

# Christmas Potluck



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## The Beacon

January 2019

***"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."***  
**2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NRSV)**

Dear Friends,

As a child in Scotland, I always looked forward to New Year's Day and the family celebrations that usually took a week to fulfill. The first couple of days involved seeing my grandparents, aunts and uncles, and all my cousins on both sides of the family. I still fondly remember nights of walking along snow covered sidewalks with the rest of my excited siblings, with all of us looking forward to seeing our relatives and playing with our peers. It was a wonderful time of year and some of my happiest childhood memories are attached to those New Year celebrations.

Like most folks, I also associated New Year as a special time to do something bigger or better with my life, so I made a few resolutions and listed some new aspirations to accomplish over the next twelve months. Some of the time, I actually kept the promises I had made to myself, but more often as not, something else prevented me from following through with my personal hopes and dreams. I didn't give up on some of them; I just carried them over into the next year.

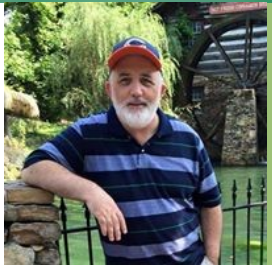
When I became a pastor in the late 1980s, a ministerial friend of mine made a suggestion about New Year which has stuck with me. Instead of making half-baked resolutions, he suggested that I find a Bible verse at the beginning of the year and make that my motto for the year. He even went further with it – he thought it would be a good idea to share it with the church and encourage other people to do the same. It worked and this year I am following this 'tradition' with this month's highlighted verse:

***"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."***  
**2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NRSV)**

We all meander through life and sometimes get lost or stuck. What this verse says to us is this: *Let's ask God to point us in the right direction to where His love abides, for there we will find the strength we need to endure each day.* I think it's a wonderful Bible promise and one which has the potential to help all of us, especially as we head into this newly formed year.

May God bless all of your hopes and dreams, and those of your loved ones.

Pastor John



# Classes and Outreach

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

1 Christa Mueller  
3 Joe Tate  
4 Jim Montgomery  
4 Suzanne Levering  
6 Mary Nelle Cate  
6 Tracy Foster  
6 Chloe Webb  
10 Mia Quinn  
10 Kelly Boyd  
11 Alea Strand  
12 Kelli Canan  
14 Paul Armsworth  
19 Tara Link  
19 LouL Tate  
21 Al Wallin  
21 Evelyn Stuart  
28 Mike Jackson  
30 Lora Yard  
30 Andy Jaynes  
31 Hallie Fellers

### February

2 Ginger Thompson  
6 Neill Murphy  
10 Randy Sarles  
10 Eva Lynch  
12 Rose Armsworth  
13 Dan Gibbs  
13 Jodi Yau  
14 Bette Brasher  
17 David McKay  
19 Marc Miller  
19 Cecilia Stinnett  
20 Anna McKay  
27 Mike Cate  
28 Robbie Levering  
28 Harter Crisp  
28 Gaevin Miller

## CONNECTIONS CLASS FOR JANUARY

### Jan 06 – Jan 27, 2019 - 4 Week series: What is The Gospel?

Pastor Stuart will present a short series on the history of the four Gospels, explaining when and why they were written, as well as teaching what they emphasize about Christ's life and ministry. These 45-minute classes take place in the first room of the new education wing, just beyond the kitchenette, and begin at 9:45AM.

All are welcome 😊

Jan 06 - Matthew Jan 13 - Mark

Jan 20 - Luke Jan 27 - John

*In February, to celebrate Black History month, the pastor will teach a 5-week series on the Belhar Confession which was recently adopted into the Constitution of the PCUSA.*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

Someone recently suggested that we look at the new Bible Project animated video series which was created to help church folks read and understand the scriptures. It was a great suggestion, so on Wednesday evenings in Pastor Stuart's classroom, we'll be watching and discussing different videos about books of the Bible and their themes.

We'll start the course on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of January beginning at 6:45PM. The lesson will end at 7:30PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come to the classes.

