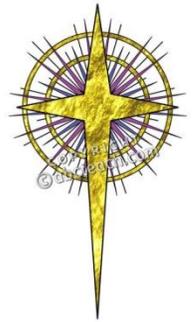




And Jesus said to them,
 “Follow me and I will make
 you fish for people.”

Mark 1: 17



*4020 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605
 *Office Phone: 477-6166 *Office Fax: 477-6002
 Office Email: standrewpres@suddenlinkmail.com
 Website: <http://www.standrewpres.com>

Volume MMXIX

December 2019

Anita Duhon, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Nanette Cagney, Pastor

Music Leaders-Kate Colby and Bryce Louiviere



The Perfect Gift

Gifts are wonderful things. Giving them and receiving them, large or small, gifts can bring a smile, or even a tear of happiness. And the perfect gift for someone you love – well, the perfect gift is more than just something they will like. The perfect gift reflects something about the person that receives it – it answers a deep need or recognizes something about them that perhaps very few people know or see in them. The perfect gift – that gift has power, the power to bring you closer together. On Sunday, December 22, we’ll receive the Christmas Joy Offering. This is one of four special offerings we receive every year.

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God’s perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew’s Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” In Jesus, God shared our human experience, and chose to be with those who were often overlooked, left out, vulnerable, or in need. “God is with us” we proclaim. What a powerful gift, a perfect gift, the gift of “with.”

We offer our own gifts during this Advent Season through the Christmas Joy Offering. We give these gifts because God shows us how powerful it is to “be with.” Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them. Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs, and we come alongside them to assist them – we are with them. The power of “with” is the power God shows us in Jesus Christ. God’s perfect gift: Emmanuel, God is with us. Let us share our gifts and be with those who have need. Please write your checks for this special offering and mark “Christmas Joy Gift” on the memo line.

Dates to Remember

- ✚ Sunday, December 1, Advent Study starts. Books are in the church office, \$17.00 each.
- ✚ Wednesday, December 4-McNeese Study Hall from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- ✚ Friday, December 13, Fabulous Friday. Horizon Study in the Richardson Room at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon in the Art Room at 11:30 a.m. with the Cookie Exchange (Bring enough cookies of your favorite recipe to exchange and send a few home). Mission Stitches in the Sewing Room at 12:30 p.m.
- ✚ Wednesday, December 18 at 6:15 p.m. – Christmas Dinner
 *If your last name begins with A-C bring a salad; D-G bring vegetable; H-Z bring dessert.
- ✚ Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**REVERSE
 ADVENT CALENDAR**

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
 ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
 FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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Pastor's Ponderings

Advent begins with placing symbolic pieces of evergreen in the sanctuary. The green garland across the choir rails symbolize God's incarnate love, touched and seen in the people of Nazareth. The wreath that surrounds the Advent candles is also made of evergreens. This green that remains when other leaves fall, shows life undying and hope forever green. We place this wreath, shaped in a circle, as a sign of life and hope, for a circle has no end, and the wreath is ever-green. The Christmas tree reminds us of Jesus Christ, who gives life to the world and made his executioner's cross into a tree of light (*Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*, by Brian Wren).

Advent, beginning this year on December 1, is a time of waiting and preparing ourselves for the coming King. It is a time of expectation. Yet, it is sometimes hard to hold onto this image when we are bombarded by the commercialism of our day. The pressures of decorating, buying gifts and cooking holiday feasts make it hard to stay focused on the One who will be soon born. Many people find this time of year much more stressful than joyful, and we must remember to be present for them too.

As we wait, we invite you to participate in all of our special Advent activities. We will study together *Light of the World* by Amy-Jill Levine, 9:30am Sunday mornings through December in the Session Room. Join us too as we reach out to McNeese with Study Hall, December 4, from 5-8 pm. We will break bread together on Wednesday evening, December 18 at 6:15 pm with our annual Christmas dinner. We will worship together each Sunday of Advent, enjoying special music and culminating in the candlelight service Christmas Eve at 6pm. This is always a beautiful, holy gathering.

May you all have a blessed and joyful Christmas!

Nanette

Property Committee Report for October/November 2019



1. Switched over the telephone to Suddenlink from AT&T. Our Suddenlink bill should be \$159.85 for internet service and two telephone lines. We were paying about \$289.00 for the same services. We still have some inside telephone wiring to complete.
2. Replaced 8 fluorescent lamps in the Wright Building work room.



Anniversary

12/09 Joe & Anne Dye

Birthdays

12/05 Gage Canik
 12/06 Mary LaMoyné
 12/07 Keith Conrad
 12/09 Darrius BreauX
 12/17 Melaney Williams
 12/19 Kade Kral
 12/26 Tom Williams
 12/27 Jo Olson
 12/29 Carla Stewart
 12/30 Allen BreauX
 Kensley Keenan
 12/31 Hugh Dykes



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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 Bengé's father; Sandy Brister, the pastor at St. Andrew Leesville, her husband, and her mother; Nanette Cagney, Edward Chavanne; Carolyn Chingo; Margy Clawson; Virginia Conrad; Mark Couvillion's brother, Jeff; Nancy Crncic; Jody Flanagan; Collin Fountain; Eileen Hacker; Bear Jaramillo; Sue Kantorczyk; Creighton Leblanc (Eva's brother); William Ludwick; Laura Ludwick; Sarah Marshall; Melinda Sharp; Hilda Trahan, executive director of Evergreen, & her sister, Julie; Cullen Nolan; Thomas Schwab; Carla Stewart; and baby Liam.

