



COFFEE CLUB

Join Pastor John, Joy and April on the third Tuesday of each month for our Coffee Club in the Fellowship Hall. Joy and April bake or bring some delicious treats and the coffee is top notch! Who knows what kind of fun things we'll munch at out October Coffee Club...come visit and find out.

The next one is on October 16th at 10:30am

Anyone who is free can join us for refreshments and conversation for an hour. Near the end of our time together we'll have a short devotion and take part in communion.

We really hope we'll see you there!

Yes, you.

We love you and we think you're kinda neat.

Come on over.



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THE BEACON

OCTOBER 2018

Psalm 148:18 The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (NIV)

Dear Friends,

Like everyone else, I experience loneliness from time to time. It's an odd feeling, especially when it occurs in a crowded room or when I'm with a small company of friends. I get lost in my own thoughts and feel isolated from everything or everyone around me. I know I can be a distant introvert at times, but loneliness goes beyond that. I feel as though I'm missing something or someone in my life and that there is some sort of primeval emptiness or existential gap.

Some theologians would say that I'm actually missing God and that the loneliness in my life exists because I'm actually longing to be reconnected to my Creator. The chasm that exists between us makes me feel isolated and vulnerable, unprotected and all alone. I can't do anything to mend the breach or bridge the gap, so I'm stuck on this side of eternity, missing my Maker and feeling forsaken.

And then something amazing happens. As I call out to God in prayer, His presence fills my heart. As I reach out to God like a child holding out her hands to a parent, I am suddenly lifted up spiritually and embraced by God. The loneliness lifts and my isolation ends. I am restored to God's favor and reconnected to His love. What the psalmist wrote all of those centuries ago turns out to be true: **God comes near to all who call on Him.**

Perhaps you're feeling lonely, too. Maybe you've lost your confidence or purpose and end up feeling isolated, misunderstood, or even unloved. Whatever the case, please call on the Lord, even as you are reading this short message. If you do, then I firmly believe that God will draw near to you and allow His presence to touch your mind, heart, and soul with His love.

May God bless and be with you, and all your loved ones.

Pastor John



Pg. 2 Connections Class, Wednesday Night Bible Study, and other upcoming events

Pg. 3 An important word from Stewardship

Pg. 4 Halloween Party, Men's Breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner and PW events

Pg. 5 Children's Ministry is celebrating Oktoberfest

Pg. 6 Retreat highlights and photos

Pg. 7 Calendar and Volunteer Schedule for October

Pg. 8 Coffee Club invite



CONNECTIONS

BIRTHDAYS

October

10 Mary McLeod
11 Jim Hilty
14 Linda Quinley
16 Isabella Armsworth
17 Robin Cuany
17 Chuck Scarbrough
17 Carter McCallum
19 Sonja DuBois
21 Rickey McCallum
22 Rob Matthews
24 Randy Boyd
29 Michelle Waters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

3 Sherry Draper
4 Hannah Matthews
5 Jackie Griffin
8 Julie Miller
10 Paul Yau
11 Dusty Pennington
12 Debra Poole
15 Matt Cowen
15 Connor Backous
16 Nancy Berry
17 Sara Leckie
17 Rob Cameron
18 Connor Quinn
25 Bill Brazelton
25 Sam Pulsipher

OCTOBER CONNECTIONS CLASS

Pastor Stuart teaches a class each Sunday from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the new Education Wing. Every month, he selects a different theme and gives a Power Point presentation on the topic concerned. This enables the class to enter into some deep discussions about Bible passages, Christian lifestyles, current events, and historical moments.

