



*And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make
You fish for people."
Mark 1:17*

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Volume MMXXIII

December 2023

Parish Associate/Moderator Session, Constance McIntosh Ministry Intern, Cynthia Robertson

Thomas Logan-Music Coordinator Music Accompanist-Elisa Hevia

Anita Duhon, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Elders for December: Amy and Joe Stark

Elders for January: Ginger Keenan and Amy Stark



We Have an Architect

At its November meeting the Session voted to engage the services of local architect, Jeff Kudla, to guide St. Andrew through the visioning process involved in rebuilding following the destruction of hurricane Laura. Following the visioning process, which will include input from church members and friends for St. Andrew, the next phase will begin which will be the actual building project. This will be directed by Kudla.

Please watch for emails and articles in the church newsletter that will include opportunities for us to come together to hear updates and offer ideas.

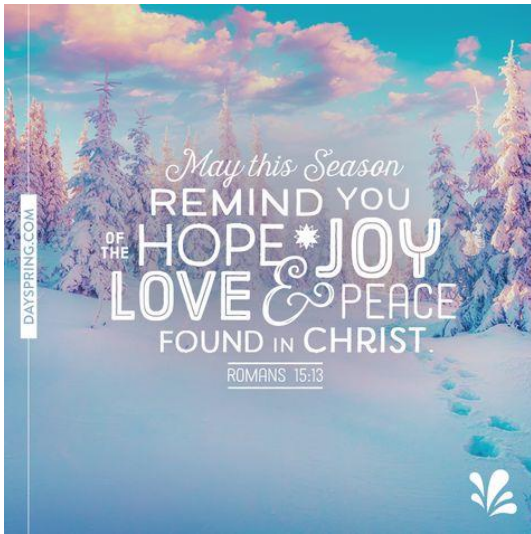
Although the number of returned congregation surveys was low, the overwhelming response was the strong emotional need for the congregation to be back in a sanctuary. This response was heard and shared with our new architect. Please make sure you are part of the new revitalization at St. Andrew, and you make every effort to be involved as we move forward together in the next great adventure.

Questions? Ask your session members for the latest and most accurate information. *Sent in by Debbie Serra*

The Mission Stitchers Have Been Busy

Shown below are only a few of the items that are displayed in the Fellowship Hall for purchase: baby quilt, Christmas Snowman apron, Star lap quilt, crocheted purses, and table runner. Also browse through the quilted Christmas ornaments, gnome kitchen dish towels, lap quilts for all seasons and ages, baby bibs, crocheted newborn quilts with matching booties, pocket pets, cell phone carriers, and more. For more information contact any of the Mission Stitchers.





The Small Church-A Gift to Its Community

By Sue Washburn

Excerpt from *Presbyterians Today*
November/December 2021

When the God of the Universe decided to make a change in human history, it didn't happen as a big, cosmic event, but rather as the birth of an infant. As we celebrate the coming of Jesus for our salvation, we remember that he was born to an ordinary family in the small town of Bethlehem.

Christmas is a good time to remember that God's presence and power can call forth big changes in even the smallest churches that follow in Jesus' footsteps. Those changes are not necessarily in numerical growth, but in the personal impact they have on the lives of the people around them. A big transformation can start small: a simple worship service, a ride home from work or a meal delivered after the birth of a baby.

Churches are changing in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and what ministry looks like is changing with it. Congregations are getting smaller, and ministry is getting more personal. According to the Office of the General Assembly, in 2020, more than half (63%) of the churches in the denomination had fewer than 100 members and 40% of PC(USA) members attended a church with fewer than 50 members.

As the Jesus story shows, small doesn't mean weak or ineffective. Take for instance the fact the median size of a church in the Presbytery of West Virginia is 26 members. Many of the churches can't afford a full-time pastor, and yet they continue to spread the gospel, care for each other and work for justice.

"Despite their size, even our smallest churches continue to bring value to the communities they are in, even without sustained pastoral leadership," said the Rev. Dr. Ed Thompson, general presbyter of the Presbytery of West Virginia. "Any size congregation can be faithful. You don't have to have 2,000 or 200 members. Even 20 people can witness to the gospel and care for the community. Small churches are on the front lines in our towns and rural communities."

The gifts of small churches often go unnoticed amid the novelty of online worship and other technical innovations. But small churches have been reaching their communities during the pandemic with communion by phone, as well as cards and notes, and even printed worship liturgies and Sunday school lessons that get stamped and mailed.

