

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

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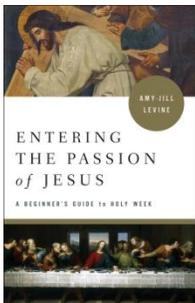
Music Accompanist-Elisa Hevia

Elders for April: Eva LeBlanc and Amy Stark

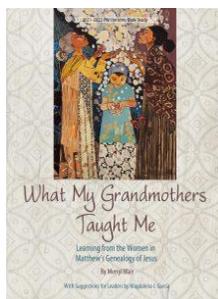
Elders for May: Ginger Keenan and Jan Laird



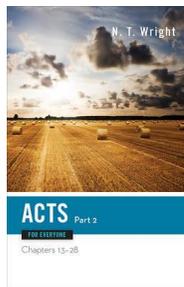
ST. ANDREW IS BUSY AND ACTIVE



Lenten Study, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., with St. Paul Lutheran Church and St. Andrew. Wednesday, April 6, at St. Andrew Fellowship Hall; April 13 at St. Paul Lutheran Church.



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study held second Friday of the month via ZOOM. Contact Mary Lou Burke for more information.



"Book of Acts", by N. T. Wright, Bible Study held via ZOOM on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m.



New Beginnings Al-Anon meets Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 12:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room



Educational and Treatment Council, Inc. training classes



Jones Creek Rescue CPR training class



Repairs and clean-up continue.



Watercolor Techniques Art Class meets Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Contact Nancy Melton for more information.



Worship Services held in Fellowship Hall



Mission Stitchers meet on Thursday at 12:30 p.m.





Pastor's Ponderings

The time since March 2020 seems like some sort of altered reality. We faced multiple storms, floods and freezes; yet overlaying this was the COVID pandemic.

We did everything we could to adjust, moving to Zoom and continuing to worship together. Zoom is a blessing and a curse. It is a blessing because even though we were physically isolated, we could still worship together. It was a curse because we got used to getting a cup of coffee and showing up in our pajamas. Our good habit of physically attending worship services evaporated. But, we'll bounce back soon, won't we? PRC Practical Resources for Churches points out that, in reality, once a habit has been broken, it's not so easy to pick it up again. While everyone misses seeing their community of faith, they have gotten comfortable with having a whole Sunday morning off. No hassling with the kids to get them out the door. No need to get dressed up. No need to worry who does and does not have germs that might kill you. It's just so much easier. Will we be able to recover from the past few years? Time will tell, but I hope you'll do everything you can to practice the spiritual discipline of worship whether in person or online. Let's get back in the habit together!

The activities of the church are picking up speed. From Bible studies to camps to workdays, there is activity all around us. The fellowship hall and Wright building are well on the way to being fully repaired. The new, fresh look of the fellowship hall is amazing. Now that our fellowship hall is also our worship area, it is sacred space and we'll do our best to keep it looking and feeling that way.

During our Lenten journey, let's commit together to strengthen the spiritual disciplines and practices in our lives. Some of these spiritual disciplines are:

- Prayer
- Spiritual Reading
- Worship
- Fasting
- Self-Examination, Confession and Awareness
- Hospitality

Then, we'll gather together Easter Sunday to praise our risen Lord and stronger, healthier, more well-balance Christians.

Nanette



OMG News

April Food Collection will be canned goods for the Greater St. Mary Food Pantry. Vegetables, canned meat, tuna fish, Vienna sausage, crackers, Spaghetti O's, and soup, are all needed.

Other items being collected are hygiene items, cleaning supplies, used bicycles that can be refurbished, and clothing. Gift cards from Lowe's and Home Depot in \$50 amounts are also needed.



Prayers and Concerns

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

Also, remember in your prayers the many members and friends in need of support during the trying times of their lives. Susan Benges's father; Sandy Brister, the pastor at St. Andrew Leesville, her husband, and her mother; Nani Cagney; Phyllis Cagney; Linda Cannon; Edward Chavanne; Margy Clawson; Keith Conrad; Virginia Conrad; Nancy Crncic; Jody Flanagan; Pauline Hurst; Colin Jacobs (Anita's brother-in-law); Sue Kantorczyk; David Laird; Liam Lewis; Barbara Lobue; William Ludwick; Laura Ludwick; Cullen Nolan; Judy Robertson; Thomas Schwab; Alivia Shamsie; EJ Smith; Anne Dye's mother; Sue Long's mother; Lucille and Pat Marshall's grandson, Ryder; Carol Bell's son, Patrick;

Prayers for all those affected by COVID.

Prayers for those impacted by Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida; all educators/school administrators.

Prayers for our country and our leadership.