During October, the pastor will present a four-week series called *“Pray It Again, Psalm.”* Using his knowledge of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament history, Pastor Stuart will discuss the context and content of each chosen psalm and get the class to offer suggestions on how the psalms could be applied in our lives today. As usual, the pastor will also use some of his own religious artwork to highlight the psalms. Everyone is welcome to attend the classes and get involved in the discussion. The psalms being presented are as follows:

Oct 07	Psalm 8 – Wondrous God
Oct 14	Psalm 24 – The Earth belongs to God
Oct 21	Psalm 42 – Hope in God
Oct 28	Psalm 46 – God is Our Refuge

Coming in November: Our Faithful First Ladies

A series about the lives and faith of some of the First Ladies of the United States.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

Every week, Pastor Stuart does some in-depth research on the Biblical passages that will be read and sermonized during worship on Sundays. Not all of the research will appear in the sermon, so the pastor has now set up a Wednesday Night Bible study to teach more about the chosen passages for the upcoming Sunday. If you are wanting to learn more about the Bible – its history, people, places, and context, then this study is an ideal way to accomplish that. The weekly studies start at 6:45PM in the Heritage Room and conclude just before 7:30PM. As always, everyone is welcome to bring their Bibles, notebooks, and coffee, as well as their ideas and questions.

NO WND

There will be no Wednesday Night Dinner on October 10th and October 31st.

The 10th Fall Break for Knox Co. Schools.

The 31st, as you know, is Halloween. So we suspect most parents and kiddos will be out gathering a harvest of candy.

BREADBREAKERS

Breadbreakers will meet at the home of Pat and Al Wallin on Saturday, October 20, at 6:30 pm. Just a reminder that being able to host a dinner is not a prerequisite for attending. A special treat will be

PINK CARNATIONS FOR PINK SUNDAY

Pink Sunday is October 21st. Please help us honor survivors, and remember those who have lost their battle. A bouquet of pink carnations will be on display during the service. These carnations have been donated so that 100% of all donations received will go directly to Komen. We also encourage everyone to wear pink that day. If you would like to remember/honor someone, please complete the form in the bulletin on October 7th or 14th.

If you would like to make a donation to Komen and/or honor someone, please use the envelope provided. For more information, visit komeneasttennessee.org or contact Kim Pennington.



OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2

6pm Staff Meeting
7pm Discipleship Mtg
7pm Fellowship Mtg

OCTOBER 3

5:45pm Spaghetti Dinner
6:15pm Journey 7
6:20pm Sonshine
6:30pm Pioneer Club
6:30pm Bible Study
6:30pm Handbells
7:30pm Choir

OCTOBER 10

NO WND

Knox Schools Fall Break

OCTOBER 10

10:30am PW Circle

OCTOBER 13

9:30am Men’s Breakfast

OCTOBER 14

12:15pm Creative Expr.
12:15pm Outreach
12:15pm Stewardship

OCTOBER 15

6:30pm Property Mtg.

OCTOBER 16

10:30am Coffee Club

OCTOBER 18

6:30pm Session

OCTOBER 20

6:30pm BreadBreakers

OCTOBER 21

Pink Sunday: wear pink!

OCTOBER 27

5pm Halloween Party

OCTOBER 31

NO WND: HALLOWEEN

Coming up.....

November 3

Fall Back Tonight

OCTOBER 7TH

Coffee

Dan Gibbs

Greeters

Nicole Waters

Patty Britton

Bell Ringer

Ginger Thompson

Guide

Jane Brannon

Reader

Diana Brandon

Ushers

David and Brooks

Eggers

Jim Thompson

Jim Montgomery

Planet Worship

Joy Bornhoeft

Counter

Neill Murphy

John House

Communion

2020

Flowers

Aidan 9th Birthday

OCTOBER 14TH

Coffee

Anna McKay

Greeters

Jackie and Kevin

Griffin

Bell Ringer

Carter McCallum

Guide

Sonja DuBois

Reader

Kristi Bailes

Ushers

David and Sara

Leckie

Rob Lynch

Linda Quinley

Planet Worship

Kim Pennington

Counter

David Eggers

Joe Jaynes

Flowers

Memory of Jean Bone

OCTOBER 21ST

Coffee

Betty Gibbs

Greeters

Ian Bone

Thomas and Aiden

Bell Ringer

Ella Levering

Guide

Evelyn Stuart

Reader

Erin McCallum

Ushers

Pat Wallin

Debra Poole

Tammy Murphy

Jim Montgomery

Planet Worship

Kristi Bailes

Counter

Rickey McCallum

Mike Jones

Flowers

Pennington

OCTOBER 28TH

Coffee

Dan Gibbs

Greeters

Robbie Levering

Chloe Levering

Bell Ringer

Kenleigh P.

