

April at...



For period: April 1-30, 2018
Mailing Date: March 30, 2018

Featured in this issue:

- ◆ Give a Day Week of Service
- ◆ Pastoral transition info

“Thank You!”

When I arrived here afraid and alone in 1997, it never occurred to me that this would be my destination job. My daughter was upset with me for leaving Nashville prior to her high school graduation so we had decided my wife would stay in Nashville until she graduated. The winter that year in Louisville was bitter and it turned out that the vent in the house I was renting did not connect to the upstairs bedroom. I was sleeping under 5 blankets. Somehow, despite all that, the warmth of the congregation would keep me warm. I would discover a church full of character and characters. It has been a great ride for me. I came intending on leaving after 5 years and leave at the end of April after 22!

So, this April turns out to be the “cruellest month” for more than just the normal reason, it is the cruellest month because it is the last month that I will spend with you as your pastor. It is also cruel because you have taught me so much about ministry, about compassion, about Christian hospitality, about hard work and devotion, and about how to live and how to love. I will carry all these things in my heart but only the Lord knows if I will get to benefit from them in another pastoral situation.

I can never thank you enough for all you have meant to me and to Janie. She has found her place here just as I have. You welcomed her just as you welcomed me.

When I came the church had congregation appeal but lacked curb appeal. It is no joke that the EMS van went to the Methodist Church next door when we called with an emergency! But we have a new cross and a new sign. Harvey Browne will never be as beautiful on the outside as its members on the inside but at least now people will know to look!

If we can get our house sold, we will be on our way to the heat of Dallas where we will hunker down with two of our four grandchildren and try to not melt in the heat or get mowed down by speeding traffic!

May God continue to bless Harvey Browne as you seek your next pastor.

John

HE IS RISEN
alleluia



Sunday Worship

Chapel 8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary 11:00 a.m.

April 1

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Mark 16:1-8
“Witness to the Resurrection”
John Roper

April 8

Acts 4:32-35;
John 20:19-31
“Doubt and Belief”
John Roper

April 15

Acts 3:12-19
Luke 24:36b-48
“Do Not Be Afraid”
John Roper

April 22—One 11:00 AM Service

1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18
“Love is the Connection”
John Roper

April 29

Acts 11:1-18
“The Spirit of Change”
John Odom

Coffee Cove

April 1

Skip Light

April 8

Skip Light

April 15

Skip Light

April 22

Skip Light

April 29

Skip Light



Ushers—8:30 a.m.

April 1

Adrian & Lynn Cole
Bill & Peggy Campbell
Doug Mann
Bob Smith
Pam Glaze

April 8

Dick & Sharon Blayney
Bill & Peggy Campbell

April 15

Bob Smith
Doug Mann
Jerry & Martha Scott

April 22

One service at 11:00 AM

April 29

Susan & Eric Lehmann
Bob & Barb Graas

Greeters —11:00 a.m

April 1 & 8

Al & Nancy Pollack

April 15 & 22

Tom & Claudette Taylor

April 29

Leslie & Steve Whitehouse

Lay Readers

April 1

8:30 a.m. Bob Smith
11:00 a.m. Ellen Zuber

April 8

8:30 a.m. Pam Glaze
11:00 a.m. Sara Sutphin

April 15

8:30 a.m. Doug Mann
11:00 a.m. Christi Budd

April 22

11:00 a.m. Ben Blake

April 29

8:30 a.m. Eric Lehmann
11:00 a.m. Beth Kolodey

Ushers—11:00 a.m

April 1 & 8

Head Usher: Jim Rissler
Al Pollack
Brian Pollack
Nancy Pollack
Dee Pregliasco
Janet Redford
Theresa Reker
Jim Rissler
Janie Roper
Zenet Schissler

April 15 & 22

Head Usher: Sara Sutphin
Sherryl Schmied
Michael Schmied
Barbara Stephens
Jonathan Sutphin
Michael Sutphin
Claudette Taylor
Tom Taylor
Billie Valla

April 29

Head Usher: Fred Bennet
Leslie Whitehouse
Steve Whitehouse
Nancy Williamson
Betsy Barrick
Georgia Barrick
Jeff Barrick
Pris Becker
Linda Brantley



Transitions

Roper Dinner Reservations Due April 9

The deadline is fast approaching to make reservations for the dinner to honor John and Janie Roper, Sunday, April 22. The dinner in Emory Hall will begin at 6:00 p.m. with program to follow at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and hear friends and colleagues share their favorite John Roper stories as we bid the Ropers a fond farewell.

The deadline for reserving your spot is Monday, April 9. Reservation forms can be found at the Welcome Center or you can call the church office, 502-896-1791, or e-mail Erin Brashear, erinbrashear@hbpres.net, or Cheryl Granger, cherylgranger@hbpres.net.



Plan to Stay After

Plan to stay after the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 8, when we will dedicate our long-awaited Centennial Cross and memorial garden.

In the short time the cross has been in place, we have received numerous compliments on the 20-foot bronze and glass structure. With the arrival of spring, the memorial garden will give a new and inviting look to the front of our building.

Please plan to be part of this special celebration.

What to Expect During Our Transition 1

John Odom, Presbyterian for Community Life in the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, will be preaching on April 29, the first Sunday after the departure of John Roper as our senior pastor.

John will also be holding an open forum during the Sunday school hour that day, discussing what we can expect in the future as we begin the process of seeking a new pastor. John will also be teaching the Sunday school class which meets in the Session Room on April 22.

Come hear what John has to say about what the future holds for this congregation.



HB Tweens

On April 22, 12-4 pm the Tweens (2nd-5th grades) will go to Iceland for ice skating. We will meet at **HBPres** after worship for lunch and travel to Iceland to skate. We will return around 4 pm. The cost is \$5 and Terry Hargrave needs an adult to help transport to and from Iceland. This will be the last Tween event for the year except the Mid-KY Presbytery Tween Camp at Cedar Ridge on May 26-28. There will be more information coming out soon.

HB Youth

On April 15, 5-7 pm, the youth and parents are invited to a meeting to finalize paper work and details of the summer trips. We will have dinner together so bring a dish to share. Barbeque and drinks will be supplied.

On April 21, 1-3 pm the youth are invited to Strathmoor Presbyterian Church to help put Disaster Relief Kits together for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It is a mission project of the Presbytery and Terry will be there. It is a great project and youth can use this as service hours. It is part of the mayor's day of giving.

On April 29, 5-7 pm Ann Dorzback will come and speak about her experiences as a Jewish youth in Nazi Germany. She will share the discrimination she experienced during that time. Please join us as we learn more about Ann, who is willing to come speak to us.

HBYouth Summer 2018 Trips

June 9-16, 2018: Montreat Youth Conference **"Lift Every Voice"**

High School Youth (Youth entering 9th grade in the fall 2018 through recent graduates)
Cost: \$300

June 25-28, 2018: Middle School Youth Mission Trip in Louisville, KY

Middle School Youth (youth entering 6th grade through 8th grade in the fall 2018)
Cost: \$75
*****Sign up by April 29

July 8-13, 2018: High School Youth Mission Trip to Gatlinburg, TN

High School Youth (Youth entering 9th grade in the fall 2018 through recent graduates)
Cost: \$150
*****Sign up by April 29

July 18-22, 2018: Middle School Conference **"Living Mosaic"**

Middle School Youth (Youth entering 6th – 8th grades in the fall 2018)
Cost: \$200
*****Remaining balance by April 15

DREAM BIG!

2018 Tween Camp

May 26—28

Saturday, 10 AM through

Monday, 1 PM

At Cedar Ridge Camp

Cost : \$75.00 if paid before April 22, cost is \$100 if paid after April 23rd. No registrations will be accepted after may 14th.

Register here:

<https://presbytery.wufoo.com/forms/m1q0oqkw13tuqru/>

For more information,
please contact:

