



New Providence

October 2016
Vol. 53 No. 10

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

www.newprovidencepres.org
(865) 983-0182

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING

As we rush into the new year of school and church programs, it's easy to lose sight of the peace Christ promises. We get busy, overworked, and anxious. Beyond the stress and difficulty of our own lives, we look around and see a world marked by violence around the corner and across the globe. That is why we're grateful for the Season of Peace we are in, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness offering on World Communion Sunday. The ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that, with all the discord, pain, and conflict in our communities and in the world, we serve a God who promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

This is why we ask you to give to the Peace & Global Witness offering. You will retain 25 percent of this offering to support a local ministry; 25 percent is retained by mid councils; and the remaining 50 percent is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe.

As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community.

We will accept your gift to this offering on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2016. Visit the Peace & Global Witness website (www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global) to find out more information.

Presbyterian Mission Agency

PORCH DE SOLOMON

Porch de Solomon is celebrating its 11th year of service to Panajachel, Guatemala and the surrounding areas! A few highlights of this year's activities include hosting 30 short-term mission teams who helped provide:

- 10 new, furnished houses for indigenous families (and local jobs for Guatemalans)
- 27 free medical, dental, audiology, and vision clinics for indigenous people; including four long-distance clinics in the grossly underserved Boca Costa region
- Bible schools, children's church, and fun for native children

Additionally, The Porch continues its ever-expanding humanitarian relief including weekly food and milk for malnourished children, medical care including surgery for infants born with cleft palate, and the provision of clean water home purification systems. Porch de Solomon also provides sustainability training for indigenous women, and helps launch single mother family sustainable business projects.

Andrea Franks

INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER TO VISIT

Rev. Luis Fernando San Miguel from Colombia, who has significantly participated in peacemaking efforts between Colombia's government and guerilla groups for years, will be visiting with NPPC on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. Rev. San Miguel will attend Welcome Table at 5:00 p.m. and do a brief presentation about his missionary experience in Eastminster Hall at 6:15 p.m. Mark your calendar and join us for this foreign mission outreach activity.

SHARE THE HARVEST

Enjoy the beautiful autumn leaves- and help stock the John 316 (J3O) Community Closet with household items for families in crisis in our community. Our tree will be set up in the Atrium through October 2, 2016. Choose a "leaf" off the tree, purchase the item, and return it to the church. Volunteers will stock the closet for use by our partner organizations that include the Family Resource Centers of all area schools, Good Neighbors, Haven House, Family Promise, Heaven Sent Home and the Pregnancy Resource Center. If you have questions, contact Chris Combs (385-3892, 709knight@gmail.com).

Chris Combs

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES AND MORE SALE

The Community Benefit Sale volunteers collect donated items and reserve them for this special Antiques, Collectibles and More sale. These items sell for more providing more money for local non-profit agencies.

Sale Dates

Pre-Sale for Members, Staff and CBS Workers only

Thursday, October 6
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Bring monetary or canned-good donation for Community Food Connection

Public Sales
Friday, October 7
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 8
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Donna Booher

FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this, I'm on a plane en route to Boise, Idaho, by way of Chicago (and a two mile trek across O'Hare airport). Boise, you ask? (By the way, I've been informed that it is BOlsee, not Boyzee.)

Well, yes, Boise. I am on my way to the fall meeting of my clergy group, the Community of Pastors. There are twenty-five or so of us who come from everywhere from Scottsdale, Arizona to Glens Falls, New York, and from Jacksonville, Florida to - well, Boise, Idaho. We are a roughly equal number of men and women who range in age from late-thirties to "retirement-pending."

The "Community," as we call it, was started thirty-some years ago by a handful of pastors who were feeling the need for mutually supportive relationships that could last over time and miles. Those original members have long since come and gone. The agreement is that once you retire, you're welcomed back for one last gathering, and then the Community invites a new member to join in your place.

The only thing that all of us in this group share is that we are all Presbyterian pastors (some call themselves "Sr. Pastors") in congregations that are large enough to have at least one associate pastor on staff. That's not for purposes of self-congratulation, but simply because we've found that we tend to share a lot in common in our places of ministry.

That being said, the churches range in size from the 300-member First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, IN to the 4800-member Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, and everywhere in between. I would guess that New Providence is right about in the middle.

When we gather in September and May each year, one of us hosts the event in his or her home city, and plans an agenda that's designed to show what ministry is like in that particular

context. Some clergy groups like this come together to discuss preaching texts, or study specific issues of church life, and those are valid and valuable goals. But our intention with the Community has been just to be together, and the richest part of our gatherings always ends up being conversations over meals or reflection about what's going on in each of our lives. In between meetings, of course, there are helpful e-mails that circulate:

"What are you all doing about the new Department of Labor guidelines?" or, "I'm thinking about taking a group to the Holy Land, any suggestions?" or, "What's your best Advent sermon series?" But every interaction is grounded in kindness and support and friendship.

You've heard me quote Anne Lamott many times, particularly about her affection for her church. In the dedication to *Traveling Mercies*, she writes "when I was at the end of my rope, the people of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church tied a knot in it and helped me hang on." I feel the same way Community of Pastors. In some of my darkest days, they have been a lifeline for me.

Why do I tell you all of that? Not to make you jealous that I get a few days in the Northwest (in fact, the Weather Channel is suggesting that it's going to be ten degrees warmer in Idaho than Tennessee this week!). But I tell you all that to say that I think it's important for all of us to have people we can turn to, people who "get us" and get what we're going through and who will be there over the long haul. Stan told me that he was once in a clergy group like this in Mississippi, and they had the same agenda every time they met. It consisted of only two questions: 1) What are you celebrating? and 2) What are you up against?

I hope that each of us have people who are posing those questions in our lives. What are you celebrating and what are you up against? Because as we listen to those responses from one another, as Paul says, we "bear one

another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

My experience is that those groups and friendships happen in all sorts of unexpected places: one group of retired teachers still gets their bowling group together regularly. Moms of 30- and 40-somethings still meet together, even though they started as a sewing group when their children were all in Vacation Bible School at the same time. A group of men come to the church to help Ray with projects every other Wednesday morning, then leave to eat lunch by 10:45, which is the highlight of the day. (Although I hear tell that they've been known to spend the afternoon playing pool!)

You've heard me say before that I believe that one of the tasks of the church is to help build good friendships, and I hope NPPC has provided ways for you to do that. If you're struggling with it, I hope you'll let me know. "I do not call you servants any longer," Jesus says, "but I have called you friends." Friendship is at the heart of who we are as Christian people - friendship with God, friendship with one another, and friendship with all those people in our community who "aren't yet" connected to New Prov - but who probably need to be.

And even as I head off to meet friends in Boise, I am grateful for a congregation of beloved friends right here at home.

It is a joy to be the church with you.



Emily J. Anderson

FALL FESTIVAL

The Children's Ministry Fall Festival is scheduled for October 16th from 3-6 p.m. at Maple Lane Farm. The Children's Ministry has reserved a tent to share a meal and socialize. The hayrides are \$3 and the corn maze is \$10 for adults 12 and up, \$8 for children 5-11 years old and free for children under 4. Our hope is for this to be a time for the children to hang out with each other outside of church and for parents to be able to socialize and fellowship. It is going to be a great time so invite a friend!

IT'S HOMECOMING TIME AT NEW PROV!

During both worship services on Sunday, October 23, we will recognize the college and university students who work with us at New Providence, plus celebrate the presence of the many Maryville College alumni who will be in town and (we hope) at New Providence that weekend.

We'll be piped into both services of worship that day by master piper Andrew Kerr in traditional Scottish garb, and so to extend that a little further, everyone is invited to wear clan tartans, scarves and yes, even your kilts, gentlemen! Perhaps we'll have a good-natured fashion contest following the service.

