



New Prov Press

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informed of news and coming events

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(865) 983-0182

CANTATA SELECTIONS SET

One of the most beloved Advent happenings at New Providence is the Christmas Cantata. The Cantata, held Sunday, December 10, is presented by the Chancel Choir and the talented Peggy Rogers. All of these masterful musicians are kept in line by Rob Britt, Director of Music here at New Prov.

This year's Cantata will include Wesley's "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," Arnesen's "His Light in Us," Gjeilo's "O Magnum Mysterium," "Carol of Joy" by Dan Forrest as well as other hymns.

5:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service is great for families with young children. There is an opportunity for all children to dress up as sheep, angels, shepherds or magi. This service is led by the children of New Providence. The children and youth will tell the Christmas story in a skit format and there will be familiar Christmas hymns and stories told. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper by intinction. We hope that you and your family will be able to attend.

6:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for pre-service music provided by individuals and groups that adds just the right touch to a joyful and reverent Christmas Eve at New Providence.

7:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE

New Providence's 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service is a modified version of the traditional Lessons & Carols service that originated in England in the late 19th century. The Chancel Choir will present several anthems in a service that will be

interspersed with beloved carols, the telling of the Christmas story, and a brief meditation. The Lord's Supper is celebrated, and the service concludes in candlelight. Many people consider this to be a highlight of their Christmas season, and I hope that you will join us for worship that evening.

11:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE

As we near the end of a hectic Christmas season, stress levels and obligations are on the rise, so why not finish off Christmas Eve with a few moments to slow down and give thanks for the real gift of Christmas? This year, we invite you to join us for our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. It will be a simpler, more contemplative service, with music provided by Maddie Carpenter and Jordan McCullough and a few instrumental guests. We will sing carols, hear the Christmas story, observe the Lord's Supper via intinction, and worship together for a moment of peace and calm in this harried season. As at 7:00 p.m., the service will conclude in candlelight. If the fanfare and celebration have worn a little thin this Christmas season, join us for the eleven o'clock Acoustic Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary.

CHILDCARE

Childcare is available at all Christmas Eve services.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

This year, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sunday. With that special circumstance, there will be special schedules for each day. There will be one Traditional Service at 10:30 a.m. with time for coffee before the service.

ORNAMENT SALE SUPPORTS MISSION TRIP

The New Providence Youth are excited to offer the fifth in our stained-glass ornament series. Paul is this year's featured saint. These ornaments make great gifts for family or friends and serve as a great keepsake and reminder of our church's rich heritage. All proceeds from the sale support the international youth mission trip fund. Sales will continue through Christmas Eve in the Atrium between the services. There are ornaments available from previous years, so do a quick inventory and see if you need to fill in any gaps! The previous windows are Rose (2012), Stephen (2013), Isaiah (2015), and Mary Magdalene (2016).

Paula King

YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER

On Sunday, December 10, all youth will meet at the church at 5 p.m. for our annual progressive Christmas dinner. The evening will conclude with dessert and a white elephant gift exchange (gift limit \$10). Pick up at the church at 8 p.m.

Tracy Luttrell

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

The Fellowship Committee is planning a Parent's Night Out for Friday evening, December 15, 2017, from 6-9 p.m. The committee will provide childcare, dinner (pizza), a movie and games. This is a great opportunity to invite friends to join you and take advantage of NPPC's hospitality. The cost will be \$10 per child. There will be sign ups in the Atrium through December 10. Contact Stephanie Bell (681-0493, stephaniebell47@gmail.com).

Stephanie Bell

FROM THE PASTOR

All the data shows that Americans are most generous in the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you didn't know that, consider the number of direct mail appeals you have received in the last few weeks.

But charitable organizations aren't the only ones on board. In November and December, my mailbox receives a daily stuffing of more catalogs than I get for the other 10 months of the year combined. Everyone knows that this is prime spending and giving time.

And let me just say: Yay! What a joy it is to share out of the bounty that God has given to us! What fun it is to find the perfect gift and watch the face of the person unwrapping it. It is so satisfying to hit that flawless match between giver, gift and "givee."

