

Erin Presbyterian Church
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ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When I was growing up in Scotland, we had a tradition of celebrating 21st birthdays by giving the birthday honoree a key to the front door. It was a rite of passage which celebrated entering into adulthood. Birthday cards were illustrated with keys and parents gave their twenty one year old children special pass keys to their homes. The birthday also marked a time of maturity and responsibility. The young person was no longer considered to be a youth and was expected to make his or her way into the world from that moment on.

It's been twenty one years since the Stuarts came to Erin. Throughout that time, we've all seen many changes in church, in society, in our nation, and across the world. Every year brings a new set of opportunities and challenges, some of which are totally unexpected. 2015 turned out to be one of those unexpected and challenging years which affected our congregation, as well as our denomination. It took a great deal of energy and focus from our staff, elders, and leaders to get us through this year, but thankfully we have come through turbulent times and are now ready to begin a new chapter in the life, work, and ministry of Erin Church.

In the midst of all our challenges, we managed to create a new Vision and a new Mission statement for the church. We are already beginning to see some fruit from our new approach to what we do at Erin. Hopefully, as the 2016-2017 church year progresses, we will expand our influence and mission in our community, across our town, and in the wider world.

As you read the following reports by our ministry teams and church staff, please pray for them. Our teams are made up of wonderful committed church volunteers and our staff people continue to focus on their ministries in excellent ways. In many respects, our church is fortunate to have such people in our midst. Their faith in Christ and devotion to His work help and encourage all of us to serve God's Kingdom in our lives, homes, schools, workplaces, and community.

Please keep praying for our wee church every single day and continue to invite your family and friends to our services, programs, ministries, and missions. Thank you for your continued support. May God bless all of your hopes and dreams for the coming year.

Pastor John 😊

TEAM REPORTS

FELLOWSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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.

Fellowship opportunities include Wednesday Night Dinners, Breadbreakers, Presbyterian Women, Brandon Breakfast, Christmas Potluck Dinner, Christmas Caroling, Let's Do Dinner, Men's Breakfast, Halloween Party, and our Senior Adult Ministry. Congregational Care involves the sending of greeting cards to members who are ill, have lost a loved one, or are somewhat restricted to home or in a retirement center. Cards are also sent to those who have had a baby or have some other reason to celebrate. If there is a death of a member of the congregation, we are responsible for organizing food for the family as needed, and any reception that might follow the funeral or receiving of friends at the church.

During this past year, we averaged 75 people at our Wednesday Night Dinners, prepared and served by two teams. Numerous meals were provided to our homebound members. Receptions were held for the Outgoing/Incoming Elders and for Reverend and Mrs. Stuart to celebrate their 20th Anniversary with Erin. Our other special dinners and meals were well attended and enjoyed by all. We were also responsible for the decorating of the church for the Christmas holidays and for Easter.

Our Team consisted of the following members: Betty Gibbs, Convener; Jim Montgomery (E), Kay Pennington (E), Kim Pennington (E), Diana Brandon (E), Dan Gibbs and Bob McLean. Unofficial members are Cecilia Stinnett and Anna McKay.

We would love to have anyone join us in our endeavors to provide our Erin Family with love and support. If you would like to become a part of our Team, please let one of us know! Many hands make easy work! Fellowship meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Parlor.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

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

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.

Our Team consisted of the following members: Stacie Armsworth, Convener; Joe Jaynes (E), Anna McKay (E), Joy Bornhoeft – Director of Family Ministries, Farrah Linkous – Youth Director, Becca Therrien – Nursery Coordinator, and Kim Jaynes

This year's Discipleship theme was Shine, based on Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." The team's most significant accomplishments for the past year include:

- a vibrant and engaging Sunday School program for ages pre-school through adults that runs in parallel with the public school year (Aug-May). Adult classes included:
- The Hard Sayings class led by John House examined how contemporary Christianity copes with the commandments of the Old Testament.
- Rev. Stuart's Connections class looked at a variety of faith topics including Erin's Mission Statement, Philippians 1-4, The Faith of our Presidents, the Apostles' Creed, and Revelation.
- The JavaScripture class led by Kim and Joe Jaynes used the PCUSA Engage: Mission curriculum, All the Places to Go ... How Will You Know? by John Ortberg, and the New Testament book of James.

