

## Anniversary Celebration November 23, 2008

In September of 1873, a small group of 32 people in the Donelson area began meeting in homes to worship. This was the beginning of the Donelson Church of Christ. The congregation now counts 550 families among its membership.



On November 23, 2008, the present group marked the 135th anniversary of this church with a homecoming celebration. It included a wonderful time of worship with former members who returned to visit, including two of our former preaching ministers. Bob Hendren aided our maturity in the faith with his emphasis on grace during the years that he preached from 1970-1989. Randy Harris, whose tenure was from 1990-2000, taught us discipleship in that grace. On this November day of celebration, Randy preached at the morning worship, urging us not to dwell on the past, but to look forward in anticipation of God's future plans for us. Bob Hendren taught a combined auditorium class, encouraging us to be doxological in our approach to scripture—that is, to read looking for reasons to praise God, rather than for ways to win arguments.



Physical and emotional nourishment followed the great spiritual nourishment of the morning. Approximately 500 people participated in a delicious luncheon with overflowing with fellowship. The Christian Activities Center was beautifully decorated in autumn colors appropriate for the season.



An evening assembly rounded out the day with Steve Flatt, who grew up in the Donelson congregation, preaching from Matthew 6. He challenged us not to engage in worry, which accomplishes nothing. He reminded us that we are not in control, except for the choices that we make, and we must choose to trust God with our lives.

Rob McRay had been preaching a Sunday morning series from 2 Corinthians about our responsibility to minister to others. In response to this series, the day was also set aside for a Special Collection. The goal was \$20,000, with Youth Encouragement Services, the Inner City Ministry, the Prison Ministry, Room In The Inn, and Donelson's own Help Center as the recipients. The actual collection totaled almost \$40,000!

What a day of celebration of what God has done and is doing! What a day of anticipation for the future of the Donelson church!

[Our thanks to Carole English for this report.]