mission Opportunity	<b>10</b> <b>YOUTH AT</b>	<b>11</b> <b>NaCoMe</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30-Worship 9:45-Sun. School 11:00-Worship 12:00-HS Youth 5:00-MS Youth	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10am-Bible Study 6:00pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30-Worship 9:45-Sun. School 11:00-Worship 5:00-MS Youth	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10am-Bible Study 12:05-Ash Wed. Service 6:00pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>LADIES RETREAT</b>	<b>25</b> <b>AT NaCoMe</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30-Worship 9:45-Sun. School 11:00-Worship 5:00-MS Youth	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10am-Bible Study 6:00-LWF 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir			

**Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church  
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**Return Service Requested**



***Celebrate our heritage...Imagine our future!***