Planet Worship (Sunday) and Pioneer Club (Wednesday) programs for children led with great energy and creativity by Joy Bornhoeft.

Our "Deep Sea Discovery" Vacation Bible School in June conducted in partnership with Messiah Lutheran that served 22 kids ages 3-10 and was supported by 8 youth helpers and 15+ adult volunteers from both congregations.

Welcoming Farrah Linkous as Youth Director in Jan. 2016. Our MS/HS youth groups were ably led by volunteers (Farrah and Cynthia House) during the previous year while we interviewed candidates for the position. We ultimately invited Farrah to join the staff and are thrilled that she answered the call.

Our Nursery Coordinator Becca Therrien will be leaving us to begin her teaching career in Oak Ridge in August 2016. We are thankful for her leadership in this important ministry and wish her the best in her future endeavors in the classroom. We solicit the congregation's prayers and recommendations as we seek to find the correct person to fill this position.

As we look ahead to next year, our new Discipleship theme will be GPS: Following God's Lead. This is a culmination of our themes over the last 3 years: Grow, Pray, and Shine.

We encourage everyone to come to Sunday School and our Fall Rally Day kickoff on Aug. 14. 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. 26-27. Our featured speaker will be Carol Merritt, a PCUSA minister from Chattanooga and a nationally-known speaker and writer on religious issues.

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!

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Team Statement: The Property Committee of Erin Presbyterian Church'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 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 functioning of the improvements.

Current Property Team Members

Jane Brannon – Elder

Mike Cate – Elder

Jennifer Gahan – Elder

Suzanne Levering – Elder

Kelly Ross – Elder

David Stinnett - Elder

Al Wallin – Member

2015/2016 Accomplishments

- Landscaping donated by generous member
- Concrete slab poured in front of dumpster to help quell asphalt cracking
- Reinstalled spotlights on cross outside
- Stretched and repaired carpets in both nurseries, and added padding around windows
- Financial approach overhaul – updated transaction categories for past 4 years to have a more accurate picture of expenses
- Created and published team manual and management binder with processes formalized and adopted (w/ cloud backup)
- Created Agenda template for consistency
- Team Elder by-year duties created and adopted

- Updated budget building process
- Hired new landscaping company
- Purchased and installed new water fountain with water bottle filler in memory of Mary Ann Hagler
- Duct Heaters were replaced on two HVAC Units (major repair) – Parlor unit and Noah’s Ark Unit
- Created a binder that stays in the office for permits and inspections

2016/2017 Goals

- To be more pro-active on projects and repairs
- To improve team and church-wide communication
- To create an Emergency Plan
- Continue to monitor the budget closely
- Continue to mentor new team Elders
- Maintain continuity of goals and projects from Convener to rising Convener
- Install HVAC unit in Pastor’s office
- Designate Visitor parking spaces
- Work with Marketing to install updated entry signage
- Install a memorial garden

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 on the first Tuesday of each month @ 6pm (but make sure to check the calendar on our website for any changes). Property meets in the library at the church. – ***Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Ross***

ERIN OUTREACH TEAM

Outreach Mission Statement: to be God's hands and feet, striving to use our time, talents, and money to support those in need

Mike Jones-Convener, Cecilia Stinnett-Elder, David Eggers-Elder, Lynne Jones, Ron DuBois, Sonja DuBois, Farrah Linkous-Staff, Pastor Stuart-Staff

Erin’s Outreach Team stays hard at work supporting over 20 organizations, being a beacon of God’s Word, and channeling the Holy Spirit for our community and beyond. The Team’s focus is to share God’s love and help those in need here in Knoxville, as well as in East Tennessee, and throughout the nation and the world through *compassion, mutual respect, and love*.

We meet the Second Sunday of the month after church in the Outreach room and we welcome anyone that would like to attend.

