



New Providence

September 2019
Vol. 56 No. 9

Published monthly to keep friends and members
informed of news and coming events

www.newprovidencepres.org
(865) 983-0182

CALLING ALL YOUTH AND FAMILIES!

All youth and their families are invited to join us for Fall Family Night on Sunday, September 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Please bring soup or sandwiches to share for dinner. We hope to play games, have fun, and discuss the Summer 2020 Youth Trip!

Katy Chiles

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

September 6th will be another Parents' Night Out from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Westminster Hall. Bring the kids to the church and for a couple of hours and we will entertain and feed them while you have some time away. The cost is \$10 per child or \$25 for 3 or more children. Sign up in the Atrium between services on September 1, or contact Kathy Neisser (977-1390, kathygn@msn.com).

Kathy Neisser

WIDOW/WIDOWER GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A group designed to help those struggling with the death of a spouse (within the last year or two) will begin meeting on Wednesday mornings, September 4, 11, 18, 25, and October 16, 23 and 30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in room W201. Handouts and discussions which focus on issues experienced during the journey of grief will guide the participants toward healing, and their new normal. For more information, or to make a reservation contact Alice Mansmith (856-2570 [h], 599-8361 [c]).

Alice Mansmith

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you looking for a church home, or interested in finding out more about the New Providence Church family? Our Inquirers' class will start a new session on Sunday, September 8. Classes are in the Chapel on September 8, 15, and 29 at 10:00 a.m. The Inquirers' Class brunch will be September 22 at 10:00 a.m. in Westminster Hall. If you have questions, please contact Kristi Weatherbee (kristibee128@aol.com), leader of Connections team.

Kristi Weatherbee

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Did you know that in Tennessee more people die by suicide than in car accidents? (2016: 1110 vs. 1037). Most of us are unsure how to respond when faced with someone who is considering self-harm.

On September 15 at 2:00 p.m. in Eastminster Hall, Sarah Walsh from the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network will present "QPR Training." This program provides basic information about suicide prevention and a specific protocol to help you "Question, Persuade, & Refer" when someone you know is considering self-harm. This is a program for all adults and teens regardless of training or background.

Carrie Eaton

HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE PLANNED

As a part of our worship and Christian life God calls the church to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, caring for one another, sharing joys and sorrow, providing support in times of need and offering admonition,

forgiveness and reconciliation. While pastors have particular responsibilities in the ministry of pastoral care, all members are called to take part in the ministry by visiting the sick, supporting the weak, and comforting those who mourn.

Our *Book of Order* cites that services of wholeness and healing are one way of enacting the church's ministry of pastoral care. The service will include proclamation of the Word, focusing on the promise of abundant life in Christ. The central element in the service is prayer calling upon God's saving grace or giving thanks for healing received. Prayers maybe enacted through the laying on of hands and anointing with oil with full understanding that healing always comes as a gift from God, not as a product of human prayer. (W-5.0204)

All who are seeking healing and wholeness are invited to take part in this service on the evening of Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Gloria Mencer

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP KICKS OFF IN SEPTEMBER

Kick off your Fall by joining the Women's Study Group for a relaxed meet and greet, September 9, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Katie Duncan. Katie's home is in a beautiful Walland setting and you will be blessed just by being present! Mark your calendars now so you will be sure not to miss this event. For more information about the Women's Study Group you may contact Renée Nasrollahi (reeneenasro@aol.com or 865-385-1418).

Reneé Nasrollahi

FROM THE PASTOR

[I was asked to submit an article to Princeton Seminary's online magazine. Based on my experiences this summer, I thought you might be interested in what I wrote:]

There's always more than one right answer.

This past summer, I spent a week in the national parks of the Canadian Rockies. Days revolved around hiking and cameras; evenings were spent downloading, evaluating, and tweaking photographs. Without fail, each day the comment was made: "These pictures don't even begin to do it justice." And it's true. Even with the best equipment, there's no way to capture the grandeur of that magnificent corner of God's creation. You've had the same experience yourselves – at the beach, watching a sunset, or snapping a photo of a newborn.

A picture can't begin to reflect the reality. Nor should we expect it to. The digital image of a glacial lake at the end of a 5-mile hike will never be the lake or the hike itself. It's simply a reminder of that place and that experience. The camera phone snapshot of the exuberant child on the playground is no substitute for swooping her up in your arms. The photograph is merely an image that points to something better.

