

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2019-20

VOL. 19, Issue 10

CARNEGIE HALL SINGERS



Pictured here in front of the poster that
advertised their November 17 concert

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Regular Sunday schedule

8:45 AM Praise Service

10:AM Sunday school for all

11 AM Traditional worship

Schedule Changes:

Christmas Eve: services at 5PM
and 7:30 PM

December 29 and January 26

One service at 10AM

Advent's Worship Theme is "*Seeking Christ's Nativity*"...



December 1st

Star ~ **HOPE**

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 2:1-2

John 1:1-18; *Seeking Hope*

Communion

Hanging of the Greens

December 8th

Angel ~ **GOOD NEWS**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:5-20; Luke 2:8-14

Seeking Good News

December 15th

Mary ~ **WONDER**

Isaiah 7:13-17; Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:39-56; Luke 2:1-7, 18-19

Seeing Wonder

December 22nd

Shepherds ~ **Surprise**

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 2:8-20;

Surprised by God

Christmastide

December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 Family Worship service

7:30 Service of Lessons & Carols

December 29th (single 10AM svc)

Psalm 96; Isaiah 63:7-9

Luke 2:22-40

Sharing Christmas

January 5th Epiphany/Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Journeying Beyond

Season After Epiphany

January 12th Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Through the Waters

January 19th

Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Significant Meetings

January 26th One Service/Annual Meeting

Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Reacting to the Call

Ordain and install new officers

Annual Meeting 11AM

THE HERALD is published ten times per year at St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Do you remember going on a scavenger hunt? Perhaps out in the forest looking for a blue bird feather, or a paw print in the mud. Or maybe even in NYC looking for a used theater ticket, or a flower. In Grad School, some friends threw me a surprise birthday party (really a surprise as it was 6 weeks before my birthday). And for the party they organized a picture scavenger hunt around Princeton. In teams of 4 we went running around town, creatively finding and taking pictures of the daring list, including: preaching from on high, and a beautiful mind. It was great fun, but I also found myself looking around and seeing this town I lived in with fresh eyes.

This year for the seasons of Advent and Christmastide, let's go on a scavenger hunt! Each week as we hear the prophesies, and sections of the Christmas story we know so well, let us go out looking with fresh eyes, seeking Christ's nativity NOW, in this time and place. The first week we will look to the star and images of light and hope, going out into the world to look for where we see God's HOPE NOW. This might be a picture you take and print out (printer paper is fine), it could be a scripture that lifts up your heart, or anything that symbolizes for you the hope of Christ, that you can bring back the next week, and that can be placed on a canvas to be collaged, in the shape of a star. Then we will hear the angels declaring the amazing news of Christ coming and go out looking for Good News NOW, and bringing something back the next week to collage, in the angel, ready to be filled on a canvas.

Through Advent and Christmastide our scavenger hunt will include looking for God's HOPE, Good News, Wonder, Surprise, and Journey. May our hunt give us fresh eyes to see Christ in our world today. May our going out and coming in help us see that Christ's nativity, God's coming, is not just in the past but with us even now.

This is a season we hunt for gifts and the right Christmas tree. This year may our hunt bring out the child's eyes in all of us as we hunt, search, look for God, right within our midst.

May we have fun. May we be bold and creative.
May we find God with us, Emmanuel, today and every day.

"When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed." Luke 2:17

In wonder of Christ and His Presence,
Pastor Robin



Weather, Winter and Sunday Worship @ St. Andrews

Winter is upon us again and while we hope all worship services will move forward as scheduled, it seems wise to have a plan for adjusting, if the weather requires. (And if we have a plan, we won't need it. Right?)

If a delay or cancelation of worship is necessary, it will be on the website, on the church phone message, and on Facebook. WGAL channel 8, has told us they will no longer be putting church closings on their TV banner, but online only. We will try to put a notice on the website, on the front page in the blue worship box.

Thus, if you are wondering if there is a change or cancellation due to weather, you can:

- 1- Call the church office: 717-272-9933 and listen to the message.
- 2- Go to the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church – Facebook page
- 3 -- Go to the church website: standrewslebanon.org and scroll down to the blue box that says: *Sunday Morning Schedule*.

Above all, take care and be safe, in all weather and in each day.
In any emergency, you can call Robin on her cell phone



15th Annual Alternative Gift Fair

Sunday, December 8



9:30 AM to 11:00 AM



Snyder Hall

Do your Christmas shopping while helping others! Representatives from charitable organizations will have opportunities for you to make a donation in honor of someone on your Christmas list. Instead of purchasing the usual returnable items, alternative gifts are contributions to non –profit organizations that help those in the community and around the world.

