



# *Perspective!*

A Glimpse into the Community Church, 2011-12

## Welcome to the Family!

We are a large, loving church family of about 1450 members, along with many loyal and faithful friends, and countless weekly guests. We come from many places around the country and world, representing a wide variety of different Christian traditions. We are a truly interdenominational church whose only label is "Christian" and whose only Leader is Christ. Our doors are open to all who seek God.

## Our Sunday Worship Services

Sunday morning services are held at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. each week. Holy Communion is served weekly at the 8:00 a.m. service, and on the first Sunday of every month at 10:15. An edited version of the 10:15 am service is available to be viewed on YouTube. Just go to our web site [www.tellicochurch.com](http://www.tellicochurch.com) and click on the YouTube link. An audio-only version of the whole service or just the sermon alone are also available through the web site.

## Our Wednesday Evening Service

*WednesdayChurch!* is an innovative mid-week service with music provided by a live band that plays a variety of music ranging from bluegrass to traditional hymns. A contemporary message is offered by one of our pastors. The mood of this service is casual and creative. People often arrive early on Wednesday to enjoy coffee, cookies and good fellowship in the Community Church Café near the main entrance doors. This 45-minute service begins at 6:00 p.m.

## Special Worship Services

Three services are held on Christmas Eve (4:30, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.). On Easter Sunday we offer two Sunrise Services followed by two full services in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. More than a thousand worshippers join us on these wonderful occasions. It is a good idea to arrive early to secure a good seat!

Other special services are held at various times of the year. Among these are the annual Christmas Service of Remembrance and Hope for those grieving losses during the holiday season and our Maundy Thursday Service commemorating Jesus' Last Supper.

## Sunday School

A Children's/Youth Sunday School is offered at 9:15 each Sunday. A nursery is provided for the very young ones. Children's Church is an activity/learning program that takes place during the 10:15 worship hour, following the Children's Sermon. During the summer, a Vacation Bible School is offered to children from the whole community. All children are welcome to participate in these outstanding programs.

Adult Sunday School and Educational classes are offered throughout the year at 9:15 am. A Pastor-led Bible or Book Study, and a Discussion Group for younger adults and parents take place weekly. Weekday classes are also offered at various times during the year.

## Nursery Care

Nursery care is provided at all our Sunday services and for many other programs. Our dedicated Nursery staff looks forward to caring for your little ones. The Nursery is located in the lower level of the Christian Life Center.

## Music Ministry

We are blessed with a fabulous music program known throughout the area for its high-quality. This ministry includes:

- The Chancel Choir
- Two Handbell Choirs
- Several smaller ensembles
- A weekly after-school children's music experience
- A Fine Arts Series throughout the year

Those wishing to participate in the music ministry, sing in a choir, play handbells, or otherwise volunteer are invited to speak with Dr. John R. Orr, our Minister of Music.

## Our 1862/2010 Pipe Organ

The beautiful pipe organ that graces the Chancel of our main Sanctuary is a one-of-a-kind instrument built by Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders of Denver, North Carolina. The 3-manual organ consists of about 2,600 pipes in 42-ranks. What makes this organ unique is that many of its pipes and mechanics are from an 1862 Henry Erben instrument rescued from the demolition of a Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn, NY. We love to remember that these rescued pipes first sang their songs of faith when Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States, and the Civil War raged on. The Erben pipes were matched with modern pipework and mechanics to form this marvelous instrument that blends together the past and present, Protestant tradition and Catholic, and gives witness to our church's commitment to Christian unity. This beautiful instrument was built at about one-third the cost of a traditional pipe organ. Mr. Fred Pogue is our church organist.

## Our Missions and Community Outreach

The focus of a Community Church is the community around us, and an important part of our ministry is outreach and mission. We believe that God wants us to be a strong and significant source of Christian love and goodness to those all around us, especially those in need. Many of the helping agencies in Loudon and Monroe Counties were either started by members of our church, or are strongly supported by church members. 11% of our church budget (less debt service) is designated toward mission projects.

