

BETTER TOGETHER...

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:20

This year's stewardship theme, "Better Together," reminds us that we are all needed to do the ministry we are called on to provide. We each bring something different and special to God's table. Without you, we are missing something. We are incomplete.

We've each been given gifts and together we can demonstrate that all things are possible with God. Our ministries including Welcome Table, LIFT, CBS, Good Neighbors, Family Promise, Open Gym, Scouts, the Bartlett Adult Day Out Program, Chancel Choir, Handbells, Sunday school, Worship (just to name a few), aren't possible without you.

We'll be sending some information concerning stewardship on April 7. Please prayerfully discuss your gifts of time, talents, and giving with your family. Parent's don't forget to include your children in your stewardship discussions!

On April 11, you'll receive your giving cards in the mail. Fill them out and bring them to church on Sunday, April 17 and we'll dedicate our gifts to God during both services of worship.

We really are better together!

Harry Herrman



A MERCY FOR ALL PEOPLE: ISLAM STUDY

During the month of April, the Adult Education Committee will sponsor a four-week series, "A Mercy for All People: Introducing Islam."

Dr. Philip Sherman, associate professor of religion at Maryville College will lead the study beginning on Sunday, April 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. in Eastminster Hall.

- 4/3: Life of Muhammad and Earliest Islam
- 4/10: Fundamentals of the Qur'an
- 4/17: The Five Pillars and Living a Muslim Life
- 4/24: Islam and the Modern World.

Contact *Melanie Rasnake* (983-0182, melanie@newprovidencepres.org).

Melanie Rasnake

CFC FOOD DRIVE

The Community Food Connection (CFC) is having a food drive on April 1, 2, and 3 at the East Maryville Food City on the Old Knoxville Highway. We need volunteers to hand out flyers at Food City, a few volunteers to help sort donated food at the CFC store and 2 volunteers each day to pick up food at Food City and transport it to the CFC store. As usual we have 2 hour shifts. Log onto the CFC web site (cfcblount.org), click on the "Volunteerspot" logo just below the picture and sign up for your preferred activity and time. Questions? Trouble signing up? Contact *Bob Haralson* (bobharalson@icloud.com, 738-3347).

Bob Haralason

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. New Hope Blount County Children's Advocacy Center's goal is to provide opportunities for families, individuals, and organizations/businesses to recognize this month and create awareness around the topic of abuse. New Hope is excited about this year's events and is grateful to the community partners that are joining us in this endeavor. We hope that you will join us in our effort!

- Friday, April 1st 5-8 p.m. *Hope to Harmony Kids Fair* at Camp Montvale (stay up to date on Facebook for changes to this free event due to weather)
- Tuesday, April 5th 7 p.m. *Hands Off: Healthy Boundaries in Blount County* at Vienna Coffeehouse (a panel discussion regarding abuse and trauma in Blount County)
- *Stewards of Children* (child sexual abuse seminars)
 - Thursday, April 7th 6-8 p.m. at Pellissippi Community College Blount County Campus in the West Chevrolet Auditorium
 - Tuesday, April 12th 6-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Maryville
 - Monday, April 25th 4-6 p.m. at Blount County Schools Central Office

For more information please call the New Hope office at 865-981-2000 or e-mail nwicker@blountkids.org.

Nicole Wicker

FROM THE PASTOR

Earlier this month, I posed a question on Facebook: "Quick! Without overthinking, tell me two (or more) things that are better together."

The hundred and eight answers I got confirmed that chocolate and peanut butter go with just about everything (including each other). There were a lot of predictable responses: peas and carrots, sun and sand, rod and reel, this and that, oil and vinegar, orange and white, apple pie and ice cream – plus liver and onions (from a former roommate who really did like it!).

I hadn't considered famous duos, but there were plenty of those: Simon and Garfunkel, Kirk and Spock, Hawkeye and BJ, Pooh and Piglet, Thing 1 and Thing 2. Several folks said "my husband/wife and I," "my granddaughters," "my child and I," and even Forrest and Jenny from "Forrest Gump."

