

NOTABLE SERVICE

After volunteering as a Sunday School teacher for over 20 years, Karen Kennedy is taking a break in order to care for her ailing father. Many of the children of the church have had her as a Sunday School teacher. Thank you for your dedication to the children's ministry of New Providence, Ms. Karen. We will miss having you teach regularly on Sundays.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Promotion Sunday is August 5th. Parents and rising Kindergartners through rising 5th graders should come to Westminster Hall at the beginning of the Sunday School to finalize registration paperwork and introduce their children to their new teachers. To begin registration, go to www.newprovidencepres.org/childregistration and follow the page's instruction.

COMMISSIONING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

On Sunday, August 5th, the church begins the new program year for its educational ministries. If you will serve in any capacity in the educational ministry of NPPC during 2018-19, (children, youth, or adult Sunday School teacher; Bible study leader, circle leader, Discipleship & Education Ministry Team or Adult/Children/Youth Leadership Development Committee; VBS leader; etc.), join us for either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:05 a.m. worship service.

PEAK AND CLOUD 9 KICK-OFF

PEAK (Pre-K through 3rd grade) and Cloud 9 (4th & 5th grade) will kick off August 15th. Ms. Cindy Sugg is returning to teach music. This year PEAK and Cloud 9 will start at 3 p.m. and go until 5:15 p.m.

Cloud 9 will meet every Wednesday and will go through the Harry Potter curriculum that was written by Melanie Rasnake. One week we will watch the movie clip and discuss the scripture lesson and the next week we will do an activity and/or craft that goes along with the lesson from the week before.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP CLASSES

Every August with the new school year, New Providence provides the Welcome to Worship class for interested rising Kindergartners up to rising 2nd graders to introduce children to the basics of traditional Christian worship and prepare them for full participation in services. If you can help with snacks, sign up at To sign up, go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B084DAFAB2BABFA7-welcome

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

In order to be in compliance with our Child Protection Policy and not to overwhelm Catherine Johnson, who is driving the PEAK bus on Wednesdays, we need able-bodied adults to volunteer 45 minutes of their time from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. to ride the church bus as they pick up children from Sam Houston and Foothills schools. Sign up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B084DAFAB2BABFA7-20182019

We also need drivers to transport 1 to 2 children from their schools to the church on Wednesday afternoons for the PEAK and Cloud 9 programs.

If you are able to provide a snack for the kids on Wednesday afternoons starting August 29, sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084dafab2babfa7-snacks.

The Children's Committee is seeking interested adults to volunteer for one Sunday School hour with an elementary class (K-1, 2nd-3rd. and 4th-5th) for the 2018-2019 year. You can sign up as an individual or with a friend. An in-depth knowledge of the Bible or issues of faith are not required. Curriculum is provided.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or have questions about the children's programs at New Prov, please contact Fairlena Googe, Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator (children@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182, x119).

Fairlena Googe

FOOD DRIVE

The Community Food Connection is having a food drive on August 3-5 at the Alcoa Kroger. There will be a sign up table in the Atrium Sunday, July 29, or log onto the CFC web site (cfcblount.org), click on the sign up logo just and sign up for your preferred activity and time. Contact Bob Haralson (bobharalson@icloud.com, 738-3347) for info.

Bob Haralson

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

If I ever get a tattoo (pretty unlikely at my age) it will read simply "Proverbs 16:31". For those who do not wish to look it up it says, "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life."

But there is another passage that is particularly meaningful for me right now, and that is Ecclesiastes

3:1-8. You'll remember that it's the one that begins, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . ."

For me, this will be the season of saying farewell to New Providence and soon to Maryville. I have decided to bring to a close thirty-five years of active ministry, almost half of them in this congregation, to retire from service in the Presbyterian Church (USA). My last day at New Providence will be November 11, and I'm grateful that it's a Sunday so I will have the privilege of seeing you all one more time.

This decision has been a long time in the making and arrives after much deliberation and prayer. I can truthfully say that it has been an easy decision and a most difficult one. I am grieved as the prospect of leaving this vibrant church and this wonderful community, and excited about the adventure of life after "Reverend". I truly feel privileged and blessed to have served here for the last sixteen years, and bittersweetly sad that it must end.

