

Stewardship & Outreach



A message from Stewardship...

The summer months are more relaxed at church and typically more active elsewhere for many in our congregation. Stewardship would like to share a friendly reminder that even though attendance is lower during the summer, due to vacations and the like, the financial obligations of the church are pretty much the same. Please give faithfully, and generously, to keep Erin healthy through the summer. Don't ever imagine that what you do does not matter. Erin would not be what it is without you. Thanks!

A note from Outreach...

During the month of June, Outreach was glad to contribute \$750 from our Emergency Fund to help a New Hope for Guatemala, one of our international missions. Andrew Lovall is our contact, and was happy for the assistance, as Guatemala tries to restore order and rebuild after the recent volcanic eruption.

Outreach was also thrilled to be able to contribute \$350 to support this year's VBS mission, Soccer Balls World Vision, in order to purchase soccer balls for children all over the world.

Lastly, Outreach would like to thank all who donated to the July project for KARM, "Beat the Heat"! They are always so thankful for our contributions!

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

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The Beacon

August 2018

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (NIV)

Dear Erin Folks,

August is when we traditionally start the new Church Year. We kick it off with Rally Day on Sunday, August 12, when we encourage people in our congregation to come along to a Sunday School Class no matter who they are or whatever age they happen to be. It's a great time to make a new start and to rekindle our commitment to God. Our teachers put a lot of time, energy, and enthusiasm into their weekly lessons. The classes help us all to become better disciples of Christ and practitioners of His ways. If you've ever wanted to make your faith more meaningful or do something new, then joining a Sunday School class is one of the best ways to do this. In this month's newsletter, you'll find a special article about Rally Day, its new theme, as well as a list of times, classes, and teachers for Sunday school.



I don't know anyone who doesn't want a new start to their lives. We all go through the drudgery of the same routines and regular schedules. We all plod through life, at times, wondering where we are headed and what we will accomplish. Sometimes we worry about the future and carry regrets from the past. We want things to change and need fresh challenges in our lives. This is where discipleship can help us. By making a regular commitment to learning about God, worshiping Christ, and serving the Spirit, we can actually discover what life is all about. You see, God made us for the purpose of enjoying both Him and His creation forever. To do that, we need to know who God is, what He has done, and how He can help us to grow spiritually. The solution to discovering and experiencing those things comes from praising God for the blessings we have, knowing our faith history from the Bible we read, and partnering with others on this beautiful spiritual journey.

I hope and pray that you will really consider making worship and Sunday School a regular part of your life. I totally believe that it can transform you into a new, confident, and happier person. Make 2018 the year when God recreated you into who you were always meant to be - a child of God's grace, a follower of Christ's ways, and a servant offering praise.

May God bless you and your loved ones. May God enable you to fulfill all your hopes and dreams by making your plans succeed.

Pastor John

Connections & Rally Day



BIRTHDAYS

August

- 3 Agnes Kirby
- 4 McKenzie Stump
- 6 Kevin Griffin
- 9 Lauren Stuart
- 9 Marcia Mechlin
- 10 Owen Matthews
- 14 Hugh Jaynes
- 14 Mary Frierson
- 15 Keith Stump
- 16 Garren Miller
- 17 Effie Fellers
- 20 Bud Yard
- 24 Lucy Cate
- 25 Pam Stevens
- 28 Don Gunter
- 30 Lynn Sexton
- 31 Bob Price
- 31 Lauren Gahan



September

- 2 Janette Scott
- 6 Joe Jaynes
- 7 Donald Quinley
- 7 Lydia Foster
- 16 Jane Jackson
- 16 Madeline Stinnett
- 19 Allyson Streckfuss
- 20 Buster Quinn
- 20 Jamie Dockery
- 21 Larry McKay
- 26 Apryl Quinn
- 27 Kay Pennington
- 29 James Hudson
- 29 Nicole Waters

COME TO THE TABLE

2018-2019 Connections Class Schedule

Every Sunday, during the church year, the pastor teaches special classes on different topics each month. The participants in this inter-generational class discuss the Bible, history, and current events. Every month, the pastor chooses a different subject to present and enables the class participants to ask questions, share their experiences, and offer suggestions on how to apply the current topic. During this coming year, the pastor will present nine different short series as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aug 19 – Sep 02 The Sacraments & Worship | Jan 06 – Jan 27 What is The Gospel? |
| Sep 09 – Sep 30 The Lord's Prayer | Feb 03 – Mar 03 The Belhar Confession |
| Oct 07 – Oct 28 Pray It Again, Psalm | Mar 10 – Apr 14 A Crucial Chapter: Mark 14 |
| Nov 04 – Nov 25 Our Faithful First Ladies | Apr 28 – May 12 Who is Titus? |
| Dec 02 – Dec 23 Advent Lights | |

Everyone is welcome to come and join the class discussions. The Connections Class will begin on Sunday, August 19 at 9:30 AM in the first classroom of the New Education Wing, just beyond the mini-kitchen area.