Contact the church office to add or remove a name from the Prayers and Concerns.

Birthdays

- 4/03 Lucille Marshall
- 4/06 Elisiea Fountain
Drew Aguillard
- 4/07 Kelly Reed Lodgen
Vincent Perez
- 4/08 Isabella Estes
Severina Estes
- 4/21 Shelly Kral
Ramiro Jaramillo
- 4/22 Charles Keenan
- 4/23 Brianna Jaramillo
- 4/25 Craig Long
- 4/27 Cameron Banister
- 4/29 Stephanie Tackett



Anniversary

- 4/21 Erin & Stephen Canik

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank all of you for your cards, thoughts, and prayers. Your kind consideration has helped my family survive the untimely death of our daughter, aunt, mom, and sister. Alicia really felt at home at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. We trust God's plan as difficult as it may be. We have another angel watching over us from heaven.

Love,

Lewis and Simon Family

Dear Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew,

Thank you from the Mayfield Presbyterian Church family for your generous donation after our town's devastating tornado. With your gift and God's help, we are assisting others and making plans for the future of our church.

"May the Lord reward you for your kindness."

(Ruth 1:8).

Sincerely,

Melinda Craig, Clerk of the Session

Rebuilding Mission

Barbara Eddie and Gerald Leday- Barbara and Gerald have been together for 25 years. They raised five grandchildren in a 500 square foot, one bedroom house. One of the teen grandchildren still stays with them. Their home was severely damaged in the 2020 hurricanes and 2021 flood. The house was knocked crooked on its piers. The roof was damaged and hasn't been fixed so that every time it rains, it rains on the granddaughter who sleeps on the floor in the back of the house. There are holes in the walls and when the wind blows, the pilot light on the hot water heater that is outside blows out so there is no hot water. Each morning the family wakes up and wipes mold from the walls and boils water as their pipes have not been fixed. Their furniture is disintegrating since it got wet in the flood waters.

This rebuild project has been in the planning phase for months. St Andrew is working with the Fuller Center for Rebuilding to fix this home. A church in Austin, Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, has pledged \$10,000 from their Christmas offering to help with this project. They'll also be sending volunteers. We also have some grant money from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Ideally the home would be torn down and we'd start over, but we don't have the funds for that. So, we'll work together to fix the house and make it livable.

We'll ask for volunteers from St Andrew to help. Not too many of us know how to frame a house, but the Mennonites will be helping level the house and will be doing some of the labor. We'll be asking our folks to come help paint and do some of the finishing work. We'll ask you to help however you can- that might even be making lunch for the work crew one day.

The need in Lake Charles is great and we can't help everyone who needs help, but we will be able to help this family. This will make a huge difference in their lives. Know that we ARE making a difference!

March Update

When we get the exact dates, we'll let you know.

We hope you'll pray for this project and that you'll plan to be involved in whatever way you can. Right now they are doing a site elevation survey to determine how high the house will be raised. We are hoping to begin the build in the next few weeks.



Fellowship Luncheon will begin again starting Sunday, March 27.

April 14, Maundy Thursday Taize-style worship will be held with St. Paul Lutheran Church at St. Andrew at 5:30 p.m.

April 15, Good Friday worship will be held with St. Paul Lutheran at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 6:00 p.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be received on Easter Sunday.

NSG News- Children stay in worship the first and last Sundays of the month. Classes have resumed for the other Sundays. The Nursery is available.

The Acts Bible study meets on ZOOM every Monday at 6:00 p.m. **The Lent Bible** study continues Wednesdays, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Andrew and April 13 at St. Paul Lutheran.

There will be a PSL wide Confirmation Class (in-person and Zoom hybrid) offered beginning 3/27/22! Youth who complete this course will be well-prepared to seek confirmation at their home church if they so choose. However, youth do not have to seek confirmation after this course unless they want to; any who want to learn are welcome!

Presbytery of South Louisiana — Confirmation Class

Who: Any youth grades 6th and up

Where: Covington Presbyterian and/or Zoom for virtual link

When: 9 am -10:15 am on the following dates: 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Reach out/ RSVP to Amy amy@pbsouthla.org for more information and/or a Zoom link!

Bricks of the Memory Garden



Picking up on an invitation to pray

by the Rev. Ken Rummer for *Presbyterians Today* | Special to *Presbyterian News Service*



The Norfolk Island Pine (Photo by Ken Rummer)

Spanish moss hanging from branches like gnome beards. Palm fronds dancing with the passing breeze. Lizards darting from flower bed to sunny stucco. I'm looking out at my sister-in-law's Florida backyard.

