

Financials

Erin Presbyterian Church Balance Sheet As of December 11, 2016	
	Dec 11, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
HF Primary Checking	14,719.39
HF Savings	176,315.89
SunTrust Checking	1,001.73
SunTrust Debit Card Account	1,170.81
Total Checking/Savings	193,207.82
Total Current Assets	193,207.82
Fixed Assets	
Building Improvements	21,587.00
Computer Equipment	1,109.97
Furniture and fixtures	35,699.89
General Equipment	9,764.55
Accumulated Depreciation	-32,255.45
Total Fixed Assets	35,905.96
TOTAL ASSETS	229,113.78
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	46.05
Payroll Liabilities	
Total Other Current Liabilities	46.05
Total Current Liabilities	46.05
Total Liabilities	46.05
Equity	
Restricted Funds	250.00
Retained Earnings	134,163.50
Unrestricted Funds	47,164.25
Net Income	47,489.98
Total Equity	229,067.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	229,113.78

Erin Presbyterian Church Profit & Loss July 1 through December 11, 2016	
	Jul 1 - Dec 11, 16
Income	
Other Income	60.00
Memorial Income	2,955.00
Creative Expression Income	285.53
Discipleship Income	3,433.82
Fellowship Income	4,043.10
Offerings	170,400.70
Property Income	4,620.00
Restricted Accts Income	1,776.00
Stewardship Income	124.61
Transfer from Capital Campaign	0.00
Total Income	187,698.76
Gross Profit	187,698.76
Expense	
Creative Expressions Ministry	3,701.59
Discipleship Team	2,131.77
Fellowship Team	2,731.91
Outreach Team	11,738.06
Pastoral Ministry	44,937.57
Payroll Expenses	2,183.88
Property Team	21,804.05
Restricted Accts Expense	1,477.09
Stewardship Team	48,680.96
Worship Team	821.90
Total Expense	140,208.78
Net Income	47,489.98

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JANUARY EVENTS

- January 1**
No Sunday School
11:00am Worship and Planet
Worship as usual.
- January 2**
OFFICE CLOSED
6:30pm Property Meeting
- January 3**
7:00pm Discipleship Meeting
7:00pm Fellowship Meeting
- January 8**
Sunday School Returns
Youth Groups Return
DaySpring Dance Returns
12:15 pm Creative Expressions
12:15pm Outreach Meeting
- January 9**
7:00pm PW Evening Circle
- January 10**
10:00am PW Morning Circle
6:00pm Staff Meeting
7:30pm Stewardship Meeting
- January 11**
WND Returns along with all
regular Wednesday activities.
6:30pm Unhanging of Greens
- January 15**
12:15pm MISSIONS FAIR
- January 19**
7:00pm Session Meeting
- January 21**
1:00pm Sunshine Workshop
- January 24**
6:30pm Marketing Meeting
- January 27**
Echo Hill Dinner and Concert

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From the Pastor.....	1
Birthdays and Connections Class.....	2
Outreach and Property.....	3
Youth Trip and 12 Days of Christmas.....	4
Family Ministry.....	5
Stewardship.....	6
Volunteer Schedule.....	7
Financials.....	8

Message from the Pastor January 2016

Matthew 6:33 "Seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."



Dear Friends,

We all have hopes and dreams for every New Year that we experience. We look forward to new events and challenges. We anticipate doing things to make our lives better. We even make resolutions about our health and homes, careers and concerns which we hope to fulfill. We can start again which is the wonderful thing about a new year; we don't have to carry over the past, our regrets, or our mistakes – we can begin our lives once more with a clean sheet.

As your pastor, I would encourage you to draw closer to God this year; to make Sunday worship a priority in your lives; to constantly read the scriptures; to become part of a church study or social group, and to make your prayers count. I firmly believe that doing all these things will make your lives better and give you the opportunity to grow in faith, in health, and in satisfaction with your life.