A few made me laugh out loud: a college classmate said, "me and my reading glasses" while a mom of pre-teen children suggested, "kids in puberty and adult beverages (for the parents)." A former intern offered, "introverts and silence" (he knows me too well), and a neighbor claimed the win by proclaiming "bacon and ANYthing!"

But several of the answers invited me to stop and think: a seminary friend now in the Army Reserve after several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan says that for her, the most important pair is chaplain and chaplain assistant, especially in war time. I wouldn't want to be out there alone, either. Lee Hinson-Hasty is now on the national staff of the Presbyterian Church, but spent part of his childhood here at NPPC while his dad coached at Maryville College. When asked to name things that go together, he didn't hesitate before saying, "congregations and pastors." (I agree!) Another former member reminded me that riches and generosity should go hand in hand.

I certainly wasn't fishing for answers like that, but it confirms my hypothesis: there really is nothing in the universe that is not better off with something or someone else.

When it comes to New Providence,

I simply believe that we are better together as a congregation. Aristotle said, "the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts." Today, we call that "synergy" – [syn is the Greek prefix that means "with" – as in synagogue and synthesis. And erg obviously refers to work, or energy.] When we work with one another, we are so much better than any of us could be individually.



The NPPC Stewardship team has chosen that as our emphasis for our pledge drive this year because they understand that there's not

a one of us who can or should do this on our own. It takes something from everyone, no matter how large or how small. We really are better together.

What does that "something" look like? Let me offer an example: on the Saturday before Easter, I got a call from Judy Woods telling me that she'd been to the doctor and was contagious with a virus. Judy is the person who prepares the communion elements and sets them out on the communion table before each service, and we certainly didn't need to share her germs. She called me because she couldn't find anyone who'd done that before who was planning to be at the early service.

I assured her that it was no problem, and that the staff could easily take care of it, and not to worry a bit. "Really, how hard can this be?" I thought. Well, I wish you could have seen five members of the program staff running around like headless chickens on Sunday morning, trying to figure out what we were supposed to do and where the supplies were that we were supposed to use. In the end, I think it took the five of us three times as long as it takes Judy by herself. Every one of us has a part to play, whether front and center or behind the scenes, and no one of them is any more or less important than the rest.

But the same principle applies to our financial support. I hear some people say that they can't give as much as other members, and therefore their contributions don't mean much. To the contrary, every gift matters, and every dollar helps. Please don't diminish the importance of your participation in our life together.

That being said, there are some people who have the financial means to give generously, even a tithe of ten percent of income, perhaps even more. Another former roommate taught me how to do that years ago – and it's a standard I have chosen to keep for myself ever since. I believe in what we are doing at New Prov, and that's a way I can express my commitment to our life and ministry together. If you find yourself in a position to increase your giving, I hope you will prayerfully consider doing so.

Occasionally I have people ask me about our finances at NPPC, and why it seems so difficult to raise the monies we need to keep the church running as we hope. Let me assure you, we are not alone in that. Every congregation I know is faced with increased expenses and declining (pledge) revenues.

And I say to you what I say in response to that question: this is not a matter of runaway spending or misplaced priorities. Given the rate of inflation, our budget is exactly where it was (perhaps even a little less than it was) twenty years ago. The difference is that twenty years ago, people gave money to churches to support charitable organizations and educational institutions; now they are giving to those institutions directly. Church leaders across the country are all struggling with the same questions.

If I may, let me make one plea: if you plan to support NPPC financially in any way in the coming year, would you please fill out a pledge card to let us know that? Even if your plans are only to give \$50 or \$100 per month or per quarter, those gifts add up. It's difficult to create a budget while having to guess what people may or may not give. Please turn in an estimate of giving card to help the session in its planning process.

Chips and salsa, burger and fries, hammock and the beach, cream and sugar. They're all good answers. But when it comes to each one of us and NPPC? We are better together.

It is a joy to be the church with you!

Emily J. Anderson

DO CALL LIST

Yes, there is a Do Call List. And you could volunteer to be on it!

NPPC has a policy of providing grieving families of the church either a simple reception of cookies and beverage following the funeral or memorial service OR a meal for up to 25 people consisting of a chicken/meat casserole, salad and dessert.

