



# THE GOSPEL CHIMES

Jennifer Smith, Editor — August 2009

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

Debt is all around us and the economic crisis sweeping our nation doesn't appear to be easing. Forbes magazine states that more than 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck and that 35% of marriages end in divorce with money problems cited as the number one cause. Financial Peace University has a long history of helping families successfully confront these problems head on.

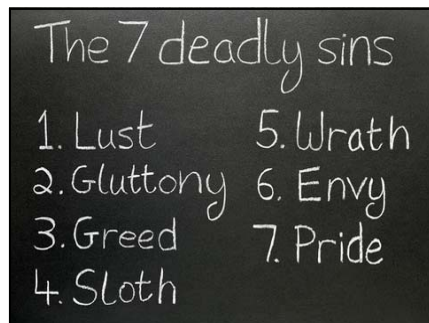
The FPU program is a biblically based accountability curriculum that will teach participants to manage God's money and resources in a godly way. Participants will learn how to construct a plan of action which empowers them to make the right financial decisions to achieve their financial goals, teaches them to eliminate debt, build wealth, and give like never before. On average, families who participate in FPU reduce their debt by \$5,300 and save \$2,700 in just 91 days.

Financial Peace University consists of a 13-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey that incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. Most financial programs are boring, with confusing information and monotonous instructors. Financial Peace is very different! It is highly entertaining for everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice, and biblical messages. Topics covered range from investing basics, insurance, and strategies for retirement and/or saving for your child's college.

If you would like to know more about FPU, Rev. Adams will be hosting an informational session on Sunday night, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the FLC. Before then, to learn more talk to graduates of our Spring 2009 class, Scott & Debbie Walker, Sharon Hobson, Susan Greene, Bob & Patti Beatty, Gary & Dawn Brown, or Marty Osborne.



## FALL SERMON SERIES -THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



*The Seven Deadly Sins.* We've all heard of them, but what are they, and what makes them so "deadly"? In this important series we'll explore the insidious nature of these specific sins. We'll see how easily they creep into our lives, and we'll learn how to avoid their grip - or to break free from them. Finally, each week we'll experience powerful reminders of the corresponding virtues, and leave worship strengthened to lead lives of peace, joy and hope. The series begins on August 23.

**First UMC**  
256 S. Arnold Ave.  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
Office: 886-8031  
Parsonage 886-8431

**Sunday**  
Sundav School 10 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.

**Wednesday**  
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Quilting Circle 10:00 a.m.  
Sr. & Jr High Youth 7 p.m.



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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—NEWS AND & NOTES

### August 2, Luncheon

On August 2nd, following church, the UMW treated the congregation to a "Fresh From the Garden" luncheon. The FLC was full and the food was plentiful. Donations totaling \$505 will go to worthy service projects this fall. Thanks to Frank and Kathy Fitzpatrick for donating the chicken, all who brought food, and those who set up and decorated the tables in the FLC.

### Upcoming Christmas Bazaar

The UMW is looking for "crafty-type" folk to provide items for our annual Christmas Bazaar. The event will be on Saturday November 7th, 2009. Whatever your craft: quilting, baking, ornaments, home decor, birdhouses, pies, soups, and more are welcome. Anyone wanting to donate crafts or items for the bazaar, please contact Joy Adams at 886-8431 or Susan Holderby at 886-2909.

**August 9 UMW meeting is scheduled for August 9 @ 7:00 p.m.**

## CHURCH HISTORY—THE SPANISH LADY, PART 3

### *The Epidemic Touches All Areas of East Kentucky Life*

Eastern Kentucky's mines, however, were not closed by the public orders and ran whenever there were enough men well enough to keep them operating. To the credit of Eastern Kentucky's men, though reeling under the epidemic's physical and emotional impact, coal production kept even with 1917 levels throughout both years of the pandemic. The government's efforts to keep the War and, latter, reconstruction efforts, supplied with energy were successful although at a terrible price. (Tonnage Information from The Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals, Coal Production by County/Year).

Such help as did come to the coal fields was usually from private sources. The Sisters of Mercy sent sixteen volunteer nuns from Cincinnati throughout Eastern Kentucky, including seven (the largest single assignment) to Van Lear, which is indicative of the gravity of the epidemic in that community. All except two (who were assigned to West Liberty) were sent to towns that can legitimately be called "coal camps". They reported conditions there to be "too sad to record", but did document one case in which thirteen people in the same household were simultaneously ill with the flu. Two children had already died and two more were in the process of dying. The parents were themselves so ill that they were unable to assist their dying little ones. The sisters sacrificed one of their own, Sister Mary Raphael O'Conner, who contracted influenza and died despite having been transported back to the mother house for treatment. To Sister O'Conner's credit, she continued to care for the ill until it became physically impossible for her to do so, and to the Sisters of Mercy's credit, another nun volunteered to take her place. Unlike the lurid tales of barbaric miners spun by popular travel

authors of the time, the nuns (who actually lived among the miners) recorded that the miners were of high moral character despite living in miserable conditions, and referred to them with great sympathy as "our gentle miners" (The WPA History Project, Medical History of Kentucky).