Guide

Ashley Draper

Reader

Joe Jaynes

Ushers

Gary and Kay

Pennington

Dusty and Kim

Pennington

Planet Worship

Brooks Eggers

Counter

Craig Strand

John House

Flowers

Stuart

RETREAT

Our 6th annual church retreat was held once again at John Knox on August 24th -25th. The good Lord was smiling upon us and we had absolutely gorgeous weather - sunny but not too hot. A perfect summer day!

Three families came out Friday evening to enjoy s'mores over a campfire and to run around the wide open spaces.

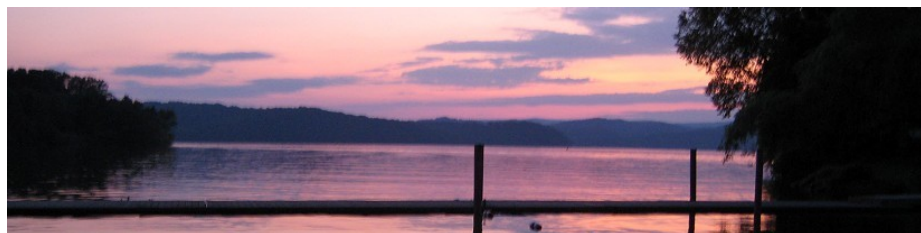


On Saturday the kids, ranging in age from 5 – 17, spent the morning doing team building activities. Will Carter, age 5 and Garret Pittman, age 17 immediately hit it off and were best buddies for the day. In the afternoon they all enjoyed high ropes, flying monkey and the ever popular kayaking, tubing and boating. They even had the time and energy to play volleyball before dinner.

The adults meanwhile spent morning and afternoon sessions with our returning speaker Andy Morgan from the University of Tennessee's UKirk. With Andy's guidance we explored further our theme for this year "Come to the Table". One fun activity was determining where we fell on "The Spirituality Wheel". It was like a Briggs-Myers test but for faith and worship rather than personality. It was very interesting comparing one's results with others.



In late afternoon many of us found some shade by the lake to relax and visit before dinner and the Vespers service. In all 34 Erinites enjoyed a great day of fun, sun and fellowship.



STEWARDSHIP



VERY IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Erin Church looked very different 10 years ago. The kitchen was on the other side of the Fellowship Hall, and was a crowded, poorly laid out affair. The appliances were old and the sink was continually backing up. The Fellowship Hall itself was dark and slightly claustrophobic. The bathrooms at the far end were eyesores, the floors were about to give out and the plumbing there was a bit iffy as well.

There was no education wing or mini-kitchen. Creative Expressions used the Noah's Ark Room for developing sets. The front door was at what is now the beginning of the Narthex. The present entryway room was a side-walk. The church offices needed renovating. The parking lot was in sorry shape. Air conditioning was limping and there was no elevator. The sanctuary was in bad need of update, as was the sound system and the lighting. In short, much of the church building looked the same as it did in the 1950's when it was built.

In 2009, the church leadership decided that long-overdue changes were in order for the health and future of the church. Erin Church began a Capital Campaign to fund building renovations. Initial estimates were around \$1.1 million, and we received pledges for very close to that figure. We began the work in 2011.

The renovations were successful, the church received much more than a facelift. As is often the case, there were some over-runs, costs that we did not anticipate. There were also needs that arose as we went, so there were some additional expenses we incurred at the time because coming back later to do them would cost a lot more. And, as is also sometimes the case, there were some people who were unable to fulfil their commitments.

As a result, our final figure was closer to \$1.5 million, which left us with debt of more than a half million dollars. We have been paying on that since completion of the work. We did have a payment of \$4200 a month, but were able to finance it so that we just have a \$3000 payment every month at this time. We have had the Lower The Debt fund to pay for that, and some people have contributed faithfully to that fund. It has seldom been enough to cover the entire cost of the payment, but we had funds in savings that had come from the original Capital Campaign that supplemented the amount contributed. We've been able to pay our bills. We currently owe about \$444,000.