But apart from this year's "Fingerling Glitter Monkey" (I have no idea what that is but apparently it's a big deal, and you can get it for \$17.99 on Amazon), I often struggle to find that perfect gift. One of the lists I consulted suggests "must-haves" like microfiber slippers that look like animals, but have dust mops on the bottom, so you can clean your floors while you walk around the house (ewww!), as well as bath salts made of clay and activated charcoal that turn your bath water jet black (what?!?). Three days past Christmas, I doubt that any of those things will be remotely compelling.

Let's be honest: most of us have way more stuff than we need, and those slippers are not going to make the world a better place. So, may I be so bold as to suggest that your Christmas gift this year might support a ministry that means something to you?

If you're reading this newsletter, odds are that you have followed the comings and goings of NPPC over the last few months. We had a hard reckoning at the end of the last budget year, on the heels of the same the year before. Our necessary expenses have exceeded our income, and anyone who manages a budget knows that is not sustainable.

So in July of this year, the session trimmed NPPC's budget by 12% from last year's spending, and we will all feel that in one way or another. There will be no orchestra for the Christmas Cantata. Next summer's Vacation Bible School will operate on half the budget it had this year. Hard-working support

staff have not received a cost of living adjustment in several years. Our giving to community organizations has necessarily been reduced.

The good news is that our efforts are paying off. Giving is at or above expected levels, and cost-saving measures have been effective. The experiment of a four (10-hour) day work week, combined with paying attention to thermostats and light switches puts us on track to save almost \$10,000 in utilities this year. As we learn to live within our means, that's all good news. We've done well, and we can do even better!

But allow me to make a couple of other suggestions:

1) If you're trying to find a gift for that person who is impossible to shop for, s/he probably already has everything he or she needs. What about, instead of the slippers, you send them a note telling them that in their honor, a gift has been made to New Providence Presbyterian Church? A \$25 gift would easily feed 15 guests at the Welcome Table. \$100 would keep the Bartlett Adult Day Out program running for a day. \$1000 would pay the lawn mowing service for a month. You get the picture, and we can provide the specifics, if you'd like. We'd be happy to provide a notification card for you to give them.

2) As we get close to year-end, many of us are looking at our taxes and our charitable giving. It's entirely likely that some people could save themselves money by giving more away. Or maybe you've had some sort of windfall, like a year-end bonus at work, or a gift from a relative's estate that you didn't expect. Wouldn't your church be a worthy recipient of some of that income? And if you're 70-1/2, don't forget that bit about a charitable IRA distribution that

can be a real help. (Talk to your tax adviser about this, please!)

Trust me, I'm well aware that I am "preaching to the choir" here. I am certain that if you are reading this, you're already doing a lot to support the ministries of New Providence with your gifts and your energy. If you hear nothing else, hear this: Thank you! I hope you know how grateful your church leaders are for all that you do.

So consider this just an opportunity to "go the extra mile." In fact, you'll see #ExtraMile several times in the next few weeks, just as a reminder of all that our giving can accomplish in this world.

Meanwhile, as we enter this season of Advent, we look forward to the greatest gift of all, the gift of the Christ Child, who went the #ExtraMile for us!

It is a joy to be the church with you.



Emily J. Anderson

CAROLING GROUPS

The TLC visitation ministry will sponsor Christmas caroling in December to our members in assisted living facilities. If you belong to a Geneva Fellowship, Sunday School class, or just want to get a group together to carol to those who no longer can come to church regularly, please contact Margaret Ellen Crawford (984-7619, mecraw12@aol.com).

Margaret Ellen Crawford

CHILDREN TO CAROL

All children, youth and their families are invited to go Christmas Caroling at Brookdale Assisted Living (511 Pearson Springs Road, across from Foothills Elementary School) on December 6th at 5:30 p.m.

We'll meet in the Brookdale parking lot and walk in together to sing popular Christmas songs the kids all know. Kids are encouraged to wear Santa hats if they have them. We will then head to Vienna Coffee around 6:15 to drink hot chocolate until 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions, contact Gabie Kerr (gabiekerr@hotmail.com) or Lelia Rogers (leliarogers@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

Lelia Rogers

ROUND THE TABLE CAROL SING

'Tis the season to gather in Westminster Hall and sing many of our beloved Christmas favorites while enjoying hot soup and sandwiches!

The party will start on Sunday, December 17th after the 11:05 service. A table will be in the Atrium through December 3, if you would like to sign up to bring either soup or sandwiches. Please make your plans now to join with your church family for this special Christmas celebration!

Beth Ragsdale Smith

WHAT ABOUT DIRECTED GIVING?

