

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2020

VOL. 20, Issue 2



Lent 2020
As we wander in the wilderness

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1st Communion

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32
Matthew 4:1-11
The Wilderness

March 8th

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121
John 3:1-17
The Darkest Nights

March 15th

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
John 4:5-42
The Loneliest Spaces

March 22nd

Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
When We Can't See

March 29th

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
John 11:1-45
When Death Seems Certain

Regular Sunday schedule

8:45 AM Praise Service

10:AM Sunday school for all

11 AM Traditional worship

Looking Ahead To Holy Week

Sunday, April 5th—Palm/Passion Sunday

Thursday, April 9th—Maundy Thursday: Experience the Living Last Supper

Friday, April 10th—Good Friday: Service of Tenebrae

Sunday, April 12th—Easter

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Fellow Wanderers,

I have often found comfort in J.R.R. Tolkien's words "not all who wander are lost." This is especially comforting when I know I am wandering, but I am not sure if I'm lost. We are going into this season of Lent together, with encouragement to wander in the wilderness. 'Encourage?' You might say, really? Yes, I do want to encourage you to wander in the wilderness. I want to encourage you to step away from the status quo, 'I'm fine' position and unmask the things that you hide behind your 'finess.' One of the problems, of course, is that if you say anything but fine, it takes more time and space than a quick passing. This is why we have 40 days. This is why we have one another.

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In the wilderness it is ok, to *not* be fine. In the wilderness it is ok, to stop and weep. In the wilderness it is ok to be outraged about the chronic mass killings in our nation, or that politicians put down one another, instead of lifting up any meaningful solutions. In the wilderness it is ok to speak truths you have held silent for years, uncertain you can even say it out loud, and afraid that it will change how people see you. In the wilderness we find Jesus for he has already been there and he enters into the wilderness others inhabit again and again: with Nicodemus in the night, with the woman alone at the well, with the man who was blamed for his own blindness, and with Mary and Martha beside their brother's tomb. Jesus knows the wilderness. Jesus is not afraid of the wilderness. For us, the wilderness can be a place where we meet Jesus or meet him again. In the wilderness, when we are not our best – it matters that there, right there in that moment, God tells us that we are beloved.

So this year, let us wander in the wilderness. At church you will find *Wilderness Cards*. These are a different type of devotion, a way to walk through the season with a word, with scripture, and a prayer. In the spaces we gather you will see elements of the wilderness in Wilderness Displays that we made on Ash Wednesday. In worship you will hear of Jesus meeting others in their wilderness spaces. On the walls you will find art, from across the centuries and around the world on these very scriptures. You are not alone. We are not alone. Let us enter the wilderness, even as we look to the hope that is beyond it, the hope of new life.

In your wanderings, remember that I am here ready to listen, ready to pray, ready to stand with you in the wilderness, and even to look for truth and for hope. You can almost always find me in the church office Monday – Thursday from 10am-4pm. You are always welcome to email me at pastor@standrewslebanon.org and if it is an emergency you reach me on my cell phone.

May God abide with you, right where you are.

May Christ speak to you, with words of hope and love that you can hear and believe.

May the Holy Spirit guide you, through the wilderness to paths of abundant life!

With Trust in God - always,

Pastor Robin

“THE WILDERNESS IS A PLACE OF ISOLATION;
IT IS ALSO A PLACE OF CONNECTION”

By Sarah Are

We sat around a six person table,
For don't most holy moments happen
 around a table?
Six women, six heartbeats, six names and identities.

We gathered there once every twelve days,
To read and pray, to learn each other's names.
It was nothing more than a burger bar,
And we were nothing more than the truths
 we shared,
So sitting around a basket of fries, I assumed I knew everyone there.

But then the woman directly to my right
Said quietly to the group of six that night,
“I had an abortion when I was young.”
And my heart stopped. And my heart sunk.

For she had kept this wilderness in.
She had carried this weight alone.
She had grieved and prayed for peace,
And I had never even known.

She went on to speak of hurt and grief,
Of a prayer to God to end suffering.
She went on to tell us her most
 vulnerable truth,
And in an instant that small leather booth
Became church.

For in naming the wilderness,
 that space became
Not only the place of her greatest pain,
But also the place where we became
One.

In an instant, she became her own light.
And in an instant, we were changed.
For in that instant, we saw her
 wilderness walk,
So in that instant, we became
Six names, six united identities,
 one heartbeat.

I think the wilderness does that.
Sometimes you walk it alone.
And sometimes you tell that story
And a booth becomes home.