In addition to the PC USA’s four Mission offering opportunities each year, some of the other ministries we supported this year are listed.

Local and Regional Outreach Supported:

Camp John Knox, Compassion Coalition, FISH Hospitality Pantry, Florence Crittenden, Global Seeds, Interfaith Clinic, KARM – Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries, Serenity Shelter, Meals on Wheels, Morgan Scott Project, Sunset Gap Community Center, UT Chattanooga Campus Ministries – Hope House, UT Knoxville Campus Ministries – Ukirk, Volunteer Ministry Center and Water Angels.

International Outreach Supported:

Compassion International – Our Sponsored Child, Lenora of Guatemala
Project Being There – Orphanage/School in Vietnam
Near East School of Theology – Lebanon
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
Living Waters of the World

We hosted our First Annual Mission Fair in January 2016 and we have plans for the Second Mission Fair in January of 2017.

Check out the church’s website for more information and updates on our Mission work.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Stewardship is about the wise use of our time, talents and money. The Stewardship Committee has 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 2015-2016 budget year and reviewed financials and discussed any requests for expenditures outside of the budget. As a point monitor, the Committee paid special attention 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 2016-2017 budget year.

Kim Pennington did an excellent job maintaining the financials and is to be commended for her work. The Stewardship Committee is grateful to her for stepping up and serving Erin in this manner.

The New Consecration Sunday (NCS) Stewardship Campaign was led by Neill Murphy who did an outstanding job. Various members of the congregation and members of the Stewardship Committee gave talks regarding stewardship, interspersed with their personal stories, encouraging Erin members to move one step up in giving. Dennis Lovin served as the NCS Sunday keynote speaker. The NCS luncheon was attended by just under 100 individuals. The number of pledges to date is 53 with giving up over last year about 20% more than last year. It is important to note, that one giving unit represents the largest portion of the increase (increase is 3.4% without this new pledge). Just over \$260,000 has been pledged; normally total pledges are at about two thirds of the budget. The budget is met through pledges, unpledged offerings and income from the ministry teams.

The 2016-2017 budget was presented to Session on June 16, 2016 and was approved. This will be presented to the Congregation on June 26, 2016. The Pastor's Terms of Call were modified slightly with an increase for purchase of a new vehicle for the Pastor toward the end of the year and a 5% increase in salary. The Presbytery has a new medical program and will provide a 35% subsidy for the cost of the program the first year with additional subsidy the next two years in decreasing amounts.

As we go into the 2016-2017 year, Stewardship asks that we all continue to be good stewards of the many gifts with which God has blessed us.

Prayerfully submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Justin Boernhoft – Elder, Class of 2016, Convener, Eva Quinley – Elder, Class of 2017

Neill Murphy –Elder, Class of 2018, Kim Pennington – Bookkeeper

Dave Eggers – President of the Corporation, John House

CREATIVE EXPRESSION MINISTRY TEAM

Introduction

2015 was the 20^h year of the Creative Expression Ministry at Erin Presbyterian. “Thank you!” to the Erin membership for your continued support of the Creative Expression Ministry through prayers, 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 that we will be sensitive to His leading and Lordship over this ministry. Amen.

General Summary

Participants: 75+. Support People: 50+
Groups/Programs: 8 active, 1 inactive

THEATRE / DRAMA

SONSHINE COMPANY

13-14 Steppin' Up Cruise 18 members: 9 Erin 9 Community 2 Adults 1 Student worker
Writers: Kelly Boyd, Lauren Gahan, Cynthia House, Chloe Levering,
Konnor Stump, Keegan Stump

14-15 Change the Game 16 members: 4 Erin 12 Community 3 older student 1 Student
Worker
Writers: Anna Bornhoeft, Cynthia House, Emma Rowe

15-16 Hope Rising Ranch 19 members 6 Erin 13 Community 2 older students 2 Student
Worker

Writers: Katie Bailes, Cynthia House, Chloe Levering, Emma Rowe,

Leadership: Cynthia House, Director; Kelly Boyd, Assistant Director; Rachel Little, Music
Director, MaryCatherine Landry, Tiffany Tallent, Carolyn Gahan, Choreographers, General
Assistance: Kristie Bailes

Performances: 10 Audiences: 800+

Sonshine Company provides 1st through 5th graders with exceptional opportunities not only to learn about music, drama, dance and vocal projection, but also to grow spiritually, develop confidence and discipline, learn teamwork, and to improve their self-esteem. Sonshine rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and on selected Saturdays as required.