After worship we will have "Dinner On the Grounds." Beginning at 12:05 p.m. in Westminster Hall, we'll have a traditional Homecoming gathering with pulled pork and brisket from Full Service (provided by the church) and a potluck of side dishes and desserts. Contact Karen in the office (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) to reserve a spot by Friday, October 21.

Steve Musick

NPPM TO PROVIDE FALL CLEANUP

If you have leaf blowing, gutter cleaning, mulching or similar basic yard work that needs done, the New Providence Presbyterian Men (NPPM) want to help on Saturday, October 22. We'll do the work and you pay for the necessary materials. Contact Denny Moore (748-9263, dennymoore@bellsouth.net) for details.

Denny Moore

PWC GATHERING

All women of the church are cordially invited to attend the next gathering of the Presbyterian Women on Thursday, October 20, Lunch will be provided by Martha and Mary Circles. The program will be given by Amelia Geis Scott: "The Ins and Outs of Welcome Table." Please make reservations through your circle leaders or call Cathy Dickinson, Moderator at 679-0096.

BARTLETT BUZZ

We will be celebrating two birthdays in October at Bartlett Adult Day Out. Both Bill and Mike will be getting older this month. Birthdays are a reason to celebrate and have a party!

As always, if you have a gift or talent that you could share with us, we would love for you to come visit. Contact Trish (trish@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) to arrange a time.

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. Life Beginners will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 21, 2016 to go to Tellico Plains. Lunch will be off the menu at the Tellico Cafe. After lunch, we'll visit the Tellico Museum and then on to Bald River Falls. Transportation fee is \$2.00 per person. Please make your reservations with Karen (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) by Thursday, October 20 at noon. Hurry, space is limited, so sign up early!

Stephanie Bell

NEW PROV U

The time has come to snap shut your book satchels (from the days before backpacks) and head to New Prov U. A variety of subjects await you in the months ahead. 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 October 12 at 11:30 a.m., in Westminster Hall with Ray Smith. Ray is a retired Oak Ridge National Labs employee and an Oak Ridge historian. He'll share stories of the history of town of Oak Ridge.

We start with lunch (\$6 payable at the door) to be followed by the program at 12:00 p.m. Contact Karen (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) by noon on Friday, October 7 if you want to join us for lunch. If not just come for the program at 12:00.

Andy Simon

JOANNA SHELTON TO SPEAK

Author Joanna Shelton has written a book, *A Christian in the Land of the Gods: Journey of Faith in Japan*, which will be of great interest to us here at NPPC. The book is a narrative nonfiction that tells the story of two early members of New Providence Presbyterian Church and their children.

Joanna's great-grandfather, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Theron Alexander, served as a missionary to Japan from 1877 until his death at age 52 in 1902. Her great-grandmother, Emma Brown Alexander, was with him in Japan most of these years and helped raise a family of seven children, one of which was Shelton's grandmother. Tom became highly fluent in the Japanese language. He founded churches throughout central and southern Japan, taught young theologians at Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo, and wrote several books and numerous articles on theology (most in Japanese).

Joanna will speak at New Providence on Sunday, October 16 at 10:00 a.m. in Eastminster Hall.

SERVICE OF HEALING PLANNED

A moment of quiet and peace is a precious thing these days, and Sunday evening October 30 at 6 p.m. there will be space for just this at New Prov. We will gather in the sanctuary for a brief Service of Healing, a time for contemplation, prayer, and calm reverence. There will be opportunities to pray and be prayed for, to hear words of comfort and hope from scripture, and to find a renewed strength in a pause from our busy lives. We will celebrate together the healing peace we find in God's love through Christ our Lord and Savior.

Steve Musick

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Christmas Wishes is just around the corner! Wishlists will be available the week before Thanksgiving and the NPPC celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer and help children in our community!