In this season of giving and Thanksgiving, it seems like a good time for a reminder about New Providence's policy regarding gifts given to the church.

In February of this year, NPPC's session reiterated its long-standing commitment to a "unified budget." That is to say, when any of us contribute to our church, we trust the session to look at the big picture of our needs and wants, and then align budget resources accordingly. That includes programs, staffing, missions, music, worship, ministries and more. The total need for the unified budget this year is slightly over \$1.31 million, of which \$164,000 is provided by capital campaign funds for debt payment.

The reason that we promote a unified budget, rather than allowing people to direct where their giving will go, is the need to insure that all of the church's expenses are met. As one pastor says, "nobody wants to designate their giving for the copier contract." And yet that copier is important if we're going to have Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and any other printed material.

In the Presbyterian Church, we entrust the responsibility of setting and authorizing the budget to elders elected by the congregation to serve on our session. It is their job to weigh all of the congregation's needs, and to come up with a budget that reflects our priorities.

However, the session is also aware that there may be others – especially non-members – who want to support particular ministries of the church without giving to the operating budget. So in February of this year, the session adopted a policy that reaffirms its commitment to a unified budget, but allows some latitude. Essentially, the policy states that *gifts may be given to any special offering lines on the income portion of our budget. That would include things like the Souper Bowl or One Great Hour of Sharing, the Welcome Table, the Capital Campaign, memorial gifts, and contributions to the New Providence Foundation, our endowment arm. Other gifts that reflect the session's budget priorities and commitments are always welcome.*

All of that is to say that every gift is gratefully received, and the use of our budget dollars is thoughtfully and prayerfully determined by the session. In this season of giving, may we be a grateful and generous people!

Emily Anderson

WELCOME ASHLEY JAMES

Ashley is a Friendsville/Maryville native. She loves this town and has no plans to ever move away from home. She actually is lucky enough to live next door to her sister who is also her best friend. Ashley has been married to her husband, Austin, for five years and they have two rambunctious Yorkies that run their house. They enjoy watching football, walking the greenbelt, and laughing together.

Ashley has a decade's experience in the legal field as a paralegal but now joins us at NPPC as our Information Coordinator. You may reach Ashley at ashley@newprovidencepres.org or 983-0182, ext. 101.

Outside of work, she has a passion for decorating her home on an affordable budget, hosting parties, and DIY projects. She loves socializing and meeting new people so if you get a chance, please come say "hi!"

SUPPER CLUBS RETURN!

Do you find it difficult to keep up with our ever-growing membership at New Providence? Supper Clubs are the answer! You will have an opportunity to meet with the same small group of friends (6-8) once a month for 4 months (February through May) and really get to know them well. Sign-ups will be in the Atrium beginning today, November 26th, or you can contact *Susan Young* (980-3553 or youngsd79@aol.com) for more information. On January 24th in Westminster Hall, we will have a potluck dinner. At this dinner we will get to meet in our groups for the first time and make some plans with your group on how you would like to meet. Picnic? Eat out? Eat at home? Your group decides for itself. Hope you can join us!

Susan Young

PWC GATHERING

The women of New Providence will host their annual Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 7th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All members of the congregation and friends are cordially invited to attend. Maryville College singing groups, Off Kilter and Lads and Lassies, will perform. Following the concert, refreshments will be served in the Atrium. Attendees are also invited to shop early at the Community Benefit Sale.

Bobbie Briggs

GREAT JOB!

A big thanks to Olivia Lazar, Ayak Cincok and Jordis Blackburn for leading this year's Trick or Cans. They collected 1828.5 pounds of non-perishable food and delivered it to the Community Food Connection. Coordinating the Trick or Cans event is a huge task. It involves soliciting donations from sponsors, having T-shirts printed, recruiting neighborhood captains, printing and distributing flyers, coordinating pick-up and delivery of the collected cans on Halloween and spending some time sorting the collections at the CFC store. Thanks again ladies. Great job.