Sometimes circumstances cause us to lose our way or weaken our connection to God. The pressure we endure paralyzes our spirits and the stress we carry separates us from Jesus. We can feel alone, vulnerable, and isolated, out of touch and out of the minds of other people. It's during those times that God is quietly carrying us and lovingly leading us back to Him. He can rescue us from our fears, our troubles, and even ourselves. We only have to trust Him and place our lives into His hands.

This is what Jesus meant when He preached today's verse to His people. He wanted them to know that putting God first was the best thing they could do with their lives. He didn't wish them to be burdened with worries and anxieties, problems and concerns. Whatever issues they had, God could overcome them; whatever troubles they endured, God could help solve them.

It is my daily hope and prayer that we will all embrace Christ as our Savior, serve Him as our Lord, and look to Him as our Guide. Believe me, life is not always easy, but with Christ at our side, it is a whole lot better. So, come and worship on Sundays and make 2017 be the year that makes a remarkable and positive difference in all that you seek to accomplish and actually do.

May God bless you and all your loved ones. May Christ grant you all you need to make your hopes and plans for this year succeed.

Pastor John

BIRTHDAYS

Connections Class

JANUARY

- 1 Christa Mueller
- 3 Joe Tate
- 4 John Moxham
- 4 James Montgomery
- 4 Suzanne Levering
- 4 Lanie Webb
- 6 Mary Nelle Cate
- 6 Tracy Foster
- 6 Chloe Webb
- 10 Kelly Boyd
- 11 Alee Strand
- 12 Kelli Canan
- 14 Paul Armsworth
- 19 Tara Link
- 21 Al Wallin
- 21 Evelyn Stuart
- 28 Mike Jackson
- 30 Lora Yard
- 31 Hallie Fellers

Connections Class in January: The Declaration of Barmen Against Hitler

What would you have done as a congregational member or a pastor in Germany during the 1930s? Would you have followed 95% of the German Church which embraced Hitler as its Führer? Would you have capitulated under Nazi oppression by expressing that Church and Politics should only be mixed in order to make the nation great once more? These things happened in Germany last century when Christian pastors, elders, and members were confronted with a growing evil of ignorance, populism, and fascism.

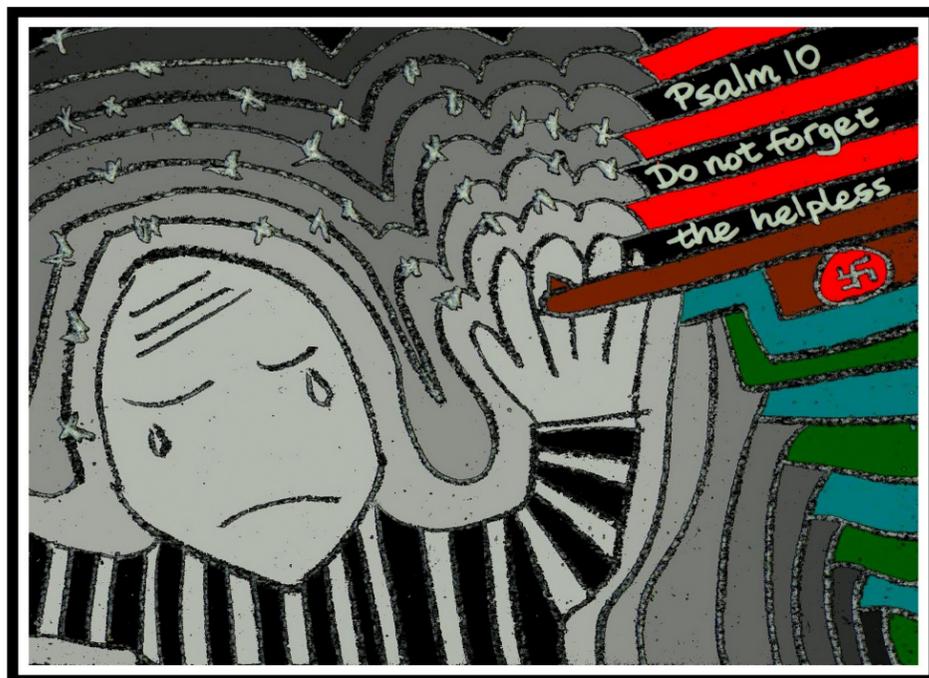
A minority of pastors under leaders like Martin Niemoller, Karl Barth, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, formed the Confessing Church in opposition to the National Church's idolization of Hitler as the country's savior. In 1934, they boldly declared against this populist movement by writing the *Theological Declaration of Barmen*. It was a courageous act of religious and civil defiance against an inhumane and heinous government. Some of those who signed the declaration lost their lives in Gestapo dungeons and concentration camps. After the war, the Barmen Declaration was embraced by churches around the world and formally included in their historical Book of Confessions. The PC(USA) was one of those churches.

Pastor Stuart will be teaching a 4-week Sunday School series on the Declaration of Barmen throughout the month of January. He will provide the text for each participant to discuss, as well as presenting the background, history, and consequences of this amazing theological stance. The classes will begin on Sunday January 8th at 9:45 AM in the Heritage Room. Everyone is most welcome to attend.



FEBRUARY

- 2 Ginger Thompson
- 6 Neill Murphy
- 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
- 22 Gant Dunaway
- 24 Craig Stapleton
- 24 McLain Miller
- 27 Mike Cate
- 28 Robbie Levering
- 28 Harter Crisp
- 28 Gavin Miller



Volunteers

If you need to change your volunteer slot, please organize a swap or a substitute. Then, let the front office know at 588-5350 or admin@erinpresbyterian.org.

January

January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host
Dave Stinnett	Anna McKay	Dan Gibbs	Lori Hudson	Betty Gibbs
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Dave Stinnett Cecelia Stinnett	Larry McKay Anna McKay	Kristi Bailes Buster Quinn	Lynn Sexton Pat Sexton	Nicole Waters Tammy Murphy
Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
Rose Armsworth	Lucy Cate	Ella Levering	Aiden Strand	Kenleigh
Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide
Bob McLean	Diana Brandon	Kristi Bailes	Sonja Dubois	Jane Brannon
Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
David Eggers	Ashley Draper	David Stinnett	Cathy Van Ostrand	Neill Murphy
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Brooks Eggers Jim Montgomery Cathy Van Ostrand Nicole Waters	Mike Cate Mary Nelle Cate David Leckie Sara Leckie	Robert Lynch Eva Lynch Suzanne Levering Robbie Levering	Rickey McCallum Erin McCallum Ron Dubois Sonja Dubois	Gary Pennington Kay Pennington Kim Pennington Dusty Pennington
Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship
Joy Bornhoeft	Sherry Draper	Kelcey Levering	Farrah Linkous	Kristi Bailes
Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery
Erin McCallum	Kay Pennington	Apryl Quinn	Tammy Murphy	Kelcey Levering
Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter
David Eggers Neill Murphy	Dave Stinnett Mike Jones	Sean Gahan Eva Lynch	John House John Stuart	Dave Eggers Neill Murphy
Communion				
2017				

Stewardship

CEX: Kevin Griffin Outreach: Cecilia Stinnett
Discipleship: Joe Jaynes Property: Jane Brannon
Fellowship: Jim Montgomery Stewardship: Eva Lynch

Through the generosity of our wonderful congregation, we ended the year in a great way. Erin is indeed a blessed congregation; we have folks who are giving and caring in so many ways. We are very thankful that we have been able to refinance our debt with a lower interest rate and a lower payment - thank you, Joe Tate! We are thankful that we can begin our new year with a healthy financial profile. AND we are thankful for each of you.

As we start the new year, let's think about our stewardship and make some resolutions around that. The following is from the International Catholic Stewardship Council (with slight modification).

Exercising Stewardship of God's Gifts in the New Year



January is traditionally the time for New Year's resolutions. It's an ideal time to take stock, reassess and recommit to a life lived for and in Jesus Christ. Here are a few suggestions for the important areas of our faith life:

Stewardship of Prayer: Nothing is more important than cultivating a closer, deeper relationship with God. Make a new commitment to a time **each day** to listen to God's voice.