I have attended all of the Board of Pensions retirement seminars, read all the pertinent literature from the denomination, feel fairly secure about the financial preparations we have made, and have filled and filed the requisite paperwork (though more keeps popping up every time I turn around).

Still, there is no way I can be totally prepared at this time for such a radical change in identity. I have been defined personally and professionally for a long, long time as a pastor, and I imagine there will be some shaky moments ahead as the new reality sinks in.

So, you and I have similar work and growing to do in the near future. I pray that neither of us see the challenges ahead simply as problems to be solved, but as opportunities to be explored. There are new ministries to be undertaken, and because I will be relocating to Nashville, a new

community to learn about and appreciate.

Just as I arrived at New Providence in 2002 the results

of a congregational study done in partnership with the Alban Institute were delivered. A thread that ran through almost all of the comments and input of members then was along the lines of, "Because I am part of New Providence I am a different, better person than I was a year ago. And I am confident I will be an even more improved person a year from now than I am today."

I hope all of us carry that mindset into whatever future God has in store for us. And I hope that in a moment yet to be realized, Lynne and I will return to be part of this blessed outpost of the body of Christ once more. Until then, be good to yourselves and to all those who love you, and even to those who don't. And every day strive to do nothing that costs you nothing.

Steve Musick

FROM THE PASTOR

At Christmastime a few years ago, I happened upon a store in Black Mountain, NC; it had racks and racks of funny bumper stickers that became my Christmas gifts for the New Providence staff. Most of them struck a chord with each of my colleagues' special interests. Steve's is still posted on his office door: "I may be old, but at least I got to see all the cool bands." For a long time, he kept a running list next to it, chronicling all the great concerts he had attended in his (younger) life.

I can't remember if David Bowie was one of those, but his is certainly one of the signature voices of Steve's and my generation (although you need to know that Steve is MUCH older than I – ha!)

But the David Bowie song that always runs through my mind is "Changes" – "Ch-ch-ch-changes / Turn and face the strange."

I wasn't looking for theme music for the next season of our life together at New Prov, but it will be strange for me to not have Steve on the other side of the office wall. We have worked together for 16 of the 19 years that I have been here. Despite a handful of times when we have disagreed, we have very much in common, and we have forged a strong working relationship over the years. I will miss Steve and Lynne, but I am grateful for this season of life that we have shared together.

But I am also pleased for Steve that not only are there new adventures ahead, most especially, he will have the opportunity for well-deserved rest after 35 years of dedicated ministry – not to mention the fact that he and Lynne will be living in the same city for the first time in several years!

As for us here at New Providence, let me tell you what lies ahead. At its July meeting, the session appointed an interim search committee of Barbara Hall, Andrew Irvine and Jeff Pezick. That small group will work with Judd Shaw (our General Presbyter) and me to identify and recommend to the session an interim associate pastor to come in as soon as possible after Steve's departure to insure that the ministries he is resourcing will continue.

Meanwhile, the Nominating Committee, which is already developing a slate of officers for the coming year, will also be charged with nominating a search committee (we call that an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, or APNC). That APNC will begin work this winter to discern the job description and type of candidate we would like to have serve at NPPC.

All of that dovetails nicely with the visioning work in which we have been engaged this summer. Thanks to all of you who have attended a listening session already. Those gatherings are critical to our discernment of where God is calling us in the next 3-5 years. If you have not already attended or signed up, there are several more ahead, or if we need to add additional sessions, we will certainly do that.

The information gleaned from those listening sessions will be condensed and categorized, and on November 3-4, church leaders will have a weekend retreat with Rev. Dr. Laurie Ferguson. Laurie will lead us through a process to distill that information into a working plan. Those details will focus our staffing and budgeting beginning in the summer of 2019.

That's all to say that plans are being laid for the road ahead. Significant among those will be our discernment process for the future, and celebrations of Steve's ministry. If you have interest in being a part of either of those, please let me know.

As always, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for this congregation and its commitment to the work of God's kingdom.

It is a joy to be the church with you!



Emily J. Anderson

A GREAT BIG GUATEMALA TEAM THANK YOU!

