



## PEACE ON EARTH

This year we are having a Blue Christmas Service, on Thursday December 1 at 7 pm, to honor those we lost recently, or those we especially miss around the holiday. It is a space to hold grief so that we might find our way to baby Jesus; to the joy of our Savior. All are welcome.

We are also welcoming five new members to our congregation: Sharon Willoughby, Krista Brassfield, Betty Seegmiller, Melanie Watts, and Leslie Cruz. Please see the article on page 3.

As I ponder this Christmas in light of the election and with all the divisive rhetoric, I keep hearing Luke 2:14, "*Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward people!*" I think we need to hear this message of peace; God's peace through Jesus Christ.

I have heard from many in our congregation how scared people are about what lies ahead for our country. A fear, an anxiety, that is not about being on the losing side of politics, but fear for how we as a nation, and as a world, will move forward. This is also playing out in our families as people struggle with breaking bread with loved ones over the holidays because of this chasm in beliefs. Cooper and I are having intense discussions about this, after he saw three people on his campus get attacked for who they supported. Recently in church we prayed for gays, immigrants and Muslims who are feeling especially fearful, even harassed.

I also know people who support the new administration and look forward to the changes and the jobs promised. Many are reading this. The President elect tapped into something in this country.

I think many, especially in California, are grieving the loss of an America we believe in. We worry about climate change, protected personal rights, even greater income disparity. We worry about the people who will be affected by deportation, lack of health care, and our relationship with our international allies.

We have a relationship with Christ for such a time as this. When we can't see what lies ahead, we get to trust and have faith. We pray to the Prince of Peace whose birth we will soon celebrate. We bring our own peace, found in Christ, to our small part of the world. We hold on to the promise in John: "The light (of Christ) shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (1:5).

Join us for the advent celebrations as we welcome our Savior and Lord. PEACE ON EARTH!

*Anne*

### December Services and Events

**December 1, 7 p.m.** Blue Christmas Service

*Honoring personal losses in light of Christmas*

**December 4, 11:30 a.m.** Advent Festival

*Family potluck with children, crafts and making of Advent wreaths*

**December 24, 5:30 p.m.** Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

*Hear the Christmas Story through lessons and carols celebrating the Birth of Christ*

**December 25, 10:30 a.m. Casual Christmas**

*Come as you are – Carols, Cocoa, Communion with Christ*

## HEART LINE

Please pray for these members and friends.

Helen Cooke  
Clare Pelich  
Shirley Coleman  
Nez Phister  
Paul Fuelling  
Lyle Silldorff  
Lois Holcomb  
Judy Smith



David Beach (*former member*)  
Steve Glaum (*Dorothy's son*)  
Tim Dietrich (*Marsha Gonzales' son*)  
Jan Hunter (*Peg Ogg's daughter*)  
Andrea (*Dee St. Clair's daughter*)  
Holly Edwards Duby  
Hamil Family  
Allen Family



### Prayer for the World

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

#### Let Us Pray

Bountiful God of hope, you sent your son, Jesus, so that all may have life and live it abundantly. May freedom and dignity multiply throughout the world. Amen.

## ADULT EDUCATION

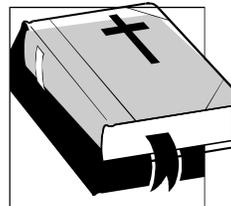
Dr. Susan Mahan

### Hubler Hall

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m., Sunday.**



For our celebration of the Advent season, on December 4, 11 and 18, Adult Education will continue exploring the first three chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We will compare them and appreciate their unique characteristics. Our discoveries will make this holy story more real and personal. Join a warm group. No need to be a scholar. Bring your Bible if you have one. Drop in for any Sunday. For more information, please contact Susan Mahan at 831-320-6422 or [stmahan181@gmail.com](mailto:stmahan181@gmail.com).



## WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Please note: Bible Study will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in December, December 12, at 1 p.m. We will be studying Lesson Four "According to John" from the book *Who Is Jesus*. In January Bible Study will resume on the 4th Monday of the month.

# NEW MEMBERS



Five beautiful women joined our faith community on November 20, 2016. Each one brings her own style and presence to our church. So I would like to introduce them to you.

**Betty Seegmiller** lives in Watsonville, having come here from New Mexico. After visiting several area churches, she said when she entered St. Andrew she felt like she had come home. She is retired and has four grown children. Her daughter lives in the area and brings her to church on Sunday. Anyone living in Watsonville who might be willing to give her a ride please let her know. Her favorite hobbies are reading, sewing and singing. I think she is in the right place.

**Melanie Watts** lives in the neighborhood with her husband Dennis. I was fortunate to meet her while presiding over her step daughter's memorial. She has strong faith and taught many Bible studies. She comes from an Orthodox background – and I am sure she would be willing to share her story. She was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She owned her own business and her favorite sports team is the Warriors.

**Sharon Willoughby** came to St. Andrew first to see her four grandchildren in Christmas Pageants. She is David Willoughby's mother. She started attending more regularly after the passing of her beloved husband Fred. She was raised Baptist and finds great joy in her faith. She loves being a grandmother to Savannah, Sophie, Sadie and Sharon. She also loves to sew and cook.

**Leslie Cruz** came to church after Jackie Johnston, her neighbor, invited her. She is a realtor for Keller Williams hoping to help people in living transitions later in life. She was born in Lima Peru, and speaks Spanish. Her favorite sports team is the Chicago Bulls. She was raised Catholic and she is so happy she has found her way back to God.

**Krista Brassfield** is an architect with Landmark Designs. She is married to Tony and they have a son Shann. She enjoys nature especially while running and sailing. She is the President of Cabrillo Lions and knows many members of St. Andrew through this service body. She is energetic and active and she cheers on the Warriors and 49ers.

We are so thrilled to have each one of you as part of the St. Andrew family. I hope everyone will introduce themselves to these special women and continue to welcome them.

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Sally Griffin and Marian Langdon*

*From the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook*

## FAIR TRADE ARTISAN GROUP AIDED BY PRESBYTERIANS

Artisans from Peru, Cambodia, Haiti, Egypt and other countries which have struggled with poverty are being connected with North American consumers. A small partnership created by a handful of Presbyterians visiting Peru ten years ago has blossomed into a growing nonprofit organization. It began with a \$7,000 One Great Hour of Sharing grant.

### Santa Cruz al Salvador

A big **Thank You** to all the St. Andrew members who now have a sponsor/prayer child in their family. St. Andrew promised to support the children with five new sponsors and quickly, we got six. Your generosity and love for our Guillermo Ungo children is very much appreciated.

There will be a "packing party" on December 18 to place all the gift bags for our sponsor children into suitcases dedicated for the purpose. Please bring your one-gallon bags to St. Andrew no later than the church service that morning.

## NURTURE & ENRICHMENT NEWS

*Cathy Zimel*

Everyone is invited to come to our **Advent Festival** following worship on **December 4** in Hubler Hall. We will join together during this Christmas season to focus on Christ's advent into our lives.

The workshop will give us an opportunity to create our own Advent wreath to take home. In addition, we will make Christmas ornaments, sing Christmas carols and have a potluck meal with our church family and friends.

The church will provide ham. Please bring a salad or a dessert to share. Bread and drinks will also be provided.



## Sunday School News

*By Rachael Cash*

The last six months heading the Sunday school program for St. Andrew has been a fun experience. I have gotten to know many of the children in our parish, created a new routine for our classroom on Sundays and enjoyed learning more about the bible alongside our kids. That said, I am sorry to say that as of January 1st I will no longer be the Youth Coordinator. School and my family are where I want and need to put my focus at this time. I am confident however that we will find someone amazing for this position. There are teachers lined up for the beginning of the 2017 year which allows us time to fill the position. I will still be around to help during the transition and support our Sunday school program moving forward.

We are still looking for teachers to fill in our 2017 calendar, if you can help please let the office know. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!



Photos from the Joint Lunch Cluster  
November 20

## Preschool News

*Kathy Gleaton, Director*

This has been a hard year for our community and the preschool family. We not only lost our beloved Teacher Marian but Ken Thomas as well.

Ken kept the magic of Santa Claus alive throughout Santa Cruz. If you had ever met Ken you knew he *was* Santa. He would not only take time to delight the children at his granddaughter's school, you would see him in his Santa suit (no need for a fake beard, he had the real thing) walking into your neighbor's home with a HOHOHO and his red sack delighting both young and old.

The past three years Kris Kringle, alias Ken Thomas, took time out of his day to visit St. Andrew and share his gift of kindness love and joy. Ken captured the spirit of Christmas; we were blessed to have him as a part of our memories.

The preschool will embrace both Ken and Marian not only this holiday season but Christmases yet to be by having our children share their holiday traditions, food and family culture. We will decorate the school with a tree, ornaments and gifts, though it is the love, joy and hope that surrounds us that make this the most wonderful time of the year.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The preschool will be closed from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Inspirations, Reflections

MERRY CHRISTMAS

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.



Buon  
Natale

meri-  
kurisum  
asu

Glædelig  
Jul

Veselé  
Vánoce