Specific organizations will be advertised closer to the date. If you have any new ideas of organizations that might want to participate, please contact Robin Gries at (717)838-4936 or RobinGries@aol.com

The Coffee hour will be in Snyder Hall that day in conjunction with the Alternative Gift Fair.



*****Cash and checks accepted by all organizations*****

CARNEGIE HALL TRIP RECAP

Carnegie Hall, NYC, 12 singers – what an amazing trip! We joined voices with 280 singers from 41 churches including one other church from PA (Hollidaysburg) and Canada. We spent over 12 hours rehearsing the music. In rehearsals we experienced the camaraderie of fellow musicians joining our voices together in song and praise preparing for the performance. The sound was glorious! Singers ranged in age from young teens to 80+ year olds. We learned many vocal techniques under the direction of an outstanding conductor and composer, Joseph Martin, as he prepared us to sing with an orchestra. Most of the singers had never sung with an orchestra.

Between rehearsals we explored the city. We traveled from Central Park to Ground Zero. We saw 7 different shows. Some of us ate pizza in an old Gospel Tabernacle Church turned into a pizzeria. They dined under the dome surrounded by stained glass windows. Our singers saw Gwen Stefani and her band practicing on the ice at Rockefeller Center. We ate lots of delicious Italian food! It was a wonderful bonding experience in the spirit of sharing with and caring for each other.

Carnegie Hall was breathtaking as we stood on the stage and looked out into the enormous hall. There were 5 balconies and everything was gold with red seats. The sound was heavenly! It is all so difficult to describe the feeling with words. What an honor to sing in Carnegie Hall where so many of the greatest musicians of the world have performed. It was truly a “mountaintop” moment for all of us.

Many thanks to all who helped make this trip of a lifetime a reality! Thanks for all your prayers and support.

A social gathering is being planned in the future to share the viewing of the DVD from the concert with our St. Andrews family.



The choir pictured here with Joseph Martin, the composer of the music that was sung



The beautiful Carnegie Hall—our choir is part of this group!

EPYC Expectations

Merry Christmas! I have been eager to say those two words this season. Partly because as my kids have gotten older, I have gotten a nickname at home, as the grinch. Before Thanksgiving I grumble about Christmas music and Christmas decorations. For me Thanksgiving is a time of celebration and anticipation! Anticipation to say Merry Christmas for the first time, to play that first Christmas song of the season, to embrace the joy that is celebrating God with us! There are a lot of ways to celebrate this season and the youth will have the chance to take God with us out into the world!

Of course, with Christmas here, and colder weather right along with it, please take a moment to review the weather policy for TrailBlazers and Epyc.

Weather Policy

If inclement weather cancels church on a Sunday all Epyc and Trailblazers activities for that Sunday are cancelled as well. In case of a weather event that is projected to hit before or during an Epyc or Trailblazer event the Director of Children and Youth Ministries will consult with the Christian Education Committee and the Pastor to determine the safest course of action. If it is determined that Epyc and Trailblazers should be cancelled notification will be sent out through social media, email, text messages, and phone calls. Every attempt will be made to provide a safe and accurate decision for the safety of everyone. If you have any questions, please call or ask Rob Cochran.

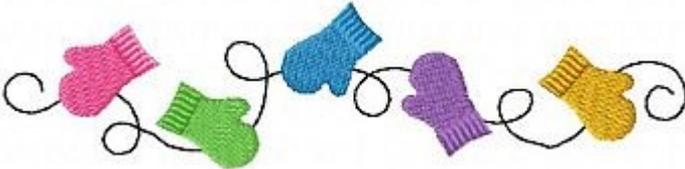
Looking ahead there are several events coming up to mark on your calendar. While it is December, it is also time to start looking ahead to warmer months and Creation. If you are interested in going to creation and fall in the age range of 0-99 you are welcome to join in the creation reunion. This will be December 20th at 7pm in Snyder Hall.

Epyc will have the opportunity to go on a Blitz Weekend with The Philadelphia Project. A Blitz Weekend is a mission project in Philadelphia where students will join with other youth groups to work in Philadelphia and surrounding communities. The Weekend will be January 24-26 cost is \$75.

TrailBlazers A night of fellowship, food and fun is quickly approaching! While February is feels like it is a ways away, it will be here before you know it! With February will be the TrailBlazer Late Night! Keep an ear open for the date and time!

