

The First Presbyterian Church
119 West F Street
Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643
www.1stpres-eliz.org
1stpres-eliz@earthlink.net
423-543-7737

Welcome Statement:
First Presbyterian invites you to become a part of our fellowship as we worship God and serve others in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

With a commitment to achieving a just and peaceful world community, our congregation welcomes those of every age, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnic identity.

Mission Statement:

With joyful hearts and open minds, we welcome all persons as diverse, unique, and individual expressions of the image of God as we...

Affirm the unconditional love of God for all people as expressed in the life of Jesus Christ.

Celebrate God's grace and creative work through ritual, sacrament, music, art, movement, and play.

Honor our Christian heritage while we explore the knowledge and wisdom of multiple religions, science, philosophy, humanities and psychology

to deepen and enrich our spiritual journeys.

Nurture one another through fellowship and compassion in a community that seeks to offer wholeness.

Embody our faith through local ministries and in actions that promote environmental sustainability, peace, and justice for all people and Earth.

In awe and gratitude for the Divine Mystery that dwells within each of us and pervades our Universe, we seek to create a Christian community that honors our past, is vitally connected to our present, and looks with hope and vision to the generations after us.

A Progressive Christian Community

Activities Directory

February 2006

The Presbyterian Church (USA)

Our congregation is a member of Holston Presbytery and a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
www.pcusa.org

What Do We Mean When We Say Progressive?

We call ourselves “A Progressive Christian Community.”
We are affiliated with “The Center for Progressive Christianity”
www.fcpc.org and affirm “The Eight Points”:

By calling ourselves progressive, we mean that we are
Christians who...

1. Have found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus;
2. Recognize the faithfulness of other people who have other names for the way to God’s realm, and acknowledge that their ways are true for them, as our ways are true for us;
3. Understand the sharing of bread and wine in Jesus’s name to be a representation of an ancient vision of God’s feast for all peoples;
4. Invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable (including but not limited to):

believers and agnostics,
conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
women and men,
those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
those of all races and cultures,
those of all classes and abilities,
those who hope for a better world and those who have lost hope;

5. Know that the way we behave toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe;
6. Find more grace in the search for understanding than we do in dogmatic certainty – more value in questioning than in absolutes;
7. Form ourselves into communities dedicated to equipping one another for the work we feel called to do: striving for peace and justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all God’s creation, and bringing hope to those Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers; and
8. Recognize that being followers of Jesus is costly, and entails selfless love, conscientious resistance to evil, and renunciation of privilege.

Description of Weekly Activities

Sunday:

Sunday School:
We have classes on Sunday mornings for all ages. Adults meet in the Tom Dixon Room and discuss various issues. We also have classes for middle school, high school and elementary students. Nursery care is provided during the Sunday School hour. From February 26th through April 9th a confirmation class will take the place of the middle school class. While we are in the midst of renovations, our classes are meeting where they can. All classes will find their new homes by Spring 2006.

Nursery:

We have professional nursery care provided by nursery director, Norma Frazier. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers during Sunday School and worship.

Children's Worship:

We make special efforts to welcome children! After the children's sermon, children from 1st grade through 5th grade may either remain in worship or attend in children's church. Amanda Dunbar leads this activity in the elementary classroom.

Worship:

Our worship is enhanced by our excellent bell choir and chancel choir. Director of music, Debbie Gouge, and organist/pianist David Arney are simply the tops.

Quest:

Quest is our middle and high school youth group. We meet at various times for activities, overnights, service projects and fun. Contact John Shuck at 543-7737 or Paul Cabinet for 542-4445 for information and the next event!

