

SAVE THE DATE

CHURCH RETREAT
August 16th -17th at John Knox Center, Ten Mile
The annual church family retreat is a time for fun, food, and fellowship as we continue to explore our faith. Our speaker this year is Tricia Dillon Thomas, Director of Hope House from the UKirk Presbyterian Center in Chattanooga.
The retreat also provides plenty of opportunity to relax and enjoy the beautiful John Knox Center on Watts Bar Lake.
Take time to fish, canoe, swim or simply stroll along the shore watching for Great Blue Herons. Activities such as archery and the high ropes course are also available. There is something to appeal to everyone, young or old. We hope you can join us!



Join us for Worship at 11am Sunday Morning!
Visit us at: www.erinpresbyterian.org
For all of our upcoming events and opportunities to serve.

«City» «State» «Zip»
«Address»
TO: «Name»

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Knoxville, TN 37919
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May 2019

A message from the pastor....

Isaiah 26:4 “Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD God is an everlasting rock.” (NIV)

Dear Friends,
I cannot believe that it has almost been 25 years since the Stuarts came to Knoxville for a six-week working vacation and ended up emigrating here the very next year. In the summer of 1994, our family was excited about seeing a new country, meeting new folks, and having a holiday of a lifetime. We had no idea of what God was planning – perhaps if we had, we may have opted to go back to our usual vacation place at a caravan park in Whitley Bay, outside of Newcastle in England.

It was the biggest change in each of our lives and one that set us on a different path from all of our Scottish families and friends. Things were never going to be the same and we experienced some hard, emotional times. Looking back, I sometimes wonder how we got through the years, but here we are - still in Knoxville - a quarter of a century later.

I think the major thing that we learned was to trust God and recognize that no matter where we were, He was – and still is – the solid rock that we needed. It was His call that brought us here and it was our choice to listen to Him. I may not know what lies ahead of us – any of us – but I believe that God is firmly with us – a rock we can depend on and the most reliable source we have for strength and encouragement.

I don’t know what your plans are for this summer. I hope you get quality time to spend with your family & friends. I pray that all your dreams may be fulfilled together and that you continue to look forward to having God guide and shape your future. Wherever you go and whatever you do, always remember this: God is with you 😊

Pastor John

SABBATICAL

John has been pastor at Erin for almost 24 years and during that time he has never taken the opportunity to have a sabbatical, even though the subject had been raised several times by caring elders over the years.

With the loving support and generosity of church members, John is going to set aside the month of June as a mini-sabbatical, and may do so in future summers. This year, from Monday 3rd June until Sunday 30th June, he will be out of the office and non-contactable.

Kellan Sarles, a regular church member and a retired Presbyterian pastor, will oversee all the ministerial and pastoral work while John is away.



As well as being in seclusion to do some praying, researching, and writing, John and Evelyn will be travelling to Italy to see the ancient Christian sites in Rome, as well as visiting art museums, churches, and other places throughout that European country.

As a pastor, John is looking forward to seeing the sacred places which are still important to our faith; as an artist, John is also excited about seeing the paintings, sculptures, and architecture of the amazing Renaissance artists.

More details about the sabbatical will be given in next month’s bulletin. This will also be the first time since 2004 that John has flown outside the United States.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Erin’s annual Stewardship Campaign will commence at the beginning of May, and will focus on the theme of our new *Vision Project: Belong, Become, Beyond*. By coordinating the stewardship campaign with the vision, we hope that our members will recognize the role of good stewardship in the revitalization of the church, be excited about the future of our congregation, and be encouraged to faithfully support Erin’s work for God.

Each Sunday, commencing on May 5th, will begin a new step for the 5-week campaign. It will conclude on Sunday, June 2nd, the day before Pastor John goes on Sabbatical leave. Letters will be mailed to members and pledge cards distributed which we hope that all of our church households will pray over, kindly complete, and promptly return before the campaign ends.

A special theme will be designated for each week and celebrated at worship on Sunday mornings. These are as follows:

- Sunday 5 May – *Be Longing for God*
- Sunday 12 May – *Belonging to God*
- Sunday 19 May – *Be Coming to Church*
- Sunday 26 May – *Becoming Church*
- Sunday 2 June – *Growing and Going Beyond*

Please pray for the church throughout the campaign and ask God how you can both support and participate in the new vision.