That's a lesson I hope I never forget. *The photograph is not the thing.* In preaching, the sermon is not the point. The glory of God is the point. As I continue to hone the craft, my prayer is that I will always point hearers to the reality of God's good news rather than my words, regardless of how well crafted they may be.

I fear sometimes that preachers get so caught up creating sermons to enthrall or engage or entertain that we fail to point to the Truth beyond the sermon, even (perhaps especially) when it's not easy to hear. The sermon is merely a vehicle to transport the faithful to God's deep and abiding good news. The sermon is not the point.

Secondly, the lens makes all the difference.

A photographer friend recently introduced me to the world of macro

photography, or ultra-intense close-ups. A macro lens requires the photographer to get within a few inches of the subject, determine the precise focal

distance, and shoot carefully without disturbing the scene. It

demands close attention, a steady hand and good knees. It should come with a warning: "not for the faint of heart!"

But the results are stunning. Macro photography is not easy, but what it produces is radically different from anything you could get with a standard or wide-angle or even zoom lens. The yellow flower on the hillside becomes a work of art all its own, flaunting its fibers and leaves and even the insects that inhabit it.

Macro lenses give me a view of the world I don't often see. But it's not always the view I need. Sometimes I need a wide angle to appreciate the bigger picture. Sometimes I need the telephoto perspective of one item surrounded by others. Sometimes I just need the standard view, so I can deal with everything in the frame around it.

No one of those viewpoints is better than any other. It's the same with preaching: There are a variety of lenses through which we approach every text. Sometimes I find myself zooming in on a single word, and its Greek or Hebrew roots. Other times I choose the wide-angle view to talk context. Sometimes I need the macro view of a certain preposition or turn of phrase. All are faithful approaches to any text. The lens makes all the difference.

Finally, there's always more than one right answer.

Dewitt Jones is a professional photographer best known for his work with National Geographic. But he also travels widely and speaks to businesses and organizations about the creative process. You may be familiar with one of his short films entitled "Everyday Creativity." In it, he relates the experience of an assignment to chronicle salmon fishing in Scotland. He set up for a stunning moment, just as dawn was beginning to infiltrate the day. He had what he thought was the perfect shot: the river and the light and

the boats. But at the very last minute, intuition said, "Turn around Dewitt, you're shooting the wrong way."

And standing in the same place, but simply turning around, he uncovered a truly magical image: a misty, sunlit backdrop of a fisher-person casting into a silent morning stream.

It was another right answer. There was more than one good photograph to be taken that day. There is always more than one right answer.

The same principle holds in preaching. I am (primarily) a lectionary preacher; in fact, I'm about to start my eighth full cycle. But even if I were not, I would always (as we all do) have passages I would return to again and again. It's human nature. In photography, I will always prefer close-up candid to wide-angle landscapes. In preaching, I will always choose Isaiah 58 over Psalm 23. But I have photographer and preacher friends who would choose otherwise. We all have our own preferences.

That means we won't all come to the same conclusion about every passage. Every sermon can be different, unique. There is always more than one right answer.

Anna Carter Florence, the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary, taught me to approach the biblical text asking not "what does this passage mean," but "what does this passage say?" Scripture doesn't have one always-and-forever meaning, but it will say something different to each of us because of our life experiences, training, and temperament.

So maybe the most faithful thing we can do in our preaching is to turn around, to view the text from a different perspective, to see the world a different way. Turn around, Emily – or Khayla or CK or Raj or Insook or Matt. Turn around and see what God has to show you in places and ways you might never have imagined. Turn around and see what God has in store for you.

Because the reality is better than anything we could ever imagine.

It is a joy to be the church with you!



Emily J. Anderson

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

O happy day! First, let me thank you all for the wonderful welcome you extended to both my wife and me. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of your kindness as we begin this new ministry together. The anticipation and excitement and joy that had been bubbling in our hearts, that always felt like it was just on the cusp of overflowing, has been equally matched by your own anticipation and excitement and joy for the beautiful ministry that will come in the following weeks, and months, and years. I could not imagine a better beginning than this moment, when the culmination of all of the processes, and energy, and time (and a big shout out to all of the wonderful people continuing to serve on the APNC; they are truly incredible) finally merged into me (and Elizabeth, in the coming months) being here; and also, to there being delicious banana pudding. It's enough to make a person want to live in this moment forever. If this moment were a mountain top, like the disciples in the story of Jesus' transfiguration, I would want to build a house here and stay. But as Emily's sermon title reminds us, Monday is coming, and the energy of today is already on the move.

