

November Birthdays

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



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»

Erin Presbyterian Church
200 Lockett Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37919
865.588.5350
www.erinpres.org

The Beacon
A Publication of Erin Presbyterian Church

November

Isaiah 55:10-11 “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (NIV)

Dear Friends,

It was good to both see and hear the rain recently in our area. The past couple of months have been very dry and uncomfortably hot. Although the rain fell for such a short time, it was very pleasant and refreshing to experience. My wee dog Addie even enjoyed it for a moment or two in my backyard before opting to come back into the house.

When the rain fell, I took time to thank God for it – rainfall is something we should never take for granted because there are many areas around the world that suffer from severe droughts every year. The rain also reminded me of this month’s Bible verses in which the ancient prophet Isaiah compares God’s Word to the refreshing, life-bringing rains. Wherever and whenever God’s Word is expressed, it never returns to God empty or unfulfilled. There is always something in His Word to affect the hearts, minds, and lives of folks. In fact, on Sunday mornings, it always humbles and pleases me to hear that the

Bible lesson for the day has actually meant a lot to someone in the congregation. Week after week, this happens to different people in different circumstances, but it just proves to me that what Isaiah said 2700 years ago still works today.

Perhaps you are going through an unsettling time or you feel worn out. Maybe your spirit feels empty and your life is absolutely dry of any happiness, hopefulness, or love. May I recommend that you start to read the Bible on a daily basis, perhaps beginning with the Book of Psalms. At some point, those readings will speak to your situation and you will feel God’s presence, guidance, and love back in your life. Remember, God’s Word never returns to Him unfulfilled, so let His Spirit channel through you to refresh your soul, renew your life, and restore you to all of God’s strength and love. ☺

May God bless all of your hope and dreams.

Pastor John

Pastor's Classes

November Connections Class

Pastor Stuart will be teaching a Bible Class as usual on Sunday mornings from 9:40 AM to 10:30 AM. It takes place in his classroom which is located in the new Education wing. During November, the theme will be about "Restoration," using Old Testament passages to show how God can rebuild our lives and community. The classes will be as follows:

Nov 03 Waiting for Justice Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Nov 10 Take Courage Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Nov 17 Brand New World Isaiah 65:17-25
Nov 24 Righteousness Restored Jeremiah 23:1-6

If you can't make it to the class, Pastor Stuart posts the lesson on the church Facebook page each week.

Additionally, he also emails the weekly lessons for folks to study on their own at home. If you would like the lessons sent to you, just let April, our Administrator, know by sending her an email to admin@erinpresbyterian.org. She will then add your email to the group list.

Wednesday Night Classes

At the moment, there are no classes scheduled for Wednesday nights during November. However, Pastor Stuart is willing to meet for coffee and chat about current events, church plans, and PC(USA) issues in the Heritage Room between 6:40PM to 7:25PM. If you're free at that time, he will be pleased to see and converse with you.

Visitor Follow-up

By Kelcey Levering

The visitor follow-up team is a new team with 12 members that meets every third Sunday of the month right after church. Come join us if you have any ideas of how to improve Erin's welcoming nature.

Our team is responsible for developing strategies to

identify, attend, and follow-up with visitors.

We are also responsible for creating a method to maintain statistics on visitors and relay information to appropriate ministry teams. Lastly, working

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Men's Breakfast 9:30am / FALL BACK | 17 AV, Org. Health and Visitor Follow-up Mtgs. 12:15am |
| 3 Creative Exp. and Marketing Meetings 12:15am | 18 Integration Team Meeting 6:30pm |
| 5 Staff Mtg 6pm, Discipleship and Fellowship 7pm | 19 Coffee Club 10:30pm |
| 7 Session 7pm | 24 Hanging of the Greens and chili dinner 3pm and 5pm |
| 8 Outreach, IT Support Stewardship 12:15pm | 27 No WND, Classes or Activities |
| 14 Presbyterian Women Meeting 10:30am | 28-29 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed |
| 16 Fall Bulb Planting 9am and BreadBreakers 6:30pm | |

Organization Health

By Cynthia House

What is the Organization Health and Culture Team and What Does it Do?

Of all the new teams at Erin, this team is perhaps the least well understood. What is Organization Health and Culture? Why does Erin need this team? What does the OH&C team do? All great questions!

This team is not about the health of Erin members, though using an individual health model to conceptualize the work of this team is useful. Organizations, like the people, go through life stages and each stage has indicators of good or poor health. Monitoring these indicators and being vigilant about the health of Erin Church and regularly providing Session with the status of Erin's health is one of the important responsibilities of the OH&C Team. Many churches ignore the importance of organizational health and end up with unhealthy environments and limited ability to fulfill God's mission.

What are some of these indicators? Erin's ability to: align around a common spiritual vision and related strategies, function effectively and efficiently to implement the strategies and accomplish that vision, cope adequately with challenges when presented, change appropriately as the environment demands and renew itself as its lifecycle progresses.

For any church, the advantages of organizational health are significant. They get more done with fewer resources, avoid losing good people, identify problems earlier and solve them faster, have stronger interpersonal relationships and have a greater impact on their communities.

So what about culture and why is it important? Organization culture is the underlying assumptions, beliefs and values shared by the congregation that operate unconsciously in all aspects of church life. It is "how we really do things around here" – the prevalent attitude and spoken and unspoken messages. Some people refer to culture as the personality of the organization. Next to the operation of the spirit, culture is the strongest force in any church, stronger than Vision or Strategy and can even impede or enhance the work of the spirit.

Organization culture is not good or bad. However, for a church to be healthy, the culture must align with the Vision, Values, Strategies and Ministries of that congregation or these will never happen. If, for example, we hold a value that says we are open to all people, but our culture - our behaviors and attitudes - send the message that we are really only open to people like ourselves, the culture is out of sync with our espoused values, but the message of the culture is always the one delivered. Determining the nature of our current culture and which aspects align well with our Vision, Values, Strategies and Ministries, and which do not, and recommending actions to bring about alignment to Session is another important responsibility of the OH&C Team.

How do we go about monitoring and improving Erin's health and culture? We will use electronic surveys, focus groups, team facilitation, training courses, observation, congregant feedback, data analysis and other tools as required and appropriate. If you are interested in Erin's health and culture, please join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 12:30 to 2:00. We can certainly use more help. The work is fun, fascinating and incredibly rewarding!

Why Sunday School?

By Kellan Sarles

Why Sunday School Matters

At Erin Presbyterian, as in most mainline protestant churches, adult Sunday School attendance significantly surpasses that of children and youth. Senior-age adults comprise 60-70% of weekly attendees. Classrooms that were once teeming with kids of all ages now sit empty or are populated with so few kids that teachers can get little momentum from week to week.

Your Discipleship Team is puzzled about how to turn this around, and how to convince our families of the benefits of early Christian education. From a secular standpoint, I am particularly supportive of religious education. I taught literature, composition and public speaking in high school and college classrooms for 25 years. With few exceptions, I could identify, within the first weeks of a semester, which students had grown up worshipping and attending religious education classes. These students did not look alike or have similar personalities or talents. Some were Muslim and Jewish. What they had in common was an important body of knowledge.

First, they had an almost intuitive understanding of how an essay was composed. They recognized a beginning, middle, and end, a good attention-getting introduction, the role of supporting evidence, and a summary conclusion. Why? Because they had heard thousands of essays in the form of sermons delivered by pastors, priests, imams and rabbis. Second, they were not strangers to the Biblical themes and allusions that mark western art and literature. They recognized the symbolism in titles like *East of Eden*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Go Down Moses*, *A House Divided*, and *By the Waters of Babylon*. They knew the major Old and New Testament players - from Abraham

to Judas and Paul - and the stories of their rise or fall from grace. In fact, they knew what *grace* meant, and *covenant*, *crucifixion*, *resurrection*, *redemption*, and *piety*. They knew the parlance of faith, a rich vocabulary now lost to so many young people.

These students also knew a great deal about respecting elders, teachers, and one another. They had learned to listen, take turns, share, and accommodate those who were different. They had a more positive outlook about a failing grade or a disciplinary correction.

But the question behind **Why Sunday School Matters** should also be looked at from within our church, our denomination, and our faith. It is well known that adherents of a faith, any faith, are mostly born and raised in it. They grow to understand it, value it, live it, and share it over time in what may seem tiny, insignificant increments. It is the process by which baptized infants become saints, and the Sunday School students of the '60s become the pillars of the present-day church. Early and sustained Christian education produces good, rich soil where seeds of faith can root deeply and yield results. What can be more important or more pressing than the spiritual nurture of our children?