Upcoming Youth Dates:

December 8 th	TrailBlazers and Epyc 4-6pm
December 15 th	TrailBlazers and Epyc 4-6pm
December 20 th	Creation Reunion 7pm
December 22 th	<u>NO</u> TrailBlazers and Epyc
December 29 th	<u>NO</u> TrailBlazers and Epyc
January 5 th	TrailBlazers and Epyc 4-6pm
January 12 th	TrailBlazers and Epyc 4-6pm
January 19 th	TrailBlazers and Epyc 4-6pm
January 24-26 th	Epyc Blitz Weekend
January 26 th	TrailBlazers 4-6pm <u>NO</u> Epyc



Epyc Mission Trip Blitz Weekend

The Philadelphia Project is an outreach and mission program based in Philadelphia that reach out to the needs of the community. The mission of Philadelphia Project is to reach the whole of an individual's needs from physical to spiritual, and to enable youth to do reach out to the needs of the community. The desired end result is that the Gospels is preached first through action, and then through words.

This year students will have the opportunity to join in with a blitz weekend to share the Gospel in a living and active way through mission work. Space is limited for the number of students who can go, if you are interested please see Rob Cochran by January 5th. Cost for the trip is \$75. The weekend will be January 24-26th. We will be leaving from the church on January 24th by 4:30pm and arriving back at the church Sunday afternoon.



APPLAUSE... MEMORABLE MUSIC AT ST. ANDREWS

The second concert for this year's season will be held on **Friday evening, January 31**. The Russian Duet will perform at St. Andrews: Elena Lebedeva, classical pianist and Nikita Burakovsky, violinist. Both are gifted artists in their own right. But these two soloists will come together to provide us with an evening of beautiful music.

The concert will begin at 7:30 pm. There will be a reception following the concert. No admission will be charged but a free will offering will be taken. Hope to see you there!



SESSION NOTES

The Session met on Nov. 5. Rev. Robin Morgan began the meeting with a reading from 2nd Corinthians and a discussion about gratitude for God's grace in the life of the church and in personal testimonies. The following motions were approved:

Motion to approve a Youth Field Trip to LVC.

Motion to approve the annual budget.

Motion to approve the use of \$6500 from the Memorial Fund for the Visioning Committee's plan to upgrade the Prayer Labyrinth and \$1000 to provide additional heat for the church kitchen.



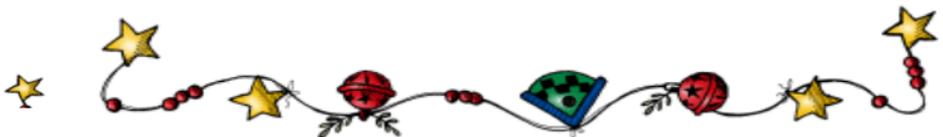
MISSION SPOTLIGHT FOR DECEMBER

Men's Deodorant and
Laundry Detergent



MISSION SPOTLIGHT FOR JANUARY

Socks (All Sizes)
Kids' Coats (gently used and new)



IN MEMORY



John Nicholas (Nick) Burkholder

Nick began attending St. Andrews in the mid-1990s with his wife Roz Presby when their daughters Lindsay and Elizabeth were young. In later years, until his health prevented it, he was a member of the Chancel Choir and occasionally played French horn with the brass ensemble. At the time of his retirement Nick was employed by the County of Lebanon as a Court Clerk, but his true passion was playing the French horn. He was a freelance musician in central Pennsylvania for many years. He was wildly enthusiastic about everything concerning the French horn and could regale a willing listener with endless details of history, repertoire, instruments, manufacturers, and performers. Nick joined the church triumphant on October 19, 2019.

Carroll E. Ditzler

Carroll joined St Andrews in October 1961 and was ordained as an Elder and member of Session in 1988. He had a life-long interest in music and gave his gift of music ability as a member of the choir until his recent illness. He was also a member of the church bell choir and a very talented trombone player. He played the trombone in the brass ensemble, on occasion played solos in church and participated in local bands through-out his life. Carroll and his wife Jeannie were part of a quartet along with Jean and Claude Miller who sang in church and numerous church social events. Carroll was a faithful member until he joined the church triumphant November 6, 2019.



Presbyterian Women



A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From St Andrews Presbyterian Women Planning Team

Rejoice! Light has come into the world!" John 3:19

We have so much to be thankful for as 2019 comes to a close, especially YOU and your support of all of our missions throughout the year. We ended the year by packing and delivering 46 bags of donated clothing, filling and delivering 50 Christmas stockings for Church Women United, and collecting baby layette items for LCCM. You are welcome to bring an unwrapped baby layettes to the Christmas Luncheon on December 15.