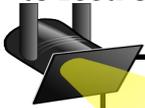
Shelter Hosting...March 23 – April 6

St. Andrews will host the **emergency shelter for Fresh Start** (First Response Emergency Shelter for the Homeless) for two weeks from **Monday March 23 to April 6, 2020**. Along with other churches in the community, we provide overnight space for homeless guests from 8:30 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM) provides daytime shelter and assistance in locating and applying for housing, employment, training, childcare, etc. LCCM issues daily vouchers after interviews and vetting. Fifteen to thirty individuals, with half being children, find themselves in need of emergency shelter on any given day. **Volunteers** are needed to **welcome and check-in** guests from **8:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.** and/or **sleep overnight** in Snyder Hall from **9:15 p.m. to 7:15 a.m.** If you would like to help in this mission opportunity, please use the link below to sign up online or on the volunteer board in the Gathering Area.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA8AC2EABFE3-fresh2>

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

Donations from March's Mission Spotlight will be used to feed our Shelter guests March 23 – April 6.



MISSION SPOTLIGHT FOR MARCH

**100 % Juice, Bagged Popcorn,
Breakfast Bars**

PLAN TO ATTEND – Saturday, March 28, 2020

**ANNUAL
LENTEN
BREAKFAST**

The breakfast begins at 8AM and will be held at the **Cedar Crest Middle School Cafetorium**, 101 E. Evergreen Road
This year's speaker is Steve Sabol, community pastor of Lifeway Church in Lebanon
Music: Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Band, Church of the Good Shepherd

Obtain tickets by calling 717-272-4400, ext. 211, emailing andrea@lccm.us or by contacting our delegates Robin Gries or Betty Ann Seiser

EPYC Expectations

Spring is nearly here! From my perspective this school year has gone by incredibly fast, although I know the students do not feel the same. From the student perspective this season, post-Christmas, has taken forever to get through, especially without snow days. The students are looking forward to Easter break. There is a joy to the transition season between Winter and Spring because of the anticipation of school breaks, or just the newness of spring.

Mission Trip! Epyc students will have the chance to go on a mission trip May 1st-3rd with the Philadelphia Project. The Philadelphia Project is a mission outreach in Philadelphia that focuses on community outreach through empowering teens to share the Love of Christ. Students will serve alongside other students from the region to serve the community. The Mission of the Philadelphia Project is,

“Jesus was passionate about loving the whole person, and so is The Philadelphia Project. For us, this means that we involve youth in meeting people’s physical, spiritual, emotional, and social needs. We encourage teenagers to share the love of God through their actions and when possible, their words.”

Deadline for signing up for the mission trip is March 31, cost is \$85. There are 6 spots available for students for mission trip. If you are interested, please see me!

Another mission that Epyc and TrailBlazers has participated in is Pedal for Progress. Pedals for Progress is a ministry of enabling communities throughout the world by collecting bicycles and sewing machines donations. This year Pedals for Progress will be collecting and preparing sewing machines and Bicycles on April 18th at 9am. Students and congregation members are invited to come out and participate.

Shcedule

March 1 Epyc/TrailBlazers 4-6pm

March 8 Epyc/TrailBlazers 4-6pm

March 15 Epyc/TrailBlazers 4-6pm

March 20 Epyc/Trailblazers 7pm Family Movie Night :

“It’s A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”

March 22 Epyc/TrailBlazers 4-6pm

March 29 Epyc/TrailBlazers 4-6pm

March 31 Mission Trip Signup Deadline

April 5 Epyc/TrailBlazers 4-6pm

April 12 Easter, No Epyc/TrailBlazers

SESSION NOTES

The Session met on February 4, 2020.

Pastor Robin opened the meeting with Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus's calling of the disciples and how they readily left to follow him and begin a new adventure. We are also on an adventure with Christ as our guide.

The Deacon report noted that Ken Gries is the new moderator and Maggie Beatty is the secretary.

The Trustees have installed a phone in the church elevator for emergency use. A CPR certification training for staff will be held on Monday, March 16, at 12:00 noon.

Session members were encouraged to attend the February 22 Presbytery meeting to take advantage of several workshops being offered. Penny Samuelson and Rick Borger were elected as our commissioners for this meeting.

The Christian Education task force which was formed to explore options for a summer program to replace the Krislund Camp outreach suggested a week of half day "camp", possibly using art to engage the children. A "block party", inviting the neighborhood, was also proposed. The session discussion included some concerns about timing. The Task Force was to consider the concerns and ideas at their next meeting and present them at next month's session meeting.

Congregational Life is planning the Ash Wednesday meal and beginning to plan for the summer picnic.

Mission committee reported that "mission week" will again be the first week of August (8/2-2/8). There will be many local mission opportunities available.

The Administration & Personnel committee reported a request from Rebecca Lister to accept her resignation as director of bell choirs effective the 1st week of May, 2020. Her resignation was *very reluctantly* accepted. A search will begin soon to fill the position.

