

St. Andrew

Presbyterian Church **Connections**



May 2017

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Volume 28 Number 5

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

It is Holy Week as I write this. We are anticipating the new birth we have in Christ Jesus. We see reflections of new life mirrored back to us from God's world. The trees bursting into bloom, flowers immerging from their dark winter, the pallet of color from all the flowers formed in every hue. Many of these signs of new life have to do with color and the shift from the drabs of winter into the glory of spring.

We have some shifts in color within the church as well. We have a wonderful newsletter team that puts together our monthly gathering of information and inspiration. Thank you everyone who works on this project, Marian Landon, Kathy Zimel and their newest member Irma Andrews. Judy Zscheile and Sheila Burt also help with final editing. I hope you have seen the newsletter when it is sent to you online. The benefit to receiving this online is that you get to see all the pictures in color. We will also be helping the church to go green and use less paper to mail it out to everyone. Contact the office aptospres@gmail.com if you would like to receive your newsletter this way. We will continue to print some issues to mail out, but those will be limited. By the end of the year we plan to have the majority of the congregation receiving their newsletter online. This will also give you a chance to look at our website which is very interactive and informative. You can find a copy of the sermon posted there every week.

We are also working on having a greater presence online with adding activities and pictures to our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Then you could send posts to your friends inviting them to our Spring Fling with *Il Dolce Suono* from Cabrillo College on May 17th. These outreach

events are a great way to introduce someone you know to your St. Andrew church family. Facebook certainly adds lots of color to life.

Pictures are one of the best ways of showcasing color!!! We will be creating a new church pictorial directory June 4-6. It has been 4 years since our last one and we are looking forward to having updated photos of all our members, especially our new ones!!! We will be signing up for times with Life Touch Photography in May. If you have questions speak to Janet Maack.

I will be gone for the first two weeks in May. The first part of the week I will be at a preaching conference and then I will be taking a vacation the week of May 6-13. Jane Odell has graciously accepted to preach on the 7th. Please join her in communion. I will return to be with you all for Mother's Day on May 14th.

I trust that as you look for brighter colors in your life, God's amazing rainbow of rays will shine forth the love and new life of Easter as we continue in the glow of Eastertide. May you be blessed to see all the vibrant ways God is working in our church, community and world.

Anne



Please pray for these members and friends:

Shirley Ashworth Doré Corder
Bob Bell Lyle Sillardorf
Shirley Coleman Judy Smith
Helen Cooke

Virginia Baker
David Beach *(former member)*
Jan Hunter *(Peg Ogg's daughter)*
Andrea *(Dee St. Clair's daughter)*
Ottem Family
Schmida Family



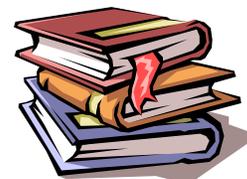
Prayer for the World

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

Loving God, thank you for the Medical Benevolence Foundation's work with mission hospitals that serve the most vulnerable people. Open doors and lead MBF into doing even greater work.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Susan Mahan



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

Adult Education will be spending May 7 and 14 finishing up our study of Christian Ethics. So far this has been interesting and inspiring. From May 21-June 11 we will be reading together a book entitled: *A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey, Book, I* by Brian D. McLaren. It is nonfiction but reads like an autobiography. It has wonderful discussions of such things as how to take the Bible seriously without taking it literally and what Heaven is probably like. There are many used editions in good condition on Amazon. If you need help ordering it, contact Susan Mahan.

Join us at any time along the way. We are a friendly group

For more information call or email Susan Mahan [831-320-6422](tel:831-320-6422), stmahan181@gmail.com.

	IN MEMORIAM
	Bunny Schmida April 13, 2017
	Service to be announced

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Dee Hamil, Marian Langdon

From the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook

Medical Benevolence Foundation

A young mother tends to her chores, as she helplessly watches her child lying listless on his mat. Without immunization this precious life may result in a statistic. Life-saving immunizations that we see as routine ease the weary mind of Sasha Waniece's mother. At eight weeks old, Sasha was given the gift of vaccinations. Immunizations avert 2 to 3 million deaths a year.

