

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2016-2017

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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Unified in Christ,  
we actively seek  
to create harmony  
in a diverse  
community through  
compassion, mutual  
respect and love.

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FROM THE PASTOR: REV. JOHN STUART

*Dear Erin Members,*

In the Bible, we can read these words at the beginning of Psalm 67:

*"May God be gracious to us and bless us by making His face shine upon us."*

It's an ancient blessing and prayer which the Jewish people used when they were looking for God's favor and support. They believed that God was the Supreme Sovereign of their lives and the Lord of all Creation, so when His face shone over them, they would know that God was pleased and that His people could rely on His promised blessings.

As a community of faith, we constantly seek the same reassurance and favor from God. Within this report, you will read about all that our wee church undertakes and fulfills in order to continue Christ's ministry among us, and beyond our own congregation. Many people in our church regularly participate and support the projects and programs that we present. Our effectiveness and witness to Christ are always underscored by what we accomplish and achieve.

Our church staff and elders are leading the way forward for our church. The last couple of years have not been easy, but we appear to be heading in the right direction and following the course that Christ has given us. With our prayers and worship, we seek to both please and praise God; in our studies and service, we learn more of God's ways; and through our faith and fellowship, we bind ourselves to one another with compassion and love.

Thank you for all of your continued support, whether it be financially, prayerfully, or personally given. Your kindness and concern, as well as your generosity and commitment, make our church a pleasant place to practice our faith and share our connection to Christ.

May God bless all of your hopes and dreams by permitting all of your plans to succeed.

Yours Faithfully,

*Pastor John.*

**Team Statement:** The mission of Erin Presbyterian Church's Outreach Team is to be God's hands and feet, striving to use our time, talents, and money to support those in need. The team prayerfully allocates funds that are budgeted from church offerings to support Denominational, Educational, International and local programs/organizations. We also plan hands-on mission programs to encourage our congregation's involvement with the community.

**Outreach Team Members:**

Elder Cecilia Stinnett, Elder Mike Jones, Elder Lynne Jones, Member David Eggers, Elder Ron DuBois, Elder Debra Poole, Member Erin McCallum, Elder Sonja DuBois, Elder Farrah Linkous

**2016/2017 Accomplishments:**

- Collected supplies for flood relief in Louisiana
- Delivered furniture and food to a family in need
- Held a mobile donation drive for Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM)
- Distributed food at Fish Hospitality Food Pantry on multiple Saturdays
- Formalized a mission partnership with Jan Heckler in Madagascar
- Collected and provided Christmas gifts for 50 children through the Angel Tree project
- Held a Mission Fair with displays of all missions supported by Erin, then had a luncheon, and a presentation by Jan Heckler, along with Rev. Mamisoa, both visiting from Madagascar.
- Collected socks for Volunteer Ministry Center
- Held a donation drive for paper products for Volunteer Ministry Center
- Promoted and collected the four PCUSA Special Offerings throughout the year: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking and Christmas Joy
- Regularly put up display boards in the narthex to share the various missions we support and familiarize the congregation with the particular organization mentioned in the bulletin or newsletter that week/month.
- Made use of the Erin Facebook page to promote our activities and encourage giving to special situations, as needs arose throughout the year. (such as monetary donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help with fires in Canada and the Smoky Mountains, floods in Louisiana and South Carolina, etc.)

**2017/2018 Goals:**

- Recruit more team members
- Involve the Sunday School classes with Outreach projects (missions we already support)
- Work at the FISH Pantry on a more regular basis as a group, but also encourage members of the congregation to volunteer their time on other days when they have time available. Anyone is welcome to just show up and volunteer when the Scott Avenue pantry is open.
- Make contact with our sponsored child (Leonora) once a month through the combined efforts of members of Outreach and the younger groups of children in the congregation, such as Sunday School classes.
- Work with the adult and HS Sunday School classes to contact Jan Heckler, on a rotating basis, to give her encouragement and update her on events at Erin. For instance, when it's the Connections class' turn to communicate with Jan, they might want to have a volunteer compose the e-mail with greetings on behalf of the whole class and tell her about what they're studying at that time. Ask her if she has any prayer requests and then share them with the class. The purpose is for smaller groups within the church to begin building a connection with her.
- Host third annual Mission Fair during first quarter of 2018

Join our Team! We generally meet after worship on the second Sunday of each month (12:15 p.m.). Check the bulletin, and calendar on the church website, for the most current information. We meet in the Outreach Room which is also a resource room dedicated to providing information and visual representations of all the organizations currently supported by our church. The team is made up of people from across various age groups, educational and work backgrounds. Some are long time members of the congregation and some are relatively new – all bring unique ideas and perspectives to our discussions, and with God's help, we discern what we mutually believe to be the most prudent distribution of funds from month to month, from a percentage of the congregation's offerings, while remaining within our allotted budget. This diversity within the team also allows for variety in hands-on mission opportunities we are able to offer the congregation because of the many sources of ideas and connections within the community.

