

**Awareness** 

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

**4** 4020 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605 Phone: (337) 477-6166

• Office Email: <a href="mailto:standrewpres@suddenlinkmail.com">standrewpres@suddenlinkmail.com</a>

standrewpres53@yahoo.com

❖ Website: http://www.standrewpres.com

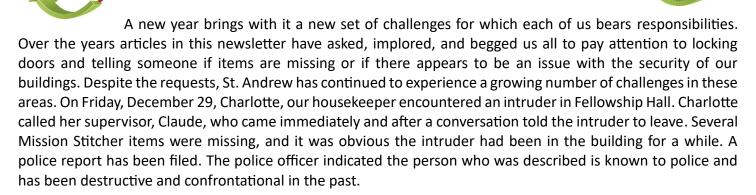
Volume MMXXIV January 2024

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 January: Ginger Keenan & Amy Stark



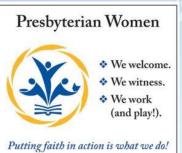
Awarene:



Please consider how this could have affected Charlotte, Anita, our Mission Stitchers, and those who are in our buildings on a regular basis. Among other things, the intruder had turned on a burner in the kitchen. Had it not been seen consider those potential consequences to our building.

The time for imploring each member to lock doors and be vigilant is not past but has become even more important. The Property Committee is working with security firms to determine the best type of system for a building that has an excessive number of doors and entry points. In addition, the Lake Charles Police Department has a Safe and Secure program that we are investigating. We must keep our buildings secure for the safety of all of us. We must report anything that appears out of place, damaged, or in need of attention. If you see something, please report it to Anita, Anne Dye, or the chair of the Property Committee. If you encounter an intruder, leave the building immediately and call the police and then contact Anita, or Anne Dye, Clerk of Session.

Debbie Serra, Property Committee Chair



Presbyterian Women will celebrate Fabulous Friday, January 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the Richardson Room. We will begin with our Bible study from the book "Sacred Encounters." We are on Lesson Four, "Mary and Martha encounter Jesus." Around 12:00 p.m. we will enjoy a salad luncheon.

For those interested in sewing, Mission Stitchers starts around 1:15 p.m. in the Wright Building. We are making pillowcase dresses for little girls overseas.

If you want to get your sewing machine or serger overhauled, it is not too late to bring them in. Gary usually drops by to pick them up on Fridays.





## **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

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; Chris Smith's stepmother; EJ Smith; Lucille's grandson, Ryder; Carol Bell's son, Patrick.

Condolences to Chris Smith, family, and friends of Rev. Don Smith. Prayers for all those who have lost loved ones this past month. May the peace of the Lord be with them.

## Pulpit Supply

1/07 Cindy Robertson, MSW

1/14 Rev. Constance McIntosh

1/21 Craig Long, RE

1/28 Thomas Logan



## Fun Days in January



January 3: National Chocolate-

Covered Cherry Day

January 8: Elvis

Presley's Birthday

January 10: National

Houseplant Appreciation Day

• **January 14:** National Dress Up Your Pet Day

 January 20: National Penguin Day

 January 22: National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day

## **Someone Once Said**

- → Faith is like a muscle that grows stronger and stronger with use, rather than rubber, which weakens when it is stretched. -J. O. Fraser, missionary to China
- Little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul. -Anonymous

Robert J. Morgan, Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations & Quotes, page 283



# The Lord's Prayer

О	X	K	뙤	M	0	Д	0	U	Z
H	A	Н	Н	0	M	되	Q	0	$\vdash$
$\bowtie$	$\bowtie$	ഥ	S	$\bowtie$	ᄺ	$\sum$	Н	X	A
О	Н	$\Sigma$	$\mathbb{X}$	A	>	$\vdash$	፲	Н	М
$\succeq$	Н	Z	$\vdash$	M	A	H	0	Н	田
S	$\propto$	H	U	$\vdash$	X	O	K	Н	ᄺ
О	띠	0	Д	О	0	Ц	U	M	$\Box$
以	0	$\Sigma$	Н	$\vdash$	0	0	Н	$\bowtie$	$\vdash$
A	፲	$\vdash$	፲	Ü	0	Σ	>	A	Н
$\vdash$	ഥ	>	Н	Н	M	$\alpha$	ഥ	$\bowtie$	О

ER	DAILY BREAD	EVIL
OWED	FORGIVE	GLORY
DOM	SINS	POWER
	TEMPIATION	

FATH HALL KING WILL



# Stuck in the muck?

# Times of challenge are times of growth

t's funny the things you remember from childhood: like the sandals I wore while running through cow manure. They were red and adorned with plastic white daisies. I didn't intentionally run through the manure. I was a 6-year-old who was excited to be in Switzerland meeting my paternal grandparents. When the car pulled to a stop, I jumped out, opting to take a shortcut through a field to get to the storybook Alpine farmhouse. The farmhouse was magical in my eyes, with gingerbread trim and geranium-filled flowerboxes in every window. I ran with joy — and with wonderment. Why did the "mud" oozing between my toes have a pungent smell?