So where will it go? It is my hope that all of the energy and excitement from this moment will multiply, as the new mercies of each morning provide us with new opportunities to serve and love and grow. I hope for new anticipation and expectations to form as we think and talk and dream about how the Spirit will move through this congregation and within the community. I hope that the transformational power of Christ's love will continue to nudge us forward, ever closer to the radical hospitality and genuine concern that Christ modeled for us.

In the coming weeks and months, I hope to be in conversation with each and every one of you. I am eager to hear your story, and what your hopes and dreams are for the future, both in your personal faith and for the larger church. I hope to be a resource and sounding board for you, as we explore

what "Monday" will bring. I hope to be present in the many mission programs already in place, learning from volunteers what makes these efforts so fruitful. I hope to be the embodiment of invitation, a blow-horn for the many opportunities to live out your faith, within the church and beyond its walls. I hope to be the most ardent advocate for the endless gifts and knowledge our youth have to share, as we endeavor together to find their own faith language and the ways in which their faith can sustain them through the hills and valleys of their lives.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Far and away, the best prize life can offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." This is the gift I now open, as I come to know the ministry of this church a little better. So drop by and see me; call me; send an email, or text, or good old fashioned letter; find me before or after worship, at any of our youth programs or outreach ministries; educate me on your worldview. I am ready to hear from you, to energize you, to plug you in to opportunities that will enliven and challenge you, to support you, in any way I can. I look forward to our relationship together, as Christ now binds our efforts together, that we make take the energy of today and multiple it as we move into tomorrow. I could not be more excited!

Grace and Peace, Loudon

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

The Community Benefit Sale volunteers collect donated items and reserve them for this Fall Antiques and Collectibles sale. These items bring a bigger selling price, in turn, providing more money for local non-profit agencies. For this sale we accept vintage furniture. If you have furniture, contact Donna Booher (384-7723) no less than two weeks prior to the sale.

Sale Dates

Thursday, September 26
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 27
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Donna Booher

ATTENTION PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!

The annual Middle School Retreat (grades 6-8) of the Presbytery of East Tennessee will be held September 20-22, 2019 at Camp John Knox located in Ten Mile, Tennessee.

Here's what you need to know!

- Register at <https://form.jotform.com/92237592661160> by Sunday, September 1.
 - Under "Church Leader/Organizer Email" list ashleycraigwatkins@gmail.com.
 - Under "Group Leader" please name Katy Chiles or Andy Luttrell. They will be the fearless chaperones for the trip.
- Bring your check for \$110 made out to NPPC with MS Retreat in the memo to the church office or Ashley Watkins by Sunday, September 1. NPPC will then pay as a group.
- The church bus will depart from the upper lot at a time TBD and transport the kids to Camp John Knox. They will grab dinner on the way so send a few bucks for your kiddo to eat, please. The agenda begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday night and concludes at 11:00 a.m. Sunday. Kids should arrive back to the NPPC upper lot around 2:00 p.m. (if not sooner). We'll text everyone when they get close.

For more detailed information, please check out <https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/middle-school-retreat-2019>. But register at the group link at the top!

No child who wishes to be attend will be left behind! Questions? Want info on a sponsorship? Want to sponsor a child? E-mail/call/text Ashley Watkins (ashleycraigwatkins@gmail.com, 456-0849).

Ashley Watkins

DEBORAH CIRCLE

On Thursday, September 8, at 12:00 p.m. the Deborah Circle will meet for a potluck lunch at Liz Blackburn's home (1521 Linda Ln.).