Terry Hargrave

Director of Children's and
Youth Ministries—Harvey Browne
Presbyterian Church

terryhargrave@hbpres.net

Doodle Harris

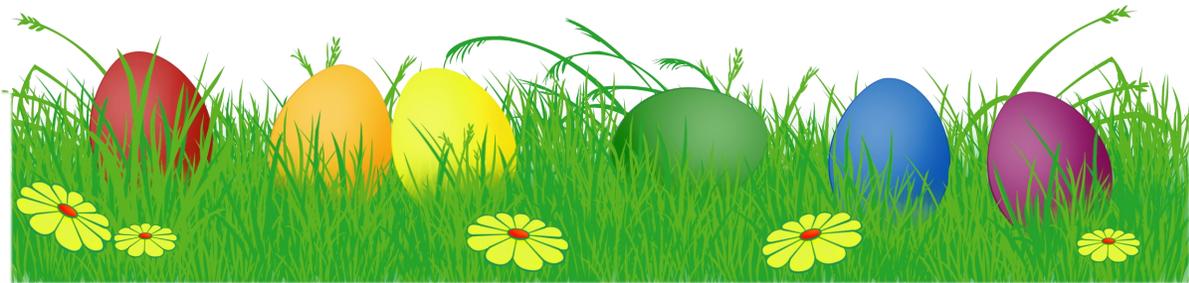
Associate Pastor for
Christian Education, Highland
Presbyterian Church
doodle.harris@hpdouville.org



**Bring your tweens who
have completed
3rd, 4th or 5th grade
for three days and two nights
of Presbyterian Fun!**

Activities include: Energizers, hiking, crafts, swimming, canoeing and more as we learn about Joseph, his difficult family relationships, how he used his gifts to serve God, and how he worked to make this world better.

April 28, all ages are invited to Climb NuLu for 2 hours of climbing and fellowship. The cost is \$10 per person and that includes pizza. **HBPres** has a room reserved for 10 am – 12 pm on April 28. Join us for some fun and fellowship. Their website says all ages can climb!



Did you know...

Did you know that Harvey Browne has an active Facebook page? Check out www.Facebook.com/HBPres for official church updates, photos and event information.

Help us spread the word about all the great things happening at Harvey Browne by leaving a review on the Facebook page, commenting on photos and sharing events for all your Facebook friends to see!

If you have photos or information that you'd like to see featured on the Facebook page, please e-mail Betsy Frentz (betsy.frentz@gmail.com). We especially love sharing photos!



Grocery Cart

The items collected in the Grocery Cart in April are for Hygiene Kits that are used in areas of disaster around the world. Items needed are:

Wash cloths

Hand towels (not fingertip or bath)

Boxes of band aids

Single toothbrushes in original packages

Wide tooth combs removed from package

Empty paper boxes (clean ones)

Please leave items in Cart by Sunday, April 16 as packaging day is Saturday, April 21 at Strathmoor Presbyterian.



Blood Drive

Many thanks to everyone for a very successful blood drive as we collected 28 good units. Thanks so much as we are in a very Critical Need for all types of blood. We look forward to the next blood drive on May 9th

Thanks again and again,
Bill Bliven

Notes from Session:

HBPres Vision Statement

Harvey Browne Church is a community of Believers that glorifies God and honors tradition as it seeks new ways of growing in faith, sharing our beliefs and putting our faith into practice.

HBPres Purpose Statement

HBPres is called to make a difference by making disciples who faithfully follow Jesus, study the Bible, and love one another by serving our neighbors.

The Session of **HBPres** met on Tuesday March 6, 2018 for a stated meeting. Following a devotion led by Jonathan Sutphin the following business was handled:

- Nick Porter, chair of Trustees, gave the Trustees' annual report. Gabe Wood made the motion requesting the Trustees to distribute to session \$84,429.60; 5% of market value of the endowments as of June 30, 2107. Motion seconded and passed by voice vote.
- Each committee reported on work being done in the committees.
- Kathy Williams gave Worship Committee's annual report.
- **HBPres** received a bequest from the estate of Charles Young in 2017. Gary Luhr made a motion to use \$12000.00 of the bequest for Pastor Nominating Committee expenses, \$10,000, and \$2000 to help with the farewell dinner for John & Janie. Seconded and passed by voice vote.
- John Johnson made motion to allocate approx. \$73,000.00 of the \$155,000 balance to Support Committee to be used as it feels best suited for our needs. The remainder of the bequest will be placed in a designated fund with the Trustees for growth and to be distributed at the discretion of Support Committee. Motion seconded and passed by voice vote.
- Maggie Chilton was approved as a 4th check signer. The other check signers are John Roper, Cheryl Granger and Tom Hughes.
- There will be a called session meeting on Tuesday April 10 at 7:00 to examine new officers. Ordination and installation of officers will be during 11:00 worship on April 15.

Anne Hughes
Clerk of Session

Thank you!

Pam and I would like to thank everyone for sending birthday cards and coming to Mom's birthday celebration -the 50th anniversary of her 40th birthday over the Christmas Holidays. Trying to surprise her can be a difficult task but everyone made it a huge success. She actually received 77 cards and her comment was "Wow! How did this many people know it was my birthday?"