Copies of the full story will be on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

★ **December 8**

- 10:30 a.m.-PW Bible Study, Lesson 3
- 12:00 p.m.-Luncheon and Cookie Exchange.
Bring enough cookies to share.
- 1:30 p.m.-Mission Stitches

★ **December 10**

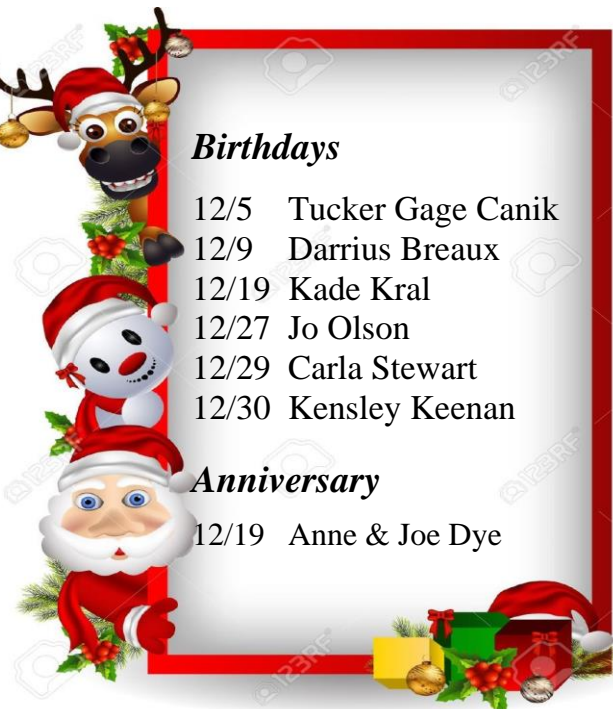
- Second Sunday of Advent Worship at 11:00 a.m. Christmas Luncheon after Worship

★ **December 17**

- Third Sunday of Advent Worship at 11:00 a.m. The Christmas Cantata is presented

★ **December 24**

- Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.



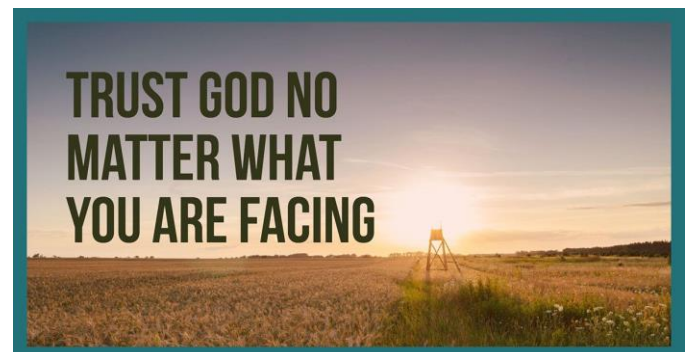
Prayers and Concerns



We offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who visited this past month.

Remember in your prayers the many members and friends in need of support during the trying times of their lives: Linda Cannon; Virginia Conrad; Mary Davis; Jody Flanagan; Collin Jacobs (Anita's brother-in-law); Liam Simon; Alivia Simon; EJ Smith; Lucille's grandson, Ryder; Carol Bell's son, Patrick.

Condolences to the family and friends of Danté Breaux. Condolences to the family and friends of Virginia Conrad and her daughter. Prayers for all those who have lost loved ones this past month. May the peace of the Lord be with them.





December Calendar
Elders for December: Amy and Joe Stark
Elders for January: Ginger Keenan and Amy Stark



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:30 pm Mission Stitchers	2 12:00pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
3 11:00 am Worship Service w/communion- (Children stay in worship) (Also on ZOOM) Pulpit: Rev. Constance McIntosh	4	5	6 6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	7 12:30-3:00pm Art Class	8 Fab Friday 10:30 am New Bible Study starts 12.00 pm PW Luncheon with Cookie Exchange 1:30 pm Mission Stitchers	9 12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
10 11:00 am Worship Service in Fellowship Hall (Also on ZOOM) Christmas Luncheon After worship Pulpit Supply: Thomas Logan	11	12 9:00am- 12:00pm PEO meeting	13 6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	14 12:30-3:00pm Art Class	15 12:30 pm Mission Stitchers	16 12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
17 11:00 am Worship Service w/Cantata in Fellowship Hall (Also on ZOOM) Stated Session 30 minutes after worship	18	19	20 6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	21 12:30-3:00pm Art Class	22 12:30 pm Mission Stitchers	23 12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
24 Morning Worship at 11:00am with Craig Long, SRE, in pulpit Christmas Eve worship at 6:00 pm w/Rev. Constance McIntosh in pulpit	25 No worship Office Closed	26	27 6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	28 12:30-3:00pm Art Class	29 12:30 pm Mission Stitchers	30 12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
31 11:00 am Worship Service in Fellowship Hall (Also on ZOOM) Carols and Lessons NO FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON						

