

*And Jesus said to them,  
"Follow me and I will make  
you fish for people."*

*Mark 1: 17*

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Volume XXVIII

Anita Duhon, Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
Musical Director-Emmie Lancon

December 2018

Nanette Cagney, Pastor  
Assistant Musical Director-Bryce Louviere



- 12/02 First Sunday of Advent (10:45 a.m.)  
\*Communion Service  
\*Welcome new member Alicia Smith  
\*Brief Congregational Meeting to elect Elders and Deacons.
- 12/09 Second Sunday of Advent (10:45 a.m.)  
\*Installation and Ordination of New Elders and Deacons  
\*Confirmation of Gage Simon
- 12/16 Third Sunday of Advent (10:45 a.m.)  
Christmas Cantata during worship service with a cake walk afterwards in the Fellowship Hall
- 12/19 Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15p.m. If your last name begins with A-C bring a vegetables; D-G bring dessert; H-Z bring salads. Meat will be provided by BarBQue West. Special guest will be coming.
- 12/23 Fourth Sunday of Advent (10:45 a.m.)
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service starts at 6:00 p.m.



## **Pastor Ponderings**

December will be a very busy month for us. The first Sunday of December is the beginning of Advent and we'll begin our new Advent study called *Not A Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton. The church will be decorated for Christmas and, as always, it will be beautiful.

Along with the joys of the Christmas season, we'll experience the church in action. We'll receive a new member, confirm a teen, and ordain/install new elders.

This is a wonderful display of how the church works and worships.

Advent is the 4-week period prior to Christmas. It is a time to meditate about the sacrifice that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, made for us by coming to earth as an infant. Jesus lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death, and rose from the dead for us. He saved us from our sins because of his great love, adopting each person individually into his family through baptism and faith in him. The advent wreath, which we light each Sunday of Advent, is a reminder for Christians of the true meaning of Christmas. The Advent wreath symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that holds five candles. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle customarily represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation (hope, love, joy, peace and the Christ candle) for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We'll celebrate the season with uplifting music, poinsettias, garland, lights, good food and fellowship. All of this is to remind us of the beginning of the journey- the journey to the cross and resurrection, which will culminate in our Easter celebration.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season-

Nanette



## **Congratulations**

Carl & Tanya (Smith) Guillory were married November 10.



## **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 Benge's father; Sandy Brister, the pastor at St. Andrew Leesville, her husband, and her mother; Edward Chavanne; Carolyn Chingo; Margy Clawson; Nancy Crncic; Dora Dyer; Jody Flanagan; Annette Harlow; Creighton Leblanc (Eva's brother); William Ludwick; Laura Ludwick; Sarah Marshall; and Hilda Trahan, executive director of Evergreen, & her sister, Julie; Mike Tucker and family (friends of Jim and Linda Latour); Cullen Nolan; Ted Roeling; Thomas Schwab; and bay Liam.

Prayers for those serving in the military. When you are ready to be taken off the list, please call the church office.



## **Birthdays**

12/05 Tucker Gage Canik  
12/06 Mary P. LaMoyne  
12/07 Keith Conrad  
12/09 Darrius Breaux  
12/17 Melaney Williams  
12/19 Kade Lawrence Kral  
12/26 Tom Williams  
12/27 Jo Olson  
12/30 Allen Breaux  
12/30 Kensley Keenan  
12/31 Hugh Dykes

## **Anniversary**

12/19 Anne & Joe Dye

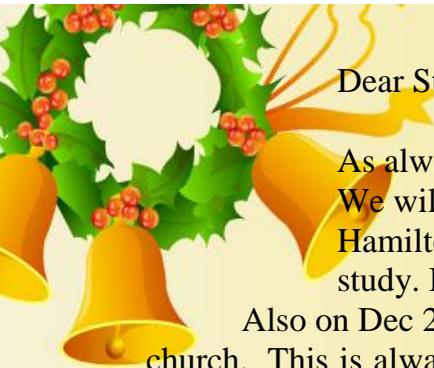
## **Music Lovers**

Emmie Lancon offers voice and piano lessons. You may contact her at (337) 302-2427 for more information.

Bryce Louviere offers private voice and piano lessons. You can contact him at (281) 837-9495 for more information.



**New Member**  
Alicia Lewis Smith



Dear St. Andrew,

As always, December will be a very busy month, so let me fill you in- We will begin our new Advent Bible study, *Not A Silent Night*, by Adam Hamilton, at 9:30 AM Dec 2 in the Session room. All are encouraged to attend this study. It will be for 5 Sundays and books are available in the office.

Also on Dec 2, we will celebrate Communion and welcome a new member to our church. This is always a joyous occasion. This will also be the first Sunday of Advent and the church will be beautifully decorated. Immediately after the service we will have a brief Congregational meeting to elect elders and deacons.

On Dec 9 we will celebrate Confirmation of Gage Simon, and we'll ordain/install elders and deacons.

December 16 will be the Christmas Concert during the service, so invite friends and family. *This concert will be a spectacular event with several musicians accompanying the choir. We are looking for folks to sponsor musicians, so we are asking for special donations of \$50 to make this possible.* If you are willing and able to contribute to this effort, please let the pastor know in a separate email or text. (Donations of less than \$50 are also appreciated!)

December 19 will be our church Christmas dinner, which we will share with our friends from Evergreen. Our children and youth will be busy making special gifts for the residents and staff during the first few weeks of December. A schedule of side dishes/desserts by alphabet will be posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

December 23 will have our regular Sunday worship and then on Monday, December 24 we will have our candlelight Christmas Eve service beginning at 6pm. This is always a beautiful, moving service.

On December 30, we'll be in the fellowship hall and we'll finish our Advent Study in Sunday School.