We believe that **Sunday School *does* matter!**

Perhaps more than any other ministry of the church! We understand that schedules and interests vary, so if Erin does not offer a class or program that meets the needs of your family, please let your Discipleship Team know, and we will quickly work to find a solution! In Christ,
Kellan Sarles, Discipleship Team

"What can be more important or more pressing than the spiritual nurture of our children?"

Children's Ministry

By Joy Bornhoeft

PLANET WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| November 3 | Jane Brannon |
| November 10 | Stacie Armsworth |
| November 17 | Joy Bornhoeft |
| November 24 | Farrah Linkous |
| December 1 | Kim Pennington |



Thursday, November 14
9:30 – 11:30 am
Family Life Center

Join us at the next MOPS meeting and invite a friend!

MOPS, a non-denominational Christian organization, was founded in 1973 when a group of moms of young children banded together to share their lives and parenting journeys.

At this meeting, you will learn more about Erin MOPS and this year's theme:

To The Full:

Have More Fun ~ Fear Less ~ Find Your People
Refreshments will be served and we will be making a fall centerpiece craft. Childcare will be provided in the church nursery. Childcare will begin at 9:15 am so moms have time to get their kids settled before the meeting begins.

Contact Joy Bornhoeft for more information.

588-5350

cec@erinpresbyterian.org



PLANET WORSHIP with Jerry Can A Class on Relief with Water

During this month of Thanksgiving, Planet Worship lessons will focus on Mission & Outreach. The Jerry Can curriculum, published by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, highlights the one common denominator in all disasters around the world: the need for clean water to survive. This curriculum includes lessons on disaster response, and activities that show how children can be involved with prayer and generosity to make a difference in the lives of people in need.

Also, kids will be encouraged to bring an offering to Planet Worship during November and December. After Christmas, the offering will be donated to purchase a Water Filter (\$50) or Rainwater Catchment System (\$75) through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.



**Wednesdays
6:30 – 7:30
Family Life Center**

It's another month full of Wacky Wednesdays in Pioneer Club and you won't want to miss it! Join us as we step into November with *The Foot Book*. Then, get comfy for one of our favorite Wednesdays of the year – PAJAMA NIGHT – when we'll snack on popcorn and read *I Am NOT Going to Get Up Today!*

We will finish the month with a *Green Eggs and Ham* Thanksgiving feast. Pioneer Club will not meet on November 27th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday break.

Advent & Nativity

By Kellan Sarles and Kim Jaynes

ADVENT: THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

Advent begins December 1st, and with it comes anticipation and preparation for Christ’s birth and eventual return. Our Advent worship theme will be *“Ears to Hear and Eyes to Watch”* as we intentionally seek Christ’s presence in our midst.

The Worship Team invites everyone who sings, plays, composes, writes, paints, draws, sews, or engages in any other expressive art to consider making and sharing a product of their creativity around the Advent

theme. We encourage Sunday School classes, Kids and Adults, and Youth Group to join in, as well.

On Epiphany Sunday, January 5th, the day that marks the Wise Men’s arrival with gifts for the Christ child, we will devote some or all of our worship service to sharing our creative gifts of music, drama, and poetry. Visual art will be hung in the narthex for all to enjoy! Please share your gifts with the Christ child and with your church!

-Your Worship Team



ANNOUNCING: THE ERIN NATIVITY PAGEANT!

It’s been at least 10 years since Erin Church had a Nativity Pageant. Not only have we missed the opportunity to experience this live portrayal of the story of Jesus’ birth, but most of our children and youth have never had a chance to participate. So we’re once again planning a nativity pageant for Sunday evening, December 8 at 5 p.m., just before the Christmas Potluck dinner.

We know families are busy this time of year, so we’re going to keep it as simple as possible. The script we’ll use has only a few speaking parts, and most of those can be read. The audience will sing carols, so no one has to perform a solo. We have costumes from past pageants, and will fill in with new ones as needed.

Sets and props will be minimal. We hope this will help our kids understand the nativity story, but most of all we want this to be fun for everyone involved!