Erin Youth Players

13-14 Little Princess 22 members 8 Erin 14 Community

14-15 High School Musical 21 members 9 Erin 11 Community

15-16 Seussical! 22 members 10 Erin 12 Community

Leadership: Tammy Murphy, Karen Stump, Kristie Bailes, Cynthia House, Jackie Griffin

Various External Directors, Music Directors, Choreographers, General Assistance: Kristie Bailes

Performances: 12

Audiences: 1000+

The Erin Youth Players provides 7th through 12th graders who are trying to gain theatre experience an opportunity to learn acting, music and dance skills in a safe, nurturing environment while growing significantly in people skills and in their spiritual commitment.

Journey Seven III (J7)

13-14 Sherlock Holmes! 10 members 5 Erin 5 Community
14-15 Various drama performances 8 members 5 Erin 5 Community
15-16 Various Improv Performances 9 members 5 Erin 4 Community

Leadership: Jessica Majors Rankin, Karen Stump, Kristie Bailes

Performances: 9

Journey Seven provides 6th through 12th graders an opportunity to learn advanced acting, character development, improvisation and teaming skills by focusing 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 Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and on selected Saturdays as required.

THE WORDPLAYERS

Erin and the Christian theater company The Wordplayers continue to collaborate on a wide variety of project. Erin serves as the group's primary rehearsal space and home to its many outreach programs, workshops, and meetings and the venue for one or two major production a year.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

SUCH IS THE KINGDOM

13-14 8 members
14-15 6 members
15-16 Inactive

Leadership: Cynthia House & Kelly Boyd

Performances: 8

Audiences:

Such is the Kingdom is a Show Choir for K through 5th grade girls. They regularly perform in worship services, for special church events, and at other churches, nursing homes, and events in the community. Such Is the Kingdom rehearses every other Sunday evening from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Noah's Ark Room.

Erin Express

Band Members: 4
Vocalists: 1-3

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

Right Spirit

13-14 6 members 14-15 6 members

15-16 Inactive

Number of Performances: 6

Right Spirit is currently a six member ladies' vocal ensemble accompanied by prerecorded accompaniment CD's. They sing in Erin worship services and at other venues in the community as opportunity presents.

MCM (Girls' Trio)

13-14 3 members

14-15 3 members

15-16 3 members

Number of Performances: 8

A girls' trio composed of Madeline Griffin, Caroline Gahan and McKenzie Stump. They have a unique sound and a wonderful blend. They performed in worship services and around the community.

Children and Youth Solo Program

13-14 9 members 14-15 8 members

15-16 8 members

Leaders: Cynthia House, Rachel Little

Number of Performances: 39

Beginning with 1st graders who show interest and running 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.

DANCE

Dayspring Dance Ensemble II

13-14 5 members 14-15 5 members

15-16 7 members

Choreographers: Katlyn Holly, Courtney Vanderpool

Number of Performances: 8

The troupe performs during Sunday Worship services 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 in 2014.

Creative Expression Annual Report Submitted by Cynthia House.

PERSONNEL TEAM

The mission of the personnel team is to support Erin staff.

The team proposes policies, procedures and processes that affect hiring, training, reviewing and education of staff. They ensure staff are treated fairly and according to applicable employment laws. The team has developed job descriptions for non-ordained (but not contracted) staff. These job descriptions are used for annual discussions with staff and for setting goals for the future.

In 2015-2016, the personnel team was involved in its ongoing work of policy and procedure application, as well as filling the vacant positions of office administrator and youth director. During the 2016-2017 year, the personnel team will also be involved with a special project to enhance congenial and constructive relationships among staff, pastor, session and other teams.