One of her trees has grown a lot since our last visit. She says she received it as a gift from one of her children. She transplanted it from an indoor pot to an outside spot, and the tree is now nearing 30 feet tall. It's not a kind I see in Iowa.

To find out more about it, I turned my inner researcher loose on the internet. Tree ID? Norfolk Island Pine.

When I hear "Norfolk," I think of Virginia, but this "Norfolk" refers to an island in the South Pacific, east of Australia and north of New Zealand, where Captain Cook and his crew found these trees growing in 1774.

The Norfolk Island Pine can trace its ancestry in the fossil record back to the time of the dinosaurs. Evergreen and cone-bearing, though not a true pine, NIP doesn't like hurricanes and temps below 35°F. I guess we have that in common.

The structure of the tree is striking. The branches issue from the trunk in layers, like spokes on a wheel hub, with open space between the hubs. Five branches to a layer is usual, but in places I count as many as seven. Each branch looks like a green feather with the quill stuck into the trunk.



Detail of a Norfolk Island Pine (Photo by Ken Rummer)

Viewed in silhouette, the branches look like rungs on a ladder. Are there angels going up and coming down like the ones Jacob saw when he slept on a stone pillow? Is this the gate of heaven, the very house of God (Genesis 28)? If the tree knows, it's keeping its own counsel.

The lower branches reach straight out with a bit of lift at the ends, but the higher branches angle up, like arms with hands raised.

Is this Jurassic survivor calling the backyard to prayer? Standing as priest to the gray squirrels and color-shifting lizards? Acting as intercessor for the hibiscus and the camellia and the frost-shocked orange trees? Lifting up even the winter escapee at the keyboard?

Perhaps that narrow, tapered form is standing as a witness to everyone with eyes to see. Perhaps it is offering a gentle reminder to us all, to look up and raise our hands to the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28 NRSV).

In the midst of war and uproar, in a time of reckoning and division and still-deadly plague, it's a reminder I'm taking to heart.



The Rev. Ken Rummer blogs periodically for *Presbyterians Today*.

Pray. Pray now. Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17 NRSV).

Even with things to do, with fears to face, with callings to pursue, pray.

At the top of the Norfolk Island Pine, the five newest branches reach out like points of a star, and a single central branch points upward. Can you hear it whisper?

Pray.

The Rev. Ken Rummer, who's Honorably Retired, writes about life and faith from the middle of Iowa by the High Trestle Trail.



Starting April 21, Choir Rehearsal will be held every Thursday in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.



April Calendar

Elders on Duty for April: Eva LeBlanc and Amy Stark



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:30pm Mission Stitches	2 12:00pm New Beginnings AI-Anon
3 5th Sunday in Lent 11:00 am Communion Worship Service on ZOOM/in house-children stay in worship service	4 6:00pm Book of Acts study on ZOOM	5	6 6:00 pm New Beginnings AI-Anon mtg 6:00pm Lent Study at <i>St. Andrew</i>	7 12:00 pm Watercolor Techniques Class	8 10:30am Horizon Bible Study /ZOOM 12:30pm Mission Stitches	9 12:00pm New Beginnings AI-Anon
10 Palm Sunday/waving of Palms 11:00 am Worship Service on ZOOM/in house	11 6:00pm Book of Acts study on ZOOM	12	13 6:00 pm New Beginnings AI-Anon mtg 6:00pm last Lent Study at <i>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</i>	14 Maundy Thursday 12:30 pm Watercolor Techniques Class 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Taizé style Worship Service at St. Andrew	15 Good Friday 12:30pm Mission Stitches 6:00 pm Worship Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church	16 12:00pm New Beginnings AI-Anon
17 11:00 am Easter Sunday Worship Service on ZOOM/in house 	18 6:00pm Book of Acts study on ZOOM	19	20 6:00 pm New Beginnings AI-Anon mtg	21 12:30 pm Watercolor Techniques Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall	22 12:30pm Mission Stitches	23 9am-2pm Church workday 12:00pm New Beginnings AI-Anon
24 11:00am Worship Service on ZOOM/in house-Children stay in worship After worship, Fellowship Luncheon	25 6:00pm Book of Acts study on ZOOM	26	27 6:00 pm New Beginnings AI-Anon mtg	28 12:30 pm Watercolor Techniques Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall	29 12:30pm Mission Stitches	30 12:00pm New Beginnings AI-Anon



Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX delivered a truck load of food for the Greater St. Mary's mission project. St. Andrew provided lunch for St. Mary's mission members. (Left to right front row: Valerie, Nanette, Ginger, Eveline, Faye's granddaughter, and Faye. Back row: Linda, Melinda, and Carol.)