We'll begin with an overall study of what the Bible is and how we should read it.

## SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date! Outreach is planning a Mission event on Sunday, March 3rd, 2019. We are going to go to Sunset Gap for a church wide service and mission opportunity! Details will be coming soon. Please watch your calendar for what we hope will be a fun, meaningful opportunity to "Come to the Table" and serve together!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

# January Volunteers

January 6th	January 13th	January 20st	January 27th
Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host
Anna McKay	Betty Gibbs	Dan Gibbs	Anna McKay
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Todd and Amanda Pittman	Lynn and Pat Sexton	Rickey McCallum Erin McCallum	Sara and David Leckie
Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
Ginger Thompson	Isabella Armsworth	Thomas Hopkins	Carter McCallum
Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide
Cynthia House	Jane Brannon	Cathy Van Ostrand	Kellan Sarles
Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
Anna McKay	Joy Bornhoeft	Marcia Mechlin	Rob Lynch
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Pat Wallin Cathy Van Ostrand Keith and Karen Stump	Robbie Levering Chloe Levering Brooks Eggers Jim Montgomery	Larry McKay Nicole Waters Rob Lynch Linda Quinley	Ian Bone Kim Pennington Dusty Pennington Jim Montgomery
Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship
Jennifer Gahan	Kim Pennington	Kristi Bailes	Brooks Eggers
Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter
Neill Murphy Keith Stump	David Eggers Joe Jaynes	Rickey McCallum Mike Jones	John House Craig Strand
Communion			
2020			



# Worship Planning & Library



Want to have a say in how Erin’s worship services are put together? Do you have ideas you’d like to share? For the past few years Rev. Stuart and selected staff have held this responsibility, but there’s been growing interest in involving a broader group of members to share input and help plan our worship services. If you’re interested, join us after church on January 20th for a short meeting in the Heritage Room. We’ll talk briefly about the role of the new Worship Team and discuss possible meeting times. Whether you’re a musician, actor, singer, or writer, or just have ideas for enhancing the way we worship at Erin, we need you!

## HOPING TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE LORD? CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY

If one of your New Year’s resolutions is to spend more time with God, the Erin library’s selection of devotional books can get you started. Some use a devotion-a-day format, like *The 5-Minute Devotional for Women* by Jan Silvious. Charles Swindoll’s *Come Before Winter* is organized by seasons—not just winter, spring, summer, and fall, but seasons of the spirit—hard times, seasons for building faith, and periods of contentment and joy. Other books offer short selections you can read and think about any time. Many of our resources are classics, such as collections from the popular *Our Daily Bread* booklets, *A Testament of Devotion* by Quaker teacher Thomas Kelly, the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, and popular authors including Billy Graham, Max Lucado, and Madeline L’Engle. Newer authors are also represented. Brian McLaren’s *We Make the Road by Walking* is a yearlong study with readings and questions to ponder each week of the liturgical year, and Anne Lamott’s multiple collections of short essays, including *Help, Thanks, Wow—The Three Essential Prayers*, offer a fresh perspective on our relationship with God. You’ll see these and other books on display in the library throughout January, so stop by and choose one to start off your new year by deepening your relationship with God.