Liz Blackburn

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)	02 ACS, BCS, MCS Out Labor Day - Church Closed	03 7:30AM CBS Sorting (WH), 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00PM Welcome Table Prep (WH), 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 5:30PM New Prov Green Team (W202) 6:00PM Men's Lead Team (109) 6:30PM Connections Committee (REH) 6:30PM Facilities Committee (Parlor) 6:30PM Bereavement/Nurture/TLC Committee (219) 6:30PM Event Support Committee (215) 6:30PM Fellowship Committee (213) 6:30PM Transportation Committee (206) 7:00PM Personnel Committee (Chapel) 7:00PM Stewardship Committee (109) 7:00PM Budget & Finance Committee (108) 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 219 (FEH) 7:15PM Congregational Life/Deacons (206) 8:00PM Admin Team (Chapel)	04 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00PM Lectio Divina Group (109) 10:30AM Widow & Widower Support Group (W202) 2:00PM P.E.A.K. (bus) 3:00PM PEAK and Cloud 9 (206), (208), (217), (23), (RWH) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 4:15PM Homeschool Theatrical Production Class (W201) 5:30PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:50PM Meditation Mindfulness Community (Parlor) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (FEH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	05 10:00AM Martha Circle (Chapel) 10:00AM Ruth Circle (Parlor) 10:00AM Leah Circle (Shannondale) 2:00PM Deborah Circle (Off Campus) 7:00PM Mary Circle (Off Campus)	06 6:00PM Parents' Night Out (WH)	07
08 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 10:00AM Welcome to Worship (214) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30PM iGroup (W201), (WH) 5:30PM Youth Dinner and Games (WH) 6:30PM PYC (W201), (WH)	09 7:30AM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 7:30AM CBS Sorting (WH), 10:00AM Maryville Babywearers (206) 6:00PM Scouts-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30PM Scouts-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Tiger Cubs 7:00PM Scouts-Webelos 2 (RWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM Scouts-Webelo 1 (FEH) 7:00PM Women's Study Group	10 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:30AM Community Food Connection Board (Chapel) 2:00PM Daughters of the American Revolution (FEH) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 6:30PM Youth Committee (W201) 6:30PM Children's Committee (215) 6:30PM Adult Ed Committee (108) 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 219 (FEH) 7:00PM Church in the World (Chapel) 7:30PM Discipleship & Education (216)	11 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (W201 Front), (W201 Rear), (W201) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00AM Lectio Divina Group (109) 10:30AM Widow & Widower Support Group (W202) 2:00PM P.E.A.K. (bus) 3:00PM PEAK and Cloud 9 (206), (208), (217), (23), (RWH) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 4:15PM Homeschool Theatrical Production Class (W201) 5:30PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (FEH) 6:00PM NAMI Group 2 (206) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	12 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM D & S Community Services Training (FEH)	13	14 Cloud 9 Retreat 12:00PM Daughters of the American Revolution (FEH)
15 Cloud 9 Retreat 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 10:00AM Welcome to Worship (214) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00PM Suicide Awareness and Training (EH) 4:30PM iGroup (W201), (WH) 5:30PM Youth Dinner and Games (WH) 6:30PM PYC (W201), (WH)	16 New Prov Press Deadline 7:30AM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 7:30AM CBS Sorting (WH), 12:00PM PEO 6:00PM Knitting Group (109) 6:00PM Scouts-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30PM Scouts-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Tiger Cubs 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Webelos 2 (RWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Webelo 1 (FEH) 7:00PM Scouts-Bear Cubs (REH)	17 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 219 (FEH) 7:00PM Session (Chapel)	18 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (FEH), (REH) 10:00AM Lectio Divina Group (109) 10:30AM Widow & Widower Support Group (W202) 2:00PM P.E.A.K. (bus) 3:00PM PEAK and Cloud 9 (206), (208), (217), (23), (RWH) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 4:15PM Homeschool Theatrical Production Class (W201) 5:30PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:50PM Meditation Mindfulness Community (Parlor) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (FEH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	19 8:00AM Leadership Blount (108), (109), (206), (Chapel), (EH), (Parlor), (WH) 9:00AM Quilters (W201)	20 Middle School Retreat 10:00AM Life Beginners	21 Middle School Retreat
22 Generosity Sunday Middle School Retreat 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 10:00AM Inquirers' Class Brunch (FWH) 10:00AM Welcome to Worship (214) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (WH) 6:00PM Service of Healing and Wholeness (Sanctuary) 6:30PM PYC (W201), (WH)	23 7:30AM CBS Sorting (WH), 7:30AM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00PM Scouts-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30PM Scouts-Troop 88 Badge Review (FWH) 7:00PM Scouts-Tiger Cubs 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:00PM Scouts-Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM Scouts-Webelo 1 (FEH) 7:00PM Scouts-Webelos 2 (RWH)	24 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00PM New Prov Press Mailing (Chapel) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 7:00PM Scouts-Troop 219 (FEH)	25 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (W201 Front), (W201 Rear), (W201) 8:30AM Antiques & Collectible Setup (FEH) 9:00AM PWC Bible Study Leaders (Chapel) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00AM Lectio Divina Group (109) 10:30AM Widow & Widower Support Group (W202) 2:00PM Weavings (W201) 2:00PM P.E.A.K. (bus) 3:00PM PEAK and Cloud 9 (206), (208), (217), (23), (RWH) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 4:15PM Homeschool Theatrical Production Class (W201) 5:30PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00PM NAMI (W201) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (RWH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	26 7:30AM CBS Setup, (RWH) 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 1:00PM Antiques & Collectibles Sale (EH)	27 8:30AM CBS (WH), 8:30AM Antiques & Collectibles Sale (EH)	28 9:00AM Premier Martial Arts Graduation (WH) 1:00PM Blount County United Prayer Walk (WH)
29 Welcome to Worship 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 10:00AM Children and Youth 5th Sunday (FWH) 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00PM Climate Church - Climate World Series (WH)	30 ACS Fall Break 7:30AM CBS Sorting (WH), 7:30AM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00PM Knitting Group (109) 6:30PM Scouts-Troop 88 Badge Review (EH) 6:30PM Scouts-Pack Meeting (WH)					