This responsibility falls under the Board of Deacons and ultimately with the Bereavement Team of that board.

Due to the nature of the event, the organizing and work of this team is with "short notice." Therefore, the team is establishing a Do Call List. We are seeking people who would be willing to provide a batch of cookies (3-5 dozen small cookies) or part of a meal on a short notice. We see this working by members of the congregation volunteering to be on call one month of the year. You may or may not be needed but at the end of that month you are off the list for that year! (A little like jury duty...)

We know many people do not have enough hours in the day to be involved with the regularly scheduled groups of the church but a one time commitment might just work for you, so please give this some consideration.

Others members might just like the challenge of this type of commitment and have the time and interest to be of service to families when a reception or meal is so appreciated.

If the family of the deceased is close to you or a member of your group in the church and you would like to help, please make the team leader aware of this.

To be on the list, e-mail or call with your preferred month to Arlene Austin, Bereavement Team leader (clr.austin@att.net, 977-6329).

The Bereavement team is Arlene Austin, Judy Ackley, Kay Harrington, Sharon Meltzer, Cathy Turner, and Sue Ramsey.

Arlene Austin

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

BLOUNT BRIDGES

Thursday, April 7, Eastminster Hall, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Anyone who volunteers and works with the families in crisis in our community is invited to attend. Lunch, snacks and beverages are \$10 per person. Register on the NPPC website by clicking on the Blount Bridges Icon on the home page.

J30 COMMUNITY WORKDAY

Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities for all activity and age levels.

Stop by the J30 table in the Atrium on Sunday between services for more information and help with sign-up!

J30 COMMUNITY CLOSET

Many nonprofits have been able to help those in crisis with household and personal care items, linens, diapers and gas cards they have found in the closet! The Closet Tree will be in the Atrium through March 27. Stop by and pick up a tag with a needed item and return your purchased item by Sunday, April 3.

Contact *Chris Combs* (385-3892, 709knight@gmail.com) or members of the Church in the World Team!

Chris Combs

FINISHING STRONG!

Mark your calendars for April 3rd at 2 p.m. An informational meeting will be held in Westminster Hall to learn about how to prepare for the decisions that come near the end of life. This meeting is for all ages. Speakers will provide information and answers. A booklet will be available to fill out information about personal decisions, where to find legal documents, etc. which will be helpful to your family in the event of a death. Contact *Coco* (983-0182, coco@newprovidencepres.org) to request a printed booklet (\$3) which will be available at the meeting or for the free PDF copy of the booklet. This is a gift for you and those you love!

Susan Young

FISCAL YEAR ENDS SOON

The New Providence fiscal year ends June 30th, and our 2016-17 budget will begin on July 1st. Please make any remaining pledged donations to the 2015-16 budget prior to June 30th, or please notify Penny Bever, our Financial Coordinator, if you will be unable to meet your pledge, or if you would like to increase your pledge. This will help the Budget and Finance committee close the books on our previous year and finish planning for 2016-17.

*Andy Luttrell, Treasurer;
Shelby Middleton, Chair
Budget & Finance*

NEW PROV U

New Prov U is an opportunity for the congregation, especially those 55 and older, to find enrichment opportunities from a variety of presentations. As we continue our exploration of a variety of subjects, we turn our attention to sports.

Adam Alfrey, the speaker for April, is the Curator of Exhibitions and Operations Manager of the East Tennessee History Center, which is part of the Knoxville Library system. He has authored several books, been active with the Tennessee Museum Association and served on their Board of Directors. Adam is also a member, player and spokesperson for the Vintage Baseball Association of Tennessee. Baseball was founded in the 1850's. Over the years the rules, uniforms and equipment have changed. Adam will talk about the old days of baseball, show old equipment and talk about the changes that have occurred. He will update us on his vintage team, the Knoxville Holstons, the equipment they use, where they play and when. This is a great kickoff for the beginning of the Major League baseball season. The museum is a fun place to visit and also take your grandchildren to see what the sport was like 150 years ago.

Contact *Karen* (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) by noon on Friday, April 8, to make reservations for the 11:30 a.m. lunch or come for just the program at noon.