Thanks again
Bill and Pam Bliven

Birthday Luncheon

The annual Birthday Luncheon sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of **HBPres** will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 in Eline Hall. The final bible study in *Cloud of Witnesses*, Lesson Nine, will be presented by Judy Laning. The evening circles will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a salad potluck supper followed by our speaker and bible study. All interested women of the church are warmly welcomed to this event. Our speaker will be Karen Cassidy, Executive Director of Hildegard House, which provides a compassionate home and end of life care to individuals who have no home or loved ones to care for them so that they may die with dignity.

Ellen Bee's Catering will prepare the luncheon which will consist of Chicken Florentine, salads, and lemon bars. Cost is \$10.00. Reservations will be taken by Portia Brittain before Sunday worship on April 15, 22, and 29.

We will once again be collecting new or gently used children's books for Family Scholar House for toddlers through young adults as part of PW's Educate a Child program promoting literacy.

Morning circles will meet from 10:00-10:30 a.m. for a short business meeting. Circle G will meet after the luncheon.

Sign up. Get in on the celebration.

Presbyterian Women's Committee
Linda LaFrance, Program Chair



MAYOR'S GIVE A DAY WEEK OF SERVICE

Metro United Way is proud to partner with Louisville Metro Government again this year for Mayor Fischer's Give A Day Week of Service - April 14 - 22, 2018 - and we invite you to participate!

St. MAM has the following Volunteer Opportunities:

- 4/16/2018 - Help prepare Food Pantry orders for the Homebound (4 people)
- 4/16/2018 - Preparing/mulching CDC playground for Spring and Summer – Phase 1 (6-10 people)
- 4/18/2018 - Spring cleaning around St. MAM offices (4-6 people)
- 4/18/2018 - Tilling our community garden for our Village Manor Apartments (1-2 people)
- 4/20/2018 - Preparing/mulching CDC playground for Spring and Summer – Phase 2 (6-10 people)

Please email Suzanne DeGregorio at suzannedegregorio@stmam.com if interested.

HB Preschool

Did You Know?

The Preschool's 2018 Trivia Night, planned and run by parent volunteers, was a tremendous success raising money for classroom educational materials and needs-based tuition assistance.

Preschool News

While we share the very special story of new life and God's infinite love with the children during the Lenten season, we are constantly reminded of what a blessing it is to be part of the mission of Harvey Browne. The unbridled enthusiasm of children and their sense of wonder at the world around them is inspiring. We are privileged to work with such wonderful young minds and compassionate hearts.

As we continue to work with the children to show their care and love for others, our April mission project is a book drive for the Kentucky Refugee Mission. If you would like to contribute new, or very gently used, easy reading books (appropriate for preschoolers) please drop them off at the Preschool office. The books will be used for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

At the Preschool Easter also comes with the excitement of class parties and Spring break just around the corner (April 2-6). Spring is in the air and the children and staff are excited to spend more time outside and enjoy the sunshine. We hope that the entire congregation will stop by the playground and see the beautiful daffodils that the children planted in the fall and have watched grow and bloom this spring.

Our classes are looking forward to the Squallis Puppeteers performing for us at the preschool this month. This wonderful group helps teach the children life lessons while stimulating their creativity and imagination.

We are also grateful to Norton Hospital for coming to talk with the children about health and nutrition. A timely lesson as we prepare for basketfuls of Easter candy!

The Preschool has a limited number of openings for the 2018-2019 school year and we want to extend a special invitation to our church members to register. We have preschool classes for children 2½ through kindergarten and an early bird program that begins at 8:00 a.m. and a lunch bunch program that goes until 3:00 p.m. We would love to have every child who attends Harvey Browne to attend Harvey Browne Preschool as well. If you have any questions please call Barbara Bailey or Anne Hughes at 895-2577 or you can also visit our website at harveybrownepreschool.org.