In terms of our own congregation, neither the minister nor the male officers of our Church made any great effort to document the catastrophe swirling around them. It fell to a woman of the Davidson family, Josephine (Davidson) Harkins, to sense and record the tragic importance of the epidemic. Using her office as Sunday School Secretary, she recorded notes in the miscellaneous section of the Sunday school record book that comprise our best surviving record of the effects of the pandemic upon the Church:

On September 29th, 1918, Ms. Harkins indicated that the scripture lesson for the morning was Acts XI 1--18 (note the archaic notation); a door open to all nations. She stated that..."the weather was fair and warmer than it had been the week before." In the bottom margin of the page she writes, "No Sunday school for seven weeks. Influenza epidemic.

Her notes do not resume until November 17th when the Bible lesson was Genesis XXVIII 10-22, God follows his wandering children. She indicates that the weather was rainy. She remarks that..."the resolution was to be submitted next Sunday for Hon. F. A. Hopkins, Ms. Nelle Wilkerson (actually Davidson-May-Wilkerson), and Maida Stratton (Mary Muriel Oppenheimer-Stratton)." The entry was dated November 24th 1918.

The next week she indicates that memorial services had been held for Walter S. Wells, Nelle Wilkerson, Maida Stratton, and F. A. Hopkins. The talk was by Walter S. Harkins. The

*(Continued on page 4)*

## FOCUS ON A FAMILY—STEVE & DEBBIE MINK

Steve and Debbie live in Blue River where, on any given day, you might find them swimming, gardening, building, or cutting grass. They love the country life!

Steve was born in Insull, KY (Bell County) and lived most of his teenage years there. Steve served his country in the Navy and most recently moved here from Louisa. His oldest son, Steve, Jr., resides in Erlanger, KY, with his wife, Petra, and two granddaughters, Michelle (18) and Leslie (16). Melinda, his daughter, resides in Charlotte, NC, with two granddaughters, Ava (6) and Olivia (4). His youngest son, Jeff, lives in LaValette, WV, with his wife, Misty, and grandson, Austin (6). Steve is a blaster for DynoNobel but really enjoys being a handyman. He enjoys music and plays the guitar.

Debbie, FUMC pianist/organist, was born and raised in Frankfort, KY, where most of her family still lives. She continues to enjoy her retirement although she stays busy with lots of projects. Her son, Wes, and his wife, Justine, live in Richmond, KY, with two granddaughters, Lily (4) and Bella (6 months). Last summer Steve and Debbie rode their motorcycle from the beginning of Skyline Drive to the end of the Blue Ridge Parkway (1,500 miles) and have recently returned from riding to Washington, DC (1,000 miles). Plans are in the works for a bike trip out west next summer. Steve and Debbie were married at FUMC on December 1, 2007, and consider themselves lucky to have found each other and look forward to many more years in Blue River and at FUMC.

## PRAYERS FOR THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

*(Please pray this prayer every day in August)*

God of Love, Thank you for every teacher who notices a child's special gift, who are listeners and gentle guides, who expect much and love enough to demand more, and who give everything they have and more in their service to our community.

God of all mercies, We ask that you would bless the students, granting them the strength to learn, concentrate, and act appropriately towards their teachers and fellow students. We also ask that You would watch over them, at home and at school, and grant them proper direction so that they may learn much and experience life to its fullest. In Jesus, name we pray. Amen.

## BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE

40 students will begin the new school year with new backpacks filled with school supplies. Because of our congregation's generosity and Debbie Walker's leadership, we delivered 40 backpacks. The schools benefitting from the backpack ministry were : Allen Elementary, Adams Middle School, Prestonsburg Elementary and Prestonsburg High School.. Also delivered to the schools were shoes, socks, underwear, deodorant and other personal hygiene products.

### Frozen Cranberry Banana Salad By Keane Hale

#### Ingredients

1. 1 can (20 oz) pineapple tidbits
2. 4-5 medium firm bananas-halved lengthwise and sliced
3. 1 can (16 oz) whole berry cranberry sauce
4. ½ cup sugar
5. 1 carton (8 oz) frozen whipped topping- lite- thawed
6. ½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts

#### Putting it All Together

- Drain pineapple juice into bowl, set pineapple aside. Add bananas to the juice.
- In large bowl, combine cranberry sauce and sugar.
- Remove bananas, discard juice, and add to cranberry mixture. Stir in pineapple, whipped topping, and nuts.
- Pour into 9 x 13 dish and freeze. Remove 15 minutes before cutting



## THE SPANISH LADY

*(Continued from page 2)*

minister W.K. Moore had commented, "...while we mourn their departure but we know they are safe in Heaven, praise the Lord."