In addition, we receive five special mission offerings during the year: a "Turkey Hunt" during November to provide Thanksgiving meals for local families in need; two special offerings on Christmas Eve and Easter, designated for projects approved by the Church Council; a "Valentine Project" in February to help support the local Child Advocacy Center; and a new Scholarship Sunday offering that helps fund our Scholarship Program which is one of the largest in the area. Currently, we provide scholarship assistance to over 20 students. Occasionally, we will receive an emergency special offering for disaster relief.

You will also notice a "Wishing Well" located under the grand staircase. This is a drop-off center for many different items that are needed or used by helping groups in the local area. Please feel free to bring in your soup can labels, old eyeglasses, spent ink cartridges, etc. These small donations really help!

In 2011, 75.8% of mission funds were allocated to projects in Loudon County, 14.8% to nearby counties, and 9.4% to international mission projects. More important, almost all of our able-bodied members volunteer somewhere in the larger community.

## Our Internet Ministry

Through our web site at [www.tellicochurch.com](http://www.tellicochurch.com) we provide access to our worship services, sermons and other Christian content to people all around the world. In 2011, 7,992 people from 80 different countries visited our site and viewed 38,401 pages of content, mostly sermons. We are blessed to be able to share our preaching ministry with so many people from so many different places. The traffic to our web site caused Google to designate [www.tellicochurch.com](http://www.tellicochurch.com) as a "Google Favorite Site."

## Our Ministry of Care

Caring for each other through all the seasons of life is an important ministry of our church.

The ministry of care begins with our Pastors who will visit you in the hospital or at home, and welcome you into their offices (all our Pastors practice "open door" policies) for counseling, prayer, or "just to talk." There is no more important work for our Pastors than to be there for "you" when you need them.

Our church also provides a Parish Nursing Ministry. Parish Nursing is a certified sub-specialty of nursing. The Parish Nurse, in collaboration with the pastoral staff and congregants, participates in the ongoing transformation of the faith community into a source of health and healing. Some of the duties of the Parish Nurse include serving as a health counselor to parishioners, offering "check-up" home visits to those discharged from hospitals or experiencing symptoms of illness, being an advocate for parishioners within the healthcare system, developing and resourcing support groups in the church for those facing

chronic illness, sponsoring health education seminars and programs, and much, much more. Our Parish Nurse – Mary McNeal – works closely with our pastors in providing for the health-related needs of our members. Mary stands ready to help you in any way she can whether in her office, at your home, or in the hospital!

We also care for each other through our Stephen Ministry, a group of lay members who have undergone 50-hours of specialized training in the art of Christian caregiving. Our Stephen Ministers are paired up with individuals who are going through difficult times. They are great Christian friends who will listen to you, help you find guidance, and love you as a special friend for as long as you need.

Beyond our Pastors, Parish Nurse, and Stephen Ministers, the whole congregation is needed to care for each other. We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry – a group of people who love to knit. The shawls they create are knitted prayerfully, asking the Lord to bless the person who receives it. You may take a prayer shawl from the supply and give it to anyone you know who needs to be enfolded in God's love. We also have a Soup Ministry. You may pick up containers of frozen soup to bring to someone confined to home, or running back and forth to a hospital. Most importantly, we ask all our members and friends to let us know when they or a neighbor need help. Our Pastors will run to the hospital to be there for an emergency patient or family. If the patient belongs to another church, we will contact that church or Pastor.

Our faith calls us to care for each other and at the Community Church we take this calling very seriously.

## Our Governance

Our church is governed by a "congregational polity" which means that the members of the church exercise complete control in the governance of the church. This is accomplished through congregation-approved By-laws, and through votes taken at duly called meetings of the Membership. Between Membership meetings, a 9-member Church Council elected by the Membership oversees the work of the church in conjunction with our Pastors.

