

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

*Mark 1: 17*

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Volume MMXXI

February 2021

Anita Duhon, Secretary/Newsletter Editor      Nanette Cagney, Pastor  
Parish Associate, Rev. Constance McIntosh  
Music Leader-Kate Colby  
Elders on Duty for February:



*Lisa Gurley and Maggie the  
Cat from Virginia*

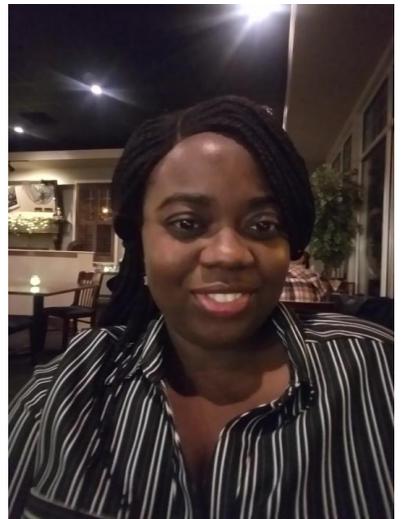
*Happy New Year  
Wishes from afar*



*Sam and Robin from  
Lafayette, LA*



*Danté, Jeremiah with Max,  
Edna with Brownie, from Arkansas*



*Nana Adeoye from  
Delaware*



*Tamara Cagney (from California)  
and Phyllis Cagney*



Codie Michelle Gilman will be baptized during the 2/7/21 service. Codie's parents are Catherine and Sean Gilman.

Please turn in your pledge cards. If you didn't receive one contact the office and one will be sent. Epiphany words were mailed out recently. If you didn't receive one contact the church office.

The 2021 Church Directory will be out soon. Please contact the office for any changes to your address, phones, or email. It will be emailed out to members or a copy can be picked up at the office.

Stay tuned for information for more information on a tentatively scheduled Presbyterian Women's Garage Sale in June.

### ***From the Mailbox:***

To my church family-



Simply put, Thank You!  
Thank you for the support.  
Thank you for the prayers.  
Thank you for the cards.  
Thank you for beautiful inspirational words from Deacon Marlon.  
Thank you to all who came to the visitation and funeral.  
Thank you for the cake.  
Thank you for the beautiful service that Nani gave. Each and everyone of these things meant so much to me and my family.

Love you all,  
Melinda



### ***Birthdays***

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



### ***No February Anniversaries***



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.

Norman Andrews (Mary Davis' uncle); Susan Benge's father; Sandy Brister, the pastor at St. Andrew Leesville, her husband, and her mother; Edward Chavanne; Margy Clawson; Keith Conrad; Virginia Conrad; Nancy Crncic; Jody Flanagan; Catherine Gilman's brother-in-law, Justin Gilman; Sue Kantorczyk; David Laird; Barbara Lobue; William Ludwick; Laura Ludwick; Cullen Nolan; Judy Robertson; Thomas Schwab; Anne Dye's mother; Lucille and Pat Marshall's grandson, Ryder; Carol Bell's son, Patrick; Diana Lewis' brother-in-law, Burt Lewis; and baby Liam.

Prayers for the staff and residents of the Evergreen Home on Kent Street.

Prayers for all those affected by COVID.

Prayers for those in nursing homes, isolated from their families.

Prayers for those impacted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta; 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.



Nanette Cagney:

I want to start this letter by saying THANK YOU for your generosity. As you are aware, in Late August in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, Lake Charles and the surrounding areas of the Gulf Coast were devastated by hurricane Laura. Little did we know that within six-weeks that same area would again suffer a serious blow from the effect of the second hurricane Delta. But as always God has been faithful! Through contributions from caring and generous people like you, we have been able to assist hundreds of families with cleaning supplies, food supplies, diapers, formula and many other items to get them through these difficult times.

Hebrews 13:16 reminds us "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Please continue to pray and support these families as they continue the cleanup and restoration. We still have a long way to go. As our brother's keeper, there is still more work for all of us to do.