Cynthia Freeman

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01	02 2:00PM Pat Cloninger Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
03 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00PM Finishing Strong (WH - Rear) 2:00PM A Mercy for All People: Introducing Islam (FEH) 4:30PM iGroup (FWH) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	04 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA - Wolf Cubs (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FEH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 2 (208) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 1 (WH - Rear) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	05 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 6:30PM Congregational Life/Deacons (206) 6:30PM Event Support Committee (211) 6:30PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (REH) 7:00PM Budget & Finance (108) 7:00PM Stewardship Committee (109) 7:00PM Personnel Committee (Chapel) 7:00PM New Prov Green Team (Confirmation Room) 7:00PM Admin Team (Parlor) 7:00PM Policy Committee (Youth Room)	06 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:00PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 5:15PM Cloud 9 (217) 6:00PM Open Gym (WH) 6:00PM Men's Lead Team (109) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	07 8:00AM United Way Bridges Out of Poverty Training Session (EH) 10:00AM PWC Circles - Leah (Parlor) 10:00AM PWC Circles - Martha (Chapel) 10:00AM PWC Circle - Ruth (Youth Room) 2:00PM PWC Circle - Deborah 4:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211) 6:00PM Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206) 7:00PM PWC Circle - Mary (108)	08	09
10 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00PM A Mercy for All People: Introducing Islam (FEH) 4:30PM iGroup (FWH) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:00PM Journey to the Heartland Concert - MC Choir (Sanctuary) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	11 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA - Wolf Cubs (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FEH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 1 (WH - Rear) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 2 (208) 7:00PM Youth Committee (Youth Room) 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	12 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:30AM Community Food Connection Board (108) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 6:30PM Worship & Arts (Choir Room) 6:30PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (REH) 6:30PM Children's Committee (215) 6:30PM Leadership Development Committee (206) 6:30PM Adult Ed Committee (214) 7:00PM Church In the World (Chapel) 7:30PM Disc & Education (216)	13 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (Youth Room) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 11:30AM New Prov U (FWH) 3:00PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 6:00PM Open Gym (WH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	14 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM D & S Community Services Training Meeting (Chapel) 4:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211) 6:00PM BSA - District Committee (FEH) 6:00PM Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206) 7:00PM BSA-District Roundtable (REH)	15 10:00AM Life Beginners 5:00PM Brassler Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	16 8:00AM J316 Workday (EH) 5:00PM Brassler/Newman Wedding (Sanctuary)
17 Stewardship Dedication Money for Manna 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00PM Inquirers' Potluck Brunch (WH) 2:00PM A Mercy for All People: Introducing Islam (FEH) 4:30PM iGroup (FWH) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	18 <i>New Prov Press</i> Deadline 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA - Wolf Cubs (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FEH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 1 (WH - Rear) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 2 (208) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	19 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (REH) 7:00PM Session (Sanctuary)	20 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:00PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 5:15PM Cloud 9 (217) 6:00PM Open Gym (WH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	21 8:30AM CBS Set Up (WH - Rear) 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM PWC Coordinating Team (Chapel) 4:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211) 6:00PM Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206)	22 8:30AM Community Benefit Sale (FWH)	23
24 Confirmation Sunday 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 10:40AM Called Session Meeting (Parlor) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00PM A Mercy for All People: Introducing Islam (FEH) 4:30PM iGroup (FWH) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	25 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 8:00AM Headstart Spring Pictures (Youth Room) 6:30PM BSA - Pack Meeting (WH) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FEH) 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	26 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00PM <i>New Prov Press</i> Mailing (Chapel) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (REH)	27 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (Youth Room) 9:00AM PWC Bible Study Leaders (Chapel) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:00PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 6:00PM Open Gym (WH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	28 9:00AM Quilters 11:30AM Blount County CAA Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (WH) 4:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211) 6:00PM Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206)	29 8:00AM PWP Setup (Sanctuary)	30 8:00AM PWP Spiritual Retreat (Sanctuary)

RWH – Rear Westminster Hall

FWH – Front Westminster Hall

FEH – Eastminster Hall

REH – Front Eastminster Hall



INQUIRERS' CLASS PLANNED

Are you looking for a church home, or interested in finding out more about New Providence Church family? The Inquirer's class will start a new session on Sunday, April 3 during the Sunday School hour in the Chapel.

