

# St. Andrew

Presbyterian Church

# Connections



March 2016

[www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org)

Volume 26 Number 3

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

We are about half way through our journey of Lent. We are delving into the Twenty Third Psalm for our inspiration for this journey to Christ's cross. Using Max Lucado's book, *Traveling Light*, for both our sermon series and our Lenten study we have felt the weight of the burdens of life; the burdens of weariness and worry, the burdens of guilt and hopelessness. These represent the weaknesses of our life, our humanness expressed. So whether we are escaping the prison of want, setting down the wheelbarrow of worry, abandoning the trunk of guilt or facing our fears because God is with us, we can only do these things through God's grace. We strive to set down these burdens; we seek to walk closer to God. Yet the absolute fact of our faith is that we can do nothing to secure our salvation. God's love is so complete, inclusive and merciful that we need not worry or fret. God has already accomplished our salvation, our redemption, our being reconciled to God, by Christ bearing our sins, becoming our sin and dying for our sins. Through his resurrection Christ secured your eternal life. The gift of Easter is that we become a new creation in Christ, a new creation in God's love, a new creation freed from sin and burdens.

Holy Week is March 20-27 a time we travel with Christ the final week of his life on earth. See the boxes for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. You are also invited to Maundy Thursday soup supper at 6 p.m. followed by a Taizé Communion service. Reflective music, silence, and a shared last meal around the communion table will lend themselves to honoring Christ's last meal with his disciples.

Peace of Christ be with you,



We will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing offering on **Palm Sunday, March 20**. Your donation to the OGHS offering goes to:

The Presbyterian Hunger Program  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
Self-Development of People

These are three successful programs that help people in need locally, nationally and globally.

## Easter Services: March 27

**Sunrise Service** with La Selva  
Community Church: 6:30 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast** in Hubler Hall  
starting at 9:30

**Easter Egg Hunt** at 10:00

**Worship Service** at 10:30



## An Easter Prayer

We greet the dawning brightness of Easter with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrows, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. We need your healing presence. We need your word of greeting that welcomes us into the community of faith in spite of our doubts and faithlessness. You are the great teacher, you are the living word, you are our Shepherd, and you are our Savior. AMEN.



## HEART LINE

Please pray for these members and friends.

Shirley Ashworth	Clare Pelich
Helen Cooke	Nez Phister
Shirley Coleman	Lyle Silldorff
Lois Holcomb	Judy Smith
Peg Ogg	Dick Yeo

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*)

## Prayer For The World

*(Each month we will be offering a prayer from the Mission Yearbook. These prayers address current concerns for our world.)*

God of great miracles, we thank you for your providence in the middle of scarcity, your reconciliation and healing after a time of broken connections, and your love nurtured between neighbors across the world. We particularly ask your benevolence for our veterans, for those who suffered from the earthquake in Taiwan, for the eradication of the cause of the Zika virus and for those endangered by leaded water in Flint, Michigan. Amen.



## Bible Study

### “Come to the Waters”

Our monthly Bible Study will take place on Monday, March 28 at 1:00pm. We will be studying Lesson 7.



## ADULT EDUCATION

*Dr. Susan Mahan*

### Hubler Hall

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m., Sundays.**

In the month of March, Adult Education will continue its study of the History of Christianity in the West. Additionally, we will be looking at many interesting Reformation developments. First, we will study the variety of denominations in Northern Europe and the British Isles. We will then see the evolution of Protestant, Catholic and New Age groups in America from as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Come and join us for a little Lenten prayer and a very helpful study that explains much about religions and America today.

You may join this study at anytime along the way. It will be interesting and informative. Contact Susan Mahan for questions, comments or topics you would like to cover. [stmahan181@gmail.com](mailto:stmahan181@gmail.com). (cell) 831-320-6422

*Note:* There will be no Adult Ed on Easter Sunday, March 27.



