

The Erin Spirit

Erin Presbyterian Church (USA)

"Serving the Community on the
same site since 1860."

DECEMBER 2015



For in the one spirit
we were all baptized
into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13



Pastor's Pen.....

The Littlest Angel

When my children were young, I loved to read them a special book at Christmas, *The Littlest Angel*. It was not in the least biblically-based and, for that, I may have been wrong. However, the story was so poignant and the message so meaningful, I could not help reading it Christmas after

Christmas. I still love to read it.

It is the story of a little boy who dies and goes to heaven and becomes an angel. He is not an exemplary angel at all, having a few misadventures and wreaking quite a bit of havoc in the heavenly realms. His antics are pretty amusing. After some time, he eventually gets his little act together and becomes a better angel

Then, there comes a time for a big heavenly event. God's Son is going to be born on Earth, and all the heavenly host are going to give Him presents before His departure. The Littlest Angel is very perplexed and struggles with what he can give to the Holy Son of God. As he thinks about this problem, he realizes he doesn't have much of anything to give. He finally decides on a gift—something very special to him. It is an old box full of treasures he had as a boy when he lived on Earth.

On the day the gifts are presented to the Lord, there are magnificent gifts to behold. The tiny little angel is in anguish over the lackluster gift he has given. It is not shiny or beautiful or anything special at all, he thinks. When it is finally chosen, he is crying and trying to hide because he is so ashamed. However, the Lord finds his gift to be very special because it came from his heart and was all he had to give. The Lord even chooses the Littlest Angel's gift to become the Star of Bethlehem!

Do you ever find yourself

thinking that you have nothing to give to the Lord, or that what you do have is not nearly enough? That it is not worthy? I know I do. I can easily look around at how gifted other people are and at what they can do for the Lord. Comparing is not something we are supposed to do, but. . . I find myself doing it. Of course, in doing so, I begin to feel very inadequate and discouraged—even ashamed.

My gift to the Lord may seem as lackluster as the Littlest Angel's in comparison to what others have to offer. I am not a gifted orator; a riveting teacher; a talented musician; or a bold evangelist. But I know that I want to give back to the Lord for all He has done for me. Serving Him is an act of worship. Therefore, simply being available to serve Him in how He leads me is the best I can do. I have the gift of "helps." It is not a showstopper. It is a behind-the-scenes, roll up your sleeves, get the task done kind of gift. However, it is just as necessary, just as "beautiful" as the other gifts are.

What gift has the Lord given you to share with others? Maybe you are more of a behind-the-scenes type of person—a prayer warrior, an encourager, a person with a merciful heart. Or maybe you are a gifted orator, talented musician, riveting teacher, or a bold evangelist. Whatever your gift is (and we all have at least one!), if you use it to glorify the Lord and bring honor to Him, it is worthy. So, use your gift to serve the Lord, and He will make it shine—just like the Littlest Angel's did!

Grace and gratitude,
Nancy

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For Your Information...

Session Committees for 2015

Administration

Property & Finance

Dave Marshall, Chair
 B. Nowaczewski, Treasurer
 Ruth Harris
 Roger Harrison
 Dave Jaworski
 Tom Pietrzak
 Jim Pinello

Evangelism

Mission & Outreach

Tom Pietrzak, Chair
 Edna Bassett
 Joyce Lawrence
 Ramona Hoggarth
 Carol Weidenbach
 Nancy Weidenbach

Chancel

Kevin Smith, Chair

Fundraising

Roger Harrison, Chair
 Carla Harrison

Christian Education

Jean Jaworski, Chair

Church Officer Nominating

Dave Marshall, Co-chair
 Jean Jaworski, Co-Chair
 Margaret Kirkindall, Deacon
 Congregation Members:
 Betty Ireland
 Edgar Kirkindall
 Kelly Morris
 Bob Nowaczewski

Kitchen

Margaret Kirkindall, Chair
 Carla Harrison
 Sue Le Fevre
 Ruby Scalf

Memorial & Endowment Committee

Dave Marshall, Moderator
 Nancy Bass, Pastor
 Bob Nowaczewski, Treasurer
 Jean Jaworski, Secretary
 Roger Harrison, Elder Rep.