At MBF sustainable healthcare systems help the poor and vulnerable like Sasha. PC USA agencies are grateful to support MBF's healing ministries.

Also from the Mission Yearbook

At the most recent Outreach Committee meeting, Jan Maack read a report of what some Presbyterian churches are doing to welcome refugees.

A quote from First Presbyterian Church, Caldwell NJ: *We are preparing to receive a family within the next two or three months. Then we received word from the service's New Jersey City office that the executive order had come down. At this point we are in a waiting period.*

Rutgers Presbyterian Church of New York City received good news... that a Syrian family they had planned to sponsor would be arriving on Tuesday. ... ACLU attorneys will accompany them when they pick up the family.

There is much more in this article. Googling *Mission Yearbook, Presbyterian Church* should get you to the correct website for more information.

Santa Cruz al Salvador Wine Tasting Event

By the time you receive this newsletter, the April 29 Santa Cruz al Salvador wine tasting at Bargetto Winery may not yet have occurred. This is the 13th annual wine tasting event and has always been a festive way to support our international outreach in El Salvador. Thanks to all who have supported SCaS with their attendance or donations.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Cathy Zimel

This year, Nurture's annual spring event will be a **Spring Fling Luncheon**. We invite all St Andrew members, along with their family and friends, to enjoy a lovely afternoon of food and music. We will gather at 11:30 on **Wednesday, May 17** in Hubler Hall with lunch served at 12:00. Following our lunch of caravan sandwiches, salads, dessert and beverages, we will meet in the sanctuary where we will be treated to a vocal concert by "**il Dolce Souno**" (the sweet sound), a **Cabrillo College vocal group**. This is a student-run choral ensemble comprised of music majors. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation to help defray our costs. We hope this event will appeal to the men as well as the women of the church. You won't want to miss this great opportunity, so mark your calendars now!

Looking ahead, our annual **Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Saturday, June 10**. Besides enjoying a delicious hearty breakfast, we promise to also have an interesting program that will inspire all.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Don Adkins

The operations committee has, as usual, been busy maintaining and upgrading our wonderful facility. The Spring Cleaning was successful and we would like to thank everyone who participated. The interior of Hubler Hall is being painted, a process that will proceed in a couple of stages. Bids are being sought to complete larger projects:

1. Replace our phone/internet wiring system,
2. Recoat and stripe the parking lot,
3. Replace the large deck in front of Hubler Hall,
4. Replace the fence between the pre-school playground and the parking lot.

We hope to have all of these accomplished before the end of the summer. Our financial system software continues to be better understood and adjusted to meet our particular needs. We would like to thank everyone for their support of all these items which are critical to the utility and safety of the environment in which we and our neighbors gather to worship, work, meet and socialize.



Session News

by Eileen Mihm

On April 18, Session opened with prayer and approved minutes from previous meetings. We met with three members of the upcoming new members' class. Then we reviewed the Pastor's report and heard reports from the committees.

Action items approved by the Session are:

- 1) To approve the March 21, 2017 Session Meeting minutes.
- 2) To approve the April 9, 2017 Congregational Meeting minutes.
- 3) To approve the March 22 Deacon's meeting minutes.
- 4) To approve Anne's vacation from May 6 to 13 with Jane Odell preaching on May 7.



Bible Study

The lesson for this month is Lesson 9: *According to Cultural Interpretations*

It will be held at 1 p.m. on May 22, the fourth Monday of the month.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



St. Andrew will be having a new pictorial directory. Photographs will be taken here at the church June 4, 5 and 6. Please sign up. Times to follow.

Contact Janet Maack if you have questions.

THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

Marsha Gonzales



Greetings from your Garden Committee! We're interrupting our joyful digging and planting to invite all of you to join our fun-loving group. We meet Wednesday mornings, subject to weather conditions, and would be happy to welcome all who are interested in beautifying our church's exterior. Another need is those who are interested just in weeding, once a week! If this appeals to you, please contact Dee St. Clair or Marsha Gonzales.



Embroidery Lessons Available

Please contact Dee St. Clair. Dee is looking for people to help embroider the children's names on the CASA stockings later in the year, and is willing to teach you how to do this now.



Kathy Gleaton, Director

Dear Kathy Rodden, or, as the preschool children called you, Principal Kathy,

The families of St Andrew Preschool would like to thank you for all you have done! Over the years, you have been there for us. You were there at every Welcome Coffee, you took time to talk to the families, met the children and let them know the church office was open to them. When a child needed to take a "break" from the classroom environment, you, Principal Kathy, understood that we needed a safe place to regain control of our emotions. When a parent called, long after the preschool closed, because they left their child's beloved stuffed animal...and it is Friday...and he won't last the weekend and...you told them to come right over, even if it meant you had to stay a little late. I can't begin to thank you for all you have done for my preschool families and me as a teacher, director and friend. Your warmth, caring and generosity spilled over from the church into the preschool. You were the loving bridge between the preschool and the church!



The last day of school, this year is May 26. We will not be having summer school though we will be marching in the Aptos 4th of July Parade and we hope you will join us!

Note Newsletter Deadline!

Articles for the June/July newsletter must be submitted by May 15.



Celtic Music Nights at St. Andrew

From David Brewer to the office:

There are several upcoming Celtic nights at St. Andrew: May 2, 9 and 16.

Thanks so much! Hope you had a wonderful Easter! Cheers.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule: 9 a.m. Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship	1 No Nurture Meeting this month	2 7 pm Enrichment 7pm Celtic Music	3 3 pm Outreach	4	5 1pm Caregivers Circle	6 8:30 am Showers for Homeless
7 Sunday Schedule Communion	8 1 pm Operations	9 7pm Celtic Music	10	11	12	13
14 Sunday Schedule	15	16 7 pm Session 7pm Celtic Music	17 11:30 Spring Fling, 12 noon buffet lunch followed by music, \$5 cost	18	19	20
21 Sunday Schedule Lunch cluster #!	22 1 pm Bible Study - Lesson 9	23	24 11 am Deacons	25	26 1pm Caregivers Circle	27
28 Sunday Schedule	29	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Looking ahead: Men's Breakfast, Saturday, June 10 </div>		

Inspirations, Reflections

The mission and outreach committee will use this space for the next few months to update you on our activities. We plan to do a series of brief stories about the many and various local, national and international efforts in which our congregation is involved. This month we are featuring the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Dee St. Claire

In 1977, a Seattle Washington Judge, David Soukup, realized that the family court cases were not being processed swiftly. There were heavy dockets, limited resources and scarce information to make these life changing decisions. They needed help in getting timely and complete information about these children lives.

As a result, David Soukup organized the CASA program. The program was designed to support children from neglected or abusing homes. Volunteers completed a training program of 30-35 hours before being assigned a child. There are also trained support teams for the advocates. The advocates collect information from the different people in the child's life during their weekly visits. They provide a comprehensive report to the judge. Their goal is to make sure every child has a permanent loving home and the opportunity to thrive.

The National CASA Association was founded in 1982. Since the family court judges were all facing the same issues, CASA programs were established throughout the country. There are 940 programs in 49 states with 76,000 volunteers serving 251,000 abused and neglected children.

In Santa Cruz County we are fortunate enough to have a CASA house. This provides a wonderful place for advocates and their child to get to know each other. During the fiscal year of 2016-17, CASA of Watsonville served 254 children and has 243 active volunteers. We find that foster children who have advocates are more likely to graduate from high school. The graduation rate for all foster children is 58% while those who had advocates are 83%.

Our outreach program has been supporting CASA with donations, Christmas stocking and Christmas gifts, for at least six years.