The personnel team normally meets the first Sunday afternoon of the month and is composed of four to six members; currently Pat Wallin, Kim Jaynes, Jim Montgomery and David Eggers, with the pastor as an ex-officio member.

Erin members who have served as an elder, have management experience at non-profits or businesses, have some familiarity with personnel regulations and policies, and are interested in using those experiences and skills at Erin, should contact one of the personnel team members to express their interest.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Team was created in March of 2015 and charged with creating a marketing plan to help to grow the church in the community, as well as from within. We believe a thoughtful marketing plan can help us reach more people in the community, create even more successful and effective ministries, and grow our congregation in a thoughtful and sustaining manner.

CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS: Stacie Armsworth (E), Kristi Bailes (E), Justin Bornhoeft (E), Kelli Canan(E), David Eggers (E), Betty Gibbs (E), Kevin Griffin(E), John House (E), Joe Jaynes(E), Mike Jones (E), Suzanne Levering (E), Anna McKay(E), Neill Murphy(E), Kay Pennington(E), Kelly Ross (E), Kelsey Sarles (M), Pastor John Stuart

2015/2016 Accomplishments

- Created and adopted a new Vision and Mission Statement.
- Worked with the members of each Ministry Team to create a SWOT analysis, identifying the church's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.
- Created a Demographics sub-committee, who gathered metrics and demographics on our church, our programs and ministries, and our community and compiled information on our social, economic, technological and political and philosophical environment.
- Created an E-Marketing sub-committee to create strategies on how to communicate what we do at Erin using our website and social media. This included the successful launch of our new website and Facebook page in time to promote our Easter Services.
- Created a Survey Team sub-committee, to gather feedback from the congregants about how we are progressing towards achieving our Vision and Mission Statements. Submitted and received valuable feedback.
- Spruced up the design of Erin's logo

2016/2017 Goals

- Develop and implement strategies to improve internal communications in our church
- Review congregant survey feedback and determine how to best address suggestions
- Develop a plan to collaborate and plan with area Ministers.
- Develop a Tech Team
- Develop a plan to reach out to members that haven't visited in a while
- Work with Ministry Teams on their individual marketing efforts
- Work with the Property Team to raise funds for and install new entry signage

Join our Team! If you would like to participate in any of our marketing activities, or would like to see the full strategic plan, please reach out to either Kelly Ross or Kelsey Sarles, and we would be happy to share.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Ross

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study...

This past year both our Morning and Evening Circles studied the Horizons Bible Study *Come to the Waters* by Judy Record Fletcher. We explored some of the Bible's more than 800 references to water, beginning with the chaotic waters of creation to the River of Life in Revelation. The upcoming Bible study is *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker. Each lesson will explore the question "Who is Jesus?" through a particular theological lens. Who was he according to Mark? According to Matthew? According to Luke? According to the Hebrews? According to Paul? According to the Non-canonical Gospels? And so on. Anyone is welcome to attend.

...to support the mission of the church worldwide,

We supported worldwide missions through our Presbytery pledge. We also supported local missions such as Interfaith Clinic and Sunset Gap. The Next Door (a transitional residential program that helps women coming out of incarceration) were the recipients of our local Spring Purse Project.

...to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women

PW activities are open to ALL women of the church, any age.

By contributing to special offerings for The Fellowship of the Least Coin, Birthday Offering and the Thank Offering to support efforts in areas such as health, peacemaking, education, hunger, domestic abuse and clean water.

We participate in and host meetings for Church Women United, an ecumenical group whose purpose is to 'encourage Christian women to come together in a visible community to witness their faith in Jesus Christ and enabled by the Holy Spirit to go out together into every neighborhood and nation as instruments of reconciling love.'