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						01 Middle School Retreat @ John Knox
02 Middle School Retreat @ John Knox World Communion Communion Both Services 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Inquirers' Class (Chapel) 10:00AM Church School 10:40AM Called Session Meeting (Parlor) 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	03 ACS Fall Break BCS Fall Break 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA - Bear Cubs (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Wolf Cubs (FEH) 6:30PM BSA - Webelos 1 (Youth Room) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 2 (REH) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	04 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00PM Intl Peacemaker Rev. Sanmiguel Presentation (FEH) 6:00PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (Pavilion) 6:30PM Event Support Committee (211) 6:30PM Congregational Life/Deacons (206) 7:00PM Policy Committee (Youth Room) 7:00PM Budget & Finance (108) 7:00PM New Prov Green Team (Confirmation Room) 7:00PM Admin Team (Parlor) 7:00PM Stewardship Committee (109) 7:00PM Personnel Committee (Chapel)	05 8:30AM Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00AM Antiques & Collectibles Setup (FWH) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:00PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 6:00PM LIFT Steering Committee Meeting (Chapel) 6:00PM Men's Lead Team (109) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:00PM New Prov Reads (Parlor) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	06 9:00AM Antiques & Collectibles setup (FWH) 10:00AM PWC Circles - Leah (Parlor) 10:00AM PWC Circle - Ruth (Youth Room) 10:00AM PWC Circles - Martha (Chapel) 2:00PM PWC Circle - Deborah 5:30PM Antiques and Collectibles Presale (FWH) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211) 7:00PM PWC Circle - Mary (108)	07 9:00AM CBS Antiques & Collectibles Sale (WH)	08 PWC Fall Retreat - 1st Pres Knoxville 8:30AM Antiques & Collectibles Sale (FWH)
09 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)	10 MCS Fall Break Begins 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 10:00AM Maryville Babywearers Meeting (Youth Room) 6:45PM PET Climate & Energy Team (108) 7:00PM Youth Committee (Youth Room) 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	11 BCS Back to School 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 9:00AM Community Food Connection Board Meeting (Chapel) 9:30AM PEO (Youth Room) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:30PM Worship & Arts (Choir Room) 6:30PM Leadership Development Committee (206) 6:30PM Adult Ed Committee (214) 6:30PM Children's Committee (215) 7:00PM Church In the World (Chapel) 7:30PM Disc & Education (216)	12 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (Youth Room) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 11:30AM New Prov U (FWH) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00PM New Prov Reads (Parlor) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	13 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM D & S Community Services Training Meeting (FEH) 3:00PM LIFT Meal Prep (Kitchen) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211) 6:00PM BSA - District Committee (FEH) 7:00PM BSA-District Roundtable (REH)	14 ACS Fall Break Ends 4:00PM MHS vs. Wm Blount Football Parking	15
16 New Members Welcomed Money for Manna 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Author Joanna Shelton Presentation (FWH) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 3:00PM Fall Festival - Maple Lane Farms 4:30PM iGroup (FWH) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	17 MCS Fall Break Ends New Prov Press Deadline 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA - Bear Cubs (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Webelos 1 (Youth Room) 6:30PM BSA - Wolf Cubs (FEH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 2 (REH) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	18 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (FEH) 6:30PM Welcome Table Board Meeting (Youth Room) 7:00PM Session (Chapel)	19 7:30AM MHS Testing (FWH) 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) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:00PM New Prov Reads (Parlor) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	20 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 10:00AM PWC Coordinating Team (Chapel) 12:00PM PWC Gathering (Kitchen) 3:00PM LIFT Meal Prep (Kitchen) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211)	21 MC Homecoming 10:00AM Life Beginners 10:30AM Maryville Babywearers Meeting (Youth Room)	22 MC Homecoming 7:30AM Fall Outdoor Cleanup Assistance
23 Homecoming MC Homecoming MC Students Intro to Congregation 9:00AM FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00AM Church School 11:05AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00PM Dinner on the Grounds Homecoming Lunch (FWH) 4:30PM iGroup (FWH) 6:00PM Youth Dinner (FWH) 6:30PM PYC (FWH)	24 7:30AM Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00AM CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00PM BSA - Bear Cubs (FWH) 6:30PM BSA - Webelos 1 (Youth Room) 6:30PM BSA - Wolf Cubs (FEH) 7:00PM BSA - Webelos 2 (REH) 7:00PM BSA - Troop 88 (FWH) 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	25 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 1:00PM New Prov Press Mailing (Chapel) 1:30PM Welcome Table Prep (FWH) 1:45PM Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00PM FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:00PM Welcome Table (FWH) 6:00PM BSA - Tiger Cubs (FEH)	26 7:30AM Men's Witnessing Square (Youth Room) 9:00AM Bartlett Adult Day Out (REH) 3:00PM P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00PM Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 5:00PM D&S Community Services Halloween Party (FWH) 7:00PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM NA Group (206)	27 8:30AM CBS Set Up (WH) 9:00AM Quilters (FWH) 3:00PM LIFT Meal Prep (Kitchen) 5:45PM Grace Notes (211)	28 8:30AM Community Benefit Sale (WH) 4:00PM MHS vs. Hardin Valley Football Parking 5:00PM Dixon/Jones Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	29 12:00PM Dixon/Jones Wedding (Sanctuary)

