



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

Mark 1: 17

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Nanette Cagney, Pastor

Music Leaders-Kate Colby and Bryce Louviere



Excerpts from an article by Olanda Carr Jr., ministry relations officer at the Presbyterian Foundation.
Presbyterians Today, January/February 2020, pg. 38

It seems that in today's culture, the "bigger is better" philosophy is all around us. Supercenter, 75-inch flat-screen televisions and mega-sized smartphones have become the norm. The church is not immune to this growing trend (pun intended), as many communities are seeing the growth of the megachurch-churches with hundreds in worship, often across multiple campuses and varying service times. It is as if the larger the church membership becomes, the healthier the church is perceived to be, leaving smaller congregations often feeling inadequate. While megachurches may appear to be the new norm, statistics paint a different picture.

Recent trends of the PC(USA) remind us that we are a denomination with a large contingent of smaller congregations. Our average congregation size is 163 members, with 30% of our congregations having a membership of 50 or fewer. While these numbers may provide some comfort to those in this group, it does not eliminate the challenges of small church ministry. Nostalgia for yesterday, dwindling resources and shrinking budgets can create liabilities to ministry, but we can learn to view these liabilities in a different light and, by doing so, transform them into exciting ministries.

For example, one of the most frequent comments:

- "We just aren't the church we used to be..."living in the past is just not helpful in ministry. Focus on where we are going, not on where we've been...Remembering the past isn't a bad thing. We just can't live there...accurately study and assess the ministries of the past carefully, note the components of what made previous events, programs and missions successful.
- "We just can't afford that."...I seldom hear, however, brainstorming on what things could be done in order to make a ministry successful. Small churches must be courageous, channeling their inner David and facing the Goliath budget monster...Part of that battle means not keeping the budget and financial health of the church behind lock and key...keeping members informed of the financial situation will likely lead to a response in giving.

And remember, while small churches might not have a lot of money to do the ministries they want, they generally have a family atmosphere that cannot be overlooked as an asset for building toward the future. Someone might be looking for a more intimate congregational setting.

Most small churches are rich in the way of being blessed with a supportive family community that can't be found elsewhere. In fact, Sunday worship in small churches often resembles a family reunion-complete with hugs, smiles and stories. The challenge is to use that energy to create a "buzz" of possibilities, drawing upon the strength of the family and reminding all of their commitment, hope and confidence.

After all, it is written that whenever two or three are gathered, Jesus Christ is always in the midst – anything more than that is just gravy for the potluck supper.





Pastor's Ponderings

Around ten years ago, we held church-wide meetings in which we tried to discern who we were as a church (not who we were in

1960), what our current mission is and how we wanted to move forward. Our past was very important, but we could not let it define us in 2010. We have been cruising along with the work we did then, but ten years later, I wonder if it is time to ask ourselves these questions again? What changes have we made in the past ten years? Are they good changes? How can we go forward and what are our goals for the next five years? Ten years? Please be thinking about this so we can meet one day soon for some introspection as a church.

We spoke a few Sunday's ago about "Behold the Lamb," understanding that our souls gaze upon and follow the Lamb of God. This is a call from God to look nowhere else in the universe for answers, but to His Son, Jesus, to stay focused on through all of the challenges in our lives, through the dry spots and through the good times. The *Connections* Commentary on the lectionary says, "You see, if you sit and gaze upon the Lord, the Lamb of God, if you look with all your heart, and mind and soul, if you look through all your tears and longings, upon Jesus, that IS believing in Him..." As we enter into Lent this year, let's commit to "Behold the Lamb" in newer, deeper ways.

Nanette



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; Keith Conrad; Virginia Conrad; Mark Couvillion's brother, Jeff; Nancy Crcic; Jody Flanagan; Collin Fountain; Eileen Hacker; Bear Jaramillo; Sue Kantorczyk; Creighton Leblanc (Eva's brother); William Ludwick; Laura Ludwick; Hilda Trahan, executive director of Evergreen, & her sister, Julie; Cullen Nolan; Judy Robertson; Thomas Schwab; Carla Stewart; and baby Liam.



Annual Sweet Art Silent Auction –Saturday, February 15

Join *Hobo Hotel for Cats* in the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 4020 Hodges

Street, for their annual fundraiser. You can bid on original art and hand crafted items from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Desserts and snacks will also be for sale.