**IN MEMORIAM**

**Jud Van Gorder**  
February 16, 2016

Celebration of Life at St. Andrew  
March 12, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

## HOLY WEEK

### March 20 - Palm Sunday, 10:30am.

We'll gather in the courtyard and process into church with palm branches. This commemorates how the people waved palms and shouted their desire to crown Jesus king when he first arrived in Jerusalem, on a donkey. The palm branch was a symbol of triumph and victory in the Greco-Roman culture, the donkey a symbol of peace.

### March 24, Maundy Thursday, 6:00pm.

In Hubler Hall, we will enjoy **Soup Supper** followed by Communion within a Taizé Maundy Thursday service.

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem during Passover, a joyous holiday, commemorating the liberation from slavery in Egypt and the birth of a nation under the leadership of Moses. During this celebration, at what is now called the Last Supper, Jesus would have celebrated with hymns, prayers and a meal. We will do the same. Unlike those attending the first "last supper", we know the tragedy to come, so we will close the evening with a service of increasing darkness, symbolizing the loss of light as Jesus walks to his death.

### Sunday, March 27 Easter

Hallelujah, He is Risen! Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion at Calvary as described in the New Testament. Easter Sunday is the culmination of the Passion of Christ. "Passion" is a translation of a Greek word meaning "to suffer."

### 6:30 Sunrise Service at the Bluffs overlooking La Selva Beach

St Andrew and La Selva Beach Community will gather to celebrate the dawn of a new day and our new life in Christ with song and prayer. Dress warmly.

### 9:30 Continental Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Enjoy coffee, juice, a vast assortment of Danish, an egg hunt for the kids and the "fellowship of believers." Note: Original Easter celebrations used only egg shells for the hunt, symbolizing the empty tomb and the subsequent hunt for Jesus.

### Easter Sunday - 10:30 Worship

He is Risen! Risen Indeed! Join us for the celebration of God's love for us by granting us new life in Jesus Christ. The tomb is empty and Christ is alive and God has gifted us with grace and peace. Christ's victory over sin and death on the cross is honored and then transformed into a living cross symbolizing our being new creations in Christ.

## NURTURE NEWS

*Cathy Zimel*

BINGO & SPAGHETTI, a winning combo! On the last Friday in February, 50 people gathered for an inter-generational event! **Ray Souther, chef extraordinaire**, served up rich spaghetti sauces, meatballs and sausages. In addition, we had gluten-free choices, salads, garlic bread and desserts, the highlight of which was Rustic Apple Pie. We then played variations of BINGO with lots of "interesting" prizes. Due to many requests, Nurture will plan another dinner event soon.

## SESSION NEWS

*Eileen Mihm*

Our February 16 Session began with a devotional and prayer by Elder Carla Collinge.

Anne updated us on happenings during the period of Lent.

We discussed starting an alternative worship service one evening per month as an outreach to a younger demographic.

In an effort to try out different styles of worship, our Palm Sunday service will have a more contemporary feel this year.

Committee chairs reported on their meetings and upcoming events.

Action items approved by the Session are:

- 1) To approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 Session Meeting, of the January 31, 2016 Congregational Meeting, and of the January 27, 2016 Deacons' Meeting.
- 2) To explore the cost of having a new church directory made professionally.
- 3) To take \$500 from the Mission Fund to help pay for a monthly Alternative Worship service.

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Sally Griffin and Marian Langdon*

*From the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook*

## Food Sovereignty In India

Millet, sorghum and many varieties of rice make up the traditional grains which minimally feed the overcrowded people of India. Farmers would use the seeds from their crops for the next season's planting. This changed when agribusinesses came in with hybrid and genetically-engineered seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. The farmers have no control over these new products because they can't save and replant the seeds. They have to buy new seeds every year. Overtime, the costs of the seeds and chemicals they require have become so great that farmers have gone bankrupt by the millions.

More than a quarter million farmers in India have committed suicide over the past 20 years because of their losses. Additionally, the chemicals have created health hazards and the hybrid seeds are less resilient over time.

Representatives from the Presbyterian Hunger Program are working with farmers across the world to ensure they have the resources to grow food naturally, without corporate interference. They also want to educate Presbyterians on how U.S. policies can make a difference by weighing in on trade policies through the PC(USA) Office for Public Witness.