What is the Inquirer's Class? It is a 4-week program that provides a glimpse into programs and ministries of New Providence and what it means when we call ourselves Presbyterians.

Who is it for? Anyone who wishes to learn more about NPPC, whether you are a member or not. The topics include History of New Providence, Christian Heritage and order of Presbyterian worship, education and service ministries. At the end of the classes you will have the opportunity to formally join NPPC.

Dates of the classes are April 3, 10, 17 and 24. Questions? Contact Steve Musick (steve@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) or Kate Clabough (kateclabough@gmail.com, 256-2329).

Kate Clabough

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

On Monday, April 25th, the Women's Study Group will begin its last study before Summer break with a three-session series on John Philip Newell's, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*. You may remember hearing Newell's name: during her sabbatical last summer, Emily Anderson studied with him on the island of Iona.

Listening for the Heartbeat of God presents a spirituality for today, modeled on the vital characteristics of Celtic spirituality throughout the centuries. The emphasis is on the goodness of creation and of humanity made in the image of God.

The sessions will be held on April 25th, May 9th, and May 23rd, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the NPPC Parlor and this series is open to anyone who would like to attend - so men, this means you're invited too! Contact Emily Anderson (emily@newprovidencepres.org), or Melanie Rasnake (melanie@newprovidencepres.org) for info.

Melanie Rasnake

FEBRUARY MEETINGS IN APRIL?

On April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lambert Recital Hall, Jeanne Bishop, a criminal defense attorney, activist and author, will be the guest speaker for Maryville College's 2016 February Meetings. Bishop will give a presentation titled "Beyond Forgiveness: A Murder Victim's Family Member on Redemption, Reconciliation and Restoration." The event is free and open to the public, and a book signing will follow the presentation.

Bishop is the sister of Nancy Bishop Langert, who was murdered in 1990 along with her husband and their unborn baby. Since the murders of her family members, Bishop has been a passionate advocate of gun violence prevention, abolition of the death penalty, forgiveness and the role of victims in the criminal justice system.

Held annually at the College since 1877, February Meetings have offered the College and local community an opportunity to come together to consider questions of faith and responsible living in the world. For more information, contact Anne McKee (981-8299, anne.mckee@maryvillecollege.edu).

Chloe Kennedy

VBS REGISTRATION

Spend a while on the Nile! We're taking a journey back to ancient Egypt...without leaving our church! Find out what happened to Joseph as he went from Pharaoh's prison to the palace. You'll experience thrilling "real-life" dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

Our one-day adventure is set for Saturday, June 4. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., with Opening Assembly scheduled for 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Classes are for children ages 2 years through 5th grade.

Register today! If you would like to volunteer, go to newprovidencepres.org/vbs or contact Jaclyn Beeler (983-0182, jaclyn@newprovidencepres.org).

Jaclyn Beeler

WELCOME TABLE

Welcome Table needs set up people for the second Tuesday of the month from 12:30 p.m. to around 2 p.m. to help "dress" the tables before dinner service. If you are able to help, please contact Kathy Neisser (977-1390, kathygn@msn.com). Thank you for helping!

Kathy Neisser

PORCH DE SALOMON

Porch de Salomon had a very busy month in February, hosting two teams every week! Recent teams worked on construction of homes and provided medical and audiology clinics. Porch de Salomon's humanitarian relief leaders met with 80 indigenous village leaders in Solola. Their "mutual goal is to better reach the neediest of the materially-needy in ways that are village-friendly, sustainable, and culturally sensitive."

For additional information and updates on this ministry, see <http://porchdesalomon.org>.

Andrea Franks

HEALTH TIPS

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

When trying to decide how to deal with your stress, try the 4 A's-Avoid, Alter, Accept, or Adapt:

AVOID - Not all stress can be avoided, but if you can, try to eliminate some stressful situations.

ALTER - If you can't avoid a stressful situation, figure out what you can do to change things so the problem is avoided in the future.