Weekly Calendar at a Glance

9:45-10:45 Sunday School for all ages
11:00-12:00 Worship
12:00 ??? Quest
7:00-8:30 pm (not 3rd Sun) Dialogue With the World
7:00-9:00 pm (3rd Sunday) Science and Spirit

Monday:
7:00 pm (2nd Monday) Session Meeting in Library

Tuesday:
5:30-6:30 pm Aerobics in Martin Hall
6:00 pm (monthly) Women's Group
6:30-7:30 pm Men's Group in Library

Wednesday:
6:00-7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30-8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30-8:45 Meditation Group in Library

Thursday:
5:30-6:30 pm Aerobics in Martin Hall

Friday:
Saturday:
8:30-noon (see schedule) Food for the Multitude

Dialogue with the World:

On Sunday evenings, excepting when Science and Spirit meets, we discuss a book, watch a video, or participate in a presentation. Topics to be discussed are listed on the web page, the bulletin, and the *White Spire*. Dialogue with the World meets in Martin Hall.

Science and Spirit:

Once per month, usually the 3rd Sunday, this group meets at various homes to discuss articles in *Science and Spirit* magazine. Contact Jeff Wardeska for the next meeting time and place at 928-1638.

Aerobics:

This activity, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 in Martin Hall is open to men and women. For information contact Audrey Collins at 542-8014.

Women's Group:

The women's group meets once per month at 6 pm at various homes. This group is open to all women in the congregation for a potluck dinner and conversation. Here is the schedule for 2006:

March 14	Sue Farthing	543-4753
April 4	Roberta Hissey	743-3161
May 9	Aubrie Abernethy	926-4184
June 6	Brenda Wardeska	928-1638
July 11	Open	
October 3	Doris Cope	898-6598

Men's Group:

The men's group meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 in the library. This is a group open to all men in the congregation for friendship and the occasional service project. Contact Jim Gorny at 926-4184.

Handbell Choir:

Our handbell choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in the choir rehearsal room. New ringers are always welcome! For information contact Debbie Gouge at 543-4434.

Chancel Choir:

Choir rehearsal is at 7:30 on Wednesdays in the choir rehearsal room. New singers are always welcome! For information contact Debbie Gouge at 543-4434.

Meditation Group:

The meditation group meets in First Presbyterian's library on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Bill Kirkwood leads the group. A typical session includes a period of mantra and silent meditation, a brief encouragement talk, a time for discussion, and a talk on a topic of interest. Everyone is welcome to attend. Because you can attend at any time without having been to previous sessions, feel free to come and see if this is for you. All sessions are free of charge; we appreciate love offerings, which are divided between First Presbyterian and the organization through which Bill studies yoga. For more information, please call Bill at 929-2884.

Food for the Multitude (FFTM):

Every fifth or sixth Saturday, First Presbyterian takes a turn preparing meals at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Volunteers are always needed and welcome from 8 am to noon. Call Kathy Wing at 543-4091 for information. Here is the schedule for

2006:

February 18

April 1

May 6

June 17

July 22

September 2

October 7

November 18

19 ???
 19 7 pm
 25 7:30 pm
 ??? ???

Spring Equinox Meditation
 Science & Spirit
 Springtime for the Soul
 Dinners for Eight

April:

1 8-noon

2 11 am

4 6 pm

10 7 pm

13 7 pm

16 11 am

22 ??

23 11 am

FFTM
 Communion
 Women's Group
 Session
 Maundy Thursday
 One Great Hour of Sharing
 Earth Day Bike Ride/Meditation
 Creation Spirituality: Spring

May:

6 8-noon

8 7 pm

9 6 pm

14 11 am

20 ???

FFTM
 Session
 Women's Group
 Pine Ridge Collection Begins
 Carter County Clean-up

Yearly Calendar at a Glance

February:

26 9:45 am

27 6 pm

28 6 pm

??? ???

Confirmation Class Begins

Mardi Gras Decoration

Mardi Gras

Dinners for Eight

March:

4 all day

5 11 am

14 6 pm

12 11 am

13 7 pm

Presbytery @ Jefferson City

Three Cents a Meal

Women's Group

OGHS Offering Begins

Session

June:

3 all day

4 11 am

6 6 pm

5-11

12-18

11 11 am

12 7 pm

17 8-noon

18 ???