## Community Chili Cook-Off

Join area churches on March 18 at 6 pm at Resurrection Church to raise funds to provide showers for the homeless in our community. This promises to be a fun event with each congregation sharing their best chili, and having all vote for their favorite one in several different categories. Let's see if we can have St. Andrew take that honor!!! There will be music and fun as we join with the larger faith community for a much needed cause.

Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased in the Church Office or at:  
[thegreatchilicookoff.brownpapertickets.com](http://thegreatchilicookoff.brownpapertickets.com).

## Santa Cruz al Salvador

By the time you read this newsletter, many of you will have attended the Mission Lunch held in Hubler Hall on February 28. The subject was the trip the Santa Cruz al Salvador (SCaS) delegation made to El Salvador at the beginning of January. Eleven delegates were met by our in-country coordinator Brenda, and we met Kike, the driver of the specially arranged for bus that would be taking us from place to place.

It was an amazing ten days, with three of the delegates from St. Andrew: Karla Norton, one of two delegation organizers, Lorena Russo and Marian Langdon. Some of our experiences include:

- Visiting the site of one of the tragic massacres during El Salvador's Civil War and hearing from two survivors
- Hearing a discussion on "Joining Hands", a Presbyterian outreach led by young missionary Kristi Van Nostrand, followed by a discussion on Permaculture
- Attending the scholarship program in Guillermo Ungo and meeting our prayer children
- Learning about the history of the Indian population
- Hiking to a wonderful waterfall and having lunch at an ocean-front restaurant
- Meeting the group from El Pilar, a village without running water and electricity but with wells provided by SCaS; developing possible ways to move forward
- Developing friendships among us and with the Salvadorans we met

If you have ever considered joining a delegation, please talk with one of us who went this year. It was an enriching and unforgettable experience.

(Note: See next page for pictures.)



Pictures from  
El Salvador

# Preschool News

*Kathy Gleaton, Director*

Forty-eight years ago the founders and congregation of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos founded the preschool. Since 1968 there has been decades of academic research showing that the mission and philosophy they envisioned not only stood the test of time but is the model that early childhood educators are praising.

## Our Mission Statement and Philosophy

The mission statement of this school is to provide recreational, physical, creative, and educational activities for preschool children in a relaxed and secure atmosphere, with capable and adequate adult supervision. It will also promote parental education regarding the intellectual and social growth and development of their children.

The philosophy of St. Andrew Preschool is that education through play acts as a foundation of a preschooler's education. Play is important business. Your child will learn many of the most important things that they will ever learn during their preschool career. Your child will learn about getting along with other children and adults, protecting their rights, being sympathetic to other people's feelings, and exerting inner control. Your child will experience these important life lessons through play and will learn them best with thoughtful and loving leadership...

St. Andrew Preschool believes that every parent should be actively involved in their child's education. Together, through direction from teachers and staff and participation from parents, St. Andrew Preschool strives for each of their alumni to possess a love for learning that will persist throughout their academic career.



## CELEBRATE

**Saturday  
March 12  
6:00 - 10:30 p.m.**

**Music & Dancing  
Food & Drink  
(black tie encouraged)**



This evening event is honoring Don and Kathryn Adkins for their many contributions to the Santa Cruz Symphony and other cultural happenings in the community.

For more information, call Cheryl at 831-475-9482. Tickets for the dinner dance are \$145.



Once again the Enrichment Committee offers the opportunity to **honor a loved one** and to adorn the Sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to order an Easter

Lily, please contact Kathy in the church office by March 15th and let her know whom you wish to honor. The price is \$7.50 per plant.

Inspirations, Reflections



(1)



(2)



(3)

**Photos from the 90+ Celebration at St. Andrew, February 14 (Walt Malsbury's actual birthday!)**

(1) Nez Phister

(2) Chuck Whitt, Barbara Stiles, Charles Medcalf

(3) Walt Malsbury, Chuck Whitt, Barbara Stiles, Charles Medcalf, Maxine Adams, Ken Barmore, Peg Ogg