...that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

We attend gatherings locally, regionally (last year's PW Annual Spring Gathering was in Chattanooga) and nationally (PW's Triennial Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis). At this year's PW Spring Gathering, Cecilia Stinnett was installed as Moderator of PW of the Presbytery of East Tennessee. As part of her role, she is also a member of the Synod PW Coordinating Team, Board Member of Columbia Friendship Circle (Columbia Theological Seminary) and Board Member of Mission Haven in Decatur, GA where missionaries from around the world come 'home' on furlough.

Also of note, an Honorary Life Membership was given to Dan and Betty Gibbs for their outstanding service in the church, and a water fountain was given as a memorial to Mary Ann Hagler, a faithful member of Presbyterian Women for many years.

Coordinating Team Members of Erin's PW: Diana Brandon (Moderator), Betty Gibbs (Secretary), Joy Bornhoeft (Treasurer), Cecilia Stinnett (Together in Service/Mission) and Pat Sexton

Follow us on Facebook at **PW of Erin Presbyterian Church** for Bible study reminders, lesson summaries, news about the missions we support, etc.

STAFF REPORTS

Nancy Berry - Organist/Accompanist

For over 25 years I have been privileged to serve as Erin Presbyterian Church's organist/accompanist. This multi-faceted position includes the following responsibilities:

1. Lead the congregation's song- The most important music on Sunday morning is the peoples' songs - the hymns. Leading the congregational singing is an organist's chief responsibility. It is my goal to be a strong and inspiring hymn leader, in order to promote enthusiastic congregational singing.
2. Select service music-The prelude, offertory and postlude are carefully selected to reflect the lessons, sermon theme and liturgical season of each Sunday worship service, as well as any special services (Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc.).
3. Accompany the choir and vocal/instrumental soloists, as needed. It is my goal for the coming year to seek out instrumentalists interested in sharing their talents during the worship service. As accompanist for the choir, I have the pleasure of working with Joe Jaynes, choir director, every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Together, with the choir, we work to prepare choral music which enhances our worship.

4. Provide music for weddings and funerals held at church (as requested and subject to availability)
5. Attend monthly staff meetings
6. Assist in the selection of hymns
7. Determine the annual organ budget
8. See to the maintenance of the church's Allen organ and two pianos.

It is an honor and a blessing to serve as Erin's organist/accompanist. Thank you for allowing me to use my God-given talent in service to Him and this very special congregation.

Joyful Sounds Handbell Ensemble

Joyful Sounds Handbell Ensemble, an intergenerational handbell choir, rehearses every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30. This dedicated group of nine ringers, composed of various experience levels, rings approximately six times a year from September through May during Sunday morning worship and special services. The choir has participated in the annual Knoxville Area Handbell Festival and looks forward to doing so again.

Over the years the church has acquired a three octave set of Schulmerich handbells, along with a three octave set of Malmark chimes. The ringers employ a number of techniques in performing handbell music, including four-in-hand ringing.

Joyful Sounds continues to experience growth. It has been a delight to witness the improvement in skills, as well as level of commitment displayed by the ensemble. We were happy to welcome two new members to our ranks in 2015-16: Cathy VanOstrand and Jenny Rogers.

Rehearsals resume August 31.st. Presently, there is a need for two additional ringers, along with a supply of substitutes. Some music reading is helpful, but is not required. A sincere commitment to attend rehearsals and performances is essential to the success of this group. Ringing is a group activity and the group is very much dependent upon the individual ringer.

Anyone interested in participating in this enjoyable and unique music ministry, please contact Nancy Berry, organist, or the office. You will be enthusiastically welcomed!
- **Nancy Berry**

Joe Jaynes – Choir Director

The Choir performed throughout the 2015-2016 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 (Jan 2015-June 2016)

Stacy Armsworth, Joy Bornhoeft, Diana Brandon, Robin Cuany, David Eggers, Carolyn Gahan, Madelyn Griffin, Cynthia House, John House, Kim Jaynes, Mike Jones, Rob Lynch, Susan Miller, Amanda Murphy, Neill Murphy, Eva Quinley, Lynn Sexton, Pat Sexton

Joy Bornhoeft - Family Ministry 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. Ten 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, Erin's Children's Church ministry, has been an important part of worship for 5 years now. This weekly program, geared for kids 4 years old – 4th grade, teaches our children the fundamentals of why and how we worship as Christians and Presbyterians. A faithful team of 14 volunteers led this program for some 24 children this year. Five of those children joined Planet Worship for the first time, having just turned four.