**Respectfully submitted by Cecilia Stinnett, Convener**

**The mission of Erin's Fellowship and Congregational Care Team is to serve as the congregational glue: To hold each other close, in love and support, by breaking bread and sharing our lives.**

**Our Team consists of the following members:** Jim Montgomery (convener), Betty Gibbs (elder), Kay Pennington (elder), Diana Brandon (elder), Pat Wallin (elder), Dan Gibbs and Bob McLean.

**At Erin, we don't just talk about Fellowship, we practice it! Thus, there are numerous opportunities to actually engage in fellowship.**

**Wednesday Night Dinners:** Continue to be a hit! Besides regular church members, we had several non-church members who joined us for this meal each Wednesday night during the school year. We average about 80 dinner guests.

**BreadBreakers:** We got together for dinner at a church member's home to fellowship Potluck-style. We usually met once per month to catch up and try out each other's best recipes.

**Let's Do Dinner:** We meet at a restaurant and spend some time in fellowship together.

**Presbyterian Women:** Our women's Bible study group met once per month from September through May. We did mission and service projects in our community and took up two offerings over the year: A Thank Offering given to different grants and a Birthday Offering for nationwide needs. There were two Presbytery-wide gatherings, one in the fall and one in Spring.

**Red, White and Blue Potluck Dinner:** We celebrated our freedom in the Fellowship Hall, decorated Red, White and Blue. Some of us dressed up for the occasion! There were many wonderful dishes to pass.

**Men's Breakfast:** Men of the congregation got together and enjoyed some fellowship over breakfast, one Saturday morning per month.

**Halloween Party:** Our annual Halloween Party is held at Tates' School on Sunday, Oct. 30th from 5pm to 7pm. The Fellowship Team brings hot dogs, buns and the fixin's. You bring a dish or dessert for the Potluck. We also roast marshmallows! So get dressed up in your best Halloween outfit and come enjoy some fun with your Erin family!

**Hanging of the Greens:** We got together the last week in November to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. The Tates bring in a large Christmas tree for the narthex.

**Christmas Potluck:** We enjoy this lunch after church, the first Sunday in December, to celebrate the upcoming season.

**Christmas Caroling:** We met at the church and carpoled to Sherrill Hills to begin singing. Then we visited a couple of other nursing homes and homes together. Then we came back to the Fellowship Hall for cocoa and cookies.

**Easter Lilies and Poinsettias:** We offer these to dedicate to our friends and loved ones on Easter and Christmas.

**Bridal and Baby Showers:** We decorate and help provide snacks to celebrate the upcoming event.

**Besides Fellowship, we are also involved in Congregational Care. This involves :**

- Sending greeting cards to members who are ill, have lost a loved one or are in a retirement center. Cards are also sent to celebrate events such as welcoming a new baby, a marriage, or perhaps a significant anniversary.
- If a member of the congregation passes away, we organize food for the family, as needed. As well, we provide food for any reception that might follow the funeral, or receiving of friends, at the church.
- This past year we celebrated several members of our congregation getting married, and we also had a "Sip and See" celebration for a newborn.
- Receptions were held for Incoming/Outgoing Elders.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us in our endeavors to provide our Erin Family with love and support. If you would like to join our team, please contact one of the existing members, or our Admin. Assistant at [admin@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@erinpresbyterian.org). It is a very rewarding opportunity to serve. The Fellowship Team meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Parlor. Come join us!!!

**Mission:** To make true disciples of our members, becoming more Christ-like as we grow in faith.

**The Discipleship Team:** Joe Jaynes, Anna McKay, Cathy Van Ostrand, Kim Jaynes, Joy Bornhoeft, Farrah Linkous and Lynne Jones.

The Discipleship Team is responsible for the Nursery, Planet Worship, Pioneer Club, Sunday School for all ages, Vacation Bible School, the annual Church Family Retreat, and Middle School/High School Youth programs at Erin.

The team meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Heritage Room. Everyone interested in contributing to the planning and leadership of any of these programs is welcome to join the team.

This year's Discipleship theme was **GPS: Following God's Lead** — a culmination of our themes over the last 3 years: Grow, Pray, and Shine.

The team's most significant accomplishments for the past year included:

- **A vibrant and engaging Sunday School program for ages pre-school through adults** that runs in parallel with the public school year (Aug-May). Children attend classes based on age/grade. Adults may choose from 3 classes:
  - **The Hard Sayings class led by John House:** From the beginning of His earthly ministry to the present day, Jesus has challenged us to look at our world differently. His teachings require us to do the counterintuitive. He requires us to do hard things. Often times, religious teaching glosses over, or ignores, some of the most challenging aspects of what it means to practice Christianity, to be a disciple of Jesus. The Hard Sayings Class attempts to focus on those very things that are, in fact, hard. Hard to look at, hard to understand, hard to apply.
  - **Rev. Stuart's Connections class:** For over twenty years, the pastor has taught an inter-generational Sunday School class each week during September to May. Every month, he presents a short series for discussion and study about church theology, books of the Bible, American history, or life applications. The classes are held in the Heritage Room, next to the church parlor, from 9:45 AM to 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend.
  - **The JavaScripture class, led by Kim and Joe Jaynes:** Studies a rich variety of topics. Past studies have included: books of the Bible, books by renowned Christian authors (John Ortberg, N.T. Wright, Tony Campolo, etc.), video series on theological and spiritual topics, and other subjects chosen by consensus of the class and its leaders. The discussions are wide ranging and personally challenging, and we encourage all interested adults to join us!
  - **Planet Worship (Sunday) and Pioneer Club (Wednesday) programs:** for children, led with great energy and creativity by Joy Bornhoeft. Your kids are going to have fun!
  - **Our "Passport to Peru" Vacation Bible School:** We did this in June, conducted in partnership with Messiah Lutheran for kids ages 3-10.
- Welcoming Lynne Jones as Nursery Coordinator and Sara Brown as Nursery Worker.
- A continuation of the annual Church Family Retreat at John Knox Center, supported by a gift in memory of Claude and Pat Houbler. This year's retreat featured Carol Merritt, a PCUSA minister from Chattanooga and a nationally-known speaker and writer on religious issues.

Our Discipleship theme for next year will be **God's Work; Our Hands**. We will seek to grow as our Lord's disciples by putting faith and learning into action.

We encourage everyone to come to Sunday School and our **Fall Rally Day kickoff on Aug. 13th**. Everyone who meets the attendance goal for the fall will be eligible to receive this year's exciting incentive gift. (You'll have to show up to find out what it is!)

We also invite you to attend the **Church Family Retreat at John Knox Center on Fri/Sat, Aug. 25th-26th**. Our featured speaker will be Andy Morgan, campus minister for UKirk at The University of Tennessee.

Thanks for your support of all of the Discipleship programs at Erin. God is pleased by our efforts to grow in faith and become better disciples of His Son!

This was the 21st year for Creative Expression Ministry at Erin Presbyterian. Again this year, we say “Thank you!” to the Erin membership for your continued support of the Creative Expression Ministry through prayer, attendance, volunteer assistance to the groups, good will, encouragement, promotion, and finances. We praise and glorify God for His continued use of this ministry to uplift, heal, grow, and support the members of Erin, and those from the community, whom He sends us to accept and love. We thank Him for His blessings on this ministry. May He take pleasure in the things we do as we seek to give the performing arts back to Him! We pray for God’s direction and guidance and we work to be sensitive to His leading and Lordship over this ministry. Amen.

**GENERAL SUMMARY**

**Participants:** approx. 70  
**Support People:** approx. 60  
**Groups:** 8 active, 2 inactive

**THEATRE / DRAMA**

***SONSHINE COMPANY CHILDREN’S MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP (21ST YEAR)***

**Troupe Members:** 22 - 2 Erin Members, 20 Community Members  
**Production Staff:** 7 - Producer/Director: Cynthia House, Assistant Director: Kelly Boyd, Music Director: Rachel Little, Choreographer: Carolyn Gahan, Rehearsal Assistant: Kristina Dorsett, Stage Manager: Cathy Van Ostrand, Show Program: Joelle Smith  
**Production Leads:** 12 - 8 Erin Leads, 4 External Leads  
**Production Support:** 34 - 10 Erin Parents & Youth, 24 External Parents  
**Productions:** 1 - Lost at Fairmont Middle School  
**Performances:** 3  
**Audience:** 225

Sonshine Company provides 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders with exceptional opportunities to learn about musical theater, developing acting, singing, dancing and presentation skills, and to grow spiritually, develop confidence and discipline, learn teamwork, and to improve their self-esteem. Workshops start the first Wednesday in September and culminate in April with a major musical theatre production.

Because 38 children enrolled in the original Sonshine Company, we divided the troupe into older and younger groups. So, this year, Sonshine Company was composed of 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders only and shared a practice, production schedule and space with Sonshine Lite. Sonshine Company staged one major musical theatre production this year: “Lost at Fairmont Middle School,” the 6<sup>th</sup> original work produced by the company. This show was written by the Sonshine Company Children’s Musical Theatre Workshop Writers Collaborative lead by Cynthia House and Kelly Boyd. The troupe did 3 performances Friday - Sunday with attendance of about 250. Sonshine rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and on selected Saturdays as required.

***SONSHINE COMPANY WRITING COLLABORATIVE (3RD YEAR)***

**Members:** 11 - 3 Erin Members, 8 Community Members - Abigail Bailey, Sage Bohacek, Kathryn Bornhoeft, Sara Boyd, Lydia Clark, Led Hinton, Rachel Hinton, Ella Levering, Kenleigh Pennington, Emma Rowe, Eva Rowe  
**Adult Leaders:** 2 - Cynthia House, Kelly Boyd  
**Student Assistant:** 1 - Emma Rowe

The Sonshine Company Writing Collaborative provides selected rising 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders with the opportunity to learn the basics of theatre production and script writing and to be part of crafting the Sonshine Company show for the next season. All participants learn a great deal about collaboration, theatre production, script writing, and developing a creative, original script for production. During the summer and early fall of 2016, Cynthia House and Kelly Boyd lead play writing workshops and worked with the group to write the book for the Spring 2017 production. The result was *Lost as Fairmont Middle School*. All productive members of the collaborative receive a spot on the “by-line” of the book.

**SONSHINE COMPANY LITE CHILDREN’S MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP(1ST YEAR)**

- Troupe Members:** 16 - 2 Erin Members, 14 Community Members
- Production Staff:** 6 - Producer: Cynthia House, Director: Kelly Boyd, Music Director: Rachel Little, Choreographer: Carolyn Gahan, Stage Manager: Cathy Van Ostrand, Show Program: Joelle Smith
- Student Director:** 1- Emma Rowe
- Production Leads:** 14 - 7 Erin Leads, 7 External Leads
- Production Support:** 20 - 4 Erin Parents & Youth, 16 External Parents
- Productions:** 1 - Agape League
- Performances:** 3
- Audience:** 225

Because 38 children enrolled in Sonshine Company this year, we divided the troupe into older and younger groups and produce 2 shows. Sonshine Lite was created for our 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and provided the same learning opportunities as Sonshine Company. The practice, production schedules and space were worked to accommodate both troupes, and the set built to enable both shows to be staged on the same nights.

Sonshine Lite staged one major musical theatre production this year, “Agape League,” a show purchased from Word Music and adapted and expanded by Kelly Boyd to accommodate a larger cast. The troupe did 3 performances Friday - Sunday with attendance of about 250. No decision has been made about continuing Sonshine Lite.

**ERIN YOUTH PLAYERS (12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)**

Erin Youth Players allows 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders who are seeking to gain stage experience and advance their theatrical skills, an opportunity to improve their acting, music and dance skills in a safe, nurturing environment while growing significantly in people skills and spiritual commitment.

This year CEX planned to stage a Musical Review of scenes from selected Broadway and off-Broadway musicals directed by Kelly Boyd and music directed by Rachel Little. However, because of scheduling problems, few auditions and the inability of members of the Erin Youth to participate and provide the necessary spiritual core for the troupe, the CEX Team decided to take this year off and not stage a Youth Players production. We are making plans for the 2017-18 season and we plan to resume the Summer production.

**JOURNEY SEVEN (J7) (5TH YEAR)**

- Members:** 4
- Director:** 1 - Jess Magers-Rankin
- Adult Support:** 3
- Drama Offerings:** 4
- Performances:** 4

Journey Seven provides 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders an opportunity to learn advanced acting, character development, improvisation and teaming skills.



The troupe focuses on advanced performance and acting skills in the context of short programs that carry a Christian message and can be performed in various venues. J7 rehearses on Wednesdays evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and on selected Saturdays as required.