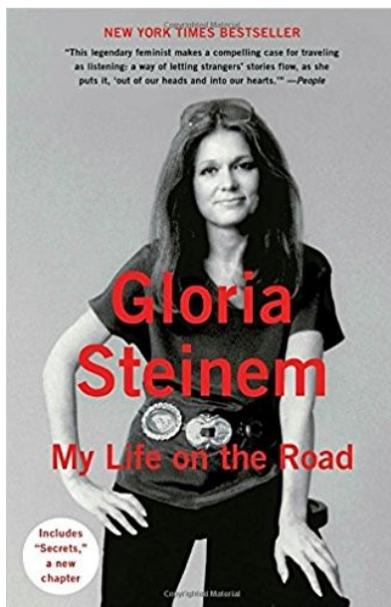
Thank you so much for your love and continued support of the faculty and families at Harvey Browne Preschool. Happy Easter!

In Christ,

The Harvey Browne Preschool Board



Literary Corner

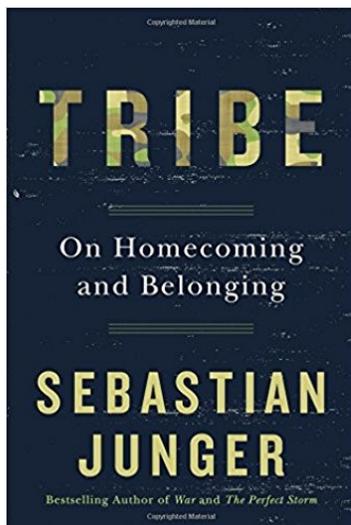
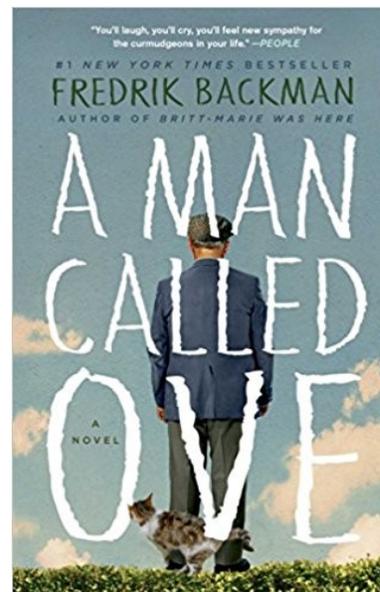


Bookanalia

Bookanalia for April 18 in the Barrett Room at 6:30 will be the autobiographical *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem presented by Nancy Pollock. This book has been called a "people's memoir" full of stories about the people Steinham visited with and listened to during her very full life. All are always welcome whether you have read the book or not. Come and enjoy the discussion. If you buy your book at Carmichael's, mention Bookanalia at HBPres and receive a 20% discount.

Book Talk

Booktalk for April 24 at 11:30 in the Barrett Room will be *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Visitors are welcome. Contact Sarah Grant at 239-1927 for information. If you get your book from Carmichael's, mention Booktalk at Harvey Browne and receive a 20% discount.



Men's Book Forum

The Harvey Browne Men's book forum will be meeting Monday, April 23 at 1:00 PM at the church in room 206. We will be reviewing the book "Tribe" by Sebastian Junger recommended by Gary Faltin.

Hope to see you there.

HB Pres Congregational Care

Deacons' Corner

Welcome to the new Board of Deacons member, new Deacons and returning Deacons. We are glad to have you and look forward to sharing in God's love and grace with you.

Please remember ordination and installation of new Elders, Deacons and Board of Deacon members will be Sunday, April 15 at the 11:00 AM service in the Sanctuary.

Board of Deacons meeting for all Deacons to receive their flock lists are Important. Let us know which of the following dates you will attend by calling Lynn Cole at 502-491-5337.

Thursday, May 10th 6:30 –8:00 PM in Eline Hall.

Or On

Friday, May 11th 10:00 –11:00 AM in Eline Hall.

Easter season is a good time to remember your flock by sending them a card, letter, or phone call.

The Board of Deacons

Lyndall Overstreet



Prayer Requests:

Robbie Blandford (Bob Pumpelly's brother in law), Bill Hilyerd (Will Hilyerd's father), Fred Garret, Gary Faltin, Lucy Rapp, Hal Cole, Dorothy Cundiff, Shirley Christell (Lance Christell's mother), Monique Zuber (Joel Zuber's wife, Brad and Ellen Zuber's daughter in law), Bill Glover (Linda Brantley's brother-in-law), Steven Cassidy (Nancy Hilbert's great nephew), Mary Faltin, Kathryn Zuber (Brad Zuber's mother), Matt Isaac (Rachel Hunt's father), Karen Frank (Pam Schmidt's sister), Diana (Skip & Edith Light's daughter), Pat Lewis (Mother of Kathy Williams).



