

*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
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The Lenten Cross Project

The Lenten Cross Project is in its second year. Around Easter a list of cross styles and their history is published. Selected crosses are made with many types of materials that have meaning to the artist. They are then displayed in the sanctuary. Each cross is unique in its design.



The butterfly reminds us of Easter.

- *First, the caterpillar eats and eats while preoccupying itself with the material and physical things of earth.
- *Second, the caterpillar spins a cocoon around itself looking lifeless. This symbolized the darkness of the tomb and death.
- *Finally, a miracle takes place when a beautiful butterfly emerges. This symbolizes our souls ascending into heaven and eternal life.

The legend of the Dogwood is that the Romans used a dogwood to crucify Jesus. Because of this, the Dogwood was very sad. Jesus knew that the crucifixion was not the tree's fault. Therefore, Jesus promised the Dogwood tree that it would never again be large enough to be used as a crucifixion tree. Its branches would be narrow and crooked. Now the Dogwood has many traits to remember this promise. The flower has four petals in the shape of a cross. At the middle of each flower is a crown of thorns. The nail dents at the end of each petal are stained with the color of Jesus' blood.

← Designed by Jo Olson

Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee, like his brother, Simon Peter. He was the first apostle to follow Jesus. Tradition says Andrew brought the Gospel message to Greece and Asia Minor after the Lord's ascension into heaven. He was persecuted by the Romans, and put to death on a x-shaped cross. He was proclaimed a saint by early Christians because of his martyrdom. St. Andrew is the patron of fisherman and of Scotland, Russia and Greece.



→ St. Andrew Cross Designed by Nanette Cagney



Pastor's Ponderings

I am back from my long-awaited trip to England and Ireland. We had a fabulous trip. I knew Ireland would be beautiful, but I didn't expect it to be quite so spectacular. It is easy to see why it has been called the "Emerald Isle."

I returned home only to realize that it is already May. We have already had the McNeese Late Night Breakfast, Study Hall and exams. Our younger children will also be out of school for the summer very soon and that means it is Camp Time! We have had ongoing fundraisers for camps and I am sure we will have more as we have middle and high school students participating this year. Mark Couvillion just took three of our youngest to Camp Feliciana for their introductory weekend.

These camps are such a wonderful opportunity to build the connection between our children. These will be memories that they will cherish forever and we appreciate all that has been done to support the effort to send our children.

Traditionally things slow down in the summer, but we will still hopefully have some mission activities happening. Many families will take the time for vacations, but please do your best to faithfully attend worship services this summer.

Just because it is unbearably hot once again, we do not stop worshipping or studying together!

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: Edward Chavanne; Carolyn Chingo; Margy Clawson; Nancy Crncic; Dora Dyer; Jody Flanagan; Reta Kaspar; Ray Miller; Cullen Nolan; Rev. Rudy Pace; Ted Roeling; Sarah Marshall; and Thomas Schwab.

Condolences to the family and friends of Reatha Foster, Kathy Jaramillo's mother.

Prayers for those serving in the military.

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

Birthdays

May 03 Alaura Scritchfield
May 04 Gentry Davis
May 05 Judy Landry
May 17 Madalyn Gordon

Anniversaries

May 21 Amy & Joe Stark

Study Hall

For all students of McNeese State University and Sowela Technical Institute.

Wednesday, May 2

from 5:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

- *free tutoring*
- *free food and snacks*
- *free child care with a reservation during study time*
- *a place to study alone or with a group*

Baptism

Jack Watkins, Jr. from Gillis, LA was baptized during Easter Sunday service. Welcome Jack!



Nanette, Valerie Young (from Synod of the Sun), and Nana, at NEXTChurch conference in Baltimore

Welcome Janice Nji, daughter of Helen and Jones Nji, and Brian's new sister.



Louisiana Presbyterian Pilgrimage will be held at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, Louisiana, on May 31 – June 3, 2018.

Pilgrimage is a lay lead retreat about living the Christian Faith. The facilities are quite comfortable and spouses can attend the weekend together. Some have said that their experience is “a little taste of what heaven will be like.”

There is still room for participants for the weekend. A limited number of scholarships are available. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to get closer to the Lord, please talk to Pastor Cagney or ask one of the folks from our church who have already attended! Applications are available in and can be completed online at the following website: <http://lppilgrimage.org/>. Information about the Wesley Center can be found at www.thewesleycenter.com.

Presbytery Women’s Birthday Offering

Presbyterian Women groups are busy. From local concerns to national engagement, Presbyterian Women, guided by the Holy Spirit, are at work, ever-mindful of PW’s purpose of strengthening the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnessing to the promise of God’s kingdom.

Birthday Offering Current Recipients

In 2018, three projects received funding through Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering. Your gift to the Birthday Offering will allow PW to provide funding to Cottage Village, Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, and The Dwelling place.

Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for Low-income Residents Cottage Grove, Oregon

Cottage Village will provide quality, affordable housing and a safe, structured social community for individuals and families with low or very low incomes. This Birthday Offering grant will be used to help build 13 tiny houses and a central shared-use area that will serve as a compassionate and protective community for vulnerable rural citizens.

Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health Tegucigalpa, Honduras

This Birthday Offering grant will make it possible for the Presbytery of Honduras to purchase the Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health near Tegucigalpa. Originally established by Presbyterian mission co-workers, the retreat center will be managed by Presbyterian women in Honduras. It will offer international hospitality for retreats, workshops and mission teams from the PC(USA), Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters for the World.

The Dwelling Place Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota

The Dwelling Place was established in 1998 to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from a violent partner. Transitional housing, education, food, clothing, trauma-informed support services, programming and mentoring for women are all part of the mission of The Dwelling Place. This Birthday Offering grant will help The Dwelling Place purchase a vacant lot where they will construct a multi-use building with spaces suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space and staff offices. With the additional building, The Dwelling Place will be able to serve even more women and children who are seeking safety.

Pentecost Offering: Investing in our Greatest Resource

When is the Pentecost Offering Received?

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost. This year Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 20.

How is my gift used?

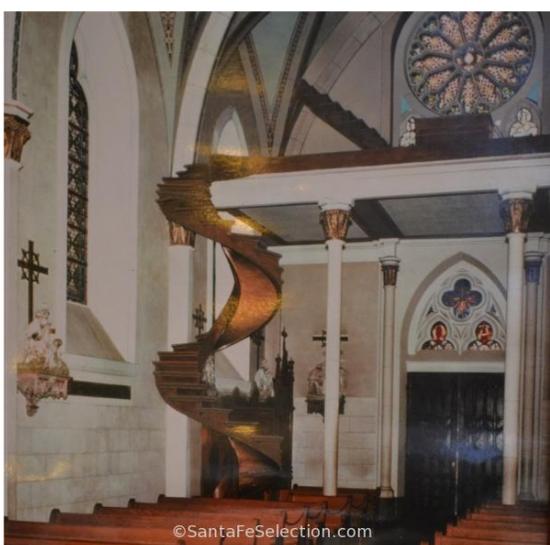
A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- [Young Adult Volunteers](#)
- [Ministries for Youth](#)
- [Children-at-Risk](#)
- [Pentecost Offering Financials](#)

The Loretto Chapel Staircase in New Mexico



Our Story begins in 1850 when the Vicariate of New Mexico was established under the first Bishop of the Territory, Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy. Seeing a need to educate the girls of the Territory, Bishop Lamy sent a plea to Catholic teaching orders to open a school for girls. The Sisters of Loretto responded and sent six



sisters to open the Loretto Academy. Having been recently under Mexican rule, the Territory of New Mexico was full of Spanish-speaking citizens, so the six had to learn the Spanish language and, after an arduous trip during which the Mother Superior died, finally arrived in Santa Fe and opened their school in 1853.

By 1873, the Sisters were able to start the construction of a Chapel. Using the same French architect and builders as Saint Francis Cathedral Basilica, the Chapel of Our Lady of Light (as it was then known) was patterned after Archbishop Lamy's favorite Sainte Chapelle in Paris. With its gothic-style architecture, the Chapel certainly would have stood out among the small adobe homes surrounding it at the time.



Unfortunately, the architect died before access to the choir loft was built. Given the height of the loft and the small size of the Chapel, a staircase would have taken up too much floor space, thereby reducing the seating capacity to an unacceptably small level. Legend states that seeking guidance and help, the Sisters of Loretto prayed a nine day novena to St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Carpenters. A novena is a special prayer said for nine consecutive days. On the final day of the novena, a carpenter appeared with only a hammer and carpenter's square. He built what is now known as the Miraculous Staircase with simple tools and wooden pegs. The rare wood is not native to the American Southwest. When the Staircase was complete, it is said that the carpenter disappeared without receiving thanks or payment. The Sisters tried all local lumber stores but could not find accounts open for supplies for their stairs.

Some believe the carpenter was St. Joseph himself while others believe that it was someone sent by St. Joseph. What is known is that the Sisters of Loretto prayed, and their prayers were answered.

The Staircase has two complete 360 degree turns with no center pole for structural support. The entire weight of the staircase rests on the bottom stair. ***The banisters were added approximately ten years later due to the difficulty of climbing the tall, tapered stairs with no railing.*** The two small brackets that can be seen on the outside connecting the stairs to the wall and pillar were added in the mid 20th century in order to provide more support and protect the staircase from negative effects due to vibrations from passing cars and trucks. Unfortunately, rather than helping the structural integrity of the Staircase, the modern brackets damaged the sides of it by preventing the natural spring-like movement of the Staircase while in use. The underside of the stairs were originally open, but was filled in with horse hair and lime mixture painted to look like wood.

