

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2018

VOL 18 Issue 1



**Agape Soup Supper February 14, 2018
at 6pm in Snyder Hall**

Members and Friends are encouraged to attend! There will be a short service led by Pastor Robin after the meal.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the gathering area if you plan to attend . Also I am looking for 15 soup makers, men, teens, women and anyone who has previously made soup! I am also looking for 4 people to bring medium platters of fruits and vegetables. Please sign up with your name and what you can bring (soup or fruit/veggies) in the gathering area. You will find three sign up sheets to let us know you are coming and if you can bring part of the meal.

Thank you! Elaine Messersmith Behney

If you have any questions please email me at

Elaine.drama@comcast.net or phone me at 717-273-7825
please leave a message!

February Worship

Feb 4 Communion

Psalm 147:1-11

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1:29-39

Use of Power

Feb 11 Transfiguration

Psalm 50:1-6

2Kings 2:1-12

Mark 9:2-9

Seeing Beyond This World

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:1-17

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

A Humble Life of Faith

Feb 18 Lent 1

Psalm 25:1-10

Genesis 9:8-7

Mark 1:9-15

Signs and Actions

Feb 25 Lent 2

Psalm 22:23-31

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

What We Lose and What We Find

Blanket Sunday Feb 11th



February 11th will be Church World Service Blanket Sunday. Each \$5.00 donation provides a blanket for victims of disasters, disease, and poverty throughout the world. Your gift will bring warmth and comfort to many in need.

Envelopes will be available in the pew racks and included in a PW mailing. Please make all checks payable to St. Andrews Women. They may also be mailed to the church.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

St Andrews is now a registered charity with Amazon Smile. If you purchase products on Amazon Smile you will have the

same shopping features as on Amazon.com. Amazon will donate .5% of your purchases to St Andrews.

When you first visit smile.amazon.com you are prompted to select a charitable organization. Use the full name of St Andrews Presbyterian Church Lebanon, Pa. There is no cost to the church.

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A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Troy and I began this year with a wonderful trip to Paris! It was a delight to enjoy this foreign city, to be away from our normal day to day life, to explore and savor life. Paris is a particularly wonderful place to savor life, where the food, conversation and art seem to be the most important things. Over a particularly amazing meal, I started thinking about how the kingdom of God is like a great feast! The feast that is full of more and more wonderful dishes, as well as refreshing, stimulating, life giving conversation. It occurred to me, that I was enjoying this meal so much, because it was in a foreign place, a place that took me out of my normal worries and stresses, a place that asked me to enjoy and celebrate.

Ironically, I think this is one of the purposes of Lent. This season that asks us to reflect, to turn to God, to shift our normal routine, does so that we might be more ready to celebrate when Easter arrives. Lent, is a good time to find a way to intentionally shift out of what is 'normal.' Sometimes this means fasting, by drinking only water, or to choose to remove all sugar from your diet. Thus, the Easter feast, becomes all the more extraordinary! Sometimes this means, choosing to shift one's use of electronics, or entertainment, so that one might be more aware of God's presence in the simpler things, such as the birdsong or the sunrise.

This year, as we enter the season of Lent, I encourage you to reflect, examine your life and then *shift your life*. Shift a pattern, a practice, a routine intentionally so that something foreign, can help you see and live in a new way, a way that brings you closer to God and the Kingdom of God in this world. Christ re-defines life. To live this, we must practice, and re-define our lives and follow Christ through the sacrifice all the way to the greatest feast!

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house?" Isaiah 58:6-7

May God lead us out of our normal, into a holy fast, that we might truly see what is good in the sight of God.

In the Hope of Christ, *Pastor Robin*





EPYC Expectations

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for me and my family as we went through a bad bout of pneumonia in our house! While some of our coughs linger the worst of the pneumonia has passed. Mel and I have always appreciated the support of our church family, and we especially appreciated all of you through this and we are truly thankful for all of your support and prayers! So, thank you again!

I am having trouble wrapping my mind around, that as you are reading this, it is February!? Where did January go? In fact, where did the start of the school year go? A high school teacher of mine once told me that this is the longest part of the school year for teachers and students. My teachers shared this because of the cold days that fill the wait for a break from school and the warmer days. Here I want to encourage you to take a moment and pray for the schools, teachers, and the students. Pray that this part of the year goes well for all.

Looking ahead warmer months are coming! This means it is time to start thinking about Creation! Have you gone to Creation in the past? Are you interested in going for the first time? Either way this will be a big year for Creation as they celebrate their 40th year of Music and Community. The music line up has been coming together and is looking really good for this year and will provide a great time! If you have any question or you are interested in coming to creation please speak to either Lisa Hamme or me (Rob).

Coming up!

February 2nd—Creation Reunion @ 6pm! This is a great time to come and get a little taste of creation, whether you have been to Creation or are interested in going. Please bring a snack to share!

February 4th—No EPYC! Fly Eagles Fly! (*Go Steelers*)

February 16th-17th—Lock-in 8pm-7am! Lock-ins are a great time of outreach and ministry. The evening is filled with food,

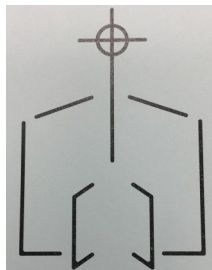
fellowship, and a message. This year's lock-in is for grade 5-12. Any questions, please ask!

February 18th—No EPYC! Go take a nap post Lock-in!

March 3rd— Snow tubing at Iron Valley, depending on weather. Details TBA.

NEW WEB SITE

After many months of effort by the church staff our redesigned Web Site went on line in December. The web page can be found at: **<http://www.standrewslebanon.org>** the same as the previous page. The site was redesigned with help of the web design company, Merit.