Anniversary

No anniversaries for February

Birthdays

2/02	Larry Breaux
2/03	Virginia Conrad
2/05	Tiffany Simon
2/06	Tracey Rust
2/06	Robin Bumgarten
2/07	Marilyn Dunn
2/08	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
2/08	Reta Kaspar
2/10	Mary Davis
2/16	Cynthia Miller
2/17	Jim Latour
2/20	Ray Miller
2/20	David Laird
2/23	Phyllis Cagney
2/23	Wade Marcantel
2/24	Judy Davidson
2/24	Eva LeBlanc
2/24	Alicia Smith
2/25	Aaron Simon

New Lent Study for 2020

Sunday, March 1, we begin a new Lent study called *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. We will examine five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. We will talk about how we walk with Christ- daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In each chapter, Hamilton's engaging teaching style will help us explore one of these practices—each of which is intended to be a part of our daily walk with Christ—its New Testament foundation, and its potential effect on our personal lives and our lives together as the church.

The study will begin at 9:30AM each Sunday in the Session Room, Wright Building and will be taught by Pastor Nanette Cagney. The nursery will be available

Dates to Remember

2/08	Anniversary of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.
2/18	Presbyterian Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Hammond, Louisiana.
2/21	Fabulous Friday starts with the Horizon Study in the Richardson Room at 10:30 a.m.; Luncheon in the Art Room at 11:30 a.m.; Mission Stitchers in the Sewing Room at 12:30 p.m.
2/23	Annual Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall after worship service.
2/26	Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:00 p.m.

Your Session Members

Class of 2020 –Sue Bengé, Mary Lou Burke, Mark Couvillion, Joe Dye, and Jan Laird
Class of 2021-Mary Davis, Anne Dye, Leah Marcantel, Wade Marcantel, and Debbie Serra

Committee Chairs

- Finance/Stewardship-Mary Davis
- Hospitality/Fellowship-Jan Laird
- Nurturing Spiritual Growth-Wade and Leah Marcantel
- Outreach and Mission-Sue Bengé and Debbie Serra
- Personnel-Mary Lou Burke
- Property-Anne and Joe Dye
- Worship-Mark Couvillion



Fun February Facts

<https://www.almanac.com/content/month-february-holidays-fun-facts-folklore>

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement.

Did you know:

- February is the only month to have a length of fewer than 30 days! Though it’s usually 28 days, February is 29 days long in leap years such as 2020.
- January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC); originally, winter was considered a month-less period.
- Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.



Ready for football food?

Velveeta Sausage Dip

Ingredients

- 1 pound Velveeta, cut into ½ inch cubes
- ½ pound breakfast pork sausage, cooked, drained
- 1 (10 ounce) can ROTEL Diced tomatoes and Green Chilies, undrained

Instructions

- Mix ingredients in microwaveable bowl.
- Microwave on High 5 minutes or until
- Velveeta is completely melted, stirring after 3 minutes.



Tollhouse Pie

Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- ½ cup all-purpose unbleached flour
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted and cooled
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.
- In a mixing bowl, beat the eggs until foamy. Add the flour and sugars and beat until blended. Blend in the butter. Stir in the chips and nuts. Pour into the pie shell.
- Bake for 1 hour. Serve warm or cooled completely.





February Calendar
Elders on Duty: Anne and Joe Dye
 To see the newsletter in color go to www.standrewpres.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service	3 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	4 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	5 6:30pm Choir Practice	6 8:00am Fellowship Hall rented 12:30-2:30 p.m. Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	7 8:00am Fellowship Hall rented 12:30pm Mission Stitches	8 8:00am Fellowship Hall rented St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Anniversary
9 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service	10 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	11 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	12 6:30pm Choir Practice	13 12:30-2:30pm Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	14 12:30pm Mission Stitches Fellowship Hall rented-Hobo Hotel set up	15 8:00am Men's Breakfast-First Pres 11:00am-2:00pm Hobo Hotel Sweet Art Silent Auction
16 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service	17 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	18 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open) 	19 6:30pm Choir Practice	20 12:30-2:30pm Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	21 Fabulous Friday 10:30am Horizon Study 11:30am-Lunch 12:30pm Mission Stitches	22
23 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Worship service in Fellowship Hall followed by luncheon After Worship-Annual Congregational Meeting	24 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	25 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	26 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary 6:30pm Choir Practice	27 12:30-2:30pm Art Class 6:30pm New Hope GA	28 12:30pm Mission Stitches	29 

I believe churches are meant for praising God, but so are 2am car rides, showers, coffee shops, the gym, conversations with friends, strangers, etc. Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the world by just going to church, we need to be the church.

Anonymous

When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them. It may take a second to say, but for them it could last a life time.

Anonymous