17-24

Presbytery @ Tusculum College
 Communion
 Women's Group
 John on Vacation
 John at Iliff
 Three Cents a Meal
 Session
 FFTM
 Hike
 GA in Birmingham

???	???	Vacation Bible School	22	noon	Congregational Meeting
			23-29		John on vacation
			???	???	Jesus Seminar on the Road
July:			November:		
9	night	Full Moon Meditation	12	11 am	Stewardship Dedication
10	7 pm	Session	13	7 pm	Session
11	6 pm	Women's Group	17-19		Ten Thousand Villages Sale
15	all day	Church Retreat	18	8-noon	FFTM
22	8-noon	FFTM			
23	11 am	Creation Spirituality: Summer			
August:			December:		
6	11 am	Communion	3	11 am	Begin Heifer Project
6	11 am	Pine Ridge Collection	5	all day	Presbytery HERE!
14	7 pm	Session	11	7 pm	Session
27	11 am	Music Sunday	17	11 am	Lessons and Carols
27	noon	Dinner on the Grounds	17	6 pm	Christmas Dinner w/communion
September:			20	6 pm	Caroling
2	8-noon	FFTM	24	10 pm	Christmas Eve Service
3	11 am	Three Cents a Meal	25-31		John on Vacation
10	11 am	CE Sunday			
11	7 pm	Session	January 2007:		
12	all day	Presbytery @ Holston Camp	8	7 pm	Session
24	all day	Butterfly Hike	21	11 am	Creation Spirituality: Winter
???	???	Drumming Workshop	27	9-12	Session Retreat
October:			28	noon	Congregational Meeting
1	11 am	Communion			
3	6 pm	Women's Group			
7	8-noon	FFTM			
7-8	all day	Storytelling in Jonesborough			
9	7 pm	Session			
15	11 am	World Hunger Day Offering			
22	11 am	Creation Spirituality: Fall			

Description of Activities

Confirmation Class:

February 26- April 9: Every few years we hold a confirmation class for our middle school youth. This seven week course plus a retreat and service project will introduce our youth to our faith community. It will be team-taught by Susan Hathaway, Rebecca Nunley and John Shuck. *Christian Education*

Mardi Gras:

February 28th 6 pm: Music, food, fun! Join us for a Cajun celebration! Following Mardi Gras a brief time of reflection in the sanctuary will prepare us for Lent. Help us decorate for Mardi Gras on the 27th. *Renewal and Outreach & Worship*

Dinners for Eight:

January-March: Beat the winter blahs and make new friendships. Enjoy dinner with seven others at a different home each of the three months. *Renewal and Outreach*

Three Cents a Meal:

Three times per year we receive an offering during worship for hunger and relief ministries through Holston Presbytery. This year we will receive the offering on March 5, June 11, and September 3. *Mission*

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):

We receive this offering on Easter Sunday to relieve suffering around the world. Information about this offering will be provided in worship during Lent. *Mission*

Spring Equinox Meditation:

March 19: Details to come soon on how to celebrate the arrival of Spring! *Peacemaking*

Springtime for the Soul:

Springtime of the Soul: A Celebration of Spiritual Awakening will be held Saturday, March 25, from 7-10:30 pm. The program will feature music and the spoken word on the theme. Debbie Gouge will be the music director, and other musicians will come from the church. Speakers will include John Shuck, Rebecca Nunley and Bill Kirkwood. A simple reception in Martin Hall will follow the program, starting about 9:30. *Worship*

Maundy Thursday:

Join us for a soup dinner, worship, and communion on Holy Thursday beginning at 7 pm. *Worship*

Earth Day Bike Ride and Meditation:

April 22: Enjoy Earth Day on your bicycle while singing along with Queen! More details to come. *Peacemaking*

Creation Spirituality: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter:

Four times a year during worship we honor the seasons and their corresponding spiritual paths. *Worship*

April 23: Spring: The Way of Creating

July 23: Summer: The Way of Awe”