Are you excited? Would your kids like to be a shepherd, an angel, or another character in the story? Here’s how to get involved:

- The pageant is open to our Erin family, from preschoolers to high schoolers. In addition to church members and visitors, participants in Sonshine, Pioneer Club, Journey 7, or any of our other programs are welcome. Feel free to invite grandkids or other relatives as well.
- Kids who want to participate need to be registered so we can make sure we have enough costumes of the right sizes. Look for signup forms in the worship bulletins in November. Extra forms will be available in the narthex.
- Participants need to arrive by 4 p.m., an hour before the pageant starts, so they’ll know when to come in and where to stand, and so we can make sure costumes fit.
- Parents and other adults who want to help with costumes, sets, props, or behind-the-scenes crowd control are welcome, too. See Nancy Berry, Joy Bornhoeft, or Kim Jaynes and we’ll be glad to give you an assignment!

Financials

| 10/20/19 | Erin Presbyterian Church | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison | |
| | July 1 through October 20, 2019 | |
| | Jul 1 - Oct 20, 19 | Jul 1 - Oct 20, 18 |
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income | | |
| Administration Income | 50.24 | 0.00 |
| Memorial Income | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| Discipleship Income | 1,587.75 | 2,266.63 |
| Fellowship Income | 1,608.00 | 1,758.00 |
| Offerings | 124,553.50 | 99,584.00 |
| Property Income | 3,800.00 | 3,665.00 |
| Stewardship Income | 25.86 | 101.80 |
| Total Income | 131,825.35 | 107,375.23 |
| Gross Profit | 131,825.35 | 107,375.23 |
| Expense | | |
| IT Team | 1,310.52 | 0.00 |
| Administration Team | 2,478.67 | 0.00 |
| Creative Expressions Ministry | 980.00 | 1,142.72 |
| Discipleship Team | 2,286.67 | 2,664.14 |
| Fellowship Team | 1,454.33 | 1,643.44 |
| Outreach Team | 6,805.00 | 9,209.74 |
| Pastoral Ministry | 31,294.56 | 28,857.03 |
| Payroll Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Property Team | 21,257.35 | 16,332.21 |
| Session | 698.15 | 0.00 |
| Stewardship Team | 27,765.27 | 34,447.83 |
| Worship Team | 896.37 | 936.83 |
| Total Expense | 97,206.89 | 95,233.94 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 34,618.46 | 12,141.29 |
| Other Income/Expense | | |
| Other Income | | |
| Building Up | 855.00 | 0.00 |
| Property Fund Income | 1,050.00 | 0.00 |
| Restricted Accts Income | 488.00 | 669.00 |
| Total Other Income | 2,373.00 | 669.00 |
| Net Other Income | 2,373.00 | 669.00 |
| Net Income | 36,991.46 | 12,810.29 |

Financials

10/20/19

Erin Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet
As of October 20, 2019

| | Oct 20, 19 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| HF Primary Checking | 13,374.88 |
| HF Savings | 172,324.03 |
| SunTrust Checking | 802.07 |
| SunTrust Debit Card Account | 266.29 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 186,767.27 |
| Total Current Assets | 186,767.27 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Building Improvements | 46,547.00 |
| Computer Equipment | 2,420.97 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 35,699.89 |
| General Equipment | 9,764.55 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | -57,855.45 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 36,576.96 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 223,344.23 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Payroll Liabilities | 515.44 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 515.44 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 515.44 |
| Total Liabilities | 515.44 |
| Equity | |
| Retained Earnings | 138,673.08 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 47,164.25 |
| Net Income | 36,991.46 |
| Total Equity | 222,828.79 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 223,344.23 |

Youth

By Farrah Linkous

Spaghetti Dinner

Thank you to everyone that came out for the spaghetti dinner. Thanks to your generous contributions we were able to raise \$535 to go towards our Montreat costs. Thanks to Kelcey and Robbie Levering for all their work organizing the event and to Dan Gibbs for helping us shop and making sure we didn't wreck the kitchen!

M&M fundraiser

Hope everyone has enjoyed their Halloween treat from the Erin Youth Group. Now that you've eaten all of the M&Ms, fill the empty tube with your spare quarters! Please turn the tubes back in to us at church by November 24th. No change? We'll take dollars and checks too! All of the proceeds from this fundraiser go towards Montreat trips.