Respectfully submitted,
Beckie Dreibelbis



Presbyterian Women

March Project

It's that time again to donate to Agape Family Shelter and Domestic Violence Intervention. Their--- needs will be met by the end of March. Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the designated laundry baskets. Here are the lists of items needed:

Domestic Violence Intervention

Clorox Anywhere cleaner,
Murphy's Oil Soap, Latex gloves (M or ML),
Clorox wipes, spray bleach cleaner,
Laundry pods, dishwasher pods,
Facial tissue, body wash,
Blankets and pillows

Agape

Lysol Spray, HE laundry detergent,
Three-inch mesh traps that sit in a sink drain,
Equate 13-gallon trash bags, Mr. Clean Erasers,
Clear storage bins that fit under beds

A NEW WAY TO GIVE

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church is always looking for ways to continue our mission within our communities. This season, we are introducing a new way to **GIVE** using text messaging from your cell phone. Please consider texting a dollar amount that your family would like to contribute to St. Andrews.

Text: **SAPC \$ _____ to 73256**

(Please enter the dollar amount you wish to donate in place of the _____)



Like us on
Facebook

Check out our St. Andrews Facebook PAGE (which is different than the GROUP).
LIKE our page AND the posts to help us be seen online by our community.

IN MEMORY



Mark Andrew Tibbitts

Mark was born in Reebensburg, Wisconsin, and moved to Jonestown with his sisters and brother, where his dad, St. Andrews' Jim Tibbitts, ran the medical clinic. After graduating from Northern Lebanon, Mark went to Lebanon Valley College. It was there that he met his wife, Erika, the daughter of St. Andrews' own Bill Fairlamb. After graduation, Mark and Erika moved to Arizona and Wyoming where Mark went to grad school and worked on the statistical side of studies on aging, while Erika taught school. Together they visited almost every national park out West. They hiked, went camping, did cross-country skiing, and slept on Pacific Ocean beaches. They moved back to Pennsylvania to care for their parents. Mark joined the church triumphant on January 16, 2020.

Dr. Robert (Bob) Scholes

Robert Scholes was born and raised in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of Penn State and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He served in the U.S. Army after high school and during the Korean War. For fifty years he ran a solo optometry practice in Lebanon. He and his wife, Christiane, joined St. Andrews in March of 1958. Their children grew up in St. Andrews, where Bob was active as a Trustee, usher, and Sunday school teacher. Bob was also a long-time member of the Lebanon Kiwanis Club, the Lebanon Jaycees, and the Central Pennsylvania Optometric Society. He and Chris enjoyed traveling, especially to the UK, France, and Italy. Bob, joined the church triumphant on February 4, 2020.



March Birthdays

2	Bill Kalbaugh	14	David Overholt
3	Mardon Fedder	15	Maggie Jones
	Bob Capobianco	16	Martha Gelgot
4	Ken Peterson	17	Connie Dowhower
5	Gwen Yordy		Donna Kuntz
6	Rev. Tom Jackman	20	Christine Nelson
7	Caroline Gelgot	22	Robin Gries
	Bruce Kurtz	23	Rose Mary Birt
	Ann Ormond	24	Kristen Jones
9	Beckie Dreibelbis	25	Will Gelgot
	Louise Koons	26	Jessica Heister
10	Perry Latshaw	27	Lee Samuelson
	John Reitz	28	Samantha Strock
11	Ty Bechtold	30	Jamie Yocum
12	Amanda Gries		



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

*Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak
Whispers the o'er fraught heart and bids it break.*

William Shakespeare

The pressure of unspoken grief is like that inside a pressure cooker – it builds and builds until one feels as though another tiny increment of pain will drive one mad.

Speak. Tell a friend. Tell another friend, or the same friend again. A wise friend will know one must tell this tale again and again.

One way to begin – particularly if death has been unexpected and hard to believe – is to recount to this understanding friend, in as much detail as you can remember, the events of the day on which death occurred. I vividly recall doing this very thing on the

days following the death of my husband. Again and again, as people stopped by or when someone called to express their condolences, I felt a need to “tell the story”. My daughter-in-law even said to me, “Mom, why do you keep telling that story over and over again?” She didn’t understand that it was indeed already helping me heal! I’m pretty sure I wasn’t totally aware of that either, until much later.

Telling the story is an important part of what happens within the St. Andrews Grief Support Group. Especially when someone new comes for the first time, it is so important to let them tell their story, if they are able to tell it at first. We find that many are more than ready to share their story with others who have had the same type of experiences. Often, they might say, “It’s just such a strange feeling,” or “I have the strangest thoughts,” or something along that line. And those of us who have been there for a while can try to reassure that person that the feelings and thoughts are not “strange” – they are quite normal when you are grieving. It is so very helpful to be able to tell your story to others who understand and who care about what you are experiencing. The people in the group are great listeners, but we also have comforting and helpful suggestions and ideas to share as well.

If you or someone you know could benefit from being part of our group, please don’t hesitate to join us. Our regular meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. The meeting for March will be on Thursday, March 12, and in April, Thursday, April 9.

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

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The kind of retelling of the day grounds the event in the real world and helps us begin to believe the terrible thing we can put in a bubble and hold away from the rest of our life. It took place in real time, on a real day, and while it will be terribly sad to recount, the recounting will help release the pressure inside and activate the flow of healing – friend to friend.

I have a strength within myself that sometimes surprises me.

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