Mission Co-Workers:

Tyler Holm, Gwenda & John Fletcher, Jeff & Christie Boyd, Rev. Dr. Dustin & Sherry Ellington, Dr. Larry and Inge Sthresley

St. Matthews Area Ministries



St. MAM Golf Classic

Monday, May 14, 2018

Wildwood Country Club 5000 Bardstown Rd.

Registration 12:00p.m. •• Shot Gun Start: 1:30p.m. •• Cost: \$125 Single Golfer

This includes entry into all events, 18-holes of golf, riding cart, lunch, dinner, silent auction, awards and chance to win various prizes!

* Longest Putt * Longest Drive * Closest to the Pin * Hole-in-One Shootout * Closest to the Line

To Register or Inquire About Sponsorship Opportunities

Visit: www.stmam.com or call Julie (502) 893-0205

Proper Golf Attire Required. Personal Coolers and Beverages Not Allowed

Thank you!

Mariner's Class

Beginning April 8th the Mariners Class will be studying "Prayers of the Old Testament" by Lynne M. Baab. The Psalms are often called the prayer book of the Bible but there are dozens of prayers that are equally rich elsewhere in the Bible. Some are exuberant and joyful; some resonate with honest passion and pain. Join us as we deepen our own prayers.

Jeanne Luhr



Adult Sunday School Looks at Leadership

In this transitional time at Harvey Browne, when our pastor John Roper is preparing to depart, one of the adult classes will be looking at the theme of leadership. What does it mean to be a leader? What sort of person do we want leading this congregation into the future? Bill Williamson and Tim Cargal will be teaching classes, which begin April 8 and continue through May 13. Two of the classes will be taught by our Presbytery Executive for Community Life, John Odom. John will teach the class on April 22, and on April 29 will have an open forum for the entire congregation to talk about this transitional time in the life of the church.

Saturday Men's Group Meets April 21

The Saturday Men's Group enjoys breakfast goodies, good conversation, and Bible study from 9 am to 10 am on the third Saturday of each month (except December). Bill Williamson leads a Bible study on the passage that will be the basis of the Sunday sermon for the following day. The group meets in Room 206 at the church. You're welcome to join us. Call Bill for more information.



Hosparus

Hosparus is experiencing a severe shortage of volunteers to help patients and caregivers!

Hosparus Louisville is looking for volunteers to assist patients and families. Our patient population is diverse in age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and medical diagnosis. Volunteers enhance the quality of life for those facing terminal or advanced illness through selfless acts of kindness based on their skill and availability. Ways to support patients and families include:

- Companionship for patients who are separated from their loved ones
- Respite for caregivers
- Veteran recognition
- Yard work, household cleaning or errands such as grocery shopping
- Hair care such as trims or haircuts (must be a licensed professional)
- Massage therapy or comfort touch (must be a licensed professional)
- Blankets and caps (knitting, crocheting, or quilting)

If you are interested in serving our patients, please submit a volunteer application at <https://www.hosparushealth.org/volunteer> or contact Sky Yeasayer at 502-719-4155.

GOOD NEWS – CHRIST IS RISEN BAOLONGO SCHOOL IS COMPLETED!

The Presbyterian Church of the Congo Constructed and dedicated seven schools in the past six years; in spite of the Congo's constant crises. All with God's help and U.S. partners financial support.



Build Congo School's Vision: We build durable schools and develop competent teachers in order to build compassionate students who will build caring communities.

Current Objectives: Durable Buildings, Teacher Training, Current Textbooks, and Scholarships.

Missions & Ministry

Red Hands

Sixty-five Red Hand petitions have been sent to the PC(USA) office at the U.N. These petitions will be delivered to one of the 29 nations who have not yet signed U.N. Security Council's call to stop the unlawful recruitment of child soldiers. Thanks HB for speaking out for all of the world's children.



For more information google Presbyterian Ministry at the U.N.

Special Offerings

For the month of January and February we collected a total of \$2,843.78!

Date	Offering	Amount
7-Jan	Dare to Care	\$291.43
28-Jan	Family Scholar House	\$1,120.60
4-Feb	Presbyterian Hunger Program	\$901.75
18-Feb	Presbyterian World Mission	\$530.00

SHARING
BRINGS JOY
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

2017 Craft, Chocolate and Coffee Sales

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful support of our sale this past December! We have a total of **\$1,466** to send to Build Congo Schools this year. Please visit their website to see the progress being made!