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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

One of my less than spectacular habits of being a perpetual, chronic procrastinator has actually served me well today!! There's something about a hard deadline that can jumpstart a person to work. You see, this article you're reading is due to Coco on Monday... and as I sit to type, it's Sunday afternoon. No judging! I say that procrastination served me well because as I sit in front of the computer to compose this note, I'm full of joy; pure joy, excitement and anticipation.

This afternoon our congregation spent time together at our annual congregational meeting. Not only do I literally have a fullness about myself (lunch was amazing), I also have a fullness about our work together at NPPC. We unanimously voted to appoint Loudon Young, our new Associate Pastor for Emerging Generations and Mission. In his article on page 3, Loudon says, "It is my hope that all of the energy and excitement from this moment will multiply, as the new mercies of each morning provide us with new opportunities to serve and love and grow."

This blurb in the *New Prov Press* isn't just to bask in today's glow. I'll now bring it back (full circle), to its intentions, to discuss our upcoming Giving Campaign. On Sunday, September 22, each of us will have the opportunity to submit a pledge card indicating our giving intentions over the coming year. While tithe literally means one tenth of annual produce or earnings, I hope you take the time to consider what's behind the dollars and cents.

I'll close with a reminder that we are in the midst of a shift in our Stewardship cycle. Please see the image below for clarity.

Previous Cycle	Current Cycle
SPRING, Individuals pledge annual giving	FALL, Individuals pledge annual giving
Individual giving calendar July 1 - June 30	Individual giving calendar Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
Church's Fiscal year July 1 - June 30	Church's Fiscal year July 1 - June 30

Paula King

CLIMATE SERIES SCHEDULED

Is climate change real and if so, what can I do about it? If questions like these keep you up at night, plan now to attend when noted-author, award-winning activist and public theologian, Jim Antal, discusses his book *Climate Church, Climate World* on Sunday, September 29 from 2-3:30 p.m. in Westminster Hall. Antal speaks to the question - "why should people of faith engage the moral challenge of climate change, and how should we do it?"

Brought to you by the NPPC Green Team and Adult Education committee and several area churches and ministries, Antal's presentation is free and open to the public.

For those interested in a deeper delve into the book, NPPC will host an in-depth study of *Climate Church, Climate World* on Sundays, October 6 - November 3, 2019 at 2 p.m. in Eastminster Hall and open to the public as well. Invite your friends!