The Guatemala Mission Team invites you to join us at Vienna Coffee House on Sunday, August 5, from 2:30-4:00 where we will share our experiences from our travel adventure. We're excited for you to learn about all the great things happening at Porch de Salomon - many we didn't know about until we went. It's an amazing mission that NPPC is so lucky to be part of.

And to thank you, the congregation, for your support, coffee and dessert are on us! We hope to see you there!

Ashley Watkins

ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK LUNCH

On Sunday, August 26, there will be a potluck lunch before the annual meeting. The Congregational Life/Deacons Ministry Team will provide the meat and everyone else is asked to bring side dishes, salads and desserts.

Margaret Ellen Crawford

WHAT DID YOU DO OVER SUMMER VACATION?

Hello New Providence Presbyterian!

It's us, your youth group (and coterie of adults and committee members)!

We wanted to take a few moments to tell you a bit about where we've been this summer and where we're headed next as we roll into the fall together.

Where we've been:

This summer your student ministry has been hard at work learning, eating, swimming, and serving our community here in Blount County (and East Tennessee). Thanks to our gracious partners at Knox Area Rescue Ministries, New Hope Child Advocacy Center, Family Promise of Blount County, and Second Harvest Food Bank, our students have put in roughly 12 hours of service learning. A unifying theme for these summer excursions has been rooted in finding new ways to better understand not only the effects of poverty and homelessness on our community, but also the ways that people of faith can effectively partner with existing service agencies (and other people of goodwill) to create a network of resources and connections for the most under-served folks among us. This work (of course) seeks to compliment that of our global team who served the under-served native population of Panajachel, Guatemala in June through our ongoing partnership with the team at Porch de Solomon. Our students have been busy, take a few moments if you see them to find out more!

Where we're going:

This fall we look forward with anticipation to the relaunch of our Sunday evening student programming where we'll play together, eat together, and unpack Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and what it means for those of us interested in practicing Christianity (as opposed to just believing it to be a good idea). In addition to these Sunday evening experiences, you can expect to see more service learning experiences rooted in an exploration of institutional racism (which dovetails nicely with our Church Field Trip to our sister congregation St. Paul AME Zion

down the street), the restart of a 9-10th grade confirmation class, our junior high retreat, and the firing up of our annual Christmas traditions as a New Providence youth ministry family.

Whew! We've covered a lot of ground together, and if reading through our update has stirred something in you, don't hesitate to contact me (eric@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182 x 109) to find ways you can join our emerging work together as an intergenerational community committed to the justice-minded values inherent in our shared life together here at New Providence!

Eric Minton

BARTLETT BUZZ

Bartlett Adult Day Out is in need of volunteers. We have lost a key volunteer and have several out with health issues. If you are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. and would like to work with a great group of adults, please contact Trish (983-0182 x106, trish@newprovidencepres.org) to schedule a visit. We could use your help!

If you have a talent or hobby to share, we would love for you to visit with us. Contact Trish (983-0182 x106, trish@newprovidencepres.org) to set up a time!

Trish Badgett, Parish Nurse

WELCOME TABLE

Welcome Table, our ministry to feed the physically and spiritually hungry in Blount County, needs the following workers on Tuesday afternoon: Platers for the second and/or fourth weeks from 4:15 to 6:00 p.m., servers for any week from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., scrapers for the first week from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., a sweeper/mopper/tea and coffee urn cleaner for the first week from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. If you can volunteer, contact Kathy Neisser 540-604-4363 or kathygn@msn.com. Thank you for helping us serve our community!!