McNeese State University
W.A. and Dorothy Hana Department of
Performing Arts



Dear Vocal Arts Fans:

You are invited to the spring semester Opera Workshop (aka Side Door Opera) performance of *Three One-Acts and a Scene*, Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Tritico Theatre, Shearman Fine Arts Building, McNeese campus.

The one-acts will be performed in concert version. *The Face on the Barroom Floor* by Henri Mollicone was first performed by the Central City Opera House Association in the Teller Hotel Bar, Central Hotel, Colorado, in 1978. Loosely inspired by the poem of the same name by H. Antoine D'Arcy, the opera tells the story of a young couple (she in the opera chorus) who visit a local bar and are told a story by the bartender of the source of a portrait on the floor. A switch to the past animates that story, and you will see how the couple in present time is affected by the history of the painting.

A Game of Chance, Seymour Barab, has been updated from three knitters to three secretaries, bored with their lives and dreaming of the life they would like to have. Each is gifted that life! Does it make them happy? You will have to be there to find out.

Mozart's *The Impresario* is a light story of a financially failing opera company, a disillusioned impresario who wants to retire to the country, a young assistant with a plan to save the company, two dueling sopranos who want the leading roles, and the businessman who has them both in his pocket. Both soprano roles are stratospheric as the budget woes of opera lead to a moralistic final ensemble.

Finally, a scene from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, updated, features the lost children not in the woods, but in an unusual setting. Co-directed by the students performing the eponymous roles, it is sure to be delightful.

Look for staged performances of the one-acts in the fall of 2018.

We hope to see you there!

In bocca al lupo,
Dr. Carol Lines.

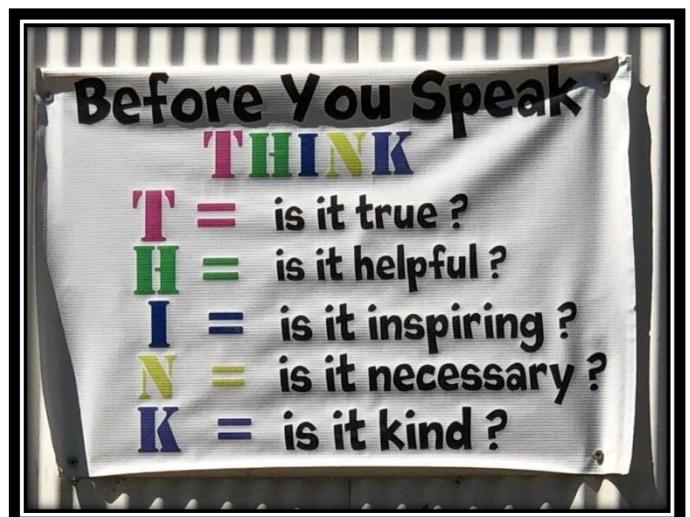
Memorial day is a federal holiday in the United States and is observed on the last Monday of May every year. It is **celebrated** in honor of the soldiers who died while in the service of the U.S. Military.

On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.

The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.

In 1915, following the Second Battle of Ypres, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a physician with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, wrote the poem, "In Flanders Fields". Its opening lines refer to the fields of poppies that grew among the soldiers' graves in Flanders.

In 1918, inspired by the poem, YWCA worker Moina Michael attended a YWCA Overseas War Secretaries' conference wearing a silk poppy pinned to her coat and distributed over two dozen more to others present. In 1920, the National American Legion adopted it as their official symbol of remembrance.



May Calendar

Elders on Duty:

Marilyn Dunn & Wade Marcantel

To see the newsletter in color go to www.standrewpres.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00pm Into Action AA meeting in the Art Room 6-8pm Leisure Learning Art Class 8:15pm Late Night Breakfast	2 5-8pm Study Hall	3 12:30pm Art Class 6-8pm Leisure Learning Art Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm New Hope GA	4 1:30pm Mission Stitchers	5
 6 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service with Communion	7 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	8 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open) 7:00pm Horizon Study in Richardson Room	9 7:00pm Phi Mu Alpha Rehearsal	10 12:30pm Art Class 6-8pm Leisure Learning Art Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm New Hope GA 7:00pm Phi Mu recital in Sanctuary	11 Fabulous Friday 10:30am Horizon Bible Study 11:30am Luncheon in Art Room 1:30pm Mission Stitchers	12
13 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service 5:00pm Stated Session	14 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	15 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	16	17 12:30pm Art Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm New Hope GA	18 1:30pm Mission Stitchers	19 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist church
20 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service	21 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	22 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	23	24 12:30pm Art Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm New Hope GA	25 1:30pm Mission Stitchers	26
27 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:45am Worship Service in Fellowship Hall w/luncheon-	28 6:30pm Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	29 6:00pm Into Action AA mtg (open)	30	31 12:30pm Art Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm New Hope GA	