*Bob Haralson, President,
Community Food Connection*

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01 10:30AM Life Beginners 3:00PM JSL Santa Breakfast Setup (WH)	02 8:30AM JSL Santa Breakfast (WH)
03 1st Sunday in Advent Communion Westminster Bells 11:05 a.m. Ornament Sales Supper Clubs Sign ups 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30PM iGroup (WH) 5:00PM Guatemala Mission Team (W201) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30PM PYC (WH)	04 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30PM BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (WH) 7:00PM BSA-Tiger Cubs (FEH) 7:00PM BSA-Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM BSA-Webelos 2 (RWH) 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelo 1 (W201) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	05 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 5:00PM Community Service Day Panel (United Way) (FEH) 6:00PM Men's Lead Team (109) 6:30PM CBS Table Setup (WH) 6:30PM Congregational Nurture/TLC (219) 6:30PM Event Support (215) 6:30PM Fellowship Groups (213) 6:30PM Transportation (206) 7:00PM New Prov Green Team (W202) 7:00PM Personnel Committee (Chapel) 7:00PM Budget & Finance (108) 7:00PM Stewardship Committee (109) 7:00PM Policy Committee (W201) 7:00PM Facilities Committee (Parlor) 7:15PM Congregational Life/Deacons (206) 8:00PM Admin Team (Chapel)	06 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 8:30AM Antiques & Collectibles Mini- Sale Setup (FEH) 8:30AM CBS Setup (WH) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 2:00PM Weavings (109) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00PM Canlata Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (FEH) 6:00PM LIFT Committee Meeting (Chapel) 7:00PM New Prov Reads (Parlor) 7:05PM PWC Decorating Atrium (Atrium)	07 8:30AM CBS for PWC & Friends (WH) 10:30AM PWC & Friends Gathering (Sanctuary) 11:30AM CBS for PWC & Friends (WH) 5:30PM Public Theology (Off Campus)	08 ChristmasWishes Gift Storage (FEH) 8:30AM Antiques & Collectibles Mini- Sale (REH) 8:30AM Community Benefit Sale (FWH)	09 ChristmasWishes Gift Storage (FEH)
10 2nd Sunday in Advent Canlata Sunday Ornament Sales ChristmasWishes Gift Storage (FEH) Supper Clubs Sign ups 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30PM Youth Progressive Supper (Off Campus)	11 ChristmasWishes Gift Storage 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 10:00AM Maryville Babywearers (206) 6:00PM BSA - Wolf Cubs 6:00PM BSA-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30PM BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (WH) 7:00PM BSA-Webelos 2 (RWH) 7:00PM BSA-Tiger Cubs (FEH) 7:00PM BSA-Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelo 2 7:00PM Youth Committee (W202) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelo 1 (W201) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	12 ChristmasWishes Gift Storage (FEH) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:30AM Community Food Connection Board (Chapel) 10:00AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 6:30PM ChristmasWishes Setup (WH) 6:30PM Children's Committee 6:30PM Worship & Arts (Choir Rm) 6:30PM Leadership Development Committee (206) 6:30PM Adult Ed Committee (108) 7:00PM Church In the World (Chapel) 7:30PM Disc & Education (216)	13 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (W201) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 11:30AM New Prov U (FEH) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 5:00PM ChristmasWishes Party (WH) 6:00PM NAMI Meeting (206) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (FEH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Rm)	14 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM D & S Community Services Training (FEH) 6:00PM D&S Christmas Party (RWH)	15 10:00AM Round the Table Carol Sing Setup (WH)	16
17 3rd Sunday in Advent Christmas Joy Offering Ornament Sales Money for Manna Supper Clubs Sign ups 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00PM Round the Table Carol Sing & Soup/Sandwich Lunch (WH)	18 New Prov Press Deadline ACS Winter Break 12/18-1/2 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	19 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH) 7:00PM Session (Chapel)	20 MCS & BCS Winter Break 12/20-1/3 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 4:00PM Crawford 50th Anniversary (WH) 6:00PM Tai Chi Class (FEH) 7:00PM New Prov Reads (Parlor) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Rm)	21 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM PWC Coordinating Team (Chapel) 1:00PM New Prov Press Mailing (Chapel) 5:30PM Public Theology (Off Campus)	22	23
24 4th Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve Communion All Evening Services Ornament Sales 9:00AM Church School 10:00AM Coffee & Fellowship (Atrium) 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary) 5:00PM Family Worship Service (Sanctuary) 6:30PM Pre-Service Music (Sanctuary) 7:00PM Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary) 11:00PM Carols, Candlelight & Communion (Sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day Church Closed	26 Christmas Holiday - Church Closed 10:00AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 5:00PM Welcome Table (WH)	27 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (W201) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Rm)	28	29	30
31 New Years' Eve Ornament Sales 9:00AM Church School 10:00AM Coffee & Fellowship (Atrium) 10:30AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)						



RWH - Rear Westminster Hall

FWH - Front Westminster Hall

FEH - Front Eastminster Hall

REH - Rear Eastminster Hall

IT'S CHRISTMASWISHES TIME!