ACCEPT - Some stressful things you just can't change or prevent, like the death or illness of a loved one, economic struggles, or getting into an accident.

ADAPT - You may need to change your behaviors to help you relieve or manage your stress.

For more information, check out www.chreader.org.

Trish Badgett, RN, Parish Nurse

LIFE BEGINNERS

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

On April 15, at 10:00 a.m., Life Beginners will meet at the church and go to lunch at the Wild Plum Tea Room on Glades Road in Gatlinburg. There will be a \$2 transportation fee payable the day of the trip. We will order off the menu at the tea room.

Make your reservations with Karen (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) by Thursday, April 14 at noon.

Stephanie Bell

LECTIONARY READINGS

- April 3: Acts 5:27–32, Psalm 118:14–29 or Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4–8, John 20:19–31
- April 10: Acts 9:1–6 [7–20], Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11–14, John 21:1–19
- April 17: Acts 9:36–43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9–17, John 10:22–30
- April 24: Acts 11:1–18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1–6, John 13:31–35

APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS

The Presbyterian Women's Circles will meet on Thursday, April 7, at the following times and places:

10:00 A.M. CIRCLES

- Leah - Cindy Hodges, Kittie Ponder (Parlor)
- Martha - Stephanie Bell (Chapel)
- Ruth - Brenda Craig, Patty Quinn (Youth Room)

2:00 P.M. CIRCLE

- Deborah - Liz Blackburn, Cathy Dickinson

7:00 P.M. CIRCLE

- Mary - Margaret Ellen Crawford, Sarah DeYoung (Rooms 108, 109)

LEAN ON ME

Mark your calendars for the May 1st *Lean on Me* benefit concert at Alcoa First United Methodist Church. *Lean on Me* is an ecumenical celebration of faith and life to benefit Good Neighbors of Blount County. For more information, visit www.goodneighborsbc.org or call 681-5420 for more information.

Lisa Blackwood

TENDING OUR FLOCK

WE SHARE SORROW

- Jane Mook, 3/4
- Louise Day, Karen Day's mother, 3/15
- Ernestine "Teeny" Parks Henson, Cindy Blackburn's mother, 3/16
- Roy Crawford, Sr., 3/20
- Jerry Coyle, Bartlett Participant, 3/20

HAVE FAMILY NEWS?

Have a new baby? Dad in the hospital? Someone graduate? Your church family would love to share your joys and your sorrows. Contact Karen (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) or anyone in the office.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Use this QR code or go to newprovidencepres.org/donate. From there, choose where you wish your funds to go, click on the donate now icon and follow the directions.



Coco Everett

SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR APRIL

FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
3	Beth Lazar, Harry Herrmann, Shelby Middleton	Liz Huffaker*, Peggy & Tom Raines, Paul & Denise Vogado	Bryce Luttrell
10	Chad Rogers, Bill Savell, Bill Schult	Margaret Kidd*, Connie & Jack Jackson, Judy & Terry Woods	Susan Keller
17	Chris Combs, Harry Herrmann, Gabie Kerr	Terri Carroll*, Jenifer & Walt Greene, Paula & Wes King	Jaclyn Beeler
24	Bryan Kilday, Beth Lazar, Hayley Lynn	Sue Clark*, Jenn & Claude Hardy, Ruth & Don Moore	Hayley Lynn

TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
3	Michelle Huntoon, Janet Kolarik, Brian LaRose	Jason Brooks*, Jane & Bill Morton, Susan Young, Gail Bowlin	Bryce Luttrell
10	Tracy Luttrell, Karen Paxton, Phil Reilly	Karen Paxton*, Ken Paxton, Jr., Bud Gangwer, Barbara Hall, Jeanne Ezell	Susan Keller
17	Bob Beard, Ann Bennett, Liz Britt	Brian LaRose*, Eva & Tom Carpenter, Diane & Jeff Pezick	Jaclyn Beeler
24	Jason Brooks, Michelle Huntoon, Janet Kolarik	Stephanie Bell*, Linda Brakebill, Ann Spencer, Mel Luttrell, Dale Freeman	Hayley Lynn

* Head Usher

A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ in us, Christ over us... That was St. Patrick's prayer for his beloved Ireland, and I pray that it may be true for us as well.

