

Book recounts Presbyterian history

Register Staff Report

The Rev. Curtis Christian, pastor of Richmond's First Presbyterian Church, set out to write the church's history, but soon realized the story could not be told without telling it in the

context of the denomination's history in Madison County and the Bluegrass region.

The result is a 471-page, hardcover volume titled "They Yet Speak: A Theological History of First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Kentucky."

"It spans the history of Presbyterianism in the Bluegrass region from 1783 to 2006," the author said.

The church's history intersects with the broader history of the community and region at several interesting points, Christian noted.

Presbyterians built the first house of worship within the city of Richmond. Three U.S. congressmen, one of whom was speaker of the house, one U.S. senator; and a two-term governor of Kentucky called First Presbyterian their home church, he said.

The slavery issue that led to the Civil War also created a schism among Presbyterians and gave rise to the Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

First Presbyterian's relationship with Second Presbyterian and with White's Memorial Presbyterian north of Berea are examined. The church's role in the 1874 formation of Central University, the forerunner of Eastern Kentucky University, also is covered.

The effects of World Wars I and II, and the church's role in turbulent

1960s are recounted. Special attention is given to the Kennedy assassination, the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King's 1964 march on Frankfort, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the space race.

The book is available at the church, 330 W. Main St., Richmond, for \$30. All profits will help support church ministries.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We exist . . .

Not for ourselves,
But to love Jesus Christ,
And to make Christ's love known.

Worship: Sunday, 11:00 am
Church School: Sunday, 9:45 am
Church Family Night:
Wednesday, 6:00pm

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