I want to close as I started by again saying THANK YOU. Our outreach program would have been hard-pressed to make a dent in the needs of Lake Charles families without people like you standing in the gap to assist us. May God richly bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.  
Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church

(St. Andrew Presbyterian would like to thank the many members of our congregation and the Disaster Justice Network for the supplies for this mission.)

### **6 Reasons to Smile**

- A double rainbow
- A real puppy
- A good cup of coffee
- Someone holding the door for you
- Class getting cancelled
- Unexpected texts from friends





*News from the Outreach and  
Mission Group*  
*Chairperson-Debbie Serra*

### **Ever Loved – Evergreen**

Pre-pandemic we have seen our Evergreen ladies and their support members in our pews and at our tables in fellowship hall. They are joyous participants in our services; so happy to be out and about. Before the pandemic, **Nancy Melton** had a wonderful program planned involving art and fellowship which would have offered a structured opportunity for the ladies to be out for a bit, learning a new skill. Those plans ended abruptly last March as all things came to a halt due to the pandemic.

We have missed our friends. Last Spring a birthday ‘drive by’ was arranged with a parade of cars honking and tossing gifts on the front lawn. As the months have dragged on with quarantining, social distancing and other rules in place, the caregivers and ladies have experienced trying times.

This Christmas St. Andrew provided each Evergreen resident a Christmas bag with art supplies (a large paper pad with color ink pens), a sun catcher for them to paint and put on their windows, personal care items (lip balm, fingernail polish, etc) and a big chocolate bar. Santa’s helpers learned that the house could use new dishes so eight place settings were in Santa’s pack for the house. The caregivers expressed gratitude for the new dishes.

We have asked the ladies to send us some of their artwork so we they can be published in the newsletter. Stay tuned!

### **Mission continues during the pandemic and post hurricanes**

Trucks come and go at all hours from **St. Andrew**, some dropping pallets and boxes, some picking them up as soon as they are inventoried. In a triple whammy courtesy of hurricanes and pandemic job losses our area is experiencing record homelessness and neighbors hanging on by a thread. People and organizations from across the country are coming to our aid. Right after the hurricanes the trucks contained cleaning supplies and immediate need items. We have transitioned to weather related help and more long-term needs. Progress? Perhaps.

St. Andrew has partnered with **Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church** to help supply those in need in the areas north of Broad Street and north of I-10. Items have included tents, warm jackets, gloves, hats, and blankets. At this point they are unable to accept clothing due to an inability to store items as a result of the destruction to their storage areas.

In addition, we have partnered with **Waters Edge Gathering** and Kelli Stawecki. Their homeless ministry is one of the longest running and best organized in the area. Donations have included those similar to the ones at **Greater St. Mary** but

they also include clothing and some household goods. **Waters Edge Gathering** has events that open their storage areas for people who are in need beyond homelessness. This includes those who lost so much during the hurricanes and are seeking items to begin housekeeping again.

These donations have come from across the country. Some come in the form of checks asking us to put the funds where they’re most needed. Others come in the form of boxes from churches like **Blue Bayou Presbyterian** near Houma with shirts, blankets, and thoughtful necessities. Nani Cagney secured a \$5,000 grant from **Presbytery of South Louisiana** to help with homeless needs. It is in an account administrated by St. Andrew and executed by Kelli Stawecki as needs arise. Tents are coming from the **Disaster Justice Network** administrated through the Presbyterian Church and boxes of warm clothing from **Presbyterian Disaster Aid**. Most recently Nani received a call from Dr. Bobbie Yellott, the pastor at **First Christian Church, Sulphur**. She had a huge truckload of clothing and household supplies that had come from a sister church in Shreveport. Joe Dye, Jim Serra, and Randy Yellott loaded everything in two trucks and an SUV and headed to **Waters Edge** where they were joyfully received. Many families rebuilding their lives will benefit from this delivery.

St. Andrew’s Mission activities may look different than what were planned for the year, but we are out there trying to make a difference in our own community. Please contact Nani or the church office if you, a loved one, or neighbor could benefit from some help. While we work hard to ‘keep calm and carry on, let’s walk together. During this unprecedented time it’s even more important to love one another and ask for help when needed. It’s part of being a church family.