Emily Yarborough

ESTATE GIFT SPENDING

A two-sided metal shelter to protect the church van from the elements, darkening blinds to enhance audio-visual presentations in Westminster Hall, and an electronic controller to improve operation of the projectors in the sanctuary - these are among expenditures approved recently by the Session from the "undesignated estate gifts" fund. Other recommendations by a special Estate Gifts Task Group and adopted by the Session included adding \$25,000 to a van replacement fund in the New Providence Foundation and returning \$59,698 to the General Fund.

An undesignated gift is any donation, including both real and personal property and without stipulation, received by the church from the estate or trust of a decedent. As the Estate Gifts Fund grows, the Task Group can recommend disbursements for immediate needs of the church or mission support, transfer an amount to the General Fund or invest with the Foundation. Contact the church office for more information.

Bill White

LIFE BEGINNERS

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

This month, Life Beginners will meet on Friday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m. to go to Greystone Mansion, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and home of WATE-TV. The tour is not handicapped friendly, there are steps.

There will be a \$1 transportation fee. Lunch will be TBA and ordered off the menu. Contact *Stephanie Bell* (681-0493, stephaniebell47@gmail.com) to make your reservation.

Stephanie Bell

PUB(LIC) THEOLOGY

WHAT I WISH...

On the first Thursday of the month, a group of wanna-be theologians gather at the Public House on High Street for something we call Pub(lic) Theology. It's a free-wheeling discussion about current events, trends, personal experiences, and (most of all) how we respond to those as people of faith.

The group begins arriving anytime after 5:30 p.m., and discussion starts at 6:00 p.m. Each presenter will offer 15 or so minutes of introduction, and then open it up for conversation. We always finish by 7:00 p.m.

This year, Pub(lic) Theology has a slightly different structure: each month features a guest or two who will lead a discussion on "What I Wish _____ Knew about _____."

This month, Rev. Jerry Mantooth will be our guest addressing "What I Wish Presbyterians Knew about Baptists." Sound intriguing? Join us!

Emily Anderson

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Virginia Stanton (September 12) is our "Taking the Love of Christ" (TLC) member who has a birthday in September. Shower her with birthday cards to remind her that she is special!

Donnae Farley

THE WOUNDED HEALER

Of late, I have been thinking a lot about "healing." Not sure why, but being called by God to provide pastoral care to others as a vocation may be the clue. Not so unusual, but in the past several months it seems I have been touched by my own suffering as well as others: a stranger asking "how can I get rid of the demons that take over my life even though I want to be a Christian"; seeing young people's self-value being greatly disturbed based on not getting the number of "likes" they want from social media; observing young adults being shaken and their self-worth crushed because they did not get approval from friends, relatives or supervisors; seeing unresolved conflict among those figuratively in near and distant relationships; and finally being with many whose bodies and spirits are broken for numerous reasons. All of these individuals are suffering. And while this is something we all would like to skip, Billy Graham reminds us that "suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all." And while there are those in the medical profession (thanks be to God) who can give us liquid medicine and pills to treat any of these experiences; I also believe that there is an aspect of healing that can address our suffering in spiritual ways such as prayer, faith and walking with each other. In all of these instances, it is my prayer that God sends healing to those named and unnamed sufferings occurring all around us for such as time as now.

In my study on healing, I re-read *The Wounded Healer* by Henri Nouwen. This book presents thoughts on how to walk with someone who is suffering. It also offers the premise that you best serve others who are wounded when you recognize how your wounds can be helpful in effecting the suffering of others. Let me say that disclosure of your wounds is not necessary to provide care; what is necessary is to provide the compassion you gained from your wounds and suffering. Henri Nouwen (1932 – 1996) was a Dutch Catholic priest, seminary professor of psychology and spiritual theology, writer, and, most of all, a great lover of God and people. After almost two decades of teaching at Yale and Harvard he spent the rest

of his life serving as a pastor in an L'Arche community of the mentally handicapped near Toronto, Canada. The concept of the wounded healer originated with Carl Jung's usage of a mythological story where a centaur's wounds gave him medicinal knowledge and wisdom for healing. Jung applied this concept in teaching counselors on how to serve others. Whoever would have believed that our suffering could be of benefit to others? If this sounds biblical, it is. Isaiah prophesied in 53:5 saying, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

The book is a short read with four chapters and can be read in less than two hours without interruptions. Nouwen uses a number of conversations between two individuals to show how to minister to someone. What stood out to me was the importance of hospitality and personal concern. He believed that hospitality responds to the condition of loneliness and allows us to open our houses to lonely travelers searching for peace and a fresh drink that offers encouragement so that the traveler can continue their journey (biblical again). Hospitality in community becomes a healing community because wounds become openings for liberation and hope. I also enjoyed reading about personal concern. No one can help anyone without becoming involved, "Who can save a child from a burning house without taking a risk of being hurt by the flames? Who can listen to a story of loneliness and despair without taking the risk of experiencing similar pains in their own heart and perhaps losing some precious peace of mind? In short: Who can take away suffering without entering into it?" And lastly, at the end of the day what is most personal is often where we meet if we all were to share.

Finally, Nouwen offers a number of ideas that guide us as we support those who suffer. First of all you recognize the suffering in your own heart, and allow that to serve as a starting point in helping someone else. Any care you offer will not be perceived authentic unless it comes from the heart wounded by suffering and to this end the words

spoken become a source of healing. He also professes that behind the painful symptoms there is always something great to be seen – "the face of Christ in whose image we are shaped."

So as you and I walk with the wounded and the suffering, let us be encouraged to bring healing and hope from the source of our own wounds and suffering.

Be Encouraged, Gloria

HEALTH TIPS

10 SIGNS THAT IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP THE KEYS

It is a subject no one wants to bring up with a loved one... "Dad, you need to give up driving." As painful as this subject might be, it is necessary to discuss and execute for the safety of your loved one and other drivers. How can you tell if a driver may no longer have the skills needed behind the wheel? If someone shows one or more of the signs below, it's time to have a serious conversation with the driver and his or her doctor:

- Stops in traffic for no reason or ignores traffic signs
- Fails to signal or signals inappropriately
- Drifts into other lanes of traffic or drives on wrong side of street
- Becomes lost on a familiar route
- Parks inappropriately
- Has difficulty seeing pedestrians or other vehicles
- Has difficulty making turns or changing lanes
- Gets drowsy or falls asleep while driving
- Lacks good judgment
- Has minor accidents or near misses

For more information, check out JohnHopkinsHealthAlerts.com

Trish Badgett, Parish Nurse

PEACEMAKER TO SPEAK

Hear the Rev. Moon-Sook Lee speak at Highland Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, September 25. Appetizers will be served starting at 5:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 No Welcome to Worship
- 4 PEAK & Cloud 9
- 11 PEAK & Cloud 9
- 14-15 Cloud 9 Retreat @ John Knox
- 18 PEAK & Cloud 9
- 25 PEAK & Cloud 9
- 29 Children & Youth Fifth Sunday Gathering during Sunday school

PEAK & CLOUD 9

Even though PEAK and Cloud 9 started August 21, children can still join us. Register at <http://www.newprovidencepres.org/childregistration>.

If you would like to ride the church bus as we pick the kids up at school or provide a healthy snack for them when they get here, there are openings for volunteers. Our programming wouldn't be possible without your support.

TEAM UP TO TEACH!

The Children's Committee is looking for individuals interested in teaming up to teach the K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 grades Sunday school classes. You and a friend can teach together, or you can team up with a returning teacher to try it out. Contact Carolyn McAmis (jcmcamis2@gmail.com, 207-1525), or Fairlena Googe (children@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182 x119) for more information.

CHILDREN & YOUTH 5TH SUNDAY GATHERING

On September 29th, children K-5 will be joining the youth in Westminster Hall for a special gathering at 10:00 a.m. Everyone K-12 will have an opportunity to mix and learn more about each other with some special activities. Look for more information over the coming weeks.

For more information or to volunteer for any of these programs, contact Fairlena Googe (children@newprovidencepres.org; 865-983-0182, ext 119).

Fairlena Googe

WEDNESDAY LECTIONARY

The 4:00 p.m. Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study at Shannondale will resume on Wednesday, September 10. You'll study the lectionary for the coming week which is Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

Susan Reisinger

BARTLETT BUZZ

September is the month that we honor our volunteers at Bartlett Adult Day Out. Without them, our program would not exist, they are the life blood of Bartlett! They share their time and talents freely and make Bartlett the special program that it has become. Thanks to each one for their special gifts!