# Financials & Coffee Club

Erin Presbyterian Church Balance Sheet As of December 8, 2018		Erin Presbyterian Church Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 1 through December 8, 2018			
	Dec 8, 18		Jul 1 - Dec 8, 18	Jul 1 - Dec 8, 17	\$ Change
ASSETS		Income			
Current Assets		Other Income	0.00	49.00	-49.00
Checking/Savings		Memorial Income	0.00	825.00	-825.00
HF Primary Checking	14,153.69	Creative Expression Income	33.00	184.00	-151.00
HF Savings	158,243.62	Discipleship Income	2,266.63	2,940.81	-674.18
SunTrust Checking	1,001.97	Fellowship Income	3,240.50	3,923.00	-682.50
SunTrust Debit Card Account	1,013.01	Offerings	138,960.00	138,755.50	204.50
Total Checking/Savings	174,412.29	Outreach Income	0.00	344.00	-344.00
Total Current Assets	174,412.29	Property Income	5,265.00	13,129.08	-7,864.08
Fixed Assets		Restricted Accts Income	1,264.00	5,078.09	-3,814.09
Building Improvements	46,547.00	Stewardship Income	156.90	121.16	35.74
Computer Equipment	2,420.97	Total Income	151,186.03	165,349.64	-14,163.61
Furniture and Fixtures	35,699.89	Gross Profit	151,186.03	165,349.64	-14,163.61
General Equipment	9,764.55	Expense			
Accumulated Depreciation	-51,455.45	Transfer to Capital Campaign	0.00	1,403.27	-1,403.27
Total Fixed Assets	42,976.96	Creative Expressions Ministry	3,823.22	4,541.20	-717.98
TOTAL ASSETS	217,389.25	Discipleship Team	2,983.74	3,615.17	-631.43
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		Fellowship Team	2,776.42	3,199.83	-423.41
Liabilities		Outreach Team	11,669.74	11,815.00	-145.26
Current Liabilities		Pastoral Ministry	47,203.86	45,978.47	1,225.39
Other Current Liabilities		Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	1,357.36	Property Team	32,105.06	26,327.23	5,777.83
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,357.36	PW expenses	17.25	17.48	-0.23
Total Current Liabilities	1,357.36	Restricted Accts Expense	45.00	3,823.15	-3,778.15
Total Liabilities	1,357.36	Session	136.73	0.00	136.73
Equity		Stewardship Team	50,952.83	48,831.55	2,121.28
Retained Earnings	170,475.26	Worship Team	1,079.80	941.25	138.55
Unrestricted Funds	47,164.25	Total Expense	152,793.65	150,493.60	2,300.05
Net Income	-1,607.62	Net Income	-1,607.62	14,856.04	-16,463.66
Total Equity	216,031.89				
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	217,389.25				





# Fellowship & Cancellations

## BREADBREAKERS

Breadbreakers will kick off 2019 with our first dinner at the home of Dan and Betty Gibbs, on Saturday, January 19th at 6:30 pm. Signups will be in the bulletin two weeks prior. If you have never been to a Breadbreakers or it's been a while.....check it out in the new year. We have a great time of casual dining and fellowship.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Circle will meet on Thursday, January 11th at 10am in the Parlor. We will be discussing Lesson 4 – Express Gratitude Throughout the Day, led by Nancy Berry. It is based on Philippians 4:4-9. Sonja Dubois will provide light refreshments. All women are invited to attend.

## CANCELLATIONS

In case of cancellation, we will update our facebook page and webpage with the information. You may also receive an email from [cancellation@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:cancellation@erinpresbyterian.org).

We've created this new email in order to let our church family know when unexpected and for weather related changes arise.

# Children's Ministry

Planet Worship Volunteers	
1/6:	Jennifer Gahan
1/13:	Kim Pennington
1/20:	Kristi Bailes
1/27:	Brooks Eggers
2/3:	Kelcey Levering



## "The Friendly Beasts"

In December, our children re-enacted the manger scene and sang "The Friendly Beasts" at our Appalachian Christmas Concert. "The Friendly Beasts" is a traditional Christmas song about the gifts that a donkey, cow, sheep, camel, and dove give to Jesus at the Nativity. The song may have originated in 12<sup>th</sup> century France, but the current English words were written by Robert Davis in the 1920's.



**Pioneer Club**  
**Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**  
**Family Life Center**



This month, our young Pioneers will trek to the arctic to explore the land of Northern Lights. We'll begin our tour in Alaska, where we will learn about Native American culture and arctic wildlife. We'll study what causes the Northern Lights and hope to see them on one of our nighttime outings. The tour ends in Banff, Alberta Canada for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lake Louise Magic Ice Festival. Book your travel package today!