Ms. Harkins is silent on the subject of the epidemic until January 2th, 1919. The scripture lesson was Exodus XV 1--13, the challenge of a great deliverance. The weather she records as having been fair and fine. Ms. Harkins comments on the beauty of the new Sunday school room (in the new church building) but she adds, "yet how sad that so many who were interested enough to help make it possible have gone to rest." (From the 1918/1919 Sunday School Record Book, Prestonsburg Methodist Episcopal Church, now know as First United Methodist Church, Prestonsburg.)

The public health officials estimate that the Spanish Flu infected about 20% of the population in the United States and killed between 2.5 and 5% of those infected. This is many times the mortality rate for most strains of influenza that sicken, but seldom kill those infected. Another difference was the age of those who died. Normally, influenza kills the very young and very old. Younger, stronger individuals are sickened, but do not die. The Spanish Flu reversed this pattern, causing the greatest mortality among young, healthy adults.

This pattern held true among our own congregation with most casualties being between eighteen and forty years of age. Shortly before the epidemic began, the minister's quarterly report numbers the congregation as about 170 souls. However, the actual membership role doesn't support so large a number until after the new church's completion in 1919. This author has used 150 as a more likely number of actively attending members. Using the morbidity (those infected) figures above, we would expect that thirty people would have been infected. With five deaths in the congregation, the mortality rate would have been 17%, well above what would be expected based on the above morbidity/mortality expectations. This suggest that either more than 20% of our congregation was infected, or mortality (the actual deaths) was higher among those who were infected, or that both the morbidity and mortality rate was higher in our Church. I tend to subscribe to the last of these possibilities, based in part on a workman's compensation case that was decided in the last year of the epidemic, October 7, 1919.

*Respectfully Submitted, Floyd D. Davis, Church Historian*

## IT'S TIME TO RING!

Handbell Choirs at 1st UMC have been a vital part of our music ministry for over 20 years. It is time to continue this legacy as our fall schedule begins. The first practice for bells will be Sunday, August 16 at the following times. If the group consensus is that another day and time are better, we will rearrange.

4:00-4:30 Wee Bells (Grades 3 and 4)

4:30-5:00 Elf Bells (Grades 5-8)

5:00-6:00 Wesley Bells (High School-Adult)

6:00-6:30 Beginning Bells for all those who want to ring but think they can't!



## RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

Average Sunday Morning Worship Attendance—107 (Down 8 from June )

Sunday School—33 (Up 7 from June)

Average Weekly Offering—\$3803 (Down \$1800)

# UPWARD SPORTS CAMP & VBS 2009



## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

I find it hard to believe that school has already started! I know that for teachers, parents, and students the summer break was much too short. Nevertheless, it is time to settle back into the routines that will carry us through the coming Winter and Spring. The same applies to our church-life.

For example, It's time for the choirs to come back together and for our administrative committees to begin meeting again on a regular basis. Financial Peace University is starting up again in August and I hope that we will have a record-breaking class. The Children's Ministry Team will be busy, not only with the Upward Fall Sports League, but also in planning our Fall Festival, Breakfast with Santa, and the Shoebox Ministry. Under the direction of the United Methodist Men, we will be planning workdays here at the church.

These workdays will be set aside for painting, cleaning, and other long-overdue maintenance tasks. I hope to have my long-range planning team in place by September. So hold on tight, be in prayer, and let's together do great things for the Kingdom of God.



### The Pastor's Bookshelf

I want to start using this monthly newsletter column to share with you insights I glean from a variety of books and articles that I read in relation to my ministry and the church's work. I hope that something I present will catch your attention or strike a familiar chord with something that maybe God has placed on your heart. I would appreciate feedback on what you think.

Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, one of the fastest growing churches in the US, writes in Leading Beyond the Walls: Developing Congregations with a Heart for the Unchurched, that there are three questions that every church must answer:

1. Why do people need Christ?
2. Why do people need the church?
3. Why do they need *this particular church?*"

Hamilton suggests that when a church comes to some clarity around these questions, then, and only then, will they make great strides toward developing a vision and mission that will carry the church into the future.

However, it has been my experience, over my 23 years of pastoral ministry, that the churches who wrestle with these questions often come up with stereotypical answers: answers that would work in all situations and at all times in history. That's not what I think we here at FUMC should do. Maybe we should take Rev. Hamilton's questions and append to each the word "Now." For example, "Why do people need the church NOW?" The emphasis on "now" will allow us to tailor our ministries to our local, contemporary situations. How would you here at FUMC answer these questions? Email me at [adamsjw2@gmail.com](mailto:adamsjw2@gmail.com) with your answers and comments or put your comments in the offering plates on Sunday morning.