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

REUSABLE BAG PROGRAM

Did you know that the Tennessee River is one of the worst in the world for microplastics pollution? And that those tiny pieces of plastic essentially never go away entirely, and often end up in our food chain? In an effort to reduce one of the sources of this pollution, plastic grocery bags, the NPPC Green Team has started a reusable bag program! It's been reported that because of a glut of the reusable fabric bags in many households, they often end up in landfills, where they are not very biodegradable. If you have more reusable grocery bags than you can use, please bring them in and drop them off in Westminster Hall. Or if you need a bag (or several), please select from the assortment of bags you will find there. And to really get these bags out doing good in the community, we would ask those of you who volunteer at Welcome Table to encourage your guests to partake as well! The reusable bag station is located next to the recycling collection station, in the corner near the kitchen.

Ginny Ayers

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY

- September 1: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14
- September 8: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
- September 15: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
- September 22: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- September 29: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

TENDING OUR FLOCK

JOY

- Welcome to Quinn Mattox Johnson, daughter of Matt & Mattie Kidd Johnson and sister of Oliver, born August 14!

SORROW

- Fran Hall, Lisa Daley's mother, 8/4
- Terri Twyford, Jim & Kathryn's daughter-in-law, Atlanta, GA
- Carolyn Willy, Liz Hubbard's mother, 8/3
- Otis Ruis, 7/23

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.

DONATE NOW

Use this QR code or go to newprovidencepres.org/donate.



NEW PROV U

New Prov U is taking an indefinite hiatus.

CHURCH CLOSED

The church will be closed, Monday, September 2 for Labor Day.

SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.			
	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
1	Paula King, David Forster, Teal Willoughby	Tom Raines*, Peggy Raines, Sally Daley	Open
8	Claire Shamiyeh, Nick Bradford, Bobbie Briggs	Denise Vogado*, Paul Vogado, Terry & Judy Woods	Vandy Kemp
15	Carrie Eaton, Laura Shamiyeh, Bryce Luttrell	Lisa Steible*, Vandy Kemp, Bobbie Briggs, Dan Crawford, Glenn Gardner	Hayley Lynn
22	Nick Bradford, Andrew Irvine, Maxey Long	Connie Huffman*, Ruth Fox, Gary Wade, Mot Krick	Open
29	Mike Teffeteller, Teal Willoughby, Stephanie Bell	Judy Woods*, Terry Woods, Liz & Lee Huffaker	Hayley Lynn

TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.			
	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
1	Stephanie Bell, Fred Metz, Carrie Eaton	Jason Brooks*, Ann Spencer, Phil Mummert, Anne Van Pelt	Open
8	Kate Clabough, Jane Morton, Bobbie Briggs	Karen* & Ken Paxton*, Barbara Hall, Bud Gangwer, Jeanne Ezell	Vandy Kemp
15	John Pittenger, Beth Ragsdale-Smith, Nick Bradford	Bill Morton*, Jane Morton, Mot Krick, Tom & Eva Carpenter	Hayley Lynn
22	Tyler Johnson, Bill White, Claire Shamiyeh	Stephanie Bell*, David Stephens, Judy & Larry Ackley, Kristi Weatherbee	Open
29	Mike Teffeteller, Teal Willoughby, Stephanie Bell	Dan Cox*, Diane & Jeff Pezick, Sarah & Hardy DeYoung	Hayley Lynn

* Head Usher

MINISTERS & SUPPORT

The Reverend Doctor Emily J. Anderson PASTOR
 Louden A. Young ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR EMERGING
 GENERATIONS AND MISSION
 The Reverend Gloria Mencer INTERIM 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
 Fairlena Googe INTERIM CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR
 Trish Badgett PARISH NURSE
 Amelia Geis-Scott WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR
 Ray Bryant FACILITIES MANAGER
 Penny Bever BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
 Coco Everett MANAGER OF OFFICE OPERATIONS



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DATES TO REMEMBER FOR SEPTEMBER

2	Labor Day
6	Parents' Night Out
14-15	Cloud 9 Retreat
16	New Prov Press Deadline
20-22	Middle School Retreat
22	Giving Sunday
26	Antiques & Collectibles Sale
27	Community Benefit and Antiques & Collectibles Sales