### ***February Presbytery Meeting***

We often say "the PCUSA is a connectional church." That is great, but what does that really mean? It means that we are a part of the whole Body of Christ.

It means that, as a local congregation, we are a vital part of the Presbytery of South Louisiana ("PSL"), the Synod of the Sun and General Assembly. We participate in all these bodies. The connectional nature of the church became real to us in 2006 after we were hit by Hurricane Rita. Our sanctuary was destroyed, our homes were damaged, and we were barely hanging on. Other churches throughout the nation came to our aid. Presbyterian Disaster Relief offered support. A church in Shreveport paid to have our organ repaired. Churches all over the country sent us funds to help in our recovery. We probably wouldn't have survived without this help. It became apparent that we aren't on our own, but we are part of a

much larger body.

As a member of the PSL, we send one commissioner and the pastor to each presbytery meeting. These PSL meetings are held three times a year. Members of our congregation serve on PSL committees. This February we will be hosting the PSL meeting because our pastor is being installed as Moderator of the Presbytery. For the past year she has served as the Moderator of the Presbytery Council, which is the decision making arm of the presbytery. As Moderator of the Presbytery, she will lead the Presbytery meetings and develop the worship service at these meetings. This is a honor and responsibility.

As a member of the Synod, we also participate in committees. For six years our pastor was the Moderator of the Synod Permanent Judicial Council. She is currently one of the leaders of the Synod Commissioned Pastor network.

We also send commissioners from our Presbytery to the General Assembly every other year. We send an elder and Teaching Elder commissioner. Our pastor was the PSL's commissioner to the 2016 General Assembly in Portland, Or, but this isn't just for pastors. This is an opportunity open to everyone. Young folks can also apply to be a YAD, a Youth Advisory Delegate, to the General Assembly. These are amazing, informative experiences.

So, we encourage everyone to become involved beyond just the local church. Volunteer to serve the PSL, Synod, or apply to go to GA. In the meanwhile, we'll need everyone's support and help to host the February 19 PSL meeting. If you can arrange the time off from work or if you are retired, please make plans to attend. This will give you an up-close opportunity to see how our church works together in a new way.



## *Poinsettias at Christmas*



Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern [Mexico](#) known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them 'cuetlaxochitl'. The Aztecs had many uses for them including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts rather than being flowers) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex!)

The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett (that's why we call them Poinsettia!). He was the first Ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825. Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina, and while visiting the Taco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

One of the friends he sent plants to was John Bartram of Philadelphia. At the first Philadelphia flower show, Robert Buist, a plants-man from Pennsylvania saw the flower and he was probably the first person to have sold the poinsettias under their botanical, or latin name, name 'Euphorbia pulcherrima' (it means, 'the most beautiful Euphorbia'). They were first sold as cut flowers. It was only in the early 1900s that they were sold as whole plants for landscaping and pot plants. The Ecke family from Southern California were one of, if not, the first to sell them as whole plants and they're still the main producer of the plants in the USA. It is thought that they became known as Poinsettia in the mid 1830s when people found out who had first brought them to America from Mexico.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

The Poinsettia is also the national emblem of [Madagascar](#).

[Poinsettias at Christmas on whychristmas.com](#)



Please use the mailbox in the fellowship hall to mail your Christmas cards to the congregation. Put the postage in the money box. Check your mailbox often. (For in-house mailings only)



# December Calendar

Elder on Duty:

Craig Long

To see the newsletter in color go to [www.standrewpres.com](http://www.standrewpres.com)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>1:00pm</b> Kacherski Winter recital
<b>2</b> <b>9:30am</b> Adult Advent Study  <b>10:45am</b> Advent Communion Worship Service/new member/Called Congregational Mtg	<b>3</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>4</b> <b>12-3:30pm</b> <b>Richardson            Room in use</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Into Action AA mtg (open)  <b>6:30pm</b> Sanctuary in use	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Art Class  <b>6:00pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA	<b>7</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Mission Stickers	
<b>9</b> <b>9:30am</b> Adult Advent Study  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service/install/ ordain Elders & Deacons/ Confirmation	<b>10</b> <b>6:30pm</b> "Differents" study at home of Marilyn Dunn  <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>11</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Into Action AA mtg (open)  <b>6:30pm</b> Sanctuary in use	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Art Class  <b>6:00pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA	<b>14</b> <b>Fab Friday</b> <b>10:00am</b> Horizon Study <b>11:30am</b> Luncheon <b>12:30pm</b> Mission Stickers  <b>6:30pm</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>15</b> <b>8:00am</b> Men's Breakfast at Greater St. Mary's Missionary Baptist church  <b>10:00am</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:00pm</b> Lyon/Pitre wedding
<b>16</b> <b>9:30am</b> Adult Advent Study  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service/Christmas Cantata  Cake Walk after worship in Fellowship Hall	<b>17</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>18</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Into Action AA mtg (open)  <b>6:30pm</b> Sanctuary in use	<b>19</b> <b>6:15pm</b> Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall/Carols/ visitor	<b>20</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Art Class  <b>6:00pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA	<b>21</b> <b>12:30pm</b> <b>Mission            Stickers</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>9:30am</b> Adult Advent Study  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service  <b>30</b> <b>9:30am</b> Adult Advent Study  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service Fellowship Lunch	<b>24</b> <b>6:00pm</b> <b>Candlelight            Service</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon  <b>31</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Into Action AA mtg (open)  	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Art Class  <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA	<b>28</b> <b>12:30pm</b> <b>Mission            Stickers</b>  	<b>29</b>



The church nursery is in need of two baby gates. Please contact Jennifer Couvillion if you have one to donate.