At the present time, those funds are nearly gone. We probably will have exhausted them within a year. At that time, the church will still have a \$3000 monthly bill but it will have to come out of our budget if we cannot fund it any other way. Adding \$36,000 a year to our budget would be catastrophic.

While part of our Stewardship Campaign every year does have a place to pledge to help Lower the Debt, many people do not contribute. We have not emphasized it quite the way we are today because the situation was not quite the same. We have an eminent problem, and one we are well-served to address before it gets here.

So, today we are asking you to make a pledge to cover our monthly debt payment. This is really important. Giving for this payment will have to be in addition to regular giving or it really won't help. We hope that together we can commit to a total of at least \$3000 a month. Please consider making an ongoing commitment to contribute to this monthly bill. And please fill out a pledge card to let us know what to expect. It is truly an investment in the health and future of the church.

FELLOWSHIP & PW



HALLOWEEN PARTY

BOOOOO! EEEK! YIKES!

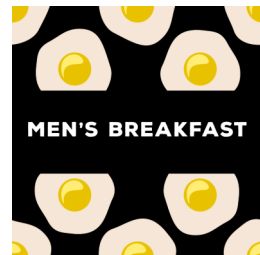
It's time again for the annual Halloween Party.

So dress up in your favorite Halloween costume, or come as you are, for hot dogs and more on October 27th, 5pm at Tate's School of Discovery.

All are welcome! Hot dogs and drinks are provided.

Your ticket in is a dish to share, so come on out for some food and fellowship!

Look for signups soon in the Sunday bulletin.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 13th at 9:30am.

All gentlemen are invited to come for a hearty breakfast and fellowship.

Please sign up in the bulletin, or contact Dan Gibbs: dgibbs9962@gmail.com.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Youth Spaghetti Dinner is October 3rd!

The Erin Youth Group will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on October 3.

Funds raised will benefit Erin Youth trips.

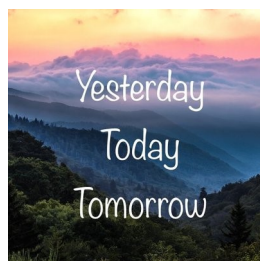


PW CIRCLE

PW Circle will meet on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 10 am in the Parlor. Kellan Sarles will lead Lesson 1, Living in the Present with Eyes Wide Open. Jackie Griffin will bring light refreshments. All Erin ladies are welcome!

SUNSET GAP PW DAY

The annual Sunset Gap PW Day will be on Thursday, Oct 18. This is a wonderful day to visit Sunset Gap and get acquainted with the center and all the activities they provide to this rural Cocke County area. Registration is at 11 am with lunch served at 11:30. Cost is \$5.00. If you are interested in attending, please



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Planet Worship Volunteers

10/7	Joy Bornhoeft
10/14	Kim Pennington
10/21	Kristi Bailes
10/28	Brooks Eggers
11/4	Kelcey Levering

John Knox Pre-teen Retreat

In September, four of our 4th and 5th Graders attended the 4th Annual Pre-Teen Retreat with 42 kids from churches in our Presbytery. During the overnight retreat, preteens explored the story of Joseph and learned how Joseph used his gift of interpreting dreams to serve God. Kids were challenged to identify their own



gifts and how they can use their gift to make the world a better place. The retreat concluded with a worship service and Communion on Sunday morning. The Pre-teen Retreat is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to worship and fellowship in a larger group of kids their own age. It also is an excellent "stepping stone" to the John Knox Middle School Retreat and other youth group trips and conferences.

Pioneer Club

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Family Life Center



It's OCTOBER, so this month we will travel to Germany to experience the annual fall festival: Oktoberfest! We'll learn about the rich history of Germany and celebrate traditional Bavarian culture. So pack your dirndl and lederhosen and practice your polka. Bring your appetite as we surely will eat lots of pretzels and strudel. There will be no Pioneer Club on October 10th due to Knox County Fall Break.



Oktoberfest is the world's largest folk festival held each year in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. It is a 16-18 day festival that celebrates Bavarian culture and has been held annually since 1810. Many cities around the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations modeled after the original Munich festival.