Kathy Neisser

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01 MCS First Day of School 8:30a Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00p Prayer Meeting (W202) 4:00p Keep Blount Beautiful 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 5:30p Meditation Mindfulness Community (Parlor) 6:00p Tai Chi Class (FEH)	02 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 9:00a Quilters (FWH) 5:30p Public Theology (Off Campus) 6:00p Morton Visioning Session (Parlor)	03	04 2:00p Arline Teal Memorial Service (Sanctuary) 3:00p Arline Teal Receiving of Friends (Atrium)
05 Promotion Sunday Teacher Commissioning 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Church School 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 2:30p Great Big Guat Thank You (Off Campus) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	06 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 8:00a CBS Sorting (WH) 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 6:30p BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (FWH)	07 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00a Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45p Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH) 5:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:30p New Prov Green Team (W202) 6:00p Men's Lead Team (109) 6:30p Bereavement/Nurture/TLC Committee (219) 6:30p Event Support Committee (215) 6:30p Fellowship Committee (213) 6:30p Transportation Committee (206) 6:30p Connections Committee (REH) 6:30p Facilities Committee (Parlor) 7:00p Budget & Finance Committee (108) 7:00p Policy Committee (W201) 7:00p Stewardship Committee (109) 7:15p Congregational Life/Deacons (206) 8:00p Admin Team (Chapel)	08 7:30a Men's Witnessing Square (W201) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00p Tai Chi Class (FEH)	09 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 9:00a Quilters (FWH) 10:00a D & S Community Services Training (FEH)	10	11
12 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Elder Friend Orientation (Chapel) 10:00a Church School 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Children's Workers CPR Training (W201) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	13 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 8:00a CBS Sorting (WH) 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 10:00a Maryville Babywearers (206) 6:30p BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (FWH)	14 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:30a Community Food Connection Board (Chapel) 10:00a Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45p Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH) 6:30p Leadership Development Committee (206) 6:30p Youth Committee (W201) 6:30p Children's Committee (215) 6:30p Adult Ed Committee (108) 6:30p Worship & Arts Team (Choir Room) 7:00p Church in the World (Chapel) 7:30p Discipleship & Education (216)	15 8:30a Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00p Prayer Meeting (W202) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 5:50p Meditation Mindfulness Community (Parlor) 6:00p Tai Chi Class (FEH)	16 9:00a Quilters (FWH) 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 10:00a PWC Coordinating Team Meeting (Chapel) 12:00p PWC Fall Gathering (RWH) 5:30p Public Theology (Off Campus)	17	18 Presbytery Meeting (Off Campus)
19 Money for Mana 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Confirmation Class Breakfast (WH) 10:00a Church School 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	20 New Prov Press Deadline 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 8:00a CBS Sorting (WH) 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 6:30p BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (FWH)	21 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00a Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45p Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH) 7:00p Session (Chapel)	22 7:30a Men's Witnessing Square (W201) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 11:00a Home School Science Class (W202) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00p NAMI (206) 6:00p Tai Chi Class (FEH)	23 8:00a CBS Setup (RWH) 9:00a Home School Economics Class (W201) 9:00a Quilters (FWH) 7:00p Budget Forum (EH)	24 8:30a CBS (WH)	25
26 Annual Meeting Communion 9:00a Church School 10:00a Fellowship Time (Atrium) 10:30a Combined Worship 11:30a Annual Meeting and Luncheon 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	27 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 8:00a CBS Sorting (WH) 6:30p BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00p Women's Study Group (Off Campus) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (FWH)	28 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00a Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:00p New Prov Press Mailing (Chapel) 1:45p Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH) 5:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	29 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:00a PWC Bible Study Leaders (Chapel) 11:00a Home School Science Class (W202) 2:00p P.E.A.K. (bus) 3:00p Cloud 9 (217) 3:00p PEAK (WH) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00p Tai Chi Class (FEH) 7:00p Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	30 9:00a Quilters (FWH)	31	

RWH – Rear Westminster Hall

FWH – Front Westminster Hall

FEH – Front Eastminster Hall

REH – Rear Eastminster Hall

ACS/BCS/MCS – Blount County, Alcoa, and Maryville School Systems

STEPPING INTO LEADERSHIP

In the June/July *New Prov Press*, the Leadership Committee encouraged you to answer the call for participation as church officers and team leaders. Over the next few months, we will be presenting descriptions of the various NPPC teams that organize, create and encourage the missions of the church. As church officers you will have the opportunity to serve on one of these teams. This month we are describing the Discipleship and Education Team. Below are the various committees that fall under D&E.