Volunteers are needed for the ChristmasWishes Celebration at New Providence on Wednesday, December 13th. We need help at the celebration (4:45 – 7:30 p.m.), cleaning up (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) and setting up any time that day (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.). Please come by the Atrium on Sunday, December 3 and 10, and see how you can participate in this joyous community project. Contact Diane Pezick (984-9886, diane.pezick@gmail.com) for more information.

Diane Pezick

LIFE BEGINNERS

On Friday, December 1, at 10:30 a.m., Life Beginners will visit the Blount Mansion built in 1792 in Downtown Knoxville. Lunch will be at the Stock and Barrel on the Market Square (order off the menu). Cost of admission to the mansion is \$6 and there will be a \$1 transportation fee. There is limited seating for this trip, so contact Coco (coco@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182 ext. 102) with your reservations.

Stephanie Bell

NEW PROV U IN EASTMINSTER HALL

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

Our next session will be on Wednesday, December 13, **IN EASTMINSTER HALL** at 11:30 p.m. NPU will have a catered lunch and listen to the sounds of the season as they assemble gingerbread houses that will be used to decorate the tables at the next Welcome Table meal. Please contact Coco (coco@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182 ext. 102) with your reservation for lunch by Thursday, December 7, at 12 noon. If you would just like to come assemble gingerbread houses, join us at noon.

Andy Simon

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NPPC RESOURCE CENTER

When considering appropriate reading for Christmas, one cannot beat the actual accounts in scripture. Certainly the Resource Center has a collection of resources to help you uncover multiple perspectives of the Gospels' birth narratives. These books can be found in the regular collection and in the reference area. Just check the notebook on the checkout counter.

In addition to the Gospels, we also have some Christmas classics. You can find Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* and O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*. Other less familiar works include Jo Robinson's *Unplug the Christmas Machine: How to Have the Christmas You've Always Wanted*, Henry Van Dyke's *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, and J. Lawrence Driskill's *Christmas Stories: From Around the World: Honoring Jesus in Many lands*.

For children we have many choices. Some that you will see on the display counter are *Unwrapping the Christmas Creche*, *Nonna Tell Me a Story*, *Mary the Mother of Jesus*, and *One Wintry Night*. I especially urge you to look at two new children's books for the season: Martin Waddell's *Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale* and Susan Wojciechowski's *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*.

Most of these works, whether designed for children or adults, can be shared with the entire family. Let these stories become part of your Christmas tradition.

One of our books by folks with a tie to NPPC is Bernie Bowman's *A Mennonite Boy's Odyssey*. This book that was published last year is a fascinating account of his Mennonite background and the development of his spiritual life over time. He references many significant works as he tells his faith journey. In a nod to Albert Einstein and the many books that he read, Bowman notes that "We all, even Einstein, built on the shoulders of those who came before us."

Come choose a book in the Resource Center and start building on those shoulders for yourself.

Read On! Cynthia Freeman

ABOUT THOSE BLANKETS AND SHAWLS...

What's that crispness in the sanctuary air? Yes, the invigorating sermons delivered by Emily and Steve can partly explain this phenomenon. But in addition, this briskness is a result of cutting back on use of the furnace, in the interest of saving on the church's utility bills. This practice will no doubt help us to stay within our fiduciary means, potentially saving hundreds of dollars over the course of the winter. But we of the Green Team also like to think of it as "practicing what we preach" in terms of reducing our "carbon footprint" and doing all we can to protect creation. If the temperature is a little too cool for your liking, please take advantage of the wraps and shawls available in the Atrium to keep you comfortable through the service.