### **Watch for it!**

Wondering how you can make a difference during a pandemic? Several area organizations are still feeding those in need, and they still need help. Starting in **MARCH** St. Andrew will collect non-perishable items on a monthly basis. You’ll find out before the beginning of the month what item will be collected that month. Bring your item to the church (and for now) place it in the box in the Wright Building. Each month will feature a different item. We will announce who will be receiving the food each month. If you have children or grandchildren in your home this is a nice way to encourage a planned giving program...perhaps they could earn the money for the monthly item. And, for those of us on a fixed income, this is an effort that will not over-tax those funds. Again, this begins in **MARCH**. Our first nonperishable item will be...**RICE**. (Any kind, any size bag (not the huge 25 or 50 pound bags!...just regular off the shelf rice)



***“Unwrapping our God-given gifts  
It’s time to let go of doubts and start  
shining” (Part 1 of 3)***

**By Donna Frischknecht Jackson**

A lone candle in the middle of a darkened room greeted the small-group participants. They had gathered for an evening of identifying their gifts — not the spiritual kind of prophesying or speaking in tongues as Paul talks about in the letter to the Corinthians. Those sometimes perplexing and seemingly elusive gifts to the average Christian would require a more intense workshop. Rather, the gifts to be unwrapped were those disguising themselves as talents, passions, interests and even vocations, which could do much in building God’s kingdom.

After taking their seats in the circle of chairs, the facilitator began with a reading from Matthew 5:15: *No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.* Then, a moment of silent reflection was broken by a much harder question: How often do you hide your light, and what good has it done you or the world around you? In her poem “Our Deepest Fear,” whose lines are often miscredited to Nelson Mandela, author Marianne Williamson writes about how we were all meant to shine in the world and that “we were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.”

“We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world,” she writes

Yet playing small seems to be the default button many in the church hit for a variety of reasons, among them the ingrained Christian virtue of humility, says the Rev. Lynn M. Portz, associate pastor for parish life at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh.

“We can’t compare our gifts to others, thinking ours are not as helpful or good as someone else’s. Nor should we downplay what we have been given because of this sense of being humble. There are a lot of gifts out there that are needed in building God’s kingdom. We need to use them, and that can only start by people coming forward and using his or her gift. And that starts by being invitational,” she said.

***The gift of feeding others***

Five years ago, Shadyside Presbyterian extended an invitation to chef Steven M. Bright to join the church staff as its new hospitality coordinator. It was the perfect setting for Bright’s culinary gifts. Not only has he been overseeing the menus for fellowship and special gatherings, the chef, whose earliest kitchen memories are that of being 7 years old and helping his mother and grandmother cook, has been leading cooking classes for the community, showing others how to eat healthy and on a budget.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed the church building last spring, it didn’t stop Bright from using his gifts. He began writing “The Quarantined Kitchen” for the church website, sharing tips on how to stay fit during this time of sheltering in place with nutritious food, along with his favorite recipes. He also whipped up 160 picnic lunches that were handed out in the summer to those who were missing the church’s annual strawberry festival. These picnic lunches weren’t bologna sandwiches either, but included barbecue chicken and corn salad, says Portz, adding that Bright “has been a blessing to the church and brings joy to everything he does.” The congregation will be getting a taste of that joy this holiday season as the church leadership plans a “great cookie caper.”

“Among the things the congregation misses are Steven’s cookies,” said Portz. So, the plan is to have the chef bake his most popular ones and have them sent to church members.

The congregation of Shadyside Presbyterian, though, might not have ever met Bright had he pushed aside cooking for a psychology degree. But as he studied the mysteries of the mind, it became clear in his that he was meant to be a chef. “I had this clarity and I never regretted it,” said Bright. Many gifts, though, do get pushed aside due to distractions in life, Bright adds. “We get caught up with what society says we ought to be doing rather than listening to what our hearts are telling us.”

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Jackson, Donna. “Unwrapping our God-given gifts.” *Presbyterians Today*, November/December 2020, pp. 29-32.

(This Article will be presented in three parts over the next few months.)