Stewardship of Family: How often in our busy lives does time with family get neglected? Resolve to find a special time with each family member each week. Make sure that family meals are celebrated frequently. Plan a special family outing once or twice a month, and worship together. Resolve that when your spouse or child speak, you will look at them and truly listen.

Stewardship of Health: Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Without good health, we lack the energy to serve the Lord well. Resolve to make that doctor or dentist appointment. Make one healthy change in your eating habits. Add a few minutes of extra exercise to each day's routine. **Stewardship of Possessions:** Want less. Live more simply. Do you own your possessions, or do they own you? Challenge yourself to sacrifice something you like but that you know another person needs more than you.

Stewardship of Possessions: Want less. Live more simply. Do you own your possessions, or do they own you? Challenge yourself to sacrifice something you like but that you know another person needs more than you .

Stewardship of the Church Family: Offer your service to Erin in the New Year. Enrich your church experience by becoming involved.

Stewardship of Money: Take charge of your budget and your checkbook. Reprioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord is coming first in the expenditure of your wealth. Plan your spending and don't spend reactively or impulsively.

Stewardship of Work: Do your best at your chosen profession. Be honest and faithful. Resolve to find a class or other forum that will strengthen your knowledge and expertise. Bring a prayerful attitude to your job.

Stewardship of Mind: Resolve to read something regularly that enhances your faith life. Resolve to learn more about your faith.

Stewardship of Neighbor: Be aware of those around you, whether it be your co-workers, fellow church members, neighbors, restaurant workers or store employees. Everyone needs a smile and Christian kindness.

Stewardship of the Poor: Resolve to interact with the poor in some specific way this year. Resolve to choose a time and place to minister to the poor in some way. Bring them into your prayer life as well.

Stewardship of Talents: Use the talents that God has given you at Church or in the community. Bake, sing, act, paint, photograph, babysit, build, comfort - whatever talent you have, use it to God's glory.

Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

May God bless each of you in the upcoming year,

The Stewardship Committee

Outreach and Property

ERIN OUTREACH MISSION FAIR

Sunday, January 15th, 2017

Join us in the Fellowship Hall directly after worship!

Enjoy a pizza lunch with our special guest **-Jan Heckler** [our Mission Co-Worker] Jan, along with her mission partner from the Church of Madagascar, Reverend Mamisoa, will speak on their mission in the African country of Madagascar. You will also have an opportunity to see what your Outreach team has been doing all year, and hear more about the fantastic work that your hard-earned dollars help support!

Please save the date for this wonderful opportunity for learning!

Sign-up forms are available in the church bulletin, on tables in the narthex (please drop in offering plate or give to church administrator), or call the church office with your name and number in your party.

If you are unable to attend, we ask that you set aside some time that day to pray for Jan and Rev. Mamisoa and their mission work in Madagascar.

We also invite you to visit the exhibits along the walls of the Fellowship Hall during the week following Mission Fair, and **see** what Erin Church has been up to in the community and around the world! **How and where might God be calling you to serve?**

-Your Outreach Ministry Team



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Presbytery of East Tennessee is asking congregations to provide meals for the All Hands Volunteer group that is staying at Gatlinburg Presbyterian Church. These volunteers are working 12- to 14-hour days as first responders in the recovery process. We are seeking to provide dinners for them so that they do not have to prepare their own.

They are expected to remain through the end of January, and possibly longer.

Please consider preparing and donating dinners.

The sign-up process is quick and easy at <https://mealtrain.com/215wd7>. There are between 25 and 50 people in the group, depending on the day. You will need to call Allison Rosenberg (978-799-4199), the contact for All Hands Volunteers, a day or two ahead to confirm the head count.

FROM THE PROPERTY TEAM

Now that winter is here and evening programs last into darkness, please remember to turn off the lights behind you as you leave. This also applies after Sunday School and worship!

Many lights remain on in our building when everyone thinks "someone else will do it."