This year, Planet Worship lessons included: a multi-lesson series on Heifer International with the classroom decorated as a farm and weekly hands-on activities; worship themed lessons on where we worship, music in worship, prayer, offering, World Communion, and the liturgical seasons; special symbol-led lessons with the theme of growth for Advent and Lent; and a 4-part series on Epiphany Around the World. Arts and crafts play a key role in teaching our children about worship. This year, children made their own liturgical paraments for Advent, Lent, and Eastertide for their communion table. Children also collected a weekly offering which was donated to Operation Christmas Child.

Pioneer Club is our Wednesday Night Program that meets weekly throughout the school year. This year's theme was *Wacky Wednesdays with Dr. Seuss*. I had the great pleasure of personally leading this program for 8 of our children, ages 4 years old – 3rd Grade. Each week we read a classic Dr. Seuss book, played goofy games, and made kooky crafts. Throughout the year, we read over 25 Dr. Seuss books, had 5 parties, and ate lots of popcorn!

Vacation Bible School was in June in partnership with Messiah Lutheran Church. VBS was held on a weekend with the theme *Deep Sea Discovery*. Twenty-two children and 8 youth helpers attended the 3-day event. A team of 20 volunteers led the kids in music, bible stories, games, crafts, and mission. Each day, kids participated in a hands-on mission project, including a group art project, drawing pictures for senior members of each church, packing hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and making Food-to-Go bags for needy people in our community.

This has been my fourth year serving as Family Ministries Director and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the children and families of Erin. I am sincerely thankful for the volunteers who help carry out these programs and for the support and encouragement of fellow staff, the Discipleship Team, and the congregation. **– Joy Bornhoeft**

Farrah Linkous - Youth Director

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 to experience fellowship with one another, to build a support network with their peers, and to delve deeper in to their faith.

The youth program at Erin Presbyterian is made up of two groups, one for Middle School students (6th – 8th grade) and one for High School students (9th-12th grade). Youth meet on Sunday evenings; 4:45pm – 5:45pm for the MS youth and 5:45pm – 7:00pm for the HS youth, during the school year. We were without a youth director on staff for all of 2015, so both groups were led by volunteers during that time. Cynthia House led the MS group and Farrah Linkous led the HS group. In January 2016, Farrah Linkous joined staff as youth director and began leading both groups.

In addition to regular meeting times, youth activities are planned throughout the year. Some of the most notable activities of the 2015-2016 year:

- MS Montreat at Maryville College
- HS Montreat at Montreat College
- MS Fall Retreat at Camp John Knox
- HS Youth Summit in Gatlinburg
- Christmas parties for both groups
- attending Bye Bye Birdie at West High School
- attending Music Man at Karns High School
- attending a performance of the KSO Youth Orchestra
- going to see Finding Dory at the Parkway Drive In
- volunteering at Westmoreland Health and Rehab Center Community Easter Egg Hunt

Youth also hosted several fundraisers in the 2015-2016 year. Parental volunteers organized Equal Exchange catalog sales, a spaghetti dinner, a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, and a silent auction. Our youth worked on all of the fundraisers in various capacities. All funds raised by youth went to cover Montreat costs.

In spring of 2016, we had 6 rising 9th graders complete the Confirmation process. They were led in a series of classes by Reverend John Stuart, and were confirmed on May 1, 2016. The students confirmed were Harter Crisp, Lauren Gahan, Chloe Levering, Colton Pennington, Konnor Stump, and Keegan Stump. We had 2 graduating seniors, Sarah McKay and Michelle Waters, and we had 1 rising 6th grader, Ella Levering.

Youth Group will resume meeting on August 7, 2016. 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 lead activities and chaperone trips. – **Farrah Linkous**

