

MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Last month at Valencia Hall we held our second event celebrating our first 50 years!!! Our new logo marks the beginning of the next 50 years of St. Andrew Church. Every time I look at this logo I see more and more hope and possibility. It is the cross of Christ with the Celtic ring radiating on one side and a vital living tree on the

other. The Celtic ring represents the Scottish heritage that we love to claim on St. Andrew Day, with the sun shining behind it. The branches are the many aspects of this congregation- our education, our fellowship, mission and community. The leaves are the many and diverse people that call St. Andrew their church home. But imbedded in all of it, is Christ's cross; the priceless gift our Lord gave to bring each of us eternal life.

You have seen this logo on our worship bulletin, website and our letterhead. I hope you take the chance to really look at what it says to you. Soon you will see it on the new sign on the corner of Soquel and Monroe. When our sign was accidentally hit, the Session took this opportunity to update our message and our symbol.

The scripture passage that best speaks to this symbol is from 2 Peter 3:18: "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" I love that grace comes first. Because of our relationship with Christ, we live in God's grace and can share Christ's forgiveness and love with those in our community and beyond. Growing in

knowledge is also a blessing in that it helps us to become better disciples and continue to seek understanding within the mystery of our faith. Of course, the term "our Lord and Savior" expresses our ultimate relationship with Christ in that we humble ourselves before the Lord of our life and we gratefully receive the joyful salvation offered to us through Him. So when you see the sign at the bottom of the hill it will say "Growing in Christ" as a way of expressing all that is happening in our logo and more importantly at St. Andrew Church.

Also, in November you will see in worship a wonderful wheelbarrow and cornucopia honoring the bountiful harvest that God has provided and collecting our many blessings including our commitments to God and this church for the coming year. Dedication Sunday will be on November 8. Each week the display will grow reminding us of our blessings until we celebrate the reign of Christ and Thanksgiving on November 22. My prayer for this season of thankfulness is that we can each *grow in Christ* in ways that are meaningful to us.

Anne

**Congregational Meeting
November 8**

**Election of Officers
Amendments to the By-Laws**



HEART LINE

Please pray for these members and friends.

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

David Beach (*former member*)
 Pam Derry (*Mary Zimmer's friend*)
 Steve Glaum (*Dorothy's 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 Saturday, November 7. A prayer example follows:



God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in the Middle East. Shower upon all the people of these ancient lands the spirit of justice and reconciliation.



Bible Study

“Come to the Waters”

The monthly meeting for Bible Study will be Monday, November 23, at 1:00 p.m. Please read Lesson 3 before coming to the meeting.

In December Bible Study will be the third Monday, December 21, instead of the fourth Monday.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Susan Mahan



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

Adult Education will continue its study of Women in the Bible (Women leaders in Acts and the letters of Paul) on November 1st and 8th.

We will then begin our study of the History of Christianity. The first two Sundays (Nov. 15 & 22) will consist of an overview of the first centuries of the Church looking at milestones in the first 1000 years. That will take us to the late Middle Ages and the immediate backdrop to the Reformation.

Advent (November 29- December) is a perfect time to look at the Church and its relationship to its "pagan" neighbors who practice religions with Yule logs, reindeer, decorated trees, bonfires, special foods and gifts.

Join us for interesting and enjoyable sessions. For more information, contact Susan Mahan: 831-320-6422 or stmahan181@gmail.com.

Update on the Peace Offering

Dee St. Clair

Over \$500 was collected for this year's Peace Offering. 25% of the total, \$127.50, has been designated for the local Homeless Garden Project.

The Homeless Garden Project started in 1990 and provides job training, transitional employment and support services to people who are homeless. The program takes place on a 3-acre organic farm and depends on a community of volunteers, interns, customers and trainees. The Homeless Garden Project organization envisions a thriving and inclusive community, workforce and local food system.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Marian Langdon, Dee St. Clair, Sally Griffin

Santa Cruz al Salvador

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Walk4Water. Please see the group photo on one of the bulletin boards in the office.

Reservations are now being taken for the Tuesday November 3 Shadowbrook fundraiser. A form in the office is available for sign-ups. 30% of the total spent goes to Santa Cruz al Salvador if the diners announce their affiliation with the organization.

The See's Candy order sheet will also be arriving sometime this month. Check the weekly bulletins for more information.



Christmas Stockings

Volunteers are now sewing and embroidering Christmas stockings for CASA children. When all are sewn and embroidered with the children's names, they will be distributed at the holiday party on December 9.