- The Children's Committee currently chaired by Carolyn McAmis and staffed by Fairlena Googe may be the most fun! They organize Sunday school classes, oversee curriculum, support Wednesday afternoon programs, with the guidance of Leah Thomas, and plan Bible School. They are also the folks behind the Apple Tree ministry providing school supplies for those in need each school year.
- If you want to stay young, join the Youth Committee. Work with our interim youth and college age coordinator, Eric Minton, develop mission trips, both at home and abroad, oversee a strong curriculum and catch up on the lives of today's teens. It is not that scary! Tracy Luttrell is the current chair.
- The Adult Education Committee works on ways to keep the adults in our congregation growing in understanding along their faith journeys. They plan programs, support teachers and explore curriculum. Programs occur on almost every day of the week and at different times of the day. Carrie Eaton is chair of this committee.
- The Leadership Committee organizes the training of church officers and promotes involvement and leadership chances for all NPPC members. The contact person is Dan Young.
- Finally D&E includes the Resource Center Committee. Volunteers maintain the rich collection of our library and organize curriculum

resources and our amazing archives. Contact Cynthia Freeman for more information.

- The team chair is Renee Nasrollahi (reeneasro@aol.com or text/call 865-385-1418).

If you answer the call to be an officer of New Providence Presbyterian Church, this is one of the teams that could use your gifts.

Cynthia Freeman

THE DIVINE FEMININE

Greetings to the women of our New Prov community. I am excited to share the latest news and events regarding the Women's Study Group.

Sherry Brewer will be our special guest at the August 27 Kick-off! Among her many other accomplishments, Sherry completed a Master's degree at Vanderbilt Divinity School with an emphasis in her studies on Religion, Gender and Sexuality. She will introduce our Fall focus topic of the divine feminine before we begin reading *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter: A Woman's Journey from Christian Tradition to the Sacred Feminine* by Sue Monk Kidd.

I'm thrilled beyond words that Sherry is able to join us! I've asked her to introduce the topic, provide some history as it relates specifically to the PC(USA) and the church generally, and to share some relevant personal experiences.

Our kick-off date is set for Monday, August 27, 7:00 p.m. We will gather in my home located at 2027 Cochran Rd., Maryville, 37803. Our discussions are thoughtful and lively and we welcome and value all women of all ages. Your friends, of course, are always our special guests! If you would like further information, please contact me at reeneasro@aol.com or text to 865-385-1418.

I look forward to welcoming you!

Renee Nasrollahi

COMMUNION

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during a combined service of worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 26.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Weston, August 7, and Hugh Barnett, August 14, are two of our "Taking the Love of Christ" (TLC) members who have birthdays in August. Shower them with birthday cards to remind them that they are special!

Donnae Farley

ANNUAL MEETING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Session has called a congregational meeting for August 26, 2018. The morning schedule will be as follows. Sunday school will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by time for coffee and fellowship from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. There will be one service at 10:30 in the sanctuary and then lunch and the annual meeting around tables in Westminster Hall.

The Congregational Life/Deacons Ministry Team will provide the meat for the potluck lunch and everyone else is asked to bring side dishes, salads and desserts.

The budget and Annual Report will be available to the congregation on August 19th for review.

BUDGET FORUM PLANNED

The Budget & Finance Committee will host a gathering August 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in Eastminster Hall to answer any detailed questions regarding the budget. A representative from each ministry team will also be available.

Coco Everett

NEW PROV U AND LIFE BEGINNERS

New Prov U is an opportunity for the congregation, especially those 55 and older, to find enrichment opportunities from a variety of presentations.

Life Beginners is a group of retired folks that travel to local places of interest and share a meal while on the road.

New Prov U will be on hiatus until October 2018. Life Beginners will be on hiatus until Stephanie Bell's broken wrist heals. We hope for a quick recovery!

HEALTH TIPS

FIVE WAYS CONGREGATIONS CAN SUPPORT CAREGIVERS

1. Provide transportation for the care receiver to Bible studies or other groups that provide important social contact so that the caregiver can have some personal time at home.
2. Drop off complete meals that meet the dietary needs and preferences of both caregiver and care receiver. This is helpful not only in time of acute illness or hospitalization but from time to time simply to relieve some pressure.
3. Continue to include both caregiver and care receiver in congregational events by anticipating and accommodating needs.
4. Telephone to check in at a time when the call does not have to be rushed. Listen more than anything else. Offer to pray for the circumstances right then on the phone.
5. Rather than saying, "Let me know if I can do something," ask, "Would it be alright if I..." and make a specific offer of help - taking children for a special outing, making a run to the grocery store or another idea appropriate to the circumstances.