New Coffee House Mid-Week study

The pastor is thinking about starting a new weekly Bible Study early on Thursday mornings from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM, either at the church or over at Panera in Bearden. He is hoping to teach from one of the Psalms each week. A sign-up slip will be in a forthcoming worship bulletin for anyone who is interested. Pastor Stuart may also set this up as an online course, too.

Rally Day - August 12th

Our kickoff for the new year of Sunday School, is August 12! We'll begin with breakfast at 9:30am sharp, and we ask that everyone try to be on time. Then at 10:00am children from toddlers through fifth grade and Middle and High School youth will go to their new classes (nursery is also provided for our littlest ones). Like last year, adults will spend about 10 minutes in each of the three Adult Sunday School Classes and hear from the leaders what each class plans to study this fall. Whether you've been attending Sunday School for years, or haven't participated in a while (or ever!), we invite everyone to join us in 2018. You'll find a warm and welcoming group of fellow Believers, excellent learning and discussion, and a fun way to spend your Sunday mornings and get to know other members at Erin.

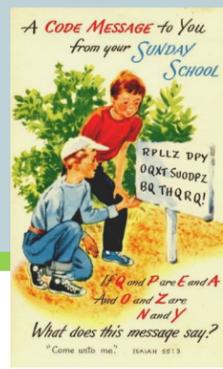
(See descriptions of the Sunday School Classes on page 6.)

AUGUST CALENDAR

- August 7**
6pm Staff
7pm Discipleship
7pm Fellowship
- August 11**
Kitchen Clean-up Day
- August 12**
RALLY DAY
9:30am Breakfast
12:15pm Creative Exp.
12:15pm Outreach
12:15pm Stewardship
12:15pm Joint Youth Group Meeting
- August 16**
6:30pm Session
- August 19**
12:15pm Joint Youth Group Meeting
- August 21**
10:30am Coffee Club
- August 24-25**
CHURCH RETREAT
- August 26**
YOUTH SUNDAY
No Planet Worship

| AUGUST 5th | AUGUST 12th | AUGUST 19th | AUGUST 26th |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Coffee | Coffee | Coffee | Coffee |
| | Anna McKay | Betty Gibbs | Dan Gibbs |
| Greeters | Greeters | Greeters | Greeters |
| Nicole Waters | Kevin and Jackie | Ron and Sonja | Patty Britton |
| Brooks Eggers | Griffin | DuBois | Linda Quinley |
| Bell Ringer | Bell Ringer | Bell Ringer | Bell Ringer |
| Thomas Hopkins | Carter McCallum | Ella Levering | Kenleigh Pennington |
| Guide | Guide | Guide | Guide |
| Lynn Sexton | Anna McKay | Rickey McCallum | Kelly Boyd |
| Reader | Reader | Reader | Reader |
| David Eggers | Mary V. Paletta | Neill Murphy | Erin McCallum |
| Ushers | Ushers | Ushers | Ushers |
| Jim Montgomery | Suzanne Levering | Pat Wallin | Joe Tate |
| Ron DuBois | Robbie Levering | Debra Poole | Rob Lynch |
| Gary Pennington | Chloe Levering | Tammy Murphy | David Leckie |
| Jim Thompson | Larry McKay | Jim Montgomery | Sara Leckie |
| Planet Worship | Planet Worship | Planet Worship | Planet Worship |
| | | | |
| Counter | Counter | Counter | Counter |
| David Eggers | Eva Lynch | Rickey McCallum | Craig Strand |
| John House | Mike Jones | Neill Murphy | Mike Jones |
| Communion | | | |
| 2018 | | | |
| Flowers | Flowers | Flowers | Flowers |
| | Stuart | Patty Britton | |

Sunday School Classes



COME TO THE TABLE

Adult Sunday School Classes

Erin's Discipleship team will offer three adult classes this year. Members and guests will have a chance to visit all three classes on Rally Day, August 12, to meet the leaders and hear what each group will be studying. For adults, Sunday school offers the opportunity to learn and deepen one's faith, and we encourage everyone to explore the options and join a class.