Mission in Indonesia

(From pg. 199, Mission Yearbook)

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country, along with 25 million Christians, many Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists, and indigenous religions. The first principle of its constitution is "The Great Unity of Deity." The diverse religious communities lived in relative harmony until decentralization of power and an economic crisis led to an upsurge in radical Islamicist activity. In response, Muslim and Christian scholars formed a Consortium for Religious Studies with a PC(USA) co-worker as the founding director. The goal is partnership between religious leaders to address pressing social and political problems.

ENRICHMENT NOTES

Donna Erickson

In worship, on **November 15**, we will honor St Andrew as one of the original Apostles and as Patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania, Russia and Scotland with music by David Brewer on the bagpipe. The sanctuary will be adorned with Scottish plaid. We hope you will wear plaid, too. At the appointed time, we will invite the congregation to call out, in Scottish tradition, your family name/clan (whatever your ancestry), announcing your attendance at the 'Gathering.' A reception of Greek, Russian and Scottish refreshments will follow worship. Bring a friend and join the festivities.

If you wish to learn more about the ministry of our namesake Andrew you will find a detailed account on Wikipedia.com

NURTURE NOTES

Cathy Zimel

Tradition, Tradition, Tradition! Here at St. Andrew the month of December brings many traditional events. Our **Advent Celebration** will be held on **December 6**, right after the church service. We will gather in Hubler Hall to make decorations for our Christmas tree and/or an Advent Wreath. Of course, the ever-popular potluck lunch will be a highlight. A delicious ham will be provided and we ask that members bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. This is an important time for inter-generational fellowship.

Next comes the **Annual Christmas Luncheon**. Now, some of you (men) may think this sounds like a "ladies" event. But if you enjoy delicious food, combined with the outstanding musical talent of the Aptos High School Choir, you won't want to miss this very special day! Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, December 9**.

There will be detailed information on these events in the December newsletter! We just wanted to be sure Sunday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 9 were noted on your calendar!

YOUTH NEWS

Charlie Millar

To the Church Family,

As some of you may have heard, our family is moving on to a new phase in life. This process is both exciting and bittersweet. November will be my last official month leading youth group, as our family will no longer be attending St. Andrew Church.

St. Andrew Church has welcomed our family with love and care. My children have grown up here and I have made some of my dearest friends during our time here. I will be forever thankful for the years we have spent in this community.

During the time here my children and I have connected with many of you. There are other children and other women around my age. These are both good things. The problem comes to the lack of younger men. St. Andrew has many wonderful older men but there a generational gap.

My husband, Bret, has spent years supporting our children and years supporting my faith and my ministry. All of this support for us has left little over for him. He is a giving man and a loving father. Bret needs to have time to explore his faith and grow deeper relationships with men of his age.

Currently we are exploring other church community options that have a strong presence of younger men. We are looking for somewhere small. We are praying for God's direction and wisdom.

As far as the kids go, I am doing everything I can to support them. The kids of this church and the kids of our community are my priority in this transition (beyond my family). These kids are special and deserve to continue to have a place to gather and spend time with one another.

I will continue to lead junior high kids in neutral locations. The meetings will take place off any church campus, in locations such as the beach, skating rink, or Nisene Marks. All leaders that have

been working with the kids are encouraged to continue if they feel called to do so.

The love of this congregation for children is obvious. You show openness and love toward children and families with every smile. I cannot thank you all enough for the love you have shown our family and the youth group.

I am sad to leave but I do not see this as a shut door. Perhaps in the future we will come together for mission trips or to work at the homeless garden. I do not know where this path will lead us and I don't understand God's timing.

There are many things we will miss but I look forward to seeing what God holds for St. Andrew in the future.