Check out Church Health Reader for more information.

Trish Badgett, Parish Nurse

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED

An annual meeting of the congregation of New Providence Presbyterian Church is hereby called to be held on August 26, at 11:30 a.m. Annual reports will be distributed. Copies of the report will be available on Sunday, August 19. The narrative budget will be reviewed. Changes in the terms of call for the Pastor/Head of Staff and Associate Pastor, and in November a dissolution of the pastoral relationship for Rev. J. Steven Musick, Associate Pastor will be presented for approval by the congregation. Called by the order of Session on July 17, 2018.

Beth Lazar, Clerk of Session
Rev. Dr. Emily Anderson, Moderator

GIVE PLASTIC A PASS

Have you noticed all the environmental buzz about plastics lately? Awareness of plastic pollution jumped significantly following the search for the doomed Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in the Indian Ocean, when people world-wide were made aware of what became known as the oceans' "garbage patches," enormous collections of floating plastic debris accumulated by currents, to the tune of 9 million tons per year. The problem of plastic pollution continues to worsen: the world has produced more plastic in the last 10 years than in all of the previous century, and almost 50% of plastic is used once and then discarded. Disposable plastic drink bottles are sold at a rate of almost a million a minute, and the world goes through billions of plastic straws and a trillion plastic bags every year. Packaging materials account for almost half of all plastics made today, and most of that goes to the landfill. When you consider that less than 20% of the world's plastic is recycled (in the US it's less than 10%), and that plastic will persist in the environment for at least 450 years, it becomes obvious that we need to do something. So, some suggestions:

- Break the habit of buying disposable bottles of water. We're fortunate to have clean drinking water from the tap in Blount County, so fill those reusable bottles.
- Forego the straw at the self-service counter, and ask your server not to bring one to the table at restaurants. If you need to use them, consider using reusable glass or metal ones (some places are starting to use straws made from paper, bamboo, or... straw!)
- Bring reusable bags to any store at which you shop!
- When shopping, look for products with less packaging, such as bulk produce.

Once you've made these changes in your personal and home life, carry it to your office or place of business, and encourage others to follow your example. Everyone working together on this can really make a difference, and all of Creation will benefit.

Ginny Ayers

SESSION SUMMARY

The Session met on July 17, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. and approved the following:

- Received Carolyn Mears as a new member
- Approval of 2018-2019 Calendar
- Approved a motion to add language to the call of the congregational meeting on August 26, 2018 to add the dissolution of the pastoral relationship for Steve at the end of November 2018.
- Approved a motion to designate the following Interim search committee: Jeff Pezick, Andrew Irvine, Barbara Hall.
- A motion was approved to move money from the Hobbs trust back to the foundation to cover the cost of the roof repairs two years ago. The committee also asked to rename the following accounts:
 - 31231 – rename to Bartlett Estate Parish Nurse Income
 - 31300 – rename to Hobbs Estate Facilities Income
- A motion was approved to move ending net income surplus into the general fund, removing the deficit from the previous year.
- The budget was approved unanimously as presented.

Beth Lazar, Clerk of Session

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST

- 8/5: 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a, Psalm 51:1–12, Ephesians 4:1–16, John 6:24–35
- 8/12: 2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25–5:2, John 6:35, 41–51
- 8/19: 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15–20, John 6:51–58
- 8/26: 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10–11) 22–30, 41–43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10–20, John 6:56–69

TENDING OUR FLOCK

WE SHARE JOY!

- From Robbie Britt's Facebook page: "Well we know she doesn't take after me since I'm always late BUT our sweet girl decided to come grace us with her presence 5 weeks early yesterday afternoon. Everyone says how little but strong she is. She is an absolute blessing and this momma and daddy are already so wrapped around her tiny fingers. At 4.8 lbs and 18 inches long, welcome Ellie Taylor Britt to the Britt Team!" Ellie Taylor was born on July 23, 2018. Congratulations to grandparents, Rob & Liz Britt!

