



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Alpha and Omega- the beginning and the end.

The other day Cooper and I were talking and he mentioned something about Alpha and Omega and was surprised to discover that it is a scriptural reference. Twice in Revelation this term is used, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (1:8). Having just celebrated the birth of Jesus, this declaration of God's eternal and beyond time nature is so very powerful. We have waited for his arrival, while also enjoying his ever-present grace (that is) and the crucifixion (that was) the act that saved us. Later we hear, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (22:13). When you receive this, we will be celebrating the end of one year and anticipating the beginning of a new one. So often this is a time filled with resolutions more than faith. But when we remember that Jesus is the essence of every ending and every beginning we embrace our faith in a new way. We invite God into the hopes of the New Year. We seek Jesus as our guide in making new decisions. We trust the Holy Spirit is in the changes we are striving to make.

January is a time of beginnings and endings. We will be installing new officers on January 17, welcoming our newly serving officers, Shari Gallegos, Carla Collinge, Janet Maack as elders and Lorena Russo and Edie Abendschan as deacons. Returning to serve is Warren Teeters, Linda Walker and Carolyn Southers as elders and Dee Hamil as a deacon. Thank you to those who have served: Gene Burk, Dee St. Clair, Stewart Peterson, Barbara Humphries (elders) and Lois Holcomb and Marsha Gonzales (deacons). We must have an ending, with every new beginning.

Safe Church training is our commitment to keeping our community and children safe. All officers and Sunday School teachers need to be trained and have a refresher course every three years. I am due for my refresher course. In the training you will learn about ways to keep children safe while in our care at St. Andrew. We also require a background check which we do through an insurance provider. Jane Odell runs this program for the Presbytery and will be offering a training on January 30th 10-2 right here in Hubler Hall. Lunch will be provided free of charge. If you are serving as an officer or teacher, please make plans to join me on the 30th so that we can continue to keep our community safe.

In January our delegation to Santa Cruz al Salvador will be venturing to build relationships in this beautiful yet troubled country. Karla Norton is leading a group of 10 including our own Marian Langdon and Lorena Russo. Prayer partners, school supplies, and scholarships are all ways we support the community of Guillermo Ungo. Please pray for the people going and the people they will meet on this adventure in mission. We will hear all about their journey at a Mission luncheon in February.

Both at the beginning and end of January we will have congregational meetings. On January 3rd we will have a brief meeting for the sole purpose of electing Carla Collinge as an elder. She will be filling an unexpired term and we would like her to start with the class of officers on the 17th. Then the last Sunday of the month, January 31st, we will have our Annual Meeting of the Congregation to hear committee reports, the budget and review terms of call. Please plan on attending.

As you make your commitments for 2016, may you rest in the Almighty- the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega of your life.

Anne



HEART LINE

Please pray for these members and friends.

Helen Cooke	Clare Pelich
Shirley Coleman	Lyle Silldorff
Lois Holcomb	Jud Van Gorder
Peg Ogg	

David Beach (*former member*)
 Pam Derry (*Mary Zimmer's friend*)
 Steve Glaum (*Dorothy's son*)
 Tim Dietrich (*Marsha Gonzales' son*)
 Jan Hunter (*Peg Ogg's daughter*)
 Family of Bill Peck (*friend of the Maacks*)
 Andrea (*Dee St. Clair's daughter*)
 Flynn and family (*Dee Hamil's grandson*)

Ecumenical Prayer Vigil

The prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East continues with California praying on Thursday, January 7. A prayer example follows:



God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence and terror. Guide the leaders of the peoples of the Middle East to know your will and to support a just peace for all of your children.



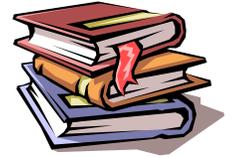
Bible Study

“Come to the Waters”

The next Bible Study will take place on January 25 at 1:00pm. We will be studying Lesson 5.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Susan Mahan



Hubler Hall
9:00 – 10:00 a.m., Sundays.

Adult Education will not have class on January 3rd.

In January St. Andrew Adult Education will continue its study of The Acts of the Apostles. So far we have had some good discussions about sharing our faith with others, miracles and small household Christian communities. We have found out more about the difficult transition from being fully Jewish to learning how to live out Gospel values as Christians. And, lastly we have seen how the early Christians experienced the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in very striking ways. Join us for exciting learning and getting to know God and each other better.

For more information or comments contact: Susan Mahan 320-6422 or stmahan181@gmail.com

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Jane Odell

Have you been called to become more active in our church?

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING is required by the Presbytery for Elders, Deacons, and anyone working with our youth, **but EVERYONE is invited!**



SAFE CHURCH PRACTICES

January 30, 2016 right here at St. Andrew! Lunch and all materials provided. **Please RSVP by Jan. 24 to Lori Burkett.**

Reminder: if you were trained more than 3 years ago, it is time for a refresher.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Karla Norton, Sally Griffin, Dee St. Clair

From the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook

Syria

Syria has always been a puzzle to the household of God, ever since it was referred to as "the city of my joy" in Jeremiah. Although Syria has been aligned with the Soviet Union and Iran in recent history, because of its secular government, the people enjoyed a religious freedom unmatched elsewhere in the Arab world. Churches flourished. Now Muslim terrorist insurgents funded and armed by foreign powers, in addition to a civil war, has left 250,000 dead and four million refugees, who continue to suffer deprivation and uncertainty. Through Presbyterian Special Offerings, Syrians in refugee camps have been able to resume their education.