RWH - Rear Westminster Hall

FWH - Front Westminster Hall

FEH - Front Eastminster Hall

REH - Rear Eastminster Hall

SOLAR 411

Solar power – this is a topic we hear about all the time, and yet it still seems like a difficult topic to get a handle on. Just the volume of information out there – often times conflicting – can be overwhelming. Ever feel like you can't make an informed decision as to whether solar is a viable option because the critical information on which to base a decision is a moving target? Or just want to learn more about the whole renewable energy concept? The Green Team, as part of our mission to encourage and facilitate stewardship of God's creation in our church and through our congregants, is partnering with the senior high youth in hosting an informational forum on solar-generated electricity. We will hear from several guest speakers who will help us to understand the basics and beyond, including information on funding mechanisms and area churches that have successfully adopted solar retrofits. If you would like to learn more about solar power, please join us for dinner with the youth at their regularly scheduled gathering on Sunday, November 6, at 6 p.m., followed by our program at 6:30, in Westminster Hall (or just come for the program). So that we can plan for the meal and program, please RSVP to Jason Graffis (jason@newprovidencepres.org) or Ginny Ayers (gkayers@charter.net).

Ginny Ayers

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

In November and December of 2016, we will be taking pictures for our new Pictorial directory. Our talented church volunteers will be taking the photographs and compiling the new pictorial directory so we can devote any money that might have been spent on the directory to missions and ministries. Please look for the sign up table in the Atrium during the month of October. In addition, on-line appointments will be available. Contact Phil Neisser (psneisser@gmail.com, 977-1390) for more information.

Phil Neisser

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

- October 2: Lamentations 1:1–6, Lamentations 3:19–26 or Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1–14, Luke 17:5–10
- October 9: Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7, Psalm 66:1–12, 2 Timothy 2:8–15, Luke 17:11–19
- October 16: Jeremiah 31:27–34, Psalm 119:97–104, 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5, Luke 18:1–8
- October 23: Joel 2:23–32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18, Luke 18:9–14
- October 30: Habakkuk 1:1–4, 2:1–4, Psalm 119:137–144, 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12, Luke 19:1–10

HEALTH TIPS

FLU SHOT: YOUR BEST BET FOR AVOIDING INFLUENZA

This year's annual flu shot will offer protection against the H1N1 flu virus, as well as two other influenza viruses this flu season. Influenza is a respiratory infection that can cause serious complications, particularly to young children, older adults and people with certain medical conditions. Flu shots are the most effective way to prevent influenza and its complications. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age or older be vaccinated annually against influenza. Vaccination is especially important for people at high risk of influenza complications, including:

- Pregnant women
- Older adults
- Young children
- Children between 6 months and 8 years may need two doses of the flu vaccine, given at least 4 weeks apart. Check with your child's health care provider.

Chronic medical conditions also can increase your risk of influenza complications. Examples include:

- Asthma
- Cancer or cancer treatment
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes

- HIV/AIDS
- Kidney or liver disease
- Obesity

It takes up to 2 weeks to build immunity after a flu shot, but you'll benefit from the vaccine even if you do not get it until after flu season starts.