**THE WORDPLAYERS**

Erin and the Christian Theatre company *The Wordplayers* continue to collaborate on a wide variety of projects. Erin serves as the group’s primary rehearsal space and is home to its many outreach programs, workshops, and meetings. The Wordplayers mount 1-2 mainstage productions at Erin during a typical year, and produce shows at larger venues such as The Bijou Theater and Pellissippi State. They also mount traveling shows in the Fall and Spring that play in other churches, schools, and community centers throughout East Tennessee.

You may find out more about The Wordplayers, their mission, and their 2017-18 season of shows, at [www.wordplayers.org](http://www.wordplayers.org).

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

**SUCH IS THE KINGDOM** (12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)

**Members:** 7 - 4 Erin Members, 3 Community Members

**Leaders:** 2 - Producer/Director: Cynthia House, Director/Choreographer: Kelly Boyd

**Student Assistants:** Kathryn Bornhoeft, Kenleigh Pennington

**Adult Support:** 10 Parents and family

**Performances:** 5

Such is the Kingdom is a music group for girls K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It provides members with an opportunity to grow in group and solo performance skills and confidence. It allows them to learn teaming skills and the importance of outreach and engaging with the community. They regularly perform in nursing homes, at community events, during worship services and for special church events at various churches.

This group uses a show choir format with full choreography, costume changes, varied and exciting music, and a concert-length program. The girls learn a new show each summer, practicing on selected Sundays from 4-6, and perform during the Fall and Spring. Performances range in length from 5 to 45 minutes.

**ERIN EXPRESS** (18<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)

**Band Members:** 4

**Vocalists:** 1 - 4

**Technical Assistants:** 1

**Worship Services:** 19

Erin Express is a praise and worship group. Its primary function is to provide leadership for the Praise and Worship time prior to the worship services on Sunday morning, and during Sunday worship. This involves selecting, learning, teaching and leading praise and worship music with the congregation. The group rehearses on designated Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00.

**RIGHT SPIRIT** (15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)

Right Spirit is a six to eight member ladies’ vocal ensemble performing a mix of contemporary, traditional and country Christian music. The group is directed by Cynthia House and is accompanied by prerecorded accompaniment tracks. They sing in Erin worship services and at other venues in the community as opportunity presents. Right Spirit was inactive this year due to scheduling conflicts of various members. The group hopes to reassemble in the Fall of 2017.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH ENSEMBLE PROGRAM (5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)**

- Ensembles:** 3 - Stump Family Trio, Prayer, MCM
- Leaders / Coaches:** 2 - Cynthia House, Rachel Little
- Adult Support:** 5
- Performances:** 7

CEX provides opportunities for ensemble work for children and youth who are interested in an ensemble experience. CEX helps with ensemble member selection, ensemble vocal coaching and practice, music selection and procurement, performance opportunities and performance preparation. Currently, three ensembles are active, two trios and a duo, though other ensembles are put together for specific, one time performance opportunities.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SOLO PROGRAM (19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)**

- Soloists:** 8
- Leaders / Coaches:** Cynthia House, Rachel Little, Various Voice Teachers
- Adult Support:** 3
- Performances:** 9

CEX provides opportunities for solo work for children and youth who have interest and aptitude. Beginning with 1<sup>st</sup> graders who show interest through high school, vocal coaches work with children and youth to train them in solo performance. This program requires significant time and commitment from both the coaches and the soloists. Preparation of soloists involves music selection, vocal coaching, music preparation, multiple practice sessions, working with church staff to include soloist in the worship services and pursuing solo opportunities in the community.

**DANCE**

***DAYSRING DANCE ENSEMBLE (II) (6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)***

- Members:** 6 - 3 Erin Members, 3 Community Members
- Leaders / Coach:** 1 - Courtney Vanderpool
- Adult Support:** 4
- Performances:** 6

Dayspring Dance Ensemble provides members with the opportunity to grow as dancers and members of an ensemble and to use dance as a vehicle of praise and worship and as an expression of the Christian experience. Under the leadership of Courtney Vanderpool, the troupe performs during Sunday Worship services at Erin, other churches and at community events.

We have been delighted to have Dayspring Dance in such a vital role in the Creative Expressions Ministry, and look forward to continued growth and expansion of this group.

Creative Expression Annual Report Submitted by Kevin Griffin and Cynthia House.



The Property Committee's mission is to support the mission and ministry of Erin Church by caring for the concrete, physical foundation of congregational life.