VOLUNTEERS

MAY 5TH	MAY 12TH	MAY 19TH	MAY 26TH
Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee
Betty Gibbs	Anna McKay	Dan Gibbs	Anna McKay
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Kim and Dusty	Jim and Ginger	Lynn and Pat	Kelli Canan
Pennington	Thompson	Sexton	Linda Quinley
Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
Will Carter	Mollie Gunter	Elle Levering	Ginger Thompson
Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide
Stacie Armsworth	Eva Lynch	David Eggers	Kelly Boyd
Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
Kevin Griffin	Marcia Mechlin	Neill Murphy	John House
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Jim Montgomery	Kelcey Levering	Sara Leckie	Joe Tate
Ian Bone	Rob Levering	David Leckie	Kelli Canan
Keith and Karen	Brooks Eggers	Ian Bone	Jim Montgomery
Stump	Chloe Levering	Gary Pennington	Patty Britton
Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship
Kelly Boyd	Jane Brannon	Farrah Linkous	Brooks Eggers
Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter
Neill Murphy	David Eggers	Rickey McCallum	Craig Strand
Keith Stump	Joe Jaynes	Mike Jones	John House
Communion			
2019			
Nursery			
Nicola Bone			
Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers
	DuBois	Eggers	Pennington

MAY EVENTS	
2 National Day of Prayer	15 Last WND of the season: PW Birthday Offering/Final Choir and Handbell Practice
3 Youth Lock-In	16 Session 7pm
4 Men’s Breakfast 9:30am	18 BreadBreakers 6:30pm @ The McKay Home
7 Staff Mtg 6pm/Fellowship and Discipleship 7pm	19 Teacher Appreciation/Graduation Sunday Sonja’s Presentation and book signing
9 PW Circle 10am	21 Coffee Club 10:30
12 Mother’s Day/Confirmation Sunday, Creative Expressions, Outreach and Stewardship 12:15pm	27 Memorial Day: Office Closed
13 Property Meeting 6pm/Worship Team 7pm	

OUTREACH



One Great Hour of Sharing! Thank you so much for all the support of this important collection!

Thank you to all who brought in seeds and plants for the Morgan-Scott Project’s Healthy Earth program! They were very appreciative of us!



Thank you to all who came out and worked on the Fish Pantry work day!! We appreciate your hard work!



Pentecost Offering will be collected on June 2, 2019.

Each year PW selects a local Spring Mission Project which involves the entire congregation. This year we have selected Serenity Shelter, a ministry of Knox Area Rescue Ministries. Serenity Shelter is a residential recovery program for women seeking restoration from the effects of addiction, domestic violence and/or homelessness. In a distinctively Christian environment, Serenity addresses the complex issues that have led to destructive life choices, while providing the tools and support needed to live a meaningful life. We will be collecting women’s undies and feminine hygiene products. The box will be located in the Narthex during the first 3 Sunday’s of May. Please consider providing these expensive but necessary items for women who more than likely show up at the center with nothing.

FELLOWSHIP



Another season of Wednesday Night Dinners (WND) is coming to an end. Our last WND for this spring will be on May 8th. That ends our 9th year of WNDs in the new kitchen and remodeled Fellowship Hall.

In addition to members of our Fellowship committee who all contribute to the WND program in one or more ways, we have a faithful cadre of volunteers (possibly coerced?) who do the dirty clean up work, e.g., washing pots and pans! A special thanks to them! We’re planning to start up again this September. We hope to see you there!

MEN’S BREAKFAST

The next Erin Men’s Breakfast will be on the 4th of May. That will be our last one until this fall.

PW BIBLE STUDY

PW Bible Study will conclude our study “Busyness” this year on Thursday, May 9, at 10 am in the Parlor. Our last lesson is Lesson 8, Serve With Joy, based on John 13: 1-17; 15: 9-12. We will each read the lesson and discuss together. Diana Brandon will bring light refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you for the conclusion of our study.

Breadbreakers will meet at the home of Kellan and Randy Sarles on Saturday, May 18, at 6:30 pm. This is the last scheduled get together for this season, but look for information on a “Bridge get-together” during the summer. Please consider joining us for a fun evening of food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

GOD IS FAITHFUL.....The PW Birthday Offering will be celebrated at the last Wednesday Night Dinner on May 15 at 5:45 pm. This year’s Offering will fund 4 projects selected for 2018. Since 1922, Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering has funded more than 200 projects that touch the lives of women and children. This year’s projects are Disaster Response Team in the Presbytery of Charlotte; Effingham Child Development Center in Effingham, Illinois; Presbyterian Home and Services of Kentucky, Inc. in Phelps, KY; and Wings of Refuge in Iowa Fall, IA.

“Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal son, God is faithful still. “
—A Brief Statement of Faith.

THE VISION PROJECT



Over the last year, your Session has devoted a significant amount of time examining who we are as a congregation. We’ve assessed the big questions facing us, both externally and internally and how we need to respond to these questions if we are to transform, grow and thrive. The goal of this work was to develop strategies, consistent with who we are as a congregation, that will enable us to respond to these big questions and achieve our current Vision, transforming our congregation and moving us in the direction we feel God is leading us. The result of this work is *The Vision Project: Belong, Become, Beyond*. This is the name we’ve given the strategies we’ve developed and will be working to implement as a congregation. Over the next several months you will be receiving information from Session about this important and exciting project. We will share why it is not only important but critical for our congregation, the changes that will be required to implement these strategies, how you as members and friends of the church fit into this effort, and the timeline we plan to follow.

We hope you will be as excited and encouraged as we are as you learn more about *The Vision Project: Belong, Become, Beyond*! Please stay tuned as we are just getting started and will be providing more information every step of the way!

Sincerely,
Session (2019, 2020, 2021): John House, Cynthia House, Kim Jaynes, Apryl Quinn, Anna McKay, Keith Stump, Betty Gibbs, Cathy Van Ostrand, Erin McCallum, Dusty Pennington, Tammy Murphy, Craig Strand, Kelli Canan, Ian Bone, Kelcey Levering, Andy Sarles, Nicole Waters.

Staff: Pastor John Stuart, Joy Bornhoeft, Joe Jaynes, Nancy Berry, Farrah Linkous.

Strategy Team: Pat Wallin, Kelly Schueler, Kelsey Sarles, and Kevin Griffin.

“We’ve assessed the big questions facing us, both externally and internally and how we need to respond to these questions if we are to transform, grow and thrive.”

ERIN YOUTH EVENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2019

We have five of our young people who are presently attending this years' Confirmation Class.

They are:

Katherine Bornhoeft, Rachel & Nehemiah Franklin, Ella Levering, and Kenleigh Pennington.

The students come to special classes led by Pastor John on Sunday nights and Wednesday evenings. This year, we are using the new PCUSA Confirmation Curriculum called "Big God, Big Questions."

Our young people will be confirmed during worship on Sunday May, 12th, which is also Mothers' Day. It would be wonderful if many of our church members could be at that service to show our young people how proud and supportive we are of them.

Thanks to everyone for supporting our Youth at the Car Wash. Between washing cars and a generous donation from our friends at Abridged, we were able to raise \$800 toward our Montreat trips!



♪ At the Car Wash ♪



"FINDING SCHIFRAH"

Do you know Sonja DuBois' story?

She was a child survivor of the Holocaust and shares her story with groups all over.

Come hear about her life-long search to find her true identity, which is now documented in her new book "Finding Schifrah".

We'll meet in the Noah's Ark room on Sunday, May 19th during Sunday School hour, at Erin Presbyterian Church (9:30-10:30) and enjoy Sonja's video presentation "Finding Schifrah".

There is a book signing with the author in the Narthex from 12:15-1:30pm.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



This month in Planet Worship, children will explore our new Vision Project theme: *Belong, Become, Beyond*.

Lessons will be based on the same scripture readings used in adult worship. Kids will learn that they are a child of God. We will discuss what it means to belong to God's family, how we can become better disciples and be an active part of God's church, and how we can go beyond our church walls to share the good news with others.

PLANET WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

May 4	Kelly Boyd
May 12	Jane Brannon
May 19	Farrah Linkous
May 26	Brooks Eggers
June 2	Stacie Armsworth
June 9	Joy Bornhoeft



Vacation Bible School

July 8th to 11th

9am – Noon

4 Years through Rising 5th Grade

REGISTER AT:

www.erinpresbyterian.org

Pioneer Club

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Family Life Center



Our travelling days are winding down as our young pioneers go on the last two excursions of the year! Join us as we visit Mexico for a fiesta celebrating *Cinco de Mayo*. We'll play the lotería – Mexican BINGO – and there will be prizes for all! Then, we are off to Italy for a holiday in the sun. We'll experiment with fresco painting and enjoy a frozen Italian treat on the terraza. You don't want to miss out on these fun-filled tours, so book your reservations today!