### The African Children's Choir

Many of you have heard me say that one of the greatest experiences in my ministry has been in working with the Hope for Africa Children's Choir. I've been asked to coordinate the Prestonsburg District's hosting of the choir this September. We have planned for the choir to perform at the Mountain Arts Center on September 10—a morning concert for local elementary school children and an evening concert for the public. We will need 3-4 FUMC families to host the children and their chaperones for two evenings. I will be saying more in the coming weeks, but please don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful ministry experience. You can find more info on the web: [www.hopeforafricachildrenschoir.org](http://www.hopeforafricachildrenschoir.org)

*Rev. Jim*

# August 2009

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Nursery Workers<br/>           Aug. 9—Julie Paxton<br/>           Aug. 16—Pam Herrick<br/>           Aug. 23—Barbara Burchett<br/>           Aug 30—Susan Greene</p> | <p>Children's Church<br/>           Robin Smith<br/>           Erin Burchett<br/>           Julie Paxton<br/>           Brad &amp; Jenny Burchett</p> | <p>Ushers: Paul Burchett, David Garrett, Charlie Miller, Marty Osborne<br/>           Nurture Chairperson: Dorothy Wells</p>                                    |   |  |  | <p>1<br/>           BD-Amber McKinney</p>                                    |
| <p>2<br/>           UMW -Fresh from the Garden Luncheon<br/>           BD-Rob Herrick, Wendee Buchanan-Jones<br/>           AV-Charlie&amp;Drema Miller</p>             | <p>3<br/>           BD-Doug Herman<br/>           AV-Claude &amp; Paula Newberry, Neil &amp; Diane Turner, Danny &amp; Susan Hamilton</p>             | <p>4<br/>           BD-Anna Burchett</p>  | <p>5<br/>           BD-Kristin Garrett</p>  | <p>6<br/>           6:00 G. S. Training<br/>           7:00 B. S. Roundtable<br/>           BD-Olivia Fitzpatrick</p>                                | <p>7<br/>           BD-Arnita Snavey,<br/>           Janey Webb Moser,<br/>           Kate Lowe</p>  | <p>8<br/>           BD-Thomas Nairn,<br/>           Everett Saunders</p>     |
| <p>9<br/>           BD-Mark Walz, Sr.<br/>           UMW 6:00 p.m.</p>  | <p>10<br/>           AV-Danny &amp; Kathy Lowe</p>  | <p>11<br/>           AV-Bob &amp; Patil Beatty</p>  | <p>12</p>   | <p>13</p>  | <p>14<br/>           BD-Arnita Snavey,<br/>           Janey Webb Moser,<br/>           Kate Lowe</p> | <p>15<br/>           BD-Barbara Burchett,<br/>           Martin Newberry</p> |
| <p>16<br/>           BD-George Spiggie<br/>           Finance Cmt. 5:00 p.m.<br/>           Admin. Council 6:00 p.m.</p>  | <p>17<br/>           BD-Josh Lowe,<br/>           Tabitha Buchanan Duran</p>  | <p>18<br/>           BD-Clara Osborne</p>   | <p>19<br/>           AV-Bill &amp; Linda Francis,<br/>           Terry &amp; Ellis Buchanan,<br/>           Harry &amp; Barbara Burke</p> | <p>20<br/>           BD-William J. May, Jr<br/>           Robn Smith, David D. Allen<br/>           II, Floyd Davis<br/>           Leslie Tucker</p> | <p>21<br/>           BD-Loree Allen<br/>           AV-James &amp; Rita Allen</p>                     | <p>22<br/>           BD-Deiores Webb,<br/>           Ann Brown</p>           |
| <p>23 BD-Anna Belle Harris<br/>           H.D. Fitzpatrick, Tracee Buchanan-Evans, Charles Collins<br/>           AV-Bryan &amp; Madelyn Allen</p>                      | <p>24</p>   | <p>25<br/>           BD-Gypsie Jones<br/>           AV-Greg &amp; Debbie Dixon</p>  | <p>26<br/>           BD-Chelsea Herford</p>   | <p>27<br/>           BD-Bryce Tucker</p>   | <p>28<br/>           BD-Jeanette Allison</p>   | <p>29<br/>           BD-Elizabeth Ramey<br/>           Shyla Meece</p>       |
| <p>30<br/>           BD-Bill Roberts</p>  | <p>31<br/>           BD-Terry Buchanan</p>  | <p><b>Coming in September</b><br/>           Hope for Africa Children's Choir September 7-11<br/>           Church Picnic @ Dewey Dam Spillway September 27</p> |   |  |  |  |

First United Methodist Church  
256 S. Arnold Ave  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

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