The Team is charged with the oversight of upkeep, and maintenance of, the church building and grounds. Oversight involves both ongoing maintenance, and short and long-range planning, to insure the state of repair and continued functioning of the improvements.

### 2016-2017 Property Team Members

Jane Brannon – Elder  
 Mike Cate – Elder  
 Jennifer Gahan – Elder  
 Suzanne Levering – Elder  
 Kelly Ross – Elder  
 Dusty Pennington - Elder  
 Al Wallin – Member  
 Harry Franz - Member

### 2016/2017 Accomplishments

- Parking lot spaces painted and Visitor Parking flags installed
- Spring and Fall Cleanup Days completed
- Removal of nuisance tree from Noah's Ark roof and basketball court
- HVAC system installed in the Pastor/Administrative offices and stairwell
- Facility floorplan completed/updated
- Motion sensor lights installed in Sanctuary hallway
- Pressure reducing valve installed in the furnace room
- Threshold molding replaced in the Fellowship closet entry
- Purchased and installed infant changing tables on restroom walls in Parlor wing and Fellowship Hall
- Campus-wide irrigation system to be installed July 2017
- Hallways cleared for fire safety reasons
- Semi-annual HVAC belts/filters replaced by team members
- Loose shingles over Fellowship Hall entrance repaired
- Building key inventory complete
- "Family Restroom" signs installed

### 2017/2018 Goals

- To create a Building Emergency Plan
- Continue to monitor the budget closely
- Recruit new Property team members with skills in plumbing, electrical and general repair skills

Join our team! The Property Team is made up of a diverse set of people that bring many talents – everything from knowledge of building maintenance, engineering, architecture, to marketing, event planning, administrative/organizational management, leadership organizational management and more - that help our team care for the concrete, physical foundation of congregational life. We meet in the Library on the first Monday of each month. Check the bulletin for time.

**Stewardship is about the wise use of our time, talents and money.**

**The Stewardship Team is composed of:** Eva Quinley as Convener, Neill Murphy, Joe Tate, John Stuart, Kim Pennington and Dave Eggers.

**The Team has the responsibility to oversee Erin's budget; to ensure that we have adequate funds to carry out the important work of the church.**

- The Committee met monthly during the 2016-2017 budget year and reviewed financials and discussed any requests for expenditures outside of the budget. As a point monitor, the Committee paid special attention to the funds in the HF Savings account. The Committee also monitored weekly giving to ensure that cash flow was where it needed to be. The Committee believes that it is necessary for Erin to have a minimum of three months operating dollars in the HF Savings Account. Due to generous giving, and the fact that not all positions were filled the entire year, the account is healthy at this time and above the desired level. The Committee will continue to monitor this closely during the 2017-2018 budget year.
- The Team also made submissions on a regular basis to Erin's newsletter.
- Kim Pennington, our bookkeeper, did an excellent job maintaining the financials and is to be commended for her work. Her timely preparation of materials for the Team Meetings is most appreciated.
- The Stewardship Campaign for this year was a bit different than in past years. It was entitled Celebrate Erin: Praising and Honoring God for His Many Gifts. On six consecutive Sundays, one of our mission teams presented to the congregation about what that particular team does to use the time, talents and money that God provides to us.
- In addition to a Moment for Mission, there was also a slide presentation showcasing activities of each team and a bulleting insert. April Cyr, our church administrator, did a wonderful job in assisting us with these. The campaign ended with a catered celebratory lunch in the Fellowship Hall that was attended by over 75 people. At the time of this writing, we were thankful to our members for pledging over \$275,000. Pledges from a few more members who normally pledge were still outstanding at the time of this writing so that amount could grow!
- The Team also instituted a reminder campaign for the Lower the Debt effort. On the last Sunday of each month, envelopes were included in the bulletin for donations to this and when there were five Sundays in a month, a member of the Stewardship Team gave a moment for mission to remind the congregation to help us lower this debt.
- The 2017-18 budget was presented to Session on June 29, 2017 and was approved. This will be presented to the Congregation on July 30, 2017.

As we go into the 2017-2018 year, the Stewardship Team asks that we all continue to be good stewards of the many gifts with which God has blessed us.

Prayerfully submitted,

The Stewardship Committee  
Eva Lynch, Convener, Class of 2017  
Neill Murphy, Class of 2018  
Joe Tate, Class of 2019  
Kim Pennington, Bookkeeper  
John House, Pastor  
Dave Eggers, President of the Corporation

The Choir performed throughout the 2016-2017 church year for worship services and special occasions. We also enjoyed the gifts of many soloists, small groups, and those in the Creative Expressions ministry, particularly during the summer months when the choir is on hiatus.