The Hard-Sayings Class

The Hard-Sayings Sunday School Class is for anyone who questions, but who is not so much looking for "an" answer as seeking ways to understand, ways to make meaning of their Faith and ways to express that Faith in an increasingly complex community and world. This class is led by John House and uses a group discussion format.

The Hard-Sayings Class will be studying the book *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* by Brian D. McLaren. According to McLaren, the Christian story, from Genesis until now, is fundamentally about people on the move—outgrowing old, religious systems and embracing new, more redemptive ways of life. McLaren argues that the Christian faith is not dying, as recent headlines have suggested, but is on the move again, embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. In *The Great Spiritual Migration*, he explores three shifts that define this change, and challenges readers to embrace new understandings that are reshaping the church.

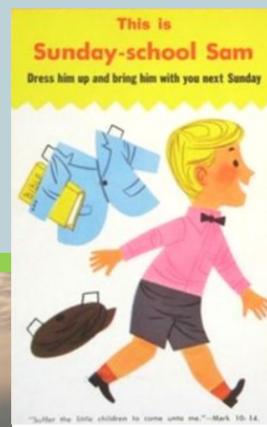
Primary among these, is the shift away from a focus on belief systems – believing the right things. Focusing more on a way of life that looks like Jesus – doing the right things. McLaren envisions the church as "a school of love" teaching the love of God, love of neighbor, love of self and love of Creation that we then put into practice in our daily lives.

McLaren's works, controversial to some and spot on to others, always elicit rich, thoughtful discussions about this journey of faith we are each on – sometimes comfortably, but often uncomfortably. With his trademark boldness and compassion, in *The Great Spiritual Migration*, he invites us to seize the moment and set out on the most significant spiritual pilgrimage of our time: to help Christianity become more Christian.

Joe and Kim Jaynes will try something different this year: they'll lead a small group, or covenant group, that will meet during the Sunday school hour. A covenant group involves a high level of commitment to the group and to its members. In a covenant group, members share their spiritual journeys and pray for one another. The goal is for participants to help one another become more like Christ by wrestling together with God's truth and fleshing it out in conversation, prayer, and action. Covenant groups hold members accountable, and by meeting regularly participants can reinforce what they believe and seek God's will for their lives. Study is a big part of the group, but the focus is less on information and more on community building and relationship-based discipleship.

This fall we will study *Unfinished: Believing is Only the Beginning* by Rich Stearns, who will retire at the end of 2018 after serving as president of World Vision for 20 years. The book, accompanied by video segments and a study guide, explains Stearns' conviction that Western Christians today have become distracted, failing to grasp the importance of following Christ, and have lost the passion to continue the revolution Jesus started. Instead, many of us confine our spirituality to improving and serving ourselves and others like us. Like Stearns' first book *The Hole in Our Gospel*, his latest book further explores the idea that today's Western Christianity has largely ignored Jesus' call to action, the Great Commission in Matthew 28 to "go into all the world and make disciples"—that's the hole in the gospel we proclaim. It's not that we've gotten it wrong, he says; we've just left out a crucial part. Whether you're a new Believer or a long-time Christian, Stearns says, if you feel something is missing, you may be right. If you long for a deeper sense of meaning and purpose for your life, we invite you to join us as we find out together what it means to follow Jesus and share in His call to change the world.

Church Family News



Claude & Pat Houbler Family Church Retreat August 24th – 25th at John Knox Center, Ten Mile, TN

Please remember to sign up for our 6th Annual Family Retreat!! Registration forms can be found in the Sunday bulletin and registration will close on Sunday, August 5th. Everything is in place for fun, food, fishing and fellowship! Add to that tubing and kayaking, and we have the makings for a great family retreat! In addition to traditional John Knox activities such as high ropes and the flying squirrel, we are adding a challenge course to our morning activities and hope to add movies in Abel Lodge on Friday evening.

Back by popular demand will be Andy Morgan from the University of TN, Knoxville's UKirk House. He will help us explore our theme for this year "Come To The Table".

God's table is available to all who wish to come!

If you have any questions please talk with Anna McKay or any member of the Discipleship Committee.