## Our Finances

Our church is financially supported solely by members and friends of the church. Once each year, we conduct "Trails through Tellico," a stewardship campaign that seeks pledges toward the following year's budget. We also receive income from loose plate offerings, building rentals and occasional fundraisers. Our budget for 2012 is \$1,447,005. We encourage all members and friends to take a Pledge Card and prayerfully consider giving financially to our ministry on a regular basis. Pledge Cards help our Finance Team plan for the year and are available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

## Our Affiliations

We are a proud member of the International Council of Community Churches (I.C.C.C.), a small association of community churches located mainly in the USA. Approximately half of the I.C.C.C.'s congregations are predominantly African-American, and the other half predominantly Caucasian. Through the I.C.C.C., we have a presence on and voice within the National Council of Christian Churches

in the USA, the World Council of Churches, Churches Uniting in Christ and Christian Churches United. Our local church enjoys complete freedom to make its own decisions apart from the above bodies.

## Attendance and Membership Statistics

- In 2011, 38,255 people attended our regular weekly worship services
- Average attendance at 8:00 a.m. was 215 (50 weeks)
- Average attendance at 10:15 a.m. was 466
- Average attendance at *WednesdayChurch!* was 69
- During the year 2011:
  - 26 members were removed from our rolls (by death, transfer, or withdrawal)
  - 58 new members were received
  - At the end of 2011, there were 1,452 members of our church

## Our Pastoral Staff

We are blessed to have a dedicated team of four ordained Pastors to shepherd and care for the spiritual needs of our large flock:

- Senior Pastor, Rev. Martin C. Singley, III ([marty@tellicochurch.org](mailto:marty@tellicochurch.org))  
Marty was born in Boston, but raised in Worcester, Massachusetts. His denominational background is Congregational/United Church of Christ. Currently, he holds dual standing in the U.C.C. and the International Council of Community Churches.

Marty graduated in 1971 from Springfield (Mass.) College with a double major in Sociology and Anthropology. He earned the Master of Divinity degree in 1974 from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. That same year, he was called as pastor of the First Congregational Church in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, serving there for 15 years. In 1989 he was called to a co-pastorate at Greendale People's Community Church in Worcester, Mass., and 7 years later – in 1996 - was called to the Community Church at Tellico Village. Marty has served in many capacities on the national scene in both the I.C.C.C. and the U.C.C., and has been an active participant in the ecumenical movement both locally and nationally. Many of Marty's sermons have been published, and he has won numerous preaching awards.

As our Senior Pastor, Marty is the spiritual shepherd of the Church and has overall responsibility for guiding and implementing the ministries of the Church in cooperation with the Church Council. Among his primary duties are preaching the Gospel, administering the Sacraments, conducting the services of worship, providing pastoral care and providing for the spiritual welfare of the Church and those it serves. Marty is an ex-officio member of the Church Council and all Teams and administers the day-to-day activities of the staff.

Marty is married to Sandy Angell Singley and they have two married children, Peter and Bethany.

- Associate Pastor, Dr. R. Tim Meadows ([tmeadows@tellicochurch.org](mailto:tmeadows@tellicochurch.org))

Tim is a native West Tennessean who graduated from public schools in Dyer County, completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Union University in Jackson, TN. and the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Christian History and Theology.

Tim and Shannon married on December 27<sup>th</sup> 1986 after having dated nearly five years. Their marriage has produced four children, all of the hairy four legged variety. Those currently occupying the house are Guinness, a four year old black lab/golden retriever mix, and Abbey (short for Abita Golden), a six month old golden retriever puppy.

Tim began his ministerial career in an academic setting as a college professor and administrator for William Carey College. After five years of service to the college he moved to First Baptist Church, Covington, LA. serving for over seven years as Minister of Pastoral Care.

Tim was called to our church in 2005. He serves as Associate Pastor with responsibilities for Christian Education, Mission, and Pastoral Care with homebound and shut-in members.

- Associate Pastor, Rev. Rhonda Abbott Blevins ([Rhonda@tellicochurch.org](mailto:Rhonda@tellicochurch.org))

Rhonda is our Associate Pastor for Congregational Life. She is responsible for nurturing the spiritual life and fellowship of our congregation. Before being called to our church in 2007, Rhonda served for two years with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Kentucky as their Missions Coordinator, and seven years before that as a campus minister at the University of Georgia. She is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Seminary where she earned the Master of Divinity degree.