Taken from mayoclinic.org.

Trish Badgett, RN, Parish Nurse

SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of NPPC met on September 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

- Request from the Adult Education Committee for the use of *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by JD Vance for use in the Faith and Culture class.
- Recommendation from the Youth Committee that, although they are strongly committed to Porch de Solomon and an international mission trip, the mission trip be postponed to the summer of 2018.

Carrie Eaton, Clerk of Session

TENDING OUR FLOCK

WE SHARE SORROW

- Kenny Moats, Maryville Police Department, 8/25
- Reece Drinnen, Linda Brakebill's father, 9/15

HAVE FAMILY NEWS?

Contact Karen (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) or anyone in the office to share your joys and sorrows.

WORLD COMMUNION

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during both services on Sunday, October 2, World Communion Sunday.

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.



SABBATICAL REPORT 2016

The stones that form the floor and walls of the Abbey at Iona may have been first laid 800 years, or 500 years, or 100 years ago. No one knows for sure whether this stone or that one over there were the ones repurposed from the ancient buildings, or cut and laid new for the rebuilding project in the early 1900's. It doesn't matter, at least not to me. There is no rock, no stone, no pebble or tree or vale on that entire island that does not radiate the spirit of those who have sought and found intentional Christian community on the island for 1500 years. Earth, air, stone, water, and light all become one chorus of praise and mystery.

Iona is a raw place that is nonetheless beautiful in its windswept sleekness. The tiny harbor at Baile Mor (Bally More) hugs the beach on the Ross of Mull, only 2 kilometers from the Isle of Mull that you can see clearly most of the time. To the west it is low hills and sheep pasture all the way to St. Columba's Bay (or the Bay at the Back of the Ocean). Here and there are the houses of the few families that live year round there.

Between the bays, just west of the village, the Abbey and the MacLeod Centre form the heart of the ecumenical community that brings hundreds of pilgrims to this "thin place" every year. A thin place is where the boundary between heaven and earth is almost non-existent; a place where sacredness saturates every molecule. Everything you can touch or feel is part of the story, centuries old, of believers in search of contact with the Divine, believers who have left their mark and carried away a deeper understanding of what it means to be in the presence of our Creator, and in the service of our Savior.

When I say that this was almost the high point of my time on sabbatical, I mean to communicate that there have been thin places throughout the entire summer. I suppose I should also include the week of retreat I spent at Ghost Ranch, another thin place, for that is where the journey that became this sabbatical actually began.

I also found "thinness" in reunions with old friends, and in the discovery of brand new ones. It was in a couple

of doctor's offices where I got some new information about my health (it's excellent for a 63 year old male, BTW). It is there in some test results that showed I am completely recovered and healed from the head injury I suffered last November. I found one especially thin place in the time my oldest friend, Judd Shaw, and I got to spend at a denominational conference in Florida.

But I also must include the time Lynne and I spent in Ireland. In a hired car we bounced down back roads in search of the next ancient site and out of the way place where humans since Neolithic times have sought the numinous and holy, or where later medieval pilgrims settled to live lives of devotion. We found stone circles and castles and ancient churches galore. We also met some wonderful folks, heard some incredible music, and ate glorious meals. I can do a great imitation of an Irish karaoke lounge singer covering Roy Orbison, if you want to hear it.

All of this was augmented by some changes to my patterns and habits that were intended to affect my spiritual, mental, and physical well being. And they did, all for the better. This has included daily discipline of prayer and meditation that was lengthened and deepened, partly in preparation for the magic and majesty of the trip to Iona and Ireland. They remain a part of each day as a response to a renewed sense of God's presence and leading in my life, a way to prepare myself for whatever God has in store for life and ministry.

I had planned to attend three conferences during July, all of which were cancelled for lack of registrations. One was an Immersion Experience in Spirituality at Columbia Seminary, one was Theology of the Elements at Montreat, and one was the Presbyterian Intercultural Network conference also to be held at Columbia.