*The DEADLINE for the **January 2016** Erin Spirit is Mon., December Please, be sure to have your info to the church office by 1 p.m. if you want it in the November Erin Spirit.*

- Any committee or person needing something put into the Sunday Spirit, I ask that you have it into the church office by 1 p.m. on Tuesday of the week you would like it put in.
- Any group or committee needing to use the lit up portable sign for event(s) advertising, please see Dorothy to schedule needed dates on the church calendar. It is the responsibility of the group using the sign to put up the message they want and to take the letters down and put them back when they are finished.

Presbyterian Men

Open to all men of the congregation, young and old, this is a wonderful opportunity to

The men will be helping to set up for the craft show on Thursday, December 3rd in the evening. On Saturday, December 12th, we will be cooking for the Macomb County Commissioners Annual Pancake Breakfast. These are important events, so please plan on helping

on these dates. All men of the church are encouraged to take part in these events. See Tom Pietrzak or Dave Marshall for further information.

Looking ahead....Men will be having the Soup & Chili Cook-off on Saturday, February 10, 2016. Watch for more detailed information!



Committee Meetings for December

- **Men of Erin** will be cooking for pancake breakfast held on Saturday, 12/12/15 at 10 to noon in Knox Hall.
- **Evangelism** meeting Saturday, 12/12/15 at 10:30 a.m. in MacDonald Hall
- **Property & Finance** will meet Wednesday, 12/9/15 at 7 p.m. in Pastor's study.
- **Session** will meet Wednesday, 12/16/15 at 7 p.m. in MacDonald Hall.

Call to a Congregational Meeting

The Session of Erin Church has acted to call a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the church officers for the Session and the Board of Deacons for the classes of 2016 - 2017 - 2018.



***Christmas Eve Worship
 Candlelight Worship at 8 p.m.***

December Events



Erin Presbyterian Church Christmas Craft & Vendor Sale SATURDAY, December 5, 2015 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Erin Presbyterian Church is having a Christmas Craft SALE.
Many vendors and you are invited to sell your handcrafted items.

The church is located at
30000 Gratiot Ave. (at Common Rd., east side of Gratiot), Roseville, MI 48066.

Phone: 586-777-9200 Fax: 586-777-6397

email: churchoffice@erinchurch.org

If you need more information contact us at the above.

Table rental forms may be obtained from the church office.

Food will be available for purchase.

STROLLERS PERMITTED

**SET UP TIME BEGINS AT 6 P.M. UNTIL 8 P.M. ON FRIDAY, December 4th, 2015 AND AT
7 A.M. ON SATURDAY, December 5th, 2015. (Set up must be completed by 8 A.M.)**



Erin will have a couple of tables so if you would like to donate items for us to sell (proceeds of these tables go to Erin's operating fund), bring them to the church. We will have a bake sale table so donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated!

Table Size 8' x 30": \$25.00 per table

Electrical Hook Up: \$10.00



Christmas Cards for Veterans

This will be a Congregational Activity on Sun., December 6th during the coffee hour. Besides the usual coffee hour refreshment fare we will have a couple of different homemade soups and rolls. Come join the fun!

Christmas **C**ards for **V**eterans is a program originated as a thank-you/show a vet you care concept. The idea was to have local organizations like schools, scout groups, or churches make hand made cards for the patients stuck in John Dingel VA Hospital located on John R. in Detroit. Cards are made ahead of time and delivered to the Nursing Supervisor/Community Coordinator. The coordinator then manually puts a homemade card on each breakfast food tray of every patient in the hospital that day. You can imagine the effect it had on patients who no longer had family or thought they were simply a forgotten commodity.