The NPPC session held a called meeting to discuss marriage equality. Their first act was to hear again and reaffirm unanimously the statement on unity that they issued last May. I believe it beautifully expresses the hopes and prayers we all hold for our congregation:

While these are uncharted waters for Presbyterians when it comes to this particular concern, it is not the first - nor will it be the last - time we differ on a significant matter. There are devoted and honorable Presbyterians who speak passionately on both sides of this difficult issue; as our Book of Order states, we believe "that there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty of both private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other." (F-3.0105)

Since last May, the session has spent many hours in prayer and discussion. Sunday school classes and study groups have engaged in thoughtful consideration of same-sex marriage, and a January sermon series and roundtable conversations invited all members to participate in dialogue.

The Book of Order has always been clear that the decision about whom to marry lies with the officiating pastors, operating within the bounds of conscience. But the session is asked to decide how church facilities will be used. Conscious of that responsibility, last night the session issued the following statement to clarify NPPC's practice:

New Providence Presbyterian Church has long affirmed that weddings conducted at the church are an extension of the worshiping life of this congregation. For that reason, ceremonies in our sanctuary have been and are limited to people who have a connection to NPPC: members, family

members or adherents. Our pastors serve as the primary officiants of those weddings, and provide premarital counseling and preparation to each of those couples.

In light of changes to Presbyterian polity regarding marriage, the New Providence session reaffirms its commitment to and support of its pastors in scheduling and conducting wedding services for all couples who show spiritual readiness for the covenant of Christian marriage, and reaffirms the use of NPPC facilities to conduct those ceremonies.

NPPC elders are well aware that not all will agree with this decision. But we also believe that mutual forbearance is the key to New Providence moving forward to share the good news of Jesus Christ - in words and in action - with our community and our world.

We are always eager to hear your thoughts. If you have questions or comments about this decision, please seek out one of us for conversation.

May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Emily Anderson, on behalf of the New Providence Presbyterian Church Session:

Bob Beard, Bill Schult, Chris Combs, Janet Kolarik, Phil Reilly, Shelby Middleton

Liz Britt, Karen Paxton, Ann Bennett, Beth Lazar, Brian LaRose, Harry Herrmann, Jason Brooks

Michelle Huntoon, Gabie Kerr, Bryan Kilday, Tracy Luttrell, Hayley Lynn, Chad Rogers, Bill Savell

Steve Musick, Associate Pastor;
Carrie Eaton, Clerk of Session

WE ARE AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION!

New Providence Presbyterian Church is Certified as a national PCUSA Earth Care Congregation!

New Providence Presbyterian Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s

Environmental Ministries through February 2017.

This honor speaks to the great commitment that New Providence Presbyterian Church has to caring for God's earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, this

congregation affirmed the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of its church life and completed projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

"It is exciting that New Providence Presbyterian Church is dedicated to intentional care of, and action for, God's earth. The congregation's activities and commitment will inspire others to answer God's call to care for the earth," says Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Earth Care Congregations program was started in 2010 by PC(USA) Environmental Ministries. The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program go to www.pcusa.org/earth-care-congregations.



MINISTERS & SUPPORT

The Reverend Doctor Emily J. Anderson PASTOR
 The Reverend J. Steven Musick ASSOCIATE PASTOR
 The Reverend Doctor Stan Rushing PARISH ASSOCIATE
 Melanie Rasnake DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
 Rob Britt DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
 Peggy Rogers ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF HANDBELLS
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 FIRSTLIGHT WORSHIP COORDINATOR
 Jaclyn Beeler CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR
 Cindy Sugg DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC
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 Ray Bryant FACILITIES MANAGER
 Penny Bever BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
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 Amelia Geis-Scott WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR



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- 3 Finishing Strong!
 A Mercy for All People: Introducing Islam Begins
 Inquirers' Classes Begin
- 7 Blount Bridges
- 13 New Prov U
- 17 Stewardship Dedication
- 18 *New Prov Press* Deadline
- 22 Community Benefit Sale
- 24 Confirmation Sunday
- 30 Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery at NPPC