When we were reunited by the watering trough near the kitchen door, I noticed my grandmother's glacier blue eyes crinkling with laughter. My mother shook her head. My uncle chuckled to my father in the Swiss German dialect of the region: The field had just been sprayed with fresh manure. "Oh well," I shrugged, smiling down at my sandals. I was quickly whisked to an ancient handpump where frigid cold mountain water gushed over my feet. The plastic daisies that enamored me were now ruined, but "What's a little muck?" I thought joyfully.

What's a little muck? When was the last time you were able to shrug off life's disappointments, challenges, conflicts and even seemingly failures? I often think of those red sandals, especially when the fields around my rural home are being sprayed with manure. Unlike others who cringe at the smell, I find myself sniffing it in because it reminds me of a time — when even standing in muck — I had a freeing joy in my heart. Why, as we get older, do we lose that joy when life gets mucky, and our best laid plans fail?

It wasn't too long ago that I found myself in muck again — literally and figuratively. I was serving a church that really couldn't afford a full-time pastor. The search committee, though, decided to risk their savings all on me. "We are willing to 'sell the farm," said one elder as I settled into a strange new life void of Ubers and DoorDash.

So, there I was for the first time living miles away from my parents with no friends and no significant other to lean on. All I had was a strong sense of call that led me to this church. It wasn't easy holding on to that sense of call as harsh winters turned into mud season. It was then I found myself in muck that I thought was just mud.

I was making a pastoral visit to a dairy worker who couldn't find time to get away from the cows, offering to meet her at the barn. I slipped into my favorite flats, left over from my city days when my then-paycheck could afford designer names. I didn't think twice about my decision to wear them. Just like my red sandals with the white daisies, they made me smile. I parked my car and decided to take a shortcut through a grassy area to get to the barn. It was then I felt a familiar squishing. I smelled a familiar smell. I looked down and saw a familiar sight. The shoes that made me smile were covered in cow manure. There was no better illustration for my life than this very moment. I found a hose, cleaned up and left the farm wondering, "Where was God when I was stuck in the muck? Where was God when everything I did just seemed to go to nowhere?"

Like manure sprayed on a humid day, these questions lingered with me. Then one day, the answer came. After entertaining the women gathered in the church kitchen preparing for yet another dinner with a humorous version of my penchant for finding myself standing in cow manure, I noticed one woman shaking her head. The daughter of one of the big farm families lovingly chided me that finding yourself in cow manure wasn't a bad thing. If anything, she said, being stuck in the muck can be seen as life-giving. That muck that I cursed for ruining designer flats (and red sandals) is filled with nutrients. "It helps the corn grow tall," she said.

I smiled my first real smile. She was right. God is always right there with us when we find ourselves stuck in the muck. And praise God that that muck is the very thing that will help us grow. For in the disappointment, challenges, conflicts and failure, we are being nourished by God's redeeming grace, and we are being asked to see beyond our situations to the possibilities that are always there. And so, my friends, what's a little muck in life? Smile. Be joyful through it all. The muck in life can indeed be nourishing.

Donna Frischknecht Jackson is editor of Presbyterians Today. She now thinks twice before running through muddy fields. If you have a story in your ministry as to how a failure turned into something wonderful, drop her a note at editor@pcusa.org.

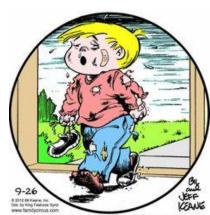
### 4 JULY/AUGUST 2021 | Presbyterians Today



"I bet my guardian angel was pretty bored today."



"I think we need to talk."



"I think my guardian angel took the day off."



# January Calendar Elders for January: Ginger Keenan and Amy Stark



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	4 No Art Class	12:30 pm Mission Stitchers Cancelled due to weather	12:00pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
7 11:00 am Worship Service w/communion- (Children stay in worship) (Also on ZOOM) Pulpit: Cindy Robertson, MSW	8	9	10 6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	11 12:30-3:00pm Art Class 5:00 pm Building & Property meeting in Meeting Room 6:00pm Called Session Meeting to examine new Elders	12 Fab Friday 10:30 am New Bible Study starts 12.00 pm PW Luncheon with Cookie Exchange 1:30 pm Mission Stitchers	13 12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
11:00 am Worship Service in Fellowship Hall (Also on ZOOM) Pulpit Supply: Rev. Constance McIntosh Session Meeting	15	16	6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	18 12:30-3:00pm Art Class	1:15 pm Mission Stitchers	12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
after Worship 21 11:00 am Worship Service in Fellowship Hall (Also on ZOOM) Pulpit Supply: Craig Long RE	Fellowship Hall booked for PEO set-up	4-8pm PEO District Dinner in Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice	25 12:30-3:00pm Art Class	26 1:15 pm Mission Stitchers	12:30 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon
28  11:00 am Worship Service in Fellowship Hall (Also on ZOOM)  Pulpit Supply: Craig Long, RE  Fellowship Supper after Worship	29	30	31 6:00 pm New Beginnings Al-Anon mtg 6:30 pm Choir Practice			