I am still in the process of getting my fees reimbursed, but the time freed by the cancellations allowed me to attend the Be the Light Conference (formerly the Evangelism and New Church Development conference) of the PCUSA. It was every bit as powerful, educational, and inspirational as those I have attended in past years, though smaller, more humble, just as the PCUSA is a smaller denomination now

than in the past.

I suppose this makes evangelism even more important now than ever before, and I was glad to discover that we are not going to stand on street corners handing out tracts. Rather, we Presbyterians have an opportunity to share, if we will, our own incredible stories about how God through Christ has opened up new horizons for us, given us new life.

I have had the opportunity to spend some exceptional quality time with some very dear people this summer—some new acquaintances, some not so new, all cherished. I have had the opportunity to pay attention to parts of my life and living that were too much ignored for too long, and to discover and rediscover some joy in these that has gone overlooked in the routine pattern of my life.

I have learned some new ways to do the ministry I am called to do, and found the inspiration to try some new things, new ways to serve at New Providence, all of which will be part of resetting priorities, schedule, and boundaries as I jump back in to this year.

There a couple of things that I want to be able to communicate about this sabbatical and its effect and value to me. First is that I was able to adopt a new protocol for sustaining spiritual, emotional, and physical energy and stamina. Not to complain, but this profession, and my position specifically at a large and active church, takes a toll on one's ability to keep outlook and attitude positive and ready to use all of the time. Meetings that go late on Tuesday night followed by early morning Bible studies on Wednesday, long conversations with folks whose very lives or health (or those of loved ones) are at risk, continually seeing the possibilities of mission as well as the need to be present more and more often than time and available funds will allow—all these can be as draining as they are rewarding.

So I solicit your prayers to maintain a healthy balance of self-care as I endeavor to participate in congregational care and nurture. I was given some powerful tools with which to tackle this over the summer. And, the practice of using them is still new to me.

Second, I was also privileged to be in the company of many other Christians from the farthest reaches of the planet, and I learned much about how they approach their faith and life in the various contexts of their births. Every morning around 10 AM I got to share the chore of cleaning the showers at the MacLeod Centre with a lay preacher from Norway. I also met a woman from his home church who, with her husband and friend, writes and performs the most beautiful worship music I may have ever heard. I have her CD if anyone wants to hear it.

I set the table and cleared it every day with a UCC pastor from southern Georgia (USA, not EU), who serves a parish outside of Birmingham, England. I fell in with a ragtag collection of Methodist lay and clergy from Yorkshire who taught us a ridiculous song about a swain who died because he went a 'courting on Ilkley Moor without a hat. I met a young woman from Australia contemplating seminary and ordination but who is terrified of being stuck in lesser roles than her male counterparts. I ate daily with the staff of Iona Abbey from Spain, Ghana, South Africa, Pennsylvania, Orkney, and Calais to mention only a few, and they were aged 19 to 71.

My point is that there in Iona, all classes, nationalities, ethnicities, languages and culture were leveled and

included in the common commitment to seeking Christ in that thin place. Through this experience and my reflection and study since, I realize that God's project for realizing the claim upon Creation is and has been actively unfolding for eons, and we are only a small part of it.

Unfortunately, while I was in Europe, the shootings in Baton Rouge and Dallas occurred, tragedies that I observed shake the parts of the world where I was and the people I was with. There was much dismay over there that the nation with the loudest voice and greatest resources can't, for reasons not well understood, seem to be a shining example of hope and promise for many who have lived within its boundaries for centuries, much less have anything valuable to say to the hopeless piling up on shores abroad.

I share that dismay, but I have hope that humans can see beyond the fleeting constructs of race, nationality and all the other impermanent and temporal veneers that do not, ultimately, define us. We are first and foremost beloved children of God. We, the people whose hearts have been conquered by God, are capable of much in that service. It starts each day within each believer's heart, and a desire to let a will other and greater than our own take charge.