In addition to performing as a vocal group, the Choir took time to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and support that unite us. Each rehearsal provided a time for sharing joys and concerns, and for offering them up to God together in prayer. The Choir has experienced God's answer to prayer on many occasions.

I continue to thank God for providing the resources and gifts that we need to fulfill the ministries to which He calls us. I have been encouraged and lifted up by the devotion of each Choir member as we ministered together this year. The Erin congregation offers continual encouragement and support to the music ministry, and I know that everyone involved appreciates that support very much.

Membership in the Choir is open to everyone, high-school age and older. A basic ability to read music is helpful, but not necessary. The group rehearses Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm, in the Choir room.

In closing, I thank our Organist, Nancy Berry, whose talent and devotion are great blessings for Erin. It is always a joy to work with her in the ministry of music.

Joe Jaynes, Choir Director

**CHOIR MEMBERS 2016-2017**

Stacy Armsworth	John House
Joy Bornhoeft	Kim Jaynes
Diana Brandon	Mike Jones
Rob Cameron	Rob Lynch
David Eggers	Susan Miller
Carolyn Gahan	Neill Murphy
Madelyn Griffin	Eva Quinley Lynch
Cynthia House	

**The responsibilities of the Organist position include the following:**

- » -Leading the congregation in song
- » -Providing service music for worship
- » -Accompanying the choir
- » -Accompanying soloists and ensembles, as needed
- » -Being available to play for funerals and weddings
- » -Seeing to the maintenance and care of the church's Allen organ and two pianos
- » -Attending staff meetings
- » -Preparing the budget for instrument maintenance and music
- » -Assisting in the selection of hymns

Thank you for the privilege of serving in this music ministry.

**Joyful Sounds Handbell Ensemble**

Erin's intergenerational handbell choir rehearses each Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. This group of ten ringers plays during Sunday morning worship and for special services, approximately six times a year, from September through May. Rehearsals will resume September 6th and there is a need for substitutes. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required.

If you are interested in participating in this music ministry, please contact Nancy Berry.

Submitted by:

Nancy Berry, Director

**As the Family Ministries Director, I plan and coordinate all of Erin's Christian education programs for children, birth through 5th grade.**

This past year, Erin offered three Children's Sunday School classes: a 2 & 3 year old class, Younger Elementary (4 years old – 1st Grade), and Older Elementary (2nd – 5th Grade) classes. Twelve children regularly attended Sunday School throughout the year. All three classes used the PCUSA published curriculum. The Elementary classes used the new "Growing in Grace and Gratitude" curriculum, which is rooted in the basic principles of Presbyterian identity. Each lesson shared a Bible story that reveals God's grace for us and, through fun activities and prayer, taught children the meaning of His grace in their lives.

**Planet Worship, our weekly Children's Church Ministry,** is geared for kids 4 years old – 4th grade. This program teaches our children the fundamentals of why and how we worship as Christians and Presbyterians. A faithful team of 13 volunteers led this program for some 24 children this year.

**This year, Planet Worship lessons included:** a multi-part series called "Bible Olympics" in celebration of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro; worship themed lessons on where we worship, the order of worship, prayer, offering, and World Communion; special Advent lessons on "Sing a Song of Christmas"; and "The Symbols of Lent" during the season of Lent. Also, we introduced a new series – The Word and a Good Book – based on Storypath, a resource of Union Presbyterian Seminary. This series paired Sunday's scripture reading with a children's book so kids were reading the same scripture verses as the adults in worship.

**Throughout the year,** children collected a weekly offering in Planet Worship. A Fall offering was donated to Heifer International to gift chicks and honeybees to a needy family. The Spring offering was given to One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Pioneer Club is our Wednesday Night Program** that meets weekly throughout the school year. I had the pleasure of personally leading this program for 10 children, ages 4 years old – 4th Grade. This year's theme was Mystery Wednesdays, based on a series of easy reader books, "Nate the Great," by Marjorie Sharmat. Each week we donned our detective hats and followed Nate on a new case. Weekly activities included crafts, games, and seasonal parties. Throughout the year, we read 26 "Nate the Great" books and ate lots of pancakes (Nate's favorite food)!

**In September, three of our 4th and 5th Graders attended the Pre-Teen Retreat at the John Knox Center** with 40 kids from 10 different churches throughout our Presbytery. During the weekend retreat, preteens explored God's Golden Rule and the fundamentals of the Sacraments – Baptism and Communion.