Mission & Ministry

April Micro- Mission and Mid-KY Presbytery 2018 Disaster relief Mission Project Volunteers Needed

Our Micro-Mission for April is assembling Hygiene Kits **Saturday April 21, 2018 from 1-3 PM** at Strathmoor Presbyterian Church. This mission is a **great project for individuals and/or family involvement**. Strathmoor Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Hawthorne and Bardstown near the Gardiner Lane Shopping Center just off the Bardstown Rd exit of Waterson Expressway.

Look at The Outreach and Mission bulletin board (main hallway) to learn about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and hygiene kits.

You can sign up on the Bulletin Board in the main hallway or call Linda Garrett 499-5708. Even if you don't sign up please come. We need people to represent HBPres. It is a way to meet and get to know other Presbyterians in our community and be a part of a Presbytery wide mission project.

Again this year as a Presbytery we are collecting items for the Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits in the Grocery Cart April 1, 8, and 15. We only have 3 weeks to collect these so please be aware of the timeline. Below are the items needed for the grocery cart to be taken to Strathmoor for the project. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is very specific about the items needed since they are usually shipped to disaster affected locations. If you would like to learn more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and how these Gifts of the Heart kits are used go to pda.pcusa.org

Wash cloths

Hand towels approximately 16"x28" (not fingertip or bath towels)

Bath size bars of unscented soap individually wrapped

Boxes of Band aids

Single tooth brushes in original packages

Wide tooth comb removed from package

HB Presbyterian Women have donated 500 nail clippers so if anyone would like to donate money towards this purchase please contact JoAnna Overstreet.



St. Andrew's Refugee Services

Ministering to displaced people in Cairo for nearly 40 years

Emily Brown | Special to Presbyterian News Service

“I call it the holy place,” says Sultan*, a young man from Eritrea who first came to St. Andrew’s Refugee Services (StARS) hoping to access education through the Unaccompanied Youth Bridging Program, a specialized program designed to assist young refugees who are in Egypt without a parent or guardian. Since he was here with his family, he was ineligible to enroll. But he was persistent, eventually landing himself a job as a teaching assistant in the program. Over the years, he has become a leader among the staff at StARS and now works as a program assistant in the Refugee Legal Aid Program and as a StARS ambassador, meeting with visitors and planning events.

Sultan is not alone in recognizing that this little plot of land in the middle of downtown Cairo is special. Staff, students, and clients, as well as church members from the six refugee congregations who worship at St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo, come knowing that they are safe and they are welcome. Hawa, a refugee from Sudan, remembers coming to StARS after a group of schoolboys attacked her, leaving her with a cut on her head. When she came to StARS, she expected only to have a listening ear. That day her psychosocial worker, Abdella, made time for her, asked questions, listened, inspected her wound. “This time his tears came out,” she remembers. “And mine too.” Surrounded by people eager to hear her story, she felt seen like never before in Cairo.



Founded by members of St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo in 1979, StARS began as a small English language tutoring program for adult refugees from Ethiopia. Over the years, the program grew to include more formalized adult education, children’s education, psychosocial, legal aid, and community outreach programs. “In 2017, 200 full- and part-time staff, 30 interpreters and more than 200 volunteers assisted approximately 25,000 refugees and vulnerable migrants,” said Barbara Wibmer, Deputy Director of the StARS program. “Of this number, the majority of students and refugees came from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen and Eritrea.” StARS welcomes refugees of all nationalities, ethnicities, and religions.

“God calls us to welcome the stranger, the orphan, and the widow,” says the Rev. Kirsten Fryer, pastor of St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo. “We seek to provide a welcoming place, a safe space, recalling that Jesus, too, was a refugee in Egypt.” Built by the Church of Scotland over 100 years ago, the “United” in the name St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo comes from the merger with the nearby American (Presbyterian) Mission church in the 1960’s. Over the years, many PC(USA) members, myself included, have volunteered and worked with the refugee ministry.

The church compound is quite small, about the size of a large church parking lot, but it is packed full of people, from early in the morning until late at night. At any given time, fifty to one hundred people might be waiting to access drop in services, students might be studying in one of the four classrooms, with others playing soccer in the small courtyard, using whatever they can find to kick around—an empty soda bottle, rock, or highly-coveted, and almost always nearly flat from use, soccer ball. A large hall is partitioned off during the day to provide interview spaces for the legal advisors and psychosocial workers, and then becomes a classroom for adults at night, and a worship space for churches on the weekends.