But there's another energy-saving effort going on behind the scenes that many of you might not be aware of. Our Facilities Manager Ray Bryant has been making a commendable effort the past few months turning off lights all over the church building. It may seem like a small thing, but over the past three months, the electric bill has been cut by an average of 2% per month, resulting in a savings of over \$80 compared to the same period last year, just by one person turning off unused lights. At this rate, we stand to save around \$330 for the year. The savings could be even greater if we all got into the habit of turning off lights after Sunday school classes, evening committee meetings, or whenever a light is found left on. And imagine if we all adopted these practices in our homes – be relentless about turning off lights, make good use of those cozy sweaters, blankets and socks, and relish the feeling of saving money AND the environment. Like my phone-internet-cable company tells me, "bundle (up) and save!"

Ginny Ayers

SNACKS NEEDED

The Children's Committee is seeking volunteers to provide snacks once a month for the PEAK and Cloud 9 kids from January through May. E-mail leliarogers@gmail.com if you can help.

Lelia Rogers

HEALTH TIPS

FORGIVENESS

"Yes if you forgive others for their sins, then your father in heaven will also forgive you your sins." - Matthew 6:14

Forgiveness is a beautiful word that has a softness and healing quality to it. To be forgiven by someone that we have hurt can help us shed the heavy burden of guilt, and bring us back into the sunlight of inner peace. However, to forgive is not easy, especially when we have been hurt by someone we love. It takes tremendous strength to set aside what may be justifiable anger. Yet, when we make the choice and allow ourselves to put aside the anger and forgive those who have hurt us, we actually benefit, as well.

Making the conscious decision to let go of pain is the beginning of healing. Forgiving is one of the most difficult choices we can make, but also one of the most spiritually rewarding. Research shows that a person who forgives benefits as much and perhaps more than those who are forgiven.

Expressing true forgiveness can be empowering because it helps us to stop feeling like a victim. Our level of anger and hostility will decrease, while our capacity to love and trust will increase. Forgiveness is not something that must be asked for or earned by another; forgiveness is actually a gift you give to yourself.

When you are ready to let go of the anger and forgive, it will be helpful to do so internally, whether or not you intend on telling the one who wronged you. It doesn't matter if the person has passed on or if you don't have contact with them anymore. Keep in your mind the person you want to forgive and sincerely wish for them what you would want for yourself. Do this as long as and as many times as it takes.

Forgiveness is a part of being good to yourself, as well. As you make the decision to forgive someone that has hurt you, you will learn that true peace of mind can only come to us when we learn to forgive others and ourselves.

Provided by ERH Parish Health Ministry; EpiscopalRetirement.com

Trish Badgett, RN, Parish Nurse

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear NPPC Family, I cannot express the gratitude I feel for you for all your cards, visits, phone calls, and prayers during the death of my son, Tom. I must say I've never been so sad but wonderful friends who have encountered this tragedy before tell me that the pain will slowly become easier, but I'll always be aware of the loss of my child. Thank you especially to Steve Musick and Alida Graves. I shall forever be grateful to you.

In Christian Love, Carol Luckey

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

These are the "Taking the Love of Christ" (TLC) home-bound members whose birthdays occur during December. Shower them with birthday cards to remind them that they are special!

- Kathleen Oakes, December 11th
- Marilyn Hoffman, December 14th
- Elsie Smalling, December 19th
- Sally McNeill, December 26th

Donnae Farley

TAX PLANNING REMINDER

Tax Credit for Year 2017 - Contributions must be received in the church office by Thursday, December 28, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. or postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2017, in order to receive tax credit for Year 2017.

Donating Stock - If you plan to donate stock to the church, it must be in our brokerage account by December 31, 2017. Transactions could take up to two weeks. Our Business Administrator, Penny Bever, or any member of staff will be happy to provide the information you will need.

Consult your tax adviser about charitable IRA distributions for 2017.

Keep in mind that although this is the end of the year for the IRS, we are only half way through the NPPC budget year. Thank you for your contributions to the church during 2017. Contact Penny (983-0182 ext. 108, penny@newprovidencepres.org) with questions.

Andy Luttrell

TENDING OUR FLOCK

WE SHARE JOY

- Audrey Jean Tate, daughter of Jessica and Brown Tate, was born 11/22, weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19.5 inches long
- Colin Frederick Deacon, son of Jen (Neisser) and Matt Deacon, grandson of Phil and Kathy Neisser, was born 11/22 weighing 3 pounds 14 ounces and was 16 1/2 inches long.
- Anna Kate, granddaughter of Denise and Paul Vogado
- Hunter Reynolds Callaway, 11/3, son of Brittany and Miller Callaway, grandson of Henry and Emily Callaway, and great-grandson of Marty and the late Henry Callaway.

WE SHARE SORROW

- Bobbie Frye, long-time regular Welcome Table guest, 10/1
- Scottie Russell's aunt, Joyce, and cousin, Ronda, killed in a traffic accident in North Carolina, 10/17
- Dennis Wallace, Rob Kennedy's brother-in-law, 10/25
- Ruth Mary Weston, Ruth Weston's daughter, 10/24
- Margaret "Peggy" Baker, long time Welcome Table guest, 10/26
- Erma Hene, 10/26
- Joel McCulley, 11/10
- Mary Zemanovich Best, Ed Best's aunt, 11/18
- June Fuhr, 11/19
- Joseph Hall, Jr., 11/20
- Marianna Bloomer, 11/20
- Andy and Karen Hime's niece's husband was killed in Afghanistan

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 the Information Coordinator (info@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) or anyone in the office.

SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of NPPC met on November 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

- Bryan Kilday reported that at approximately 33% into our budget year, pledged giving is at 41%, unpledged giving is at 35% and expenses are at 38%.
- Approval of the Annual Audit from Ingram, Overholt & Bean.
- We have filled the information coordinator position. We are still actively searching for a FirstLight coordinator. We just interviewed a potential candidate who will lead FirstLight on December 3.
- Approved another parents night out on 12/15/17 at \$10 per child. Monies received in excess of food/childcare costs will offset utility use.
- A retreat for elders and deacons is planned for January 12 and 13.

Beth Lazar, Incoming Clerk of Session

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

- December 3: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37
- December 10: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
- December 17: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28,
- December 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
- December 31: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7

CHURCH CLOSED

The church will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27, and Monday, January 2 for the Christmas holidays.

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.



Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR DECEMBER

FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
3	Jenifer Greene, Harry Herrmann, Olivia Lazar	Peggy & Tom Raines*, Lee & Liz Huffaker, Bobbie Briggs	Olivia Lazar
10	Bobbie Briggs, Bill Savell, Jenifer Greene	Judy Woods*, Terry Woods, Paul & Denise Vogado	Kyasia Benjamin
17	Bill Yarborough, Gabie Kerr, Bryan Kilday	Chrissy Irvine*, Andrew, Jamie, & Will Irvine, Jeff & Marcy Ward	Sharon Chapman

TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
3	Jason Brooks, Kate Clabough, Brian LaRose	Karen Paxton*, Ann Spencer, Linda Brakebill, Susan Young	Olivia Lazar
10	Liz Britt, Tracy Luttrell, Jane Morton	Jason Brooks*, Andrea Franks, Bud Gangwer, Barbara Hall, Jeanne Ezell	Kyasia Benjamin
17	Karen Paxton, John Pittenger, Ann Bennett	Bill Morton*, Jane Morton, Tom & Eva Carpenter, Mot Krick	Sharon Chapman

SPECIAL SERVICES AND TIMES

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
24-10:30a	Liz Britt, Tracy Luttrell, Jane Morton	Stephanie Bell*, Dale Freeman, Mel Luttrell, Jeff Pezick	Hayley Lynn
24-5p	Bobbie Briggs, Bill Savell, Beth Lazar		N/A
24-7p	Karen Paxton, John Pittenger, Ann Bennett		N/A
24-11p	Bill Yarborough, Gabie Kerr, Bryan Kilday		N/A
31-10:30a	Michelle Huntoon, Jason Brooks, Kate Clabough	Gary Grinder*, Liz Huffaker, Kristi Weatherbee, Mot Krick	Bryce Luttrell

* 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
Sam Phillips	INTERIM YOUTH COORDINATOR
Trish Badgett	PARISH NURSE
Ray Bryant	FACILITIES MANAGER
Penny Bever	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Coco Everett	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Amelia Geis-Scott	WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR



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DATES TO REMEMBER FOR DECEMBER

8	Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering Community Benefit Sale
10	Chancel Choir Cantata
13	ChristmasWishes Celebration
17	Round the Table Carol Sing and Lunch
18	<i>New Prov Press</i> Deadline
24	Christmas Eve 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service 6:30 p.m. Pre-service Music 7:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols and Communion 11:00 p.m. Carols, Candlelight and Communion
25	Christmas Day - Church Closed
26	Church Closed
12/31	New Year's Eve 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service
1/1	Church Closed