With Love,
Charlie

SESSION NEWS

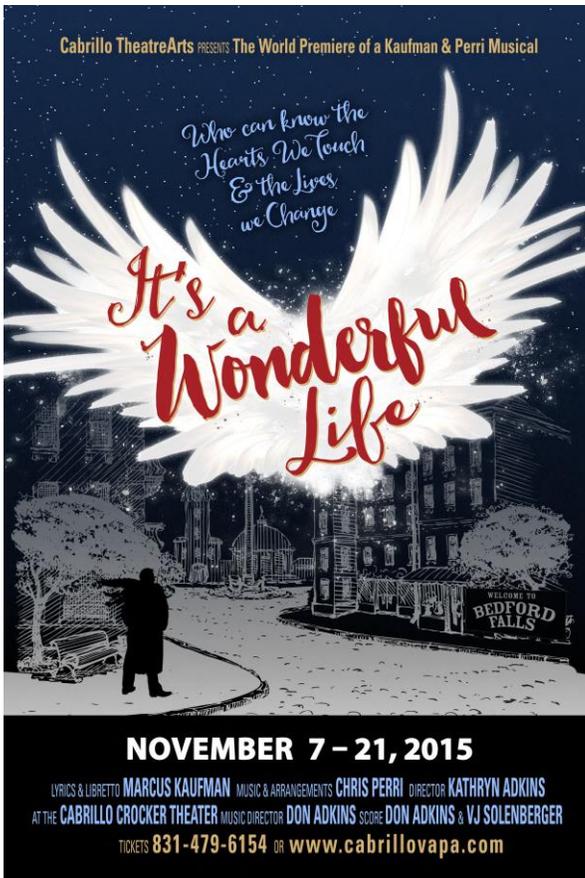


The Vision Grant for a projector and screen has been approved by the Presbytery.

Three members of our congregation will be going on a mission trip to El Salvador next January. Anne is exploring the possibility of joining them.

Session voted to approve the new Employee Benefits Plan.

Inspirations, Reflections



St. Andrew members Kathryn and Don Adkins are working on the world premiere of a musical version of the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* to be performed at Cabrillo College in November. Kathryn is the director and Don is the music director. The musical is written by two local artists: Marcus Kaufman (libretto) and Chris Perri (music). The basic story is the same as the movie but many changes have been made to update the story and re-imagine the characters in new and sometimes unexpected ways. The music is in a variety of styles including rock, reggae, ballad and gospel and will be sung with a 10-piece pit orchestra.

Evening performances at Cabrillo's Crocker Theater begin at 7:30 on November 7 (opening), 13, 14, 20 and 21. Afternoon matinees begin at 2:00 on November 8, 14, 15, and 21. To purchase tickets online, go to www.cabrillovapa.com and click through the ticket options to find *It's a Wonderful Life* in the selection of concerts. Big discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. To purchase group tickets, call the Cabrillo College box office at 831-479-6154. The show is appropriate for all ages. For further information, talk to Kathryn and Don.

The following are the director's notes written by Kathryn Adkins for the program:

In a constantly changing world with no map to follow, "who can know the hearts we touch, the lives we change."

It's a Wonderful Life was first written as a short story in 1939 at the end of the depression and then became the beloved Capra movie after WW2 in 1946. And yet, it reflects 2015 America. Personal loss and economic downturn derails goals and dreams. Greed and wealth dictate business (and politics). Home ownership is next to impossible. Wars continue.

These current affairs we see happening around us. But for me, the more intriguing questions presented in the show are, who am I and who do I want to be? Are love of family and community and personal sacrifice values we find important? Are there angels on earth- who are they?

Discussing values, especially values steeped in religious ideology have resulted in such volatile responses in our country; it makes me wonder if this discourse is no longer acceptable. I challenge that thought with this production. For some the story of *Wonderful Life* will be seen as nostalgia and for others religious propaganda. This musical version, set in present day, hopes to show relevance in today's world.

It's a Wonderful Life was created to soothe a tired nation in 1939 and again in 1946 with a message of hope. I believe it can provide the same balm in 2015.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all those
Celebrating birthdays in
November.



Kathy Gleaton, *Director*

November is the time when nature, family and friends surround us with a warm embrace. The teachers take this opportunity to talk about family traditions, culture and communicating new ideas. We explore history through the first Thanksgiving Feast and talk about table manners when they are sharing Thanksgiving dinner with their family

It is also a time when we prepare for the Christmas holiday. The preschool offers, to our families and friends, the opportunity to "make-a-plate". The children and/or adults draw a picture with make-a-plate paper and pens; the school then mails the pattern back to the factory and lo and behold a plate is mailed back with the picture you drew. They make wonderful Christmas gifts and life long memories. There is a nominal fee per plate. If you or someone you know would like to participate please let the office know and we will get you the materials.

Don't forget to fall back on Sunday, November 1st!

November 7- Harvest Festival from 2:00 – 5:00

November 25-27 thanksgiving Break



Sunday, November 1

Note Newsletter Deadline!

Articles for the December newsletter must be submitted by **November 15. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday it is crucial that your articles arrive on time.**



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Please rush
Time-Dated Material
October 27, 2015



November

Church Staff:

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
Mrs. Charlie Millar, Youth Coordinator
Mr. Sean Berger, Custodian

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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. The next
deadline is November 15 for the December newsletter.

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