WE SHARE SORROW

- George Kyle, Laura Sell's father- 7/19
- Nancy Morris- 7/18
- Ginger LaRose - 7/15
- Don Walker - 7/1
- A.B. Goddard, Bill Morton's uncle- 6/25
- Howard Beckwith - 6/22
- David Craig, Doug Craig's brother- 6/22
- Nahn Laughmiller - 6/12
- Grayce Goertz - 6/1
- Don Johnson - 5/15

Have a new baby? Dad in the hospital? Someone graduate? Your church family would love to share your joys and your sorrows. Contact Coco (coco@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182, x102) to share your news.

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SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR AUGUST

FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
5	Bill Savell, Hayley Lynn, Bryan Kilday	Tom Raines*, Peggy Raines, Sally Daley, Terry & Judy Woods	Ashley Watkins
12	Gabie Kerr, Chad Rogers, Bobbie Briggs	Judy Woods*, Connie & Jack Jackson, Ron & DeAnne Gibbs	Ashley Watkins
19	Jenifer Greene, Bill Yarborough, Maxey Long	Chrissy Irvine*, Will Irvine, Jamie Irvine, Vandy Kemp, Bobbie Briggs	Ashley Watkins
26	Laura Shamiyeh, Nick Bradford, Ayak Cinkoc	Jenn Hardy*, Claude Hardy, Roy & Ruth Fox, Martha Cobb	Vandy Kemp

TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
5	Tracy Luttrell, Bryan Kilday, Michelle Huntoon	Jason Brooks*, Ann Spencer, Lynne Musick, Phil Mummert, Susan Young	Ashley Watkins
12	Tyler Johnson, Mike Teffeteller	Karen* & Ken Paxton*, Bud Gangwer, Barbara Hall, Jeanne Ezell	Ashley Watkins
19	Jane Morton, Andrew Irvine, Bobbie Briggs	Bill Morton*, Jane Morton, Tom & Eva Carpenter, Mot Krick	Ashley Watkins
26	Michelle Huntoon, Bill Yarborough, Jenifer Greene	Stephanie Bell*, Dennis & Ann Cherry, Jack Bell, Jeff Pezick	Vandy Kemp

* Head Usher

MINISTERS & SUPPORT

The Reverend Doctor Emily J. Anderson	PASTOR
The Reverend J. Steven Musick	ASSOCIATE PASTOR
The Reverend Doctor Stan Rushing	PARISH ASSOCIATE
Rob Britt	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Peggy Rogers	ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF HANDBELLS
Brian Hampton	INTERIM FIRSTLIGHT COORDINATOR
Cindy Sugg	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC
Eric Minton	INTERIM YOUTH & COLLEGE AGE COORDINATOR
Fairlena Googe	INTERIM CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR
Leah Thomas	INTERIM CHILDREN'S FACILITATOR
Trish Badgett	PARISH NURSE
Amelia Geis-Scott	WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR
Ray Bryant	FACILITIES MANAGER
Penny Bever	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Coco Everett	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Ashley James	INFORMATION COORDINATOR



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WHAT'S INSIDE

A Great Big Guatemala Team Thank You!	3
Annual Meeting and Worship Schedule	5
Annual Meeting Potluck Lunch	3
August Birthdays	5
Bartlett Buzz	3
Budget Forum Planned	5
Commissioning Educational Leaders	1
Communion	5
Congregational Meeting Called	6
Donate Now	7
Food Drive	1
From the Associate Pastor	2
From the Pastor	2
Give Plastic a Pass	6
Health Tips	6
Lectionary Readings For August	6
New Prov U And Life Beginners	5
Notable Service	1
PEAK and Cloud 9 Kick-Off	1
Promotion Sunday	1
Session Summary	6
Stepping Into Leadership	5
Sunday Morning Leadership For August	7
Tending our Flock	7
The Divine Feminine	5
Volunteers Needed For Children's Programs	1
Welcome Table	3
Welcome to Worship Classes	1
What Did You Do Over Summer Vacation?	3

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR AUGUST

- 5 Promotion Sunday
Teacher Commissioning
- 19 Money for Manna
- 20 New Prov Press Deadline
- 24 Community Benefit Sale
- 26 Annual Meeting and Lunch
Communion