This summer has given me a

daily desire to live in that Divine Commonwealth, the Reign of God, where the cost of citizenship was not paid by me but by a love greater than I can comprehend. It is why the greatest souvenir I brought back home with me is this daily prayer:

"Lord, let me do nothing that costs me nothing."

Steve Musick

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Friend us on Facebook at @newprovpres
- On Twitter 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
- Get our Adult Ed E-news
- Sign up for E-votions to receive Advent devotions each morning of Advent
- Check out our website at newprovidencepres.org
- Contact Coco (coco@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) and get signed up today!

SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR OCTOBER

FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.			
	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
2	Gabie Kerr, Bryan Kilday, Beth Lazar	Liz Huffaker*, Peggy & Tom Raines, Connie & Jack Jackson	Susan Keller
9	Hayley Lynn, Shelby Middleton, Chad Rogers	Margaret Kidd*, Denise & Paul Vogado, Judy & Terry Woods	Bryce Luttrell
16	Bill Savell, Bill Schult, Chris Combs	Terri Carroll*, Jenifer & Walt Greene, Paula & Wes King	Susan Young
23	Harry Herrmann, Gabie Kerr, Brian Kilday	Sue Clark*, Jenn & Claude Hardy, Ruth & Don Moore	Steve Musick
30	Beth Lazar, Hayley Lynn, Shelby Middleton	Gary Grinder*	Susan Keller

TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.			
	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
2	Liz Britt, Jason Brooks, Michelle Huntoon	Jason Brooks*, Jane & Bill Morton, Susan Young, Gail Bowlin	Susan Keller
9	Janet Kolarik, Brian LaRose, Tracy Luttrell	Karen Paxton*, Ken Paxton, Jr., Bud Gangwer, Barbara Hall, Jeanne Ezell	Bryce Luttrell
16	Karen Paxton, Phil Reilly, Bob Beard	Brian LaRose*, Eva & Tom Carpenter, Diane & Jeff Pezick	Susan Young
23	Ann Bennett, Liz Britt, Jason Brooks	Stephanie Bell*, Linda Brakebill, Ann Spencer, Mel Luttrell, Dale Freeman	Steve Musick
30	Michelle Huntoon, Janet Kolarik, Brian LaRose	Joe Wood*, Margaret Ellen & Duncan Crawford, Bill & Ethel White, Nick Wood	Susan Keller

* 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
Melanie Rasnake	DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Rob Britt	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Peggy Rogers	ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF HANDBELLS
Jaclyn Beeler	CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR
Jason Graffis	YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTRIES AND FIRSTLIGHT WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Cindy Sugg	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC
Trish Badgett	PARISH NURSE
Ray Bryant	FACILITIES MANAGER
Penny Bever	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Coco Everett	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Karen Vogt	INFORMATION COORDINATOR
Amelia Geis-Scott	WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR



703 West Broadway
Maryville, Tennessee 37801
Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Maryville, Tenn.
Permit No. 120

WHAT'S INSIDE

Antiques, Collectibles and More Sale	1
Bartlett Buzz	3
Calendar for October 2016	4
Fall Festival	2
From the Pastor	2
Health Tips	5
International Peacemaker to Visit	1
It's Homecoming Time at New Prov!	3
Joanna Shelton to Speak	3
Lectionary Bible Study	5
Life Beginners	3
Mark Your Calendar	3
New Prov U	3
NPPM to Provide Fall Cleanup	3
Online Donations	5
Peace & Global Witness Special Offering	1
Pictorial Directory	5
Porch de Solomon	1
PWC Gathering	3
Sabbatical Report 2016	6
Service of Healing Planned	3
Session Summary	5
Share the Harvest	1
Social Media and Communications	7
Solar 411	5
Sunday Morning Leadership For October	7
Tending our Flock	5
World Communion	5

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR OCTOBER

2	Communion during both services of worship World Communion Sunday
16	New Members Welcomed Money for Manna Joanna Shelton to Speak Children's Ministry Fall Festival
17	<i>New Prov Press</i> Deadline
23	Homecoming MC Scholars Introduced
28	Community Benefit Sale
30	Service of Healing