**An Interesting Job Opening!**

*First Presbyterian Church of Cookeville, Tennessee*

is seeking a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministry

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) is entering an exciting period of revitalization and growth. On an informal scale of Cookeville churches’ theological and social views, we occupy a broad portion of the “moderate” zone, something like this:

| Liberal | | | | | | | | | | Conservative |

Currently in its third year, our middle- and high-school level youth program now has a core group of about fifteen happy, well-adjusted, actively-engaged students. They eagerly participate in service trips and spiritual retreats, they welcome opportunities to develop and present student-centered drama productions as part of our worship experience, and they take active roles in our ordinary services. The congregation fully supports all these activities, and adult members join in many of them.

We are seeking a person who will harness this momentum to continue to build and strengthen the program. Its form is likely to evolve over time, whether in response to changing circumstances or simply to keep things fresh. Thus, we define “success” less by the program’s structure than by its outcomes. Specifically, we will be pleased if participants experience the program in these ways:

- “There is something special about how we treat each other. No gossip, no backstabbing, no in-crowd or out-crowd. It’s like we have a mutual agreement to make this group an example of what we wish every group felt like.”
- “I am not expected to automatically accept ideas without thinking. It’s OK for me to express doubts or to admit that I’m not yet sure what I believe. Adults take my questions seriously and offer insights that help me think through my questions.”
- “Yes, our service projects are fun, but more importantly, I believe the work we perform actually matters. I find the trips to be so meaningful that I sometimes plan my vacation activities around them.”

Our ideal youth group leader will have the ability to maintain a subtle balance among competing demands: Warm, friendly and fun enough to bond easily with adolescents, yet willing to establish appropriate boundaries and remain a mature adult. Focused enough to move steadily toward clear goals, yet flexible enough to embrace serendipitous opportunities. A deeply committed Christian who also encourages students to actively struggle with spiritual questions.

We seek candidates who have already demonstrated success managing similar responsibilities. Experience and/or training in Christian Education is strongly preferred. The Pastor and Head of Staff will be the immediate supervisor with expectation of working with the Christian Education committee as well as the Personnel committee.

This is a 25 hour per week position with responsibilities for planning and/or leading Sunday school, Youth Sunday worship, Wednesday night programming, and service projects. In addition to being present when possible at our youth’s events such as dance, drama, sports etc., there is also the expectation of leading youth retreats, a Spring Break mission team (5- n6 nights, 6-7 days), the Montreat Middle School Conference (3 nights, 4 days), the Montreat Youth Conference (6 nights, 7 days). It may be possible to arrange parts of this work schedule to accommodate other demands (e.g., travel and/or graduate classes).

To apply: Send resume; names of three work-related references and their relationship to you; a cover letter explaining why you’re interested and how you fit the above criteria; and a personal statement that describes your own faith journey. Send them to reymclaughlin@firstprescookeville.org. Please no phone calls. (We will contact references only if and when you are a finalist, and only after notifying you.) Anticipated start date would be as soon as possible but no later than July 1st.