As we begin 2020, a few things we can look forward to:

We will begin our 4th year of Active Community Outreach with True Life Youth Ministries (formerly Youth for Christ) by serving lunch on the first Thursday of each month to the pre-school class;

This year's Horizon's Bible Study, "Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" by Eugenie A. Gamble will begin in February, led by our own Roz Presby;

We will continue our commitments to the Missions of our own Carlisle Presbytery, including Blanket Sunday, Birthday Offering, and Thank Offering.

You can learn more about all of these things and more by checking out the PW Bulletin Board outside the office, by reading our monthly articles in the Herald, and by checking the "sign-up" board in the Gathering Place. We welcome your participation in everything we do!

To God be the Glory,
Betty Ann Seiser and Sue Mechura,
for the PW Planning Team

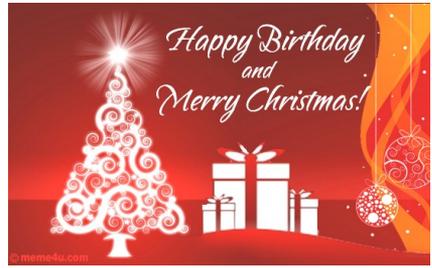


Brothers & Sisters of St. Andrews. I have been ill for some time and several brothers and sisters of St. Andrews have written encouraging letters to me. Also some have come to visit. Pastor Robin and Elder Stuart brought Holy Communion to me.

It is so good to experience deep spiritual care from our St. Andrews family.

May the Lord bless you and keep you now and always.

Tom Jackman



December Birthdays

1	Wilma Miller Jeannie Tice	11	Liz Kalb
2	Shelby Lister	15	John Wissinger
6	Lisa Hamme Neal Logdahl	17	Marc Hamme
10	Steve Schulte	28	Larry Everhart
		29	Penny Samuelson
		31	Scott Stambaugh



January Birthdays

1	Sally Renda Robert Lowrie	25	Maggie Beatty Sarah Flowers
3	Timothy Sensenig		Susan Strock
8	Clarence Umbenhauer	26	Ron Hetrick
12	Sharon Schulte		Jean Ditzler
14	Jacob Overholt John Spicer IV	28	Gary Strock Doug Lister
18	Mary Reitz		Karen Uhrich
19	Grace Hakkinen	30	Kate Tshudy
21	Karen Fedder		

Mourning



has Broken

A Grief Support Group of St. Andrews

**A Grief Support Group
of
St. Andrews Church**

I must learn to open bottles, move the furniture, open stuck windows, go home alone, investigate the noise in the night, eat alone, make decisions alone, handle money alone, go on trips alone, fight with service companies alone, be sick alone, sleep alone.

Sonja O'Sullivan

Often we are better forewarned, better prepared, to deal with the big events like birthdays and holidays than with some of the more formal times when we have been accustomed to our loved one's presence. A woman whose husband had died said that the first time she heard some note-worthy news and turned around to relay the news to her husband--- "That was when I knew he was gone."

A lot of the conversation that takes place during the meetings of the St. Andrews Grief Support Group centers around just these simple incidents. Yes, we talk about getting through the holidays, the anniversaries, the birthdays, and the frustration of having to deal with ordinary things once shared with a partner and now having to deal with alone. We usually find that one person's frustration in these seemingly simple things is often the same frustration of many of us. For some the up-coming holiday season can be an especially sad time. We try to find ways to try to enjoy the holiday in spite of the sadness. It is OK to be happy in the midst of grieving. It is OK to be laughing as family members repeat old family memories, while creating new ones. And yes, it is OK to shed a few tears when you hear a favorite carol or meaningful scripture or light the candles on Christmas Eve. This shows that the love is still there and your loved one is in your heart.

The members of our Grief Support Group welcome anyone to come join with us.

Our usual meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. For our December meeting we will have our traditional Christmas Luncheon at the Lebanon Country Club, on Thursday, December 12 at 12:00 noon. In January we will meet again at the church on Thursday, January 9, at 2:00. Please feel free to come join us. You will be warmly welcomed!

If you have questions, please contact our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy, at 717-454-0756; Pat Yates, at 717-273-9297; or the church office, 717-272-9933.

Remember that eventually the memory of our loved ones once having shared this or that particular experience will carry a poignant gratitude for all the times they were with us. We will find the power to go it alone.

As I learn my life anew, may I be empowered by loving memories.

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
600 South 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 272-9933 FAX (717) 272-1526
SAPCoffice@verizon.net
Www.StAndrewsLebanon.org**

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lebanon, PA 17042
Permit No. 252

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED