

JESUS AND RACE

One of the memorable things I did this past summer while attending the PCUSA Big Tent conference in St. Louis was to visit the Presbyterian church in Ferguson, Missouri. I guess I was most struck with how unlikely a place that community seems for such a violent set of events. It is a pleasant suburban township much like Maryville and Alcoa, though with much different histories and cultural mixes. Still, the events of August 2014 caught them as much by surprise as it did the rest of the world. Yet what I witnessed is a community taking this terrible story and making new stories, new connections, new futures from it that are not as dire nor as dangerous.

If it seems to you, as it does to me, that the issues which confront our culture are arriving faster and faster and with more, often unpleasant impact, it may be because they are. So I think it is time for us all to pause and take stock of our moment in history and see if we can discern the direction that the Holy Spirit is beckoning us to follow; see what new stories and new futures might arise out of new connections with each other where we live.

For just this purpose, Blount County United will host a forum entitled "Jesus and Race" on Saturday, January 6th in Westminster Hall here at New Providence. Anyone and everyone from our community is invited to come and explore the question "How does our faith form our beliefs and move us to action?"

We will hear from two folks, S.M. Atchley and Ron Coffin, who were students at Maryville High School when it was first integrated in 1963. We will reflect on their experiences and our own present-day situation in conversation around tables with

a simple soup lunch provided by members of local churches. And we will hear a few local clergy respond to our question about faith, belief, and action.

Most of all, we hope to build community in our time together. We hope you will come, and also spread the word about this important set of conversations through all your networks. We look forward to seeing you there.

Steve Musick

MLK CELEBRATION

Here are the plans for Blount County for the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration:

- "Celebrating Life & Legacy: 50 Years and Beyond" Choir Rehearsals at the Clayton Center for The Arts, Choir Room. Larry Ervin Director.
 - Thursday, Jan. 4th at 7:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 7:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, Jan. 11th. at 7:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, Jan. 13th at 4:30 p.m.
- MLK Business Luncheon at the Airport Hilton
 - January 12 - Friday 12 Noon
 - Keynote Speaker: Lori Tucker, WATE-TV News Anchor
- Blount United/SURJ
 - Saturday, January 13 at 3 p.m.
 - MLK Kids and Families Fair at the Blount County Library
- Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir H.O.M.E. Inc.
 - Saturday, January 13 at 4 p.m.
 - Alcoa High School Auditorium
Ticketed

■ Community Worship Service

- Sunday, January 14 at 4 p.m.
- First Baptist Church 202 W. Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville
- Keynote Speaker: Rev. Joe Maddox, Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Knoxville

■ March from MLK Center to Maryville College

- Assemble at the MLK Center on Monday, January 15 at 12:30 p.m.
- March to Maryville College begins at 12:45 p.m.
- Program at Clayton Center for the Arts - 2 p.m.
- Keynote Speaker: Mr. Marc Burnett, Vice President for Student Affairs, Tennessee Technical University.

- Stay up to date at www.facebook.com/mlkblount

CHRISTMASWISHES A HUGE SUCCESS

The ChristmasWishes Celebration at New Providence hosted about 200 guests (100 children in 45 families) on Wednesday, December 13. Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of over 90 church volunteers it was a joyous evening. Also many thanks to all who purchased gifts for the children, for hygiene bags and gifts for children to choose to give to the adults in their lives. We are grateful for the support from our community businesses with donations and/or discounts – Vienna Coffee, the Kroger in Alcoa and Bella Roma Pizza. The spirit of Christmas is alive in this congregation!

Diane Pezick

FROM THE PASTOR

Can it possibly have been this long? Looking back, this is apparently my 19th New Year's message to New Providence. Digging into the archives, it seems that very shortly after I arrived, on the cusp of Y2K, the question was asked: could we survive the turn of the millennium? Well, apparently so.

We talked then about "kairos" time. "Chronos" (chronological) time is straight, linear, fixed in history and measured on an alarm clock. But "kairos" is God's time, transcending calendars and sundials and even the Apple watch.

I said it all those years ago, and I believe it still today: this is kairos time for us at New Providence. We are entering a new season and a new chapter of our life together, and the expectation is palpable. The Holy Spirit is moving among us, and God is doing a new thing; if we are willing, we can be a part of God's work in this corner of the kingdom.

In the next few months, a small group will be drafting a process that will help us discern what God is calling us to be and do in this chapter of New Prov's history. I hope you will offer your gifts and insights to enhance our life together.

We're in the process of creating that visioning process, and in these coming months, we will be exploring all the different facets of our life together. This is not just the ticking of the clock or the turn of a calendar page; this is our opportunity to participate in the work of the Spirit and the Kingdom of God.

So I invite you to join me this year in watching and praying and working toward what God has in store for us. Pray that we will be sensitive to God's Spirit moving among us, and that we will respond faithfully.

At this chronos moment in history, I'm grateful to be a part of God's kairos time with each of you.

It is a joy to be the church with you.



Emily J. Anderson

WELCOME ERIC MINTON

Hello there!

I realize we haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting in person, but I thought it might be a good idea to go ahead and give a bit of an introduction into who I am, where I come from, and where we might go together.



WHO I AM AND WHERE I COME FROM:

This is always a rather complicated question to deal with succinctly (not to mention, the nuts and bolts of my experience and education are included in my resume), but suffice it to say I'm probably a fair bit like you and a fair bit different.

For starters, my name is Eric Michael Minton and I'm a Knoxville native. Against better judgment (and a growing mountain of evidence to the contrary) I am a lifelong Tennessee football fan (being a #VFL is a life-sentence without possibility for parole). I love Cracker Barrel, spring in East Tennessee, the Smoky Mountains, Dolly Parton, and named my son Peyton Mann...just kidding about that last one.

His name is Tee Martin Minton.

I graduated from Central High School in Fountain City (home of the Litton burger and a heart-shaped pond people keep calling a "lake"). I went to the University of Tennessee and finished with an endlessly helpful degree in Psychology, married my best friend (her name's Lindsay), and moved to Los Angeles two weeks later for both of us to attend graduate school at Fuller Theological Seminary (me: in the school of theology; her: in the school of psychology).

We lived in a 420 square foot studio apartment (100 or so of those were probably just vertical blinds) for three years, and yes, it was as romantic as it sounds. We loved Southern California, but after doing a bit of soul-searching, decided to move back to a land with thunderstorms, crickets, lightnin' bugs, family, and (once again) Cracker Barrel.

Roughly 6 years ago I began a stint as a students and young adults pastor at Monte Vista Baptist partnering with some amazing middle, high, and college students for 4 years. I left my position there in order to return to graduate school (yet again) at Carson Newman University for more training in family systems, counseling, psychotherapy, and human development (focusing on adolescents and emerging adults).

In the middle of that process Lindsay and I had a son, whose actual name is Finn, and professionally speaking: he's really incredible.

Upon finishing my second master's degree in clinical mental health counseling last summer, I have opened a small private practice with my wife, it's called Minton Family Therapy and we see clients (her full-time and me part-time) in a couple of different locations in West Knoxville. I also recently finished a yearlong interim position at a Baptist church in West Knoxville working with adolescents and emerging adults.

I'm now here, at the request of a few friends, to see if we might do something interesting together. I wouldn't have said yes if I didn't believe we could.

WHERE WE MIGHT GO:

I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Jason, but I can't help but know "of" someone who gave the last 5 or so years of his life to serving, partnering with, and pastoring families in a city I love.

You don't replace Jason.

You honor, celebrate, and gratefully acknowledge him and his work, and then, you try to pick up the ball and move it forward.

In my experience with addiction research and recovery communities (*didn't see that transition did you!?*) there is an oft-repeated phrase that serves to keep individuals and families on track to reach their goals. Occasionally, in the wake of so much work to be done, fences to be mended, and lives to be rebuilt, the overwhelming nature of it all can literally destroy any chance an addict has to stay sober.

Each day, they are encouraged to greet every moment with one question: "what's the next right thing?"

This is a question that led me to Lindsay (my wife), to UT, to Los Angeles, back to East Tennessee, to Maryville, to Finn, to Carson Newman, to Central Baptist Bearden, and now here, to you, at New Providence.

I want to spend the rest of my days as a pastor, and a husband, and a dad, and a therapist asking that question, because I think it keeps me tethered to what Christians have for centuries referred to as "the Spirit."

But enough about me, I want to hear about you, and I want to do it over donuts and coffee and maybe Cracker Barrel.

Can we meet up soon?

Eric Minton

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

The Women's Study Group will begin the new year by gathering on January 8, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Diane Hicks (222 Miracle Landing Dr.). Please come and join us for a time of fellowship and discussion to determine our next reading selection. As always, all are welcome and we look forward to meeting new folks and greeting long time members of the group. If you are able, please bring a favorite snack or beverage to share with the group but most of all... bring yourself and a friend!

Regular meetings for this group will resume on January 22. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 7:00-8:15 p.m. in the Parlor at NPPC. For more information or questions, please contact Renee Nasrollahi at reneenasro@aol.com or 865-385-1418.

Renee Nasrollahi

MARY CIRCLE

The Mary Circle will meet at the home of Alida Graves (114 Wilson Ave.) for their Circle meeting on Thursday, January, 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Margaret Ellen Crawford

SCOUT SUNDAY

The Boy Scouts of America annually celebrates its founding on February 8, 1910, based on the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907. Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940s. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God." These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

Troop 88 is the longest continuously chartered Boy Scout Troop in Blount County, receiving its original charter in October of 1935. Troop 88 is chartered to New Providence Presbyterian Church and meets on Mondays throughout the year from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in Westminster Fellowship Hall.

Cub Scout Pack 88 was chartered in 1940. Cub Scouting is a year-round, family-oriented part of the Boy Scouts of America program designed for boys who are in first through fifth grades.

Cub Scout Packs are organized into Dens by age and the program focuses on character development, good citizenship and to help young people become more physically fit, mentally strong and morally straight.

Troop 88 spends many hundreds of hours every year serving the community and camping in the Great Smoky Mountains. The adult leadership includes ScoutMaster John Huffman, Committee Chair Mike Teffeteller and Chartered Organizational Representative Mel Luttrell. Pack 88 meets weeknights at New Providence and is led by CubMaster Andy Luttrell & numerous Den leaders.

On Scout Sunday at New Providence, Scouts will help with ushering, readings, children's time and other worship support. All Troop 88 and Pack 88 scouts and families are invited to attend and sit together in uniform at the 11:05 service.

Brian LaRose

CHANGES COMING TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

Beginning January 1, Fairlena Googe and Leah Thomas will share the role of Interim Coordinator of Children's Ministry. They are both very familiar to us, and will be able to slide into these roles easily. Leah is married to Jeremy, and is the mother of two of our fantastic children, West and Eloise Thomas, and a teacher at Prospect Elementary School. Fairlena has been our most faithful childcare worker since her graduation from Maryville College in 2003.

The job will be split into two parts: the hands-on work with kids, particularly during our Wednesday afternoon P.E.A.K. and Cloud 9 programs, will fall to Leah. Fairlena will continue to lead the preschool P.E.A.K. program during that time, but will also pick up many of the coordination and communication details related to the children's programs.

Thank you, Fairlena and Leah, for your willingness to step into these important roles! We are grateful for your service on behalf of our children.

Emily Anderson

THANK YOU, RENEE!

For the last 3 months, Renee Nasrollahi has been quietly working behind the scenes to keep the ship afloat in our children's and youth areas. While she has not been working with those groups in particular, Renee has helped to ensure that communication is happening and that we are steaming ahead.


The Personnel committee asked Renee to take on this role because no one knows our educational ministries better than she does, and our instincts were right! Thanks, Renee, for your love for this congregation, and the tangible ways you find to demonstrate that!

Emily Anderson

COMMUNION

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during both services of worship on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2018

12 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	01 New Year's Day Holiday - Church Closed	02 8:00 AM CBS Sorters (WH) 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:30 PM Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45 PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00 PM Welcome Table (WH - All) 5:00 PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00 PM Men's Lead Team (109) 6:15 PM Leadership Development Team (214) 6:30 PM Congregational Nurture/TLC (219) 6:30 PM Event Support (215) 6:30 PM Fellowship Groups (213) 6:30 PM Transportation (206) 7:15 PM Congregational Life/Deacons (206)	03 ACS Back to School 8:30 AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 4:00 PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 5:50 PM Meditation Group (Parlor) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	04 MCS & BCS Back to School 10:00 AM PWC Martha Circle (Chapel) 10:00 AM PWC Ruth Circle (W201) 10:00 AM PWC Leah Circles (Parlor) 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PWC Deborah Circle 5:30 PM Public Theology (Off Campus) 7:00 PM PWC Mary Circle (Off Campus)	05	06 Epiphany of the Lord 11:00 AM Jesus and Race: Blount County United (WH)	
07 Communion Baptism of the Lord 9:00 AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 AM Church School 11:05 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30 PM iGroup (WH) 6:00 PM Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30 PM PYC (WH)	08 7:30 AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 8:00 AM CBS Sorters (WH) 10:00 AM Maryville Babywearers (206) 6:00 PM BSA-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30 PM BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (WH) 7:00 PM BSA-Webelos 2 (RWH) 7:00 PM BSA-Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00 PM BSA - Webelo 1 (W201) 7:00 PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00 PM Women's Study Group (Off Campus) 7:00 PM BSA-Tiger Cubs (FEH) 7:00 PM Youth Committee (W202) 7:30 PM NA Group (206)	09 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:30 AM Community Food Connection Board (Chapel) 10:00 AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45 PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00 PM Welcome Table (WH - All) 5:00 PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:30 PM Children's Committee (215) 6:30 PM Leadership Development Committee (206) 6:30 PM Adult Ed Committee (108) 6:30 PM Worship & Arts (Choir Room) 7:00 PM New Prov Green Team (W202) 7:00 PM Church In the World (109) 7:00 PM Personnel Committee (Chapel) 7:00 PM Facilities Committee (Parlor) 7:00 PM Policy Committee (W201) 7:00 PM Budget & Finance (REH) 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Atrium) 7:30 PM Disc & Education (216) 8:00 PM Admin Team (Chapel)	10 7:30 AM Men's Witnessing Square (W201) 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 11:30 AM New Prov U (FWH) 4 PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00 PM LIFT Spring Tutor Orientation 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	11 8:30 AM CBS Set Up (RWH) 9:00 AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00 AM D & S Community Services Training (FEH)	12 8:30 AM Community Benefit Sale (FWH) 6:30 PM Officers' Training (All Officers) (WH)	13 8:00 AM Officers' Training (All Officers) (WH)	
14 9:00 AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 AM Church School 11:05 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30 PM iGroup (WH) 6:00 PM Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30 PM PYC (WH)	15 MLK Day - Church Closed 7:30 AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus)	16 <i>New Prov Press</i> Deadline 8:00 AM CBS Sorters (WH) 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00 AM PWP Finance Meeting (108) 1:30 PM Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45 PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00 PM Welcome Table (WH - All) 5:00 PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:30 PM Communion Training - All Officers (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM Session - Officer Examination (Atrium)	17 8:30 AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:15 PM Cloud 9 (217) 3:15 PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00 PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	18 9:00 AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00 AM PWC Coordinating Team (Chapel) 3:00 PM LIFT Meal Prep (WH - Kitchen) 5:30 PM Public Theology (Off Campus) 7:00 PM Officers' Training (All Officers) (Chapel)	19 Youth Sunday Lockin Planning Session (W201) 10:00 AM Life Beginners	20 Youth Sunday Lockin Planning Session (W201)	
21 Money for Manna 9:00 AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 AM Church School 10:00 AM Officers' Training (All Officers) (Chapel) 11:05 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)	22 7:30 AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00 AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00 PM BSA-Wolf Cubs (REH) 6:30 PM BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (WH) 7:00 PM BSA - Webelo 1 (W201) 7:00 PM BSA-Bear Cubs (REH) 7:00 PM BSA-Webelos 2 (RWH) 7:00 PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:00 PM BSA-Tiger Cubs (FEH) 7:00 PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:30 PM NA Group (206)	23 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00 AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45 PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00 PM Welcome Table (WH - All) 5:00 PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	24 7:30 AM Men's Witnessing Square (W201) 9:00 AM PWC Bible Study Leaders (Chapel) 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 2:00 PM Weavings (109) 3:15 PM Cloud 9 (217) 3:15 PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00 PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 6:00 PM NAMI (206) 6:00 PM Supper Club Potluck (WH) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	25 8:30 AM CBS Set Up (WH) 9:00 AM Quilters (WH) 3:00 PM LIFT Meal Prep (WH - Kitchen) 7:00 PM Officers' Training (All Officers) (Chapel)	26 8:30 AM Community Benefit Sale (WH)	27	
28 Scout Sunday 9:00 AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 AM Church School 10:00 AM Officers' Training (All Officers) (Chapel) 11:05 AM -Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30 PM iGroup (WH) 6:00 PM Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30 PM PYC (WH)	29 7:30 AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00 AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:30 PM BSA-Pack Meeting (WH) 6:30 PM BSA-Troop 88 Badge Review (EH) 7:00 PM BSA-Troop 88 (EH) 7:30 PM NA Group (206)	30 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 10:00 AM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:00 PM <i>New Prov Press</i> Mailing (Chapel) 1:45 PM Centering Prayer (W201) 5:00 PM Welcome Table (WH - All) 5:00 PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	31 9:00 AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:15 PM Cloud 9 (217) 3:15 PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00 PM Lectionary Bible Study (Off Campus) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)				
RWH - Rear Westminster Hall	FWH - Front Westminster Hall	FEH - Front Eastminster Hall	REH - Rear Eastminster Hall				

HEALTH TIPS

HEALTHY THOUGHTS: MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL DISORDERS

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Mental health is essential to personal wellbeing, family and interpersonal relationships, and the ability to contribute to community or society, yet an estimated 13 million American adults (approximately 1 in 17) have a seriously debilitating mental illness.

WHAT IS MENTAL ILLNESS?

Mental disorders are among the most common causes of disability. According to National Alliance of Mental Illness, "mental illnesses are medical conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning." Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life.

Types of mental illness include major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and borderline personality disorder.

TREATMENT FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illnesses are both manageable and treatable. In fact, most people diagnosed with a serious mental illness can experience relief from their symptoms by actively participating in an individual treatment plan. Treatments include medication, psychosocial treatment (such as cognitive behavioral therapy), interpersonal therapy, and peer support groups.

IMPORTANT FACTS

Mental illnesses are serious medical illnesses. They can affect persons of any race, religion, educational background, or income, and are not the result of personal weakness, lack of character, or poor upbringing. They cannot be overcome through "will power" or "tough love."

Mental illness usually affects individuals in the prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young adulthood. All ages are susceptible, but the young and the old are especially vulnerable.

Early identification and treatment is of vital importance; by ensuring access to the treatment and recovery supports that are proven effective, recovery is accelerated and the further harm related to the course of illness is minimized.

RESOURCES

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. It is an excellent resource that offers information, referrals, classes and support groups for people suffering from mental illness and their loved ones. For more information, visit www.nami.org.

Trish Badgett, RN, Parish Nurse

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NPPC RESOURCE CENTER

As we celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday this month, the resource center is featuring several works of importance related to the ongoing, important discussions of race relations in our church and community. For children check out *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by Kadir Nelson. This picture book is based on the true story of Henry "Box" Brown, as told in the 1872 book, *The Underground Railroad* by William Still. *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales* is a collection by the Newberry Award winner Virginia Hamilton with wonderful illustrations by Leo and Diane Dillon. For older children there are two biographies of Martin Luther King. *Martin Luther King: The Peaceful Warrior* by Ed Clayton and *Meet Martin Luther King, Jr.* by James T. de Kay.

For adult readers there are three new books that are must reads. Two are by Timothy B. Tyson. His first, *Blood Done Sign My Name*, is a riveting narrative of the summer of 1970 in Oxford, North Carolina. This personal

account by Tyson is a portrait of what has been described as a uniquely American struggle for racial equality and the swirls of emotion around it. Tyson's latest book is *The Blood of Emmett Till*. This is the account of the fourteen-year-old from Chicago whose murder was a part of a wave of white terrorism that became the foundation of the modern civil rights movement. The book has been praised as "upending what we thought we knew about the most notorious racial crime in American history." The final book we are featuring is the National Book Award winner *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This book is a letter from Coates to his adolescent son about inhabiting a black body and finding a way to live with it. I found this book to be one of the most helpful accounts of our current racial conflicts that I have read. I truly believe it should be required reading for all of us.

When you are inside on cold January days, spend some time with these books and others that you can find in the NPPC Resource Center. Remember these featured books are on the table inside the door, and others are listed in the notebook on the circulation shelf.

Read On! Cynthia Freeman

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.

The program for Wednesday, January 10 will be *Looking at the Past: The NPPC Archives*. Come hear Cynthia Freeman share some interesting discoveries from our archives and learn how past archivists have preserved our church's long history. We would love for you to share some of your own memories of NPPC as a part of this program.

Please contact Ashley (ashley@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182 ext. 101) with your reservation for lunch by Thursday, January 4, at 12 noon. If you would just like to come hear the program, join us at noon. Hope to see you there!

Cynthia Freeman

LIFE BEGINNERS

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

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information about the trip on Friday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m.

Contact Ashley, ashley@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182, ext. 101) with your reservations.

Stephanie Bell

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- Elenor Van Pelt, January 4
- Jackie Kellar, January 15

Donnae Farley

PARKING LOT UPDATE

In an effort to increase the safety of our parking lot, Ray Bryant, our Facility Manager, has installed traffic calming bumps in the parking lot. Beginning in January, there will also be limited entrances to the parking areas. Both entrances on Houston street will be open, as will the Broadway entrance into the upper parking lot. On Lamar Alexander, the entrance directly in front of the double-glass doors will be open. The two entrances from Broadway and Lamar Alexander that are nearest the former Dead End BBQ will be closed.

All entrances will be open during peak usage (Church services, funerals, weddings, etc.)

Thank you for your understanding as we work to improve safety at NPPC.

Coco Everett

BARTLETT BUZZ

The year of 2018 begins the 19th year that Bartlett Adult Day Out has been in continuous operation. During that time we have had many participants through our doors as well as a host of volunteers. New Providence can be proud of the hours of service this ministry has provided to our community.

If you have time to volunteer or have a talent to share, please contact Trish at 865-983-0182.

Trish Badgett, RN, Parish Nurse

TENDING OUR FLOCK

WE SHARE SORROW

- Danny Galyon, father of Troy Galyon, 11/20
- Joseph Hall, Jr., 11/20
- Martin Gunn, cousin of Clarence Durham, 12/2
- Louise Cooley, sister-in-law of Ann Spencer, 12/5

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 Ashley (ashley@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182, ext. 101) or anyone in the office.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

- January 7: Genesis 1:1–5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1–7, Mark 1:4–11
- January 14: 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20), Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18, 1 Corinthians 6:12–20, John 1:43–51
- January 21: Jonah 3:1–5, 10, Psalm 62:5–12, 1 Corinthians 7:29–31, Mark 1:14–20
- January 28: Deuteronomy 18:15–20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1–13, Mark 1:21–28

CHURCH CLOSED

The church will be closed on Monday, January 1, and Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Keep up with all the happenings at New Prov, do one or all of the following:

- Friend us on our Facebook page @newprovpres
- Follow us on Twitter to get our tweets at @newprovpres
- Follow us on Instagram at newprovidencepres
- Hashtag any post with #NewProvPres to keep in the loop
- Subscribe to the E-news, our weekly electronic newsletter of last minute church news
- Get our Adult Ed E-news, our monthly newsletter concerning all things Adult Education
- Check out our website at Newprovidencepres.org
- Contact Coco (coco@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) and get signed up today!

SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR JANUARY

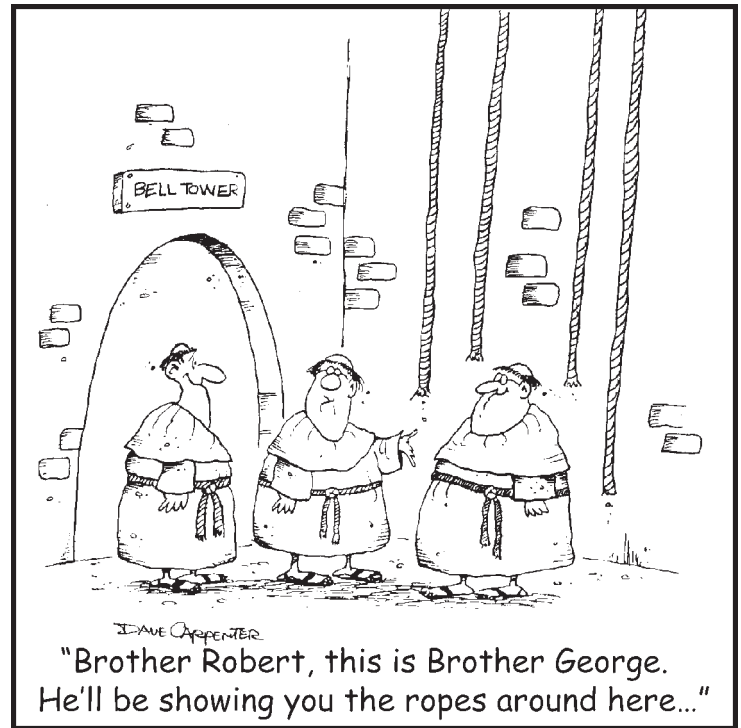
FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
7	Harry Herrmann, Olivia Lazar, Bobbie Briggs	Peggy & Tom Raines*, Lee & Liz Huffaker, Bobbie Briggs	Tracy Luttrell
14	Bill Savell, Beth Lazar, Bill Yarborough	Judy Woods*, Terry Woods, Paul & Denise Vogado	Open
21	Gabie Kerr, Bryan Kilday, Hayley Lynn	Chrissy Irvine*, Andrew, Jamie, & Will Irvine, Jeff & Marcy Ward	Paula King
28	Chad Rogers, Jenifer Greene, Harry Herrmann	Jenn Hardy*, Claude Hardy, Ron & DeAnne Gibbs, Bob & Sue Ramger	Hayley Lynn

TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
7	Brian LaRose, Liz Britt, Tracy Luttrell	Karen Paxton*, Ann Spencer, Linda Brakebill, Susan Young	Tracy Luttrell
14	John Pittenger, Ann Bennett, Michelle Huntoon	Jason Brooks*, Andrea Franks, Bud Gangwer, Barbara Hall, Jeanne Ezell	Open
21	Jason Brooks, Kate Clabough, Brian LaRose	Bill Morton*, Jane Morton, Tom & Eva Carpenter, Mot Krick	Paula King
28	Liz Britt, Tracy Luttrell, Jane Morton	Stephanie Bell*, Dale Freeman, Mel Luttrell, Jeff Pezick	BSA-Troop 88

* 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
Eric Minton	INTERIM YOUTH COORDINATOR
Fairlena Googe	INTERIM CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR
Trish Badgett	PARISH NURSE
Ray Bryant	FACILITIES MANAGER
Penny Bever	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Coco Everett	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Ashley James	INFORMATION COORDINATOR
Amelia Geis-Scott	WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR



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DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY

1	Church Closed for New Year's Day
10	Baptism of the Lord Communion During Both Services
12	Community Benefit Sale
12-13	Officers' Training for All Officers
15	Church Closed for MLK Jr. Day
16	<i>New Prov Press</i> Deadline
21	Money for Manna
26	Community Benefit Sale
28	Scout Sunday