**In June, we partnered with Messiah Lutheran Church for our annual Vacation Bible School, held at Erin.** The cross-cultural theme – Passport to Peru – explored God's Good Gifts while exposing kids to the people and culture of Peru. Eighteen children (ages 4 years through 5th grade) and 14 youth helpers attended the 4-day event, led by a team of 10 adult volunteers. The children collected over \$260 for the VBS mission project – Heifer International.

**It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the children and families of Erin Church. I am sincerely thankful for the many volunteers who help carry out these programs and for the support of the congregation, Discipleship Team, and Staff.**

Submitted by Joy Bornhoeft

**The mission of Youth Ministries at Erin Presbyterian is to support and encourage our youth during the, sometimes, difficult years of adolescence. Youth are encouraged to attend youth group and youth group activities in order to experience fellowship with one another, to build a support network with their peers, and to delve deeper into their faith.**

The youth program at Erin Presbyterian is made up of two groups, one for Middle School students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) and one for High School students (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). Youth meet on Sunday evenings, 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm for the MS youth and 5:45pm-7:00 pm for the HS youth, during the school year. Farrah Linkous has served as the youth director, leading both groups.

In addition to regular meeting times, youth activities are planned throughout the year. Some notable events from the 2016-2017 year include:

- MS Montreat at Maryville College
- HS Montreat at Montreat College
- MS Fall Retreat at Camp John Knox
- HS Youth Summit in Gatlinburg
- Attending Les Miserables at Bearden High School
- Attending The Sound of Music at Karns High School
- Participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring
- MS lock-in at church
- HS lock-in at church
- 30 Hour Famine at church over Easter weekend
- End of Year Bowling

The youth also hosted several fundraisers during the 2016-2017 year. There was an M&M fundraiser, Spaghetti Dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and a Silent Auction. Funds raised were to benefit youth trips to Montreat.

In Spring of 2017, we had 3 youth complete the Confirmation process. They were led in a series of classes by Reverend John Stuart. The students that were confirmed were Hayden Crisp, Anna Bornhoeft, and Effie Fellers. We had 5 graduating seniors - McKenzie Stump, Ashley Draper, Madeline Griffin, Connor Quinn, and Hannah Matthews. There were 2 rising freshmen – Anna Bornhoeft and Hayden Crisp, and 2 rising middle school students – Kenleigh Pennington and Kathryn Bornhoeft.

Youth Group will resume meeting on Sunday, August 13, 2017. All middle school and high school students are welcome. We would also like to encourage any adults that have a heart for youth to attend Discipleship meetings, where we do the planning for our youth ministries. Adult volunteers are always needed to help chaperone trips and provide transportation for activities.



**NURSERY DIRECTOR**  
**LYNNE JONES**

**In Nursery Sunday School the children follow a curriculum based on picture cards featuring stories of the Bible with a short lesson and an activity. Afterward, it is time to eat a snack and play!**

The nursery has been anything but quiet this past year, which is a wonderful thing! Although we have not had a great number of children in attendance, ( average 2-4 ), we have had children come to the nursery on a regular basis, both for Sunday School and Worship.

Hannah Swanner was hired to work in the nursery but was only able to be with us for about two months when she was accepted to graduate school in Texas. We have been very fortunate to have found Sara Brown to fill that position. Sara is a teacher at West Emory Child Enrichment Center and is wonderful with the children!

We have been very blessed to have volunteers help in the nursery every Sunday during the worship service. Although the number of children is small, the group varies in ages and it is good to have extra help.

Also, we have had several families donate toys, books, and music. It is always nice for the children to have something "new" to play with and we can rotate toys to keep their interest!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as nursery coordinator. This has been a true blessing!

I am looking forward to the coming year!

Lynne Jones

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
**APRIL CYR**

What a fantastic first year of working at Erin Presbyterian Church!

I truly enjoy creating the bulletins and newsletters, planning the volunteer schedule and helping wherever I can. So many of you have reached out to get to know me and make me feel welcome. You're all dear to my heart!

I've become a Notary Public, so if you need something notarized, just let me know and we can meet here in the office between 9am—2pm Monday through Friday. The service is free to the congregation.

It is a blessing to serve you,  
April Cyr

**FOLLOW GOD'S LEAD**

If you're interested in serving with one of our teams.....

Contact someone on that team,  
or the church office:

865.588.5350

[admin@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@erinpresbyterian.org)