October 22: Fall: The Way of Justice Making

January 21: Winter: The Way of Letting Go

Pine Ridge Collection:

May 14: On this day we kick off collection for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Every year we send coats and blankets in time for Fall and Winter. Final collection will be August 6. Throughout the Spring and Summer you are invited to check out those garage sales for Pine Ridge. *Mission*

Carter County Stream/Buffalo Creek Clean-up:

May 20: Help us keep East Tennessee clean! Details to come. *Peacemaking*

John at Iliff:

June 12-18. Your minister, John Shuck, is working on his Doctor of Ministry degree at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. His course of study is preaching in the practice of ministry with a focus on preaching and the historical Jesus.

Hike:

June 18: The word says it all. Hike, explore, enjoy! Details to come. *Peacemaking*

General Assembly in Birmingham:

June 17-24: The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is America's oldest deliberating body. It meets once every two years. It is a fun week with lots of events surrounding the parliamentary procedure.

Vacation Bible School:

We partner with First Methodist Church of Elizabethton for a fun week for our children. Dates and details to come. *Christian Education*

Full Moon Meditation:

July 9: The full moon in the summer on the top of a mountain. You can't get more spiritual than this. Details to come. *Peacemaking*

Church Retreat:

July 15: Bill and Theresa Marlow host this event at their home on Poga Road. More details to come. *Renewal and Outreach*

Music Sunday and Dinner on the Grounds:

August 27: We have a talented congregation. Enjoy our various musicians leading us in worship. Following worship, we will have a potluck dinner in our backyard. *Worship and Family Life and Hospitality*

Christian Education Sunday:

September 10: We celebrate and bless our teachers and our education program during worship. *Christian Education*

Butterfly Hike:

September 24: We will spend a Saturday admiring the butterflies. Details to come. *Peacemaking*

Drumming Workshop:

Make and play drums: a workshop for our church! Dates and details are forthcoming. *Renewal and Outreach*

World Hunger Day Offering:

October 15: We will receive an offering of food items for A.R.M. (Assistance and Resource Ministries) of Carter County. *Mission*

Congregational Meeting:

October 22: We elect four elders to serve on session for the coming year.

Jesus Seminar on the Road:

Two Jesus Seminar scholars will lead a workshop on cutting edge issues regarding religion and ethics. Dates and details are forthcoming. *Christian Education*

Stewardship Dedication:

November 12: We receive our estimates of giving for the coming year during worship. All of our congregation's operating expenses is funded through contributions by our members. Our budget for 2006 is approximately \$194,000.

Ten Thousand Villages Sale:

November 17-19: We fill the Martin Hall with handcrafted items from third world artisans. This is a great opportunity to purchase quality Christmas presents and help others. *Peacemaking*

Heifer Project:

Advent: This is an alternative giving program to end hunger and care for Earth. *Peacemaking*

Lessons and Carols:

December 17: The choir leads worship with Lessons and Carols. *Worship*

Christmas Dinner:

December 17, 6 pm: The annual Christmas Dinner and Communion is a beautiful part of the Christmas season. *Worship and Hospitality*

Caroling:

December 20: Join us for caroling and a party! *Worship*

Christmas Eve Service:

December 24, 10 pm: The Christmas story, carols, candlelight. *Worship*

Session Retreat:

January 27: Our session members set calendars for the year.

Congregational Meeting:

January 28: This is the annual meeting in which we receive the annual report and elect the nominating committee.