Also, please remember to let us know, in the office (admin@erinpresbyterian.org), if your event has been moved or cancelled, so we're not heating rooms unnecessarily.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If we experience inclement weather, please check to see if Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church is closed.

If they are closed, we will be, as well. You may also find information at the Erin Presbyterian Church Facebook page and local news websites.



Youth Trip Summer 2017

We are excited to announce that we will be teaming up with the youth group from 2nd Presbyterian to travel to Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas to participate in their Alternative Break program. The discipleship team considered several options for the 2017 trip and we all concluded this was a great option for our church and feel it will be a fun and valuable experience for our youth.

Most of you are familiar with Heifer International and the work that they do, but if you are not, I encourage you to check out their website at heifer.org. The Alternative Break program focuses on the core components of an introduction to Heifer International, service learning, educational activities and taking action. All of the activities are designed to increase the group's understanding of global hunger and poverty issues.

The trip is a weeklong experience and is open to our high school youth, including rising freshman and graduating seniors. The cost for the Alternative Break program is **\$350** per person, with the church paying **\$200** of that cost. The remaining amount will be fundraised and a parental portion. We will have some additional cost for travel that will be dependent on the number of youth we have participate in the trip.

We will host an informational meeting on **January 8th** at the regular high school group time of **5:45**. The youth leader from 2nd Presbyterian, Christina Gore, will also join us to share her experience of Heifer Ranch when she was a youth. If your

Twelve Days of Christmas



The Twelve Days of Christmas

Do you love Christmas, but always get the post Christmas blues on Dec. 26th? Well, cheer up and hear the good news – Christmas is not just *one day*, it is a *season* in the church year! The 12 Days of Christmas begin on Dec. 25th and continue through Jan. 5th, ending on January 6th – Epiphany of the Lord Day.

Epiphany is when we remember the Wise Men, who visited Jesus and brought precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In many countries throughout the world, Epiphany is celebrated as *Three King's Day* with feasts and gift giving, just as we do on Christmas Day.

So, this year, celebrate **all** Twelve Days of Christmas! Do something special each day with your children. Research *Three King's Day* around the world. Leave your tree up, turn on the outdoor lights each night, continue to sing your favorite Christmas carols – and don't feel guilty about it! Because one day is not nearly enough to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!














Family Ministry

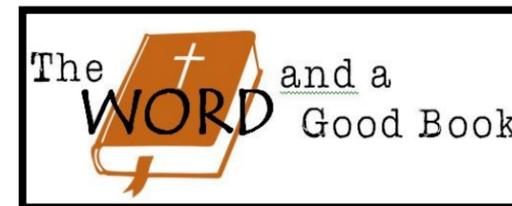


We Worship the Lord With Our Offering



Planet Worship Volunteers	
January	
1/1	Joy Bornhoeft
1/8	Sherry Draper
1/15	Kelcey Levering
1/22	Farrah Linkous
1/29	Kristi Bailes

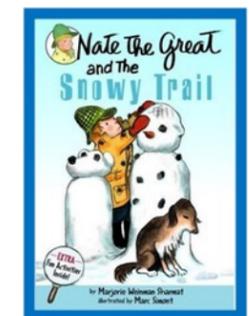
Throughout the year, the children of Planet Worship collected \$70 in offering. In December, the full amount was donated to **Heifer International** to purchase **2 flocks of chicks** and **1 hive of honeybees** for families in need. Heifer gifts are truly the kind of gift that keeps on giving! Thank you to all our families who contributed to the Planet Worship offering in 2016.



In January, we'll be following the lectionary scripture readings in Planet Worship using our *The Word and a Good Book* series. Each week, lessons will be illustrated by a coordinating children's book, and the scripture verses will be read aloud and discussed. Books will be selected using **Storypath**, a resource of Union Presbyterian Seminary that connects children's literature with our faith story.



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



Nate the Great returns on **January 11th** for his latest case! So, don't miss Pioneer Club throughout the month of January as we follow the case of the *Snowy Trail* and other top secret assignments. There will be lots of wintry fun this month as we make homemade snow, crystal snowflakes, and maybe have a snowball fight!