***"And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and recline at the table in the kingdom of God."* Luke 13:29**



If you are available to volunteer your home for a Breadbreakers in 2018/19, please contact Diana at 607-8528 or dmarybrandon49@gmail.com.



From Sonja DuBois...

Thank you Erin family for helping me through a challenging time with your prayers, cards and food. I am fine now!

Youth and Creative Expressions



Middle School Montreat

Our Middle School youth attended the Montreat Conference at Maryville College July 18th - 22nd. This year's theme was "Living Mosaics" and the youth focused on the ways we are all different but still part of the same beautiful picture that God has created. Each day started off with energizers and keynote, and wrapped up with praise and worship in the evenings. And lots of recreation in between! Thank you to everyone that supported our trip by contributing to fundraisers, and by keeping us in your prayers.

Important Dates: *August 12th is Rally Day *Sunday School resumes August 12th *19th is Youth Sunday prep *August 26th is Youth Sunday



CEX Programs Beginning

The last week of August, CEX begins its fall lineup of programs. We encourage you to join us for the learning, laughter and spiritual growth that are so much a part of everything we do!

Sonshine Company Children's Musical Theatre Workshop

A musical theatre education program for children 1st through 6th grade beginning September 5th and culminating in April with a full musical production.

Sonshine will begin the season with a parents meeting on August 29th. This meeting is designed to acquaint parents or guardians, and prospective troupe members, with Sonshine Company – how it operates, who is on our staff, what is expected of troupe members and parents. We'll discuss when things will happen and the many rewards of membership. This year we will be restaging the musical "**C-Street Central**", first performed in April 2012.

If you have not considered becoming a part of Sonshine Company, we encourage you to consider this outstanding program. You will not find a better musical theatre training program in the area, or a program that builds your confidence and develops your presentation skills, teaming ability, leadership skills and sense of responsibility as does Sonshine. We would love to have you!

Journey Seven (J7) Advanced Theatre Skills Program

An advanced skills theatre education program for kids 6th through 12th grades is beginning September 5th and culminating in February with a stage production.

J7 will begin the season with a parents meeting on August 29th. This meeting is designed to acquaint parents or guardians, and prospective troupe members with all things J7— who is on staff this year, what skill areas will be taught, troupe scheduling, and the nature of the February performance. If you have not considered furthering your acting ability through involvement in an educational program, we encourage you to seriously consider J7. The troupe is small enough to afford each member individualized attention, yet large enough to provide a solid troupe and production experience. We would love to have you join us for what is shaping up to be a great year!

Children's Ministry



COME TO THE TABLE

Sunday School Returns August 12th

We offer three Sunday School classes for children:
2 and 3 year Old Class taught in the Nursery
4 years old – 2nd Grade, Family Life Center
3rd – 5th Grade Classes, Family Life Center

| Planet Worship Volunteers | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8/5 | Joy Bornhoeft |
| 8/12 | Brooks Eggers |
| 8/19 | Jane Brannon |
| 8/26 | Youth Sunday No Planet Worship |
| 9/2 | Joy Bornhoeft |

On Rally Day, families will enjoy breakfast treats in the Fellowship hall at 9:30 am. At 10 am, children will be dismissed from breakfast and escorted to their classrooms by their teachers, where they will have a short lesson on our new Discipleship theme: **Come to the Table**.

Welcome to Worship

This new school year, we have several children who graduated from Planet Worship and will be attending worship full-time in the Sanctuary. Congratulations to: Rose Armsworth (5th Grade), Thomas Hopkins (5th Grade), and Hallie Fellers (6th Grade). Please take a moment to welcome these young people to worship. We look forward to continuing to watch them grow through this next stage of their faith journeys.

4th Annual Pre-Teen Retreat September 15 – 16 at John Knox



Attention all 4th and 5th Graders: make plans now to attend the Pre-Teen Retreat at John Knox Center. This overnight retreat (Saturday morning through Sunday morning) is a fun opportunity to meet kids from other Presbyterian churches in East Tennessee. You'll eat together, sleep in cabins, attend keynote sessions and worship, experience the ropes course, waterfront sports, crafts, and games. Please contact Joy Bornhoeft if you have a preteen interested in attending. The cost per child is \$50 (all inclusive), but Erin church will pay half the fee per child. So, the cost for Erin families is only \$25 – a great deal for an amazing faith experience!