Montreat Trip Deposit Due

If you have a youth (or rising 6th grader about to

be a in Youth Groups) that is planning to join us for the Middle School or High School Montreat trip next summer, the initial deposit of \$100 is due to Farrah by November 10th. Checks can be made out to Erin Presbyterian.

Youth Thanksgiving

The Erin youth group will be celebrating Thanksgiving on November 17th. If your youth would like to participate, please let Farrah know by Wednesday, November 13th.

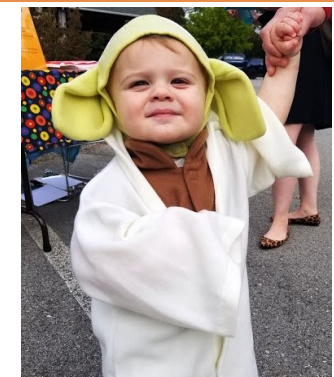
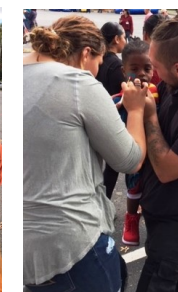
Lunch With College Students

I would love to catch up with all of our college students! Please make plans to join me for lunch November 30th. It will be a great time to catch up with each other, and renew your spirit before finals season! If you are interested in joining me, you can call or text me at 865-696-5851.

Halloween Bash

Halloween Bash

Thank You to all of the Halloween Bash volunteers! This was a collaboration between the Fellowship, Outreach and Creative Expression Teams and we're so thankful for each and every one who added their talent and insight, hard work and time, to make it a great experience!



Outreach

By Kelli Canan and April Cyr



Peace and Global Witness Offering
Outreach would like To say a heartfelt “Thank You” to the congregation for your donations to the Peace & Global Mission collection!



Coats For The Cold
We are collecting Coats for the Cold the first 3 weeks in November for the Morgan Scott

Project. **Coats for the Cold** is an annual coat drive to collect thousands of **coats** for those in need in our area. The community is invited to donate used men's, women's and children's **coats** at any KARM location or any Prestige cleaners location during designated coat-drive weeks each fall. It takes many hands to sort and hang thousands of coats! Opportunities will be available to help at all KARM Stores locations beginning on October 29th. Call your local KARM store to help out. Also, their biggest need is children’s coats!



FISH Hospitality Pantry

Thank you to volunteers for their help at the FISH Pantry work day Saturday, October 26th.



Compassion Closet

In lieu of The Angle Tree (discontinued in Knoxville), we will have a tree for a new organization!

We will "Host A Tree" to collect for "Compassion Closet". You can learn more about them here:

www.compassioncloset.com.



Fellowship & Property

By Betty Gibbs, Diana Brandon, and April Cyr



Christmas Potluck & Nativity Pageant
Join us at 5pm for the Nativity Pageant, then we’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Christmas Potluck. Look for signups in the bulletin in a few weeks.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

PW will meet on Thursday, November 14, at 10 am, in the Parlor. Sonja will lead the discussion on Lesson 3, “Words of Love, Keep the Sabbath”. Betty will provide light refreshments.



Breadbreakers will meet Saturday, November 16, 6:30pm, at the home of Sara and Dave Leckie. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship, not to mention great food! There will be no Breadbreakers in December, but we will resume in January.

FALL CLEAN UP AND BULB PLANTING

Let’s plant some more Spring bulbs! We’ll be doing some small additional clean up tasks but our focus is to plant even more tulip, daffodil, and crocus bulbs all across our campus.



Thank Offering

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women’s two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering

the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40% of the offering funds health ministries. All grants fund projects designed to better the lives of women and children domestically and internationally.



Hanging of the Greens
Excited to decorate for the holidays? Then come on over and help us decorate

the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 24 at 3pm. All hands are welcome! And a chili dinner for those who stay to help will be provided! So mark your calendars for all these busy days ahead!



Coffee Club
Looking for some fellowship and conversation? Maybe you have a

question for staff? Come by the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday the 19th at 10:30am for some sweets, some good conversation, and a delicious cup of coffee. Pastor John, Joy, and April will look forward to seeing you!



Thanksgiving Wednesday Night Dinner

Come and join us for our annual Thanksgiving Wednesday Night Dinner on November 20th! All of your favorite traditional dishes will be served.: Turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, salads, dessert, etc. all for the same price of just \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Hope to see you there!