Condolences to the family and friends of Donna Rempert's mother, Norma Lee Rempert.

Prayers for those serving in the military.

When you are ready to be taken off the list, please call the church office.



THANK YOU- A big thank you to the congregation for the kind words, the poem, the gift card and wonderful cake for Pastor's Appreciation! All this was quite a surprise and I appreciate it more than you can know. We have a great family of faith here at St. Andrew and I am but a small part of it - you, the congregation make this the wonderful church that it is!

Thank you for all you do- *Nanette*

**WELCOME OUR NEW PARISH ASSOCIATE-
REV. CONSTANCE MCINTOSH**

What is a parish associate? When one is ordained as a teaching elder (TE) in the PC(USA), one's membership lies with the presbytery in which one is serving. When a TE is serving in a validated ministry, like a hospital chaplain, she may maintain a relationship with a particular local church in keeping with ordination to the ministry of teaching elder. As a parish associate she is then available to help the pastor on an 'as needed, as available' basis. We are excited to formalize our relationship with Constance and to have her active here at St. Andrew.



Messiah Performance

This is the 79th year and the longest running performance in the United States. Marilyn Dunn and Joe Dye are singing in the chorus as is our new music director, Kate Colby, one of the soloists.

There are a couple of posters at St. Andrew with any details you will need. This is a free performance.



Don't forget to check the mailbox in the Fellowship Hall for Christmas greetings. Save a stamp, use the St. Andrew mailbox. Drop some change

into the "Stamp" box. Money in the "Stamp" box is used to upgrade and maintain the Meditation/Memory Garden.

Welcome
New Members

Debbie Serra
Lou Bourque

BBQ West tickets are on sale in the office or by contacting Wade Marcantel or Diana Lewis. These tickets are sold to help fund the youth projects and camps at St. Andrew. The tickets are \$10.00 each for a plate of half a chicken and any two sides.

Mandarin Orange Salad

Dressing

- ¾ c oil
- 6 T sugar
- 1 T dried parsley
- 6 T apple cider vinegar
- 1 ½ t salt
- dash of pepper
- dash of hot sauce



Caramelized almonds

- ¾ to ½ c sliced almonds
- ¼ c sugar

Salad

- 1 head iceberg lettuce (torn into pieces)
- ½ to 1 head leaf lettuce (torn)
- 2 celery stalks sliced
- ½ bunch green onion chopped
- 1 (11 oz) can mandarin oranges

*Combine all dressing ingredients and mix well. Refrigerate until ready to use.

*Combine almonds and sugar in cast iron skillet and cook over low heat until golden brown and sugar dissolves. Takes several minutes.

*Combine all salad ingredients plus caramelized almonds. Toss with sugared dressing. (May not need all of dressing)

**Paula Dean's Southern Holiday Pecans
Recipe***

- 2 cups pecan halves
- 3 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper or 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt

1) Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and spray with vegetable oil cooking spray. Place the pecans in a large heatproof bowl.

2) Melt the butter (in saucepan or microwave). Add cayenne or hot sauce and cinnamon, and stir until combined. Add pecans and toss until the nuts are completely coated. Sprinkle the sugar and salt over the pecans and toss again.

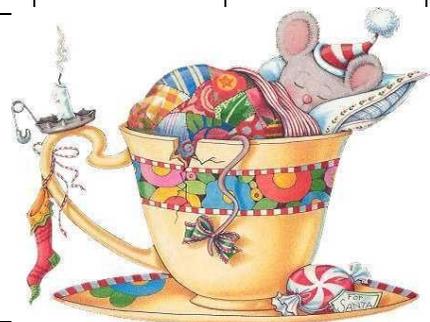
3) Spread the pecans on the prepared sheet in a single layer and bake for 15 minutes, stirring once. Cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes and serve warm or at room temperature. Leftovers (if you have any!) can be stored in an airtight container for 3 to 5 days.



December Calendar

Elders on Duty: Mary Davis and Amy Stark

The newsletter is also on the webpage www.standrewpres.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Advent Study 10:45am Communion Worship Service	2 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	3 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	4 5-8pm Study Hall	5 12:30-2:30 p.m. Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	6 12:30pm Mission Stitchers	7
8 9:30am Advent Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service 5:00pm Stated Session mtg	9 9:30am AARP Tax class 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	10 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)		12 12:30-2:30 p.m. Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	13 Fabulous Friday 10:30am Cookie Exchange 11:30am- Lunch 12:30pm Mission Stitchers	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Greater St. Mary's
15 9:30am Advent Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service	16 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	17 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	18 6:15pm Christmas Dinner with Special Guest	19 12:30-2:30 p.m. Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	20 12:30pm Mission Stitchers	21 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Greater St. Mary's
22 9:30am Advent Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service	23 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	25 Christmas Day	26 NO Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	27 NO Mission Stitchers	28
29 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Worship service in Fellowship Hall followed by luncheon	30 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	31 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)				

From the Mailbox:

The family of Rapheal Bargeman acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. There are not enough words to properly express our heartfelt thanks for all of the love, kindness and support that you have extended to our family during our time of loss.

Love,
Mary, Gentry, and Courtney.

New Address:

Mary Lou and Jerry Burke
2721 Chalet au Droite #A
Lake Charles, LA 70605