*Help us decorate homemade Christmas Cards for our Vets. Our goal is 75 cards!
So put your crafting hat on, bring your scissors & glue and join Erin's "Arts & Scraps Card makers."*

Motor City Chorale (formerly the GM Choir) Christmas Concert Sunday, December 20, 2015 3 P.M. Erin Church Sanctuary



Concert is free and all are welcome! Bring your family, friends and co-workers for a beautiful afternoon of holiday cheer and an afterglow following the concert in Knox Fellowship Hall.



Free will offering will be taken.

Finances

A note from the Admin./Property & Finance Committee...

Below is our financial position for the months of January through October 2015:

Cash Receipts

Total offerings	\$ 51,531.52
Fundraisers	5,446.22
Church use & interest income	<u>5,872.58</u>
Total Income	\$ 72,850.32

Cash Expenditures

Staff Salaries	\$ 27,387.63
Building/operational expenses	30,476.40
Committee expenses	<u>10,524.14</u>
Total Expense	\$ 68,388.17

Net Operating Total (favorable) \$ 4,462.15

Total income through October 2014 was \$73,008.65 compared to \$72,850.32 for this year, thus our income has fallen behind last year by \$158.33. Expenses through October 2014 were \$83,402.48 while this year our expenses have dropped to \$68,388.17, a reduction of \$15,014.31 in spending. Last year at this time our expenses exceeded our income by \$10,393.83, this year we have improved to a favorable position with income exceeding expenses by \$4,462.15. Included in expenses this month was \$1,750.00 for repairs to the Sanctuary roof. Offerings received for the month of October averaged \$921.00 per Sunday, while in September we averaged \$930.00 per Sunday, and \$1,389.93 per Sunday in August. Our investments recorded a net gain of \$194.62 during October and now total \$4,971.11 for the month, up from the December 31, 2014 balance of \$4,938.40.

Thank you,
Administration, Property & Finance Committee

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of November 18th, we have received 33 pledges totaling \$44,556.00, which is behind our last year campaign total by \$9,200.00.

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in your 2016 pledge. For those who haven't turned in your pledge, it's never too late. Please pray on what your financial commitment supporting Erin's ministry can be and complete your pledge card and drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday. Pledge cards are available in the church office if you have misplaced yours.

OUTREACH to COMMUNITY & ERIN FAMILY...



Roseville Community Schools sponsors **Gleaner's Mobile Food Bank** at Erin Church in the parking lot on rolling Mondays of the month. If you are able to help distribute the food please come to the church around 12:15/12:30. December's was held November 30th.



Macomb County Commissioners invite everyone to the 9th Annual Pancake Breakfast December 12, 2015 at ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 10 a.m. to 12 noon

This event is sponsored by County Commissioners Fred Miller and Kathy Tocco.

The breakfast is free, requiring only the donation of a canned or staple food item per person attending for admittance.

All non-perishable food collected will benefit the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #154 Veterans Support Center for use and distribution through their food pantry for vets and for the Macomb County Food Program.

Erin Church is excited that we are able to reach out to the vets in our community and be a part of this worthy program! The Erin's Men Group will be helping cook the breakfast and we all know what good cooks they are!



Temporary Concerns:

Andrew Allor
Paul Hughes
Dave Jaworski
Nick Klave
Connie Kline
John Le Sage
Karen Marshall
Sandy McMullen
Allie Miller
Diane Miller
Kathy Parker
Cheryl Preimer
Gail Scheffer
Al Spinella
Larry Stefani
Sandy Van
Robert Weidenbach
Beth Whitler
Irene Wingate
June Zydek

Long Term Concerns:

Frank Allor
Kevin Atcho
Terra Brozik
Butler Family
Blanche Dunn
Vi Ferguson
Heather Welch-Gleason
Grace Graebert
Dale Harrison
John Harrison
Joe Hoggarth
Cindy Hogman
Kelly Keller
Sandy Maley
Sally Marks
Chuck Marshfield
JoAnn Moore
Anthony Nowaczewski
Debbie Palutis
Dick Radatz
Alton Rausch
Helen Stewart
Linda Wright

Pray for US Military...especially:



- 127th Wing Air National Guard from Selfridge, home from Afghanistan!
- Dan Heaton, USAF Reserves, stateside
- Gary Rojas, US Army, stateside
- Rivan Frazee, USAF, stateside
- Timothy Harrison, USMC, Afghanistan

The Board of Deacons will be making up food baskets at Christmas to local families in need. Some very needed items are:

Spaghetti/Pasta sauces (such as Ragu, Prego etc.)
canned soups & stew
canned vegetables
canned chicken and tuna
jelly

If you know of someone that could benefit from one of the baskets please let the office or one of the Deacons know. Thank you.



Feeding the Community

Happy DECEMBER Birthday to our Erin family & friends:

- 5 Joe Hoggarth
- 6 Alex Neuenschwander
- 7 John Rodkey
- 18 Gary Morris
Bob Nowaczewski,
Heather Klein
- 25 Lee Stepanovic
- 28 Ilene Morris



Happy DECEMBER Anniversary to our Erin family & friends:

- 14 Dave & Jean Jaworski
- 27 Patrick & Carol King
- 28 Roger & Carla Harrison



Communion Sunday December 6, 2015
Deacon preparation: Margaret Kirkindall &
Deacon volunteer needed
Elder clean-up: Jean Jaworski &
Sue Le Fevre

GREETERS  SCHEDULE

- 6 Carol Weidenbach
- 13 Sue Le Fevre & Carl Eickhoff
- 20 Tom & Dorothy Pietrzak
- 24 8 pm Edgar & Margaret Kirkindall
- 27 No Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship Leader



- 6 Kelly Morris
- 13 Dorothy Pietrzak
- 20 Dorothy Pietrzak
- 24 Volunteer needed
- 27 No worship

Mission for the Month of December

Christmas Joy Offering

This is a yearly tradition, received on the fourth Sunday in Advent. It supports current and retired church workers in need throughout the assistance program of the Board of Pensions and supports and promotes racial, ethnic education through the National Ministries Division.

USHER TEAM

- 6 Team 1, Ruth Harris & volunteer
- 13 Team 2, C. Harrison & volunteer
- 20 Team 3, Dave Marshall Tom Pietrzak
- 24 8 pm volunteers needed
- 27 No Worship



Deacon of the Day

- 6 Priscilla Smith
- 13 Margaret Kirkindall
- 20 Martin Kirkindall
- 24 8 pm volunteer needed
- 27 No Sunday Worship

Dec. 6-Team 1
June Frazee
Tom Pietrzak



Dec. 13-Team 2
Sandra Rogers
Dave Marshall

Dec. 20 -Team 3
Terry Bossick
Dave Jaworski

- 6 Kevin Smith
- 13 Roger Harrison
- 20 Kevin Smith
- 24 8 pm ????
- 27 No Sunday Worship





If you are interested in helping run the sound during worship please talk to Kevin or Roger.