Rhonda is an East Tennessee native, having grown up in Maryville just 30 minutes away. She still has lots of family in Maryville and in Townsend. Rhonda is married to Terry and they have a son, Jake.

In addition to a full schedule at our church, Rhonda is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree through the McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University.

- Minister of Music, Dr. John R. Orr ([jorr@tellicochurch.org](mailto:jorr@tellicochurch.org))

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, John began serving as Minister of Music in January of 2010. A student of Dr. Sandra Willetts and Dr. John Ratledge, John earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Alabama in 2008, with research in the area of the aging voice in amateur singers.

John received a Bachelor's degree in Church Music, Music Theory and Composition from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri and a Master of Church Music from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. John has served churches in several states and in several denominational settings including Baptist, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and Inter-denominational. John was ordained in 1995. He is married to Darla, and they have two boys, Bryson and Rolly.

## Our Support Staff

Working with our professional staff to carry out the day-to-day and week-to-week work of the church are some of the best and brightest people you'll find anywhere.

- Parish Nurse, Mary McNeal, R.N. ([parishnurse@tellicochurch.org](mailto:parishnurse@tellicochurch.org))
- Church Organist, Frederick Pogue
- *WednesdayChurch!* Music Leader, Nancy Owen
- Media and Sound Coordinator, Mark Powell
- Office Manager, Pat Ouderkirk ([pao@tellicochurch.org](mailto:pao@tellicochurch.org))
- Office Assistant, Nancy Moser ([nancym@tellicochurch.org](mailto:nancym@tellicochurch.org))
- Kitchen Coordinator, Judy Stiles
- Facilities Coordinator, Allen Lawson ([allen@tellicochurch.org](mailto:allen@tellicochurch.org))
- Custodian, Mo Colvin

## Our Facilities

- Founders Chapel - The first building constructed on our church campus was a Sanctuary that opened on Christmas Eve, 1994. Designed to seat 500 people (but realistically seating only 400), this beautiful worship space was soon outgrown, requiring the addition of a second service that was introduced three years later, in 1997. With a near doubling of Membership between 1996 and 2000, studies were conducted to explore enlarging the Sanctuary. This turned out to be not feasible. As the size of our congregation continued increasing, the Membership made a decision to build a new Sanctuary where our weekly services are now held. The Founders Chapel continues to be used for special seasonal services, memorial services, musical events, and classes.
- Christian Life Center – As our church family experienced strong growth through the late 1990's, there arose a need for a space where we could enjoy fellowship meals and other large group events. Plans were made to construct a 17,000 square foot building with a large fellowship hall and kitchen on one level, and classrooms and music area on the lower level. The CLC opened in 1999 and is a very valuable asset to our church's ministry.
- Burke-Puckett Parish Ministry Center – in 2006 the church was the recipient of two model homes formerly used by Cooper Communities. This generous gift allowed us to move all our administrative offices from the original office wing which was to be demolished to make way for the new Sanctuary. Our Pastors offices and Main church office are located in the tan building, while the Financial and Parish Nurse offices are in the white house.
- New Sanctuary – on December 5, 2010 we worshiped for the first time in our beautiful new 850-seat (actual seating!) Sanctuary. Almost immediately, worship attendance increased along with visitors, many of whom (58) joined the church in 2011. Our new worship space provides sufficient room in the chancel for our growing choir and handbell ringers. Virtually all of the furniture items (except pews) in the new Sanctuary were crafted by members of the Tellico Village Woodworkers Club. The new Sanctuary was designed to provide excellent handicap

accessibility, and the sound system includes assisted listening devices for those with hearing impairments.

### **Come and Join Us!**

We invite you to join our beautiful church family and participate with us sharing the Lord's love with each other and those all around us. A Community Church Café is held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of most months for those considering membership. This informal gathering provides a chance to meet our Pastors, ask questions, and get to know each other better as you consider joining our church. We also serve delicious desserts which are reason enough in themselves to join us! If you would, please call the office at 458-1516 if you are planning to attend. If you forget to call, come anyways! There's always room for more!