Committee Descriptions and Moderators

Building:

The Building Committee oversees the maintenance and care of the church buildings. Duane Lowry—542-9022

Christian Education:

The Christian Education Committee is charged with directing the total educational ministry of the church. Sue Farthing—543-4753

Family Life:

The Family Life committee exists to strengthen individual families and to enable the congregation to develop into a caring family. Theresa Marlow—768-0171

Grounds:

The Grounds Committee oversees the maintenance and care of the grounds. Mike Brown—542-8022

Habitat for Humanity:

This purpose of this committee is to promote Habitat for Humanity within First Presbyterian Church and the larger Christian community, to provide opportunities for group and individual participation and to recommend covenant commitment levels to the session for annual approval. Frank Knisley—929-2306

Hospitality:

The Hospitality Committee creates an environment of social celebration and support for our church family. Grace Broome—542-8007

Library:

The purpose of the Library Committee is to provide books, audio and videotapes to complement the various aspects of our congregation's life. The Library Committee is a subcommittee of Christian Education. Jeanne Kuerschner—542-8773

Missions:

The Missions Committee determines social needs in our local, national, and international communities. Donna Schwind—282-4619

Food for the Multitude:

The FFTM Committee prepares meals in cooperation with other congregations at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Kathy Wing—543-4091

Nursery:

The Nursery Committee is concerned with the care of the children of the church as well as the operation of the nursery itself. Bobbie Connelly—926-5181

Peacemaking:

The Peacemaking Committee provides awareness and activities to enable the church to integrate peacemaking into its life and mission. Gary and Nancy Barrigar—543-7576

Personnel:

The Personnel Committee works as needed with the church staff, reviewing staff responsibilities and compensation, and filling vacancies when necessary. Jim Gorny—926-4184

Renewal and Outreach:

The Renewal and Outreach Committee provides activities and events that deepen the spiritual life of our congregation. They also identify and contact visitors to our church. Julia Wade—926-7744

Sanctuary:

The Sanctuary Committee prepares the sanctuary for worship. Harriet Baker—929-8001

Stewardship:

The Stewardship Committee oversees the congregation's financial responsibilities including encouraging stewardship among the congregation's members. Bud Meece—282-0158

Worship:

The Worship Committee advises the minister, director of music, and organist regarding worship. Cheri Miller—725-3191

Joining the Church

If you are interested in uniting with us in ministry, contact Rev. John Shuck at 543-7737 or johnshuck@earthlink.net

Communication

Good communication is a priority. There are five primary ways in which we keep in contact.

- 1) The bulletin. Each week in the bulletin announcements are published. The deadline to put announcements in the bulletin is 5 pm Wednesday.
- 2) The White Spire. This is our newsletter that is sent to all members and to whoever else requests it at the first of the month. It contains news and information items regarding our congregation. The deadline for submitting articles is around the 20th of each month. Contact Vanessa McQueen at 542-4649 or vanessa1@preferred.com

3) Our web page www.1stpres-eliz.org features a description of our congregation, its various ministries, sermons in both audio and text, a picture gallery, a calendar, and many other interesting and informative items. Contact our webmaster, Gary Barrigar to put an item on the web page at barrigargn@earthlink.net

4) Each week, usually Thursday morning, John Shuck sends out a newsy e-mail with information about our congregation and other tidbits. To get on the e-list contact johmashuck@earthlink.net

5) Bulletin boards are located on the stairwell at the back entrance of the church. Minutes from session meetings, treasurer's reports, news about church members and other items are posted there.

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John Shuck 434-0639
Office Manager: Beth Hodges 218-4121
Director of Music: Debbie Gouge 543-4434
Organist: David Arney 543-4263
Custodians: Gladys and Alfred Mann 542-6259

Session:

Our form of government is a representative democracy. Our session or board of elders is elected by the congregation to make decisions. Our session is divided into three classes of four. Every member of the church has a session liaison. Contact the church office (543-7737) to find the name of your liaison. The following are the current session members:

Class of 2006
Sue Farthing 543-4753
Jim Gorny 926-4184
Bill Kirkwood 929-2884
Jim Wilson 543-1938

Class of 2007
Bobbie Connelly 926-5181
Charles Faust 928-8765
Henry Meece 282-0158
Julie Wade 926-7744

Class of 2008
Mike Brown, Clerk 542-8022
Theresa Marlow 768-0171
Cheri Miller 725-3191
Donna Schwind 282-4619