6 Dave & Karen Marshall and Christmas Cards 4 Vets



- 13 Volunteers Needed
- 20 No Coffee Hour
- 27 No Coffee Hour

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30-New Directions in Knox 7- NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30—Scottish dancers in MacDonald	2 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel	3 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel Men setting up tables in the evening for the Christmas craft show Knox Hall	4 6 to 8 Set up for Craft sale in Knox WTCC in Sanctuary in evening	5 7 to 8 am Set up for Craft sale in Knox 8 am to 6 pm Christmas Craft Sale in Knox Hall
6 8:30-WTCC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship & communion 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-Coffee Hour: The Marshalls & Cards for Vets in Knox 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	7	8 6:30-New Directions in Knox 7- NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30—Scottish dancers in MacDonald	9 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel 7- Property & Finance in Pastor's study	10 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel	11	12
13 8:30-WTCC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship in Sanctuary 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-Coffee Hour: The Lathams in Knox Hall 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	14	15 7- NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30—Scottish dancers in MacDonald	16 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel 7-Session Mtg. in MacDonald Hall	17 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel	18	19
20 8:30-WTCC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship in Sanctuary 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-NO Coffee Hour 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 3-Motor City Chorale Concert in Sanctuary Followed by Afterglow in Knox Hall 4-WTCC in Chapel	21	22 7- NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30—Scottish dancers in MacDonald	23 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel Church office closed	24 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel 8 PM Christmas Eve Candle light service Church office closed	 Christmas Day	26
27 8:30-WTCC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-NO ERIN WORSHIP 11-CCC-B in chapel 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	28 Church office closed	29 7- NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30—Scottish dancers in MacDonald Church Office closed	30 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel	31 New Year's Eve Church office closed	Jan. 1 	2

Christmas Gift Ideas....Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional Christmas gift idea.

R S O C K S C E F B T P B D E C G
 E H N H R O E R C E A R L M O U I
 T I S O O E A T S A A K U A M L L
 A R C K I C A L A C L F I E N A L
 E T I O S S O R E L R K E N M T H
 W E T E F O I L R E O F C I G E T
 S S N L T F E V P I F C N E R K M
 E E A E S T E A E O N A O B N S S
 L H D C N R O E C L D G A H H A J
 D T N T E I E Y M E E L S C C B E
 N O E R A M W P F A T T I O T T W
 A L P O K C O F P E K S M L A F E
 C C A N E A U V A I U E E O W I L
 A E N I R T K S I M L B R G N G R
 N M T C S F L O W E R S K N E E Y
 D A S S T R E E O R N A M E N T Y
 Y G I F T C A R D B N E C K T I E



BAKING
 BELT
 BOOK
 BRACELET
 CANDLES
 CANDY

CHOCOLATES
 CLOTHES
 COFFEE MAKER
 COFFEE MUG
 COLOGNE
 COOKIES
 DOLL
 EARRINGS
 ELECTRONICS
 FLOWERS
 GAME
 GIFT BASKET
 GIFT CARD

HERBAL TEAS
 JEWELRY
 MONEY
 MOVIE
 MUSIC
 NECKLACE
 NECKTIE
 PANTS
 PENDANT
 PERFUME
 PLANT
 SCARF

SHIRT
 SLIPPERS
 SNEAKERS
 SOCKS
 STUFFED ANIMAL
 SWEATER
 TELEVISION
 TOOL SET
 TOY
 TREE ORNAMENT
 WATCH
 WINE

We're on the Web!
www.erinchurch.org



Phone: 586-777-9200 or 586-777-9201
Fax: 586-777-6397
Office Email: churchoffice@erinchurch.org
Office is open Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 1 pm
Pastor Email: pastor@erinchurch.org

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

3000 Gratiot Avenue
Roseville, MI 48066
Nancy D. Bass, Pastor

Erin Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis, Moderator

The *Session* of Erin Church sets our vision and has authority over the entire ministry. Please contact its members with your questions, comments, and or ideas.

Nancy D. Bass, Pastor

Jean Jaworski, Clerk of Session

Class of 2015

Carla Harrison
Roger Harrison
Dave Marshall
Kevin Smith

Class of 2016

Ramona Hoggarth
Jean Jaworski
Tom Pietrzak

Class of 2017

Ruthanne Harris
Sue Le Fevre

The *Deacons* of Erin Church perform the ministries of service and compassion. Please contact its Members if you have or see a spiritual and/or physical need.

Class of 2015

Carol Eickhoff
Margaret Kirkindall
Priscilla Smith

Class of 2016

Dave Kussner
Carol Weidenbach

Class of 2017

Martin Kirkindall