

## ***YOUR SESSION IN THE SPOTLIGHT***

Session has adopted an ambitious goal budget of \$385,000! After praying about it for several weeks, **and** studying God's Word in Scripture, **and** hearing both the needs for ministry in our church, and knowing the ongoing concerns about having a balanced budget - this is what we pray for God to help us achieve in 2011. We are listening for what God says to us as your elected leaders, and we are praying about what God is saying to you as people who love this congregation and care about continuing its ministries. God loves a cheerful giver! This is a time to recognize how richly God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others.

We are excited about the many new offerings of classes that have begun for both youth and adults. We have imagined a church in which a "culture of continuing growth" would be a part of our cultural DNA. We're on our way to recognizing that vision as we go deeper into scripture by studying God's promises, observing Biblical Boundaries, and discovering our human connection to Jesus. For the first time ever, a year long, "thematic" course on the whole Bible is happening on Sunday nights. God's Word is on our minds and hearts.

SUNDAY NIGHT is **PYC** – *Presbyterian Youth Connection* at First Presbyterian Church. Hannah Norris, Anna Thomas, Wendel Werner, and many enthusiastic adult volunteers are gathering for worship, for mission projects, and for fellowship opportunities with other local Presbyterian youth groups.

Pastor Kerra and Doug Ottati will be leading the October retreat on the spiritual themes of *Grace and Gratitude*. These Reformed Theological concepts retain their relevance in a world that more often values *Grumbling and Greed* instead. Come and grow in your faith and lighten your load. There are spaces available so, if you'd like to come, please contact Ginny Cone or Pastor Kerra.

Mark your calendars for a Spooktacular event on SUNDAY, October 31. In worship, some members of the congregation, along with Pastor Kerra will be talking about what a joy it is to give – not candy – but of our time, talents, and treasures to further God's Kingdom in the world. Afterward, Session members will have "trick-or-treat" booths in the Fellowship Hall to show you their joy of giving – IN CANDY. Share your "\$100,000 bars" and "PayDays" with us and we'll share ours with you!

Elders Ginny Cone, Chuck Hadden, and Sydney Murray, III will meet, along with the Pastor Support Committee, to continue the conversation with Kerra about caring for our Pastor – what that means for us and what it means for her. We began this conversation last Spring as we talked about the possibilities of proposing a Sabbatical plan that would refresh our pastor and revitalize our church.

Chuck Hadden will be the delegate for the November 2 Presbytery meeting at the New Providence Church in Maryville.