CASA Christmas Party

Noisy excitement was heard throughout the neighborhood of the CASA house on Wednesday afternoon. Boys and girls from 2 to 15 were excitedly interacting with their advocates and friends. There was wonderful pizza, games to play, crafts to be completed with lots of smiles and giggles. Sally, Bert and I had the pleasure of distributing the stockings to the 58 little guests. They all came to us with smiles and thank-you.

The gift cards will be distributed to the older children at their party later in the month.

I cannot express how appreciative the staff and advocates were for all of your efforts and support. Just give yourself a big "Thank-you" hug and picture in your mind a beautiful little shining, smiling face of a child.



The **Second Harvest** food barrel will be in the Narthex through the beginning of 2016.

Santa Cruz al Salvador

As you are reading this, the 2016 January delegation is in El Salvador until January 11. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

There will be a Mission Luncheon on February 28 after worship during which the congregation (and invited guests from other member churches) will hear about the experience from the delegates. Please see more details in the February newsletter.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Please plan to attend the **Congregational Meeting**, following worship, on **January 3**, for the purpose of electing an Elder to fill a vacated term.

Also plan to stay after church for the **Annual Congregational Meeting** on **January 31**.

SESSION NEWS

Eileen Mimh

Our December 15 meeting of Session began with a review by Steve Young of the proposed 2016 budget.

We moved on to an end-of-year review of the church rolls.

We discussed our youth program and the possibility of hiring someone to lead a mid-week contemporary worship and a monthly fun activity for kids and their parents.

Committee chairs reported on their meetings. Enrichment and Nurture reported that Advent and Christmas activities are going well and new clusters are being formed. A game night is planned for February 26.

Outreach reported that the CASA Christmas party was a success and that three people from St. Andrew will be joining the trip to El Salvador in January.

Action items approved by the Session are:

- To Delay the planned distribution of earnings from our Endowment Fund to support St. Andrew's operations from 12/31/2015 till either a) the market value of our Endowment Fund investments with New Covenant increases to at least \$262,000, or b) March 31, 2016, whichever comes first.
- To liquidate New Covenant Trust acct. xxx138 by 12/31/2015. To invest the liquidation proceeds in accts. xxx137 and xxx139 such that our Endowment Fund investment with New Covenant is split 50-50 between these two accounts.
- To approve the removal of some inactive members from the church rolls.
- To hold a Congregational Meeting on January 3, 2016 to elect Carla Collinge as an Elder to finish out Elder Barbara Humphrey's term.
- To hold the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2016.
- To approve the Ordination & Installation of Officers on January 17, 2016.

Floral Committee

Donna Erickson

Enjoy Flowers? Then, perhaps you'd like to join the 2016 floral team at St Andrew. You'll be joining a team of 8 women who prepare flowers for the sanctuary on a rotating basis - currently about once every 6 weeks. We will be provided training and assistance as you learn.

The team also gathers during the year to attend events and activities with a floral theme. This is a great way to make friends with similar interests.

Interested? Call Donna Erickson 831-761-9602 or derrickson@rocketmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH AT ST. ANDREW

As we begin the new year of 2016, our little church on the hill is going through some changes. We have welcomed back the Cash family, and said goodbye to the Millar family, and look forward to what new or old friends will join us this year.

Therefore, we have a need for fresh ideas and energy to teach our small but mighty group of young people at St. Andrew. In the past many congregants contributed to the Christian education of our youngest members. Your maturity in faith and experience in life contributes so much depth to the education they have received over the years. We ask you to prayerfully consider if God is calling you again, or for the first time, to teach the young ones of our faith community. It is not a large time commitment, nor do you have to have a teaching background as we have curriculum to use which is very user friendly. Sharing your interests, passions and faith are really all that are required. The rewards are many. Getting to know young folks who you wouldn't otherwise have a chance to know, learning from their insights and questions and sharing your faith journeys with each other are all gifts given and received while teaching Sunday School.

If you feel moved to teach, please contact Pastor Anne, Donna Erikson of the Enrichment Committee, or Lorena Russo.

Inspirations, Reflections

MEMORIES IN PICTURE ST. ANDREW 2015



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to
all those celebrating
in January!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

My wish for the New Year is to reflect a child's love and celebrate the Season of Caring year round.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year

Kathy Gleaton, Director

Over the past few months we have been celebrating the Season of Caring. Our wants have been modest and our giving generous. As a new year unfolds, slowly without realizing it, we focus on our own wants and less on the needs of others.

I am blessed to work with young children. They love unconditionally, give more than they have and ask for a story in return. They don't need to say thank you out loud, just catch the smile in their eyes while they run off to play. They are modest in their needs and generous with their love.

Note Newsletter Deadline!

Articles for the February newsletter must be submitted by January 15.



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Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director
Dr. Susan Mahan, Adult Educator
Ms. Kathy Rodden, Office Manager
Ms. Melanie Elliott, Office Assistant
Mrs. Marsha Gonzales, Congregational Care
Mr. Sean Berger, Custodian

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Kathy Rodden, Cathy Zimel and Judy Zscheile
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Bunny Schmida, and Judy Zscheile

Newsletter Deadline: All articles and items for the newsletter are due in the church office the 15th day of the month prior to the month they will appear.

Email: aptospres@gmail.com
<http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org>