StARS is unique in Cairo because of the variety of services offered in the same space. A mother might drop off her child at the Montessori preschool and then have an appointment with her psychosocial worker or legal advisor. “StARS also addresses physical needs by providing breakfast and lunch for any child within our walls on four days a week,” Wibmer said. Nearly 300 children are enrolled in the school, with 40 more in the Montessori preschool. Over 900 adults attend English, Arabic, math and information technology classes each term, with three terms offered each year.

StARS also serves as the only drop-in center in Cairo for refugees who are extremely vulnerable and find themselves in an emergency situation. The drop-in and emergency response program screens 150 to 200 refugees per day, provides them with information and advice, and then refers them to other StARS services. Refugees who arrive in a crisis situation are granted basic necessities such as food, first aid, and shelter. The refugee legal aid program provides clear and timely legal advice on the process of being recognized as a refugee in Egypt, considering residency visas and resettlement issues and protection services.

Unaccompanied youth and children can receive services provided by the bridging program, which offers classes in math, Arabic, English, information technology and science, as well as psychosocial meetings and activities to help foster integration into life in Cairo. At the end of each semester, students are offered information, often provided by graduates of the program, and support in finding opportunities for further education and employment.

Adults, families and youth all benefitted from programs to improve health and well-being, whether from peer-support groups, information sessions, workshops on coping and well-being or direct handouts of food, clothes, blankets and supplies. Help is also provided in accessing medical services, and in building confidence and awareness on how to improve living conditions. The adults and families program has addressed issues such as sexual and gender-based violence, child labor and protection, and support for families with children who have disabilities.



Though staff and volunteers come from around the world, the vast majority of the staff are refugees or from forcibly displaced communities. Nazer, a teacher in the school, says about StARS, “Every one shares the same vision and believes in StARS' mission and this creates a family environment and peace.” Though it has grown significantly over the last few years, from serving 3,000 refugees in 2013 to over 25,000 in 2017, there is a sense of community that transcends ethnicity, religion, and nationality. “StARS is my house,” Hawa says. “Abdella and the others are my brothers and my sisters.”

Learn more about StARS at www.stars-egypt.org or Refugees Thrive International www.refugeesthrive.org.

*All names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Session Members

John Roper
Anne Hughes
Jennifer Hoert
Pam Bliven
Margaret Lindsey
Cynthia Hilyerd
John Seewer
David Long
Kathy Williams
Bob Roberts
Gabe Wood
Maggie Chilton
Joanne Heumann
Jonathann Sutphin
Betsy Frentz
Gary Luhr
John Johnson
Carol Tinkle

Pastors and Staff, Phone & E-mail

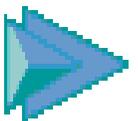
John Roper, Pastor, ext.105 johnroper@hbpres.net
William W. Williamson, Parish Associate, billwilliamson@twc.com
Terry Hargrave, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
terryhargrave@hbpres.net
Paul Huh, Parish Associate, paul.huh@pcusa.org
Larry D. Brandenburg, Minister of Music, ldbouisville@yahoo.com
Beth Brandenburg, Director Children's Choir, bethbrandenburg12@yahoo.com
Carl Enoch, Sign Language Interpreter
Timothy L. Baker, Organist/Assistant Director of Music, ext. 108
kewlpipes2@gmail.com
Barbara Bailey, Director Weekday Preschool, 895-2577
harveybrownepreschool@gmail.com
Julie Rousseau, Director Nursery and Parents' Day Out, ext: 119
jrousseau@hbpres.net
Cheryl Granger, Church Administrator, ext. 104
cherylgranger@hbpres.net
Erin Brashear, Administrative Assistant, ext.101 erinbrashear@hbpres.net
Tim Miller, Facilities Coordinator, ext.106 tmillerhb@hbpres.net
Office: (502) 896-1791 Church website www.hbpres.net
Bob Pumpelly, Maintenance, bobpumpellyhbpres@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions to the
May Newsletter is April 20th

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Harvey Browne Memorial
Presbyterian Church
311 Browns Lane
Louisville, KY 40207-3983

To Open Grab and
Pull at top corners.



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 1174