The page has information about the church that will help people who are looking to see who we are and what we believe as well as for our members to see service schedules, youth activities and other group and organization schedules. Completely new to the site is a chance to watch and hear archived sermons from the last few weeks and if you can't make it to church, to listen and see in real time live streaming the Sunday services. Also, Online giving is now available through the web site. The site contains many things of interest to show the people and activities of St Andrews, too many to list here.

Please visit and browse the pages. The web committee, part of the Administrative Committee, would like to hear your comments. Please contact us by emailing: **office@standrewslebanon.org**

DEACON DOINGS

Many thanks to outgoing Deacons, Ann Ormond and Mev Royer!

And welcome to the following Deacons joining the board this year: Ken Gries, Bill Kalbaugh, Lorraine Lowrie and Christine Nelson.

CAUTION . . . CAUTION . . . CAUTION

If you see "yellow tape" across any outside stairwell please do not remove. Tape has been placed there for safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation - The Trustees.

Yes it is has been cold, and unfortunately we had a cold area of the church. An investment of an HVAC condenser/air handler for the classroom area will once again warm up everything. Thank you for your patience during this unexpected problem.

St. Andrews is shining brighter thanks to Trustee, John Reitz. John recently replaced many bulbs throughout the church and even dusted those hard to reach lights along the way . . . You're the BEST– Thanks, John!

We welcome back Barry Kohr to the Board of Trustees. Barry continues to be a blessing to all, and his relentless dedication to the church is appreciated beyond words.

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands..." Psalm 90:17

Respectfully submitted, Jody DeWald



Presbyterian Women

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Women had an enjoyable, hardworking and generous December and January.

On December 4th we hosted a dessert bar and musical entertainment attended by many members and guests. The craft table was very popular and brought in many generous donations. Layette items were collected and donated to needy babies in the community.

Our PW calendar was finalized for 2018. The annual mission projects will continue, starting with Blanket Sunday on Feb. 11th. YFC dinners are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month.

By now you will have received your annual tax statement, 2018 calendar of P.W. events and an envelope for Blanket Sunday.

Heartfelt thanks to all who helped make 2017 a successful year. May God's blessings go with us as we go forward into 2018.

2018 Calendar—Women of the Congregation (PW)

January

4 - Youth for Christ 1st Thurs Meal
12 - Church-wide mailing for Celebration Giving and Blanket Sunday,
10:00 AM, Library,
Sue Mechura, Coordinator

February

1 - Youth for Christ 1st Thurs Meal
11 - Blanket Sunday
Ann Ormond, Coordinator

March

1 - Youth for Christ 1st Thurs Meal
Collection for Agape &
Lebanon Rescue Mission
(cleaning supplies, toiletries, etc.)
Judy Borger, Coordinator

April

4 - Horizons Bible Study Begins
5 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
7 - PW Coordinating Committee to
host PW in the Presbytery Spring
Gathering 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
18 - Horizons Bible Study

May

2 - Horizons Bible Study
3 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
16- Horizons Bible Study
Birthday Offering
Margie Hearson, Coordinator

June

7 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
Ronald McDonald House Meal,
Date TBD
Bev Hoffman, Coordinator

July

9- Coordinating Team
Pot Luck Salad Bar, 12 PM
Sue Mechura's home

August

2 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
10 - Church-wide mailing,
Bakeless Bake Sale
Sue Mechura, Coordinator
11 - Free Noon Meal

September

6 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
11 - Cornwall Mnr Health Ctr Birthday
Party
Kathy Hetrick, Coordinator

October

4 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
Sunset Gap Community Ctr/Lebanon
Clothing Drive,
Betty Ann Seiser &
Helen Leaman, Coord.

November

1 - Planning Team Meeting and
Thank Offering, Church-wide Mailing
10:00AM, Library,
Karen Regester, Coordinator
1 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal

December

3 - Christmas Dessert Bar, 6:30 PM
Snyder Hall Sewing Cir., Coordinators
6 - 1st Thurs Youth for Christ Meal
Christmas Stockings,
Betty Ann Seiser, Coord.

FEBRUARY'S MISSION SPOTLIGHT IS ON:

Mashed
Instant
Potatoes



Canned
Gravy
(No Glass
Containers,
please!)

We will continue collecting
winter coats for boys and girls.

Update: First Thursday Youth for Christ Dinner

Last year PW continued our local outreach to the Lebanon Community. We provided dinner on the first Thursday of each month for the children attending the weekly elementary program at the Lebanon Valley Youth for Christ. Here is a big shout out for the women who coordinated these meals throughout 2017:

THANK YOU Ann Ormond, Marianne Kopp, Karen Regester, Karen Shalters, Margie Hearson, Beckie Dreibelbis, Betty Ann Seiser, Christine Nelson and Sue Mechura. Thank you also to SAPC members who donated food items each month. PW will continue this mission through 2018, and with your help, will provide wonderful meals for this most worthy program. PW allots a certain monetary amount to cover the main course, but we look to you to donate “sides” and dessert, so thank you in advance if you are called by one of our monthly coordinators and asked to donate. Also, if you are moved to coordinate a meal for a month, or would like to know more about our outreach, please call or e-mail Sue Mechura, as we do have a few vacancies, everyone can apply, and all offers are accepted!

Matthew 25:35 – “For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”





***APPLAUSE... MEMORABLE MUSIC
AT ST. ANDREWS
YOU ARE INVITED***

The Concert Series Committee cordially invites you to come to our second concert in the 2017-2018 concert series. On **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, at 7:30 PM**, we will be entertained by the Lebanon-area jazz group, **THIRD STREAM**, under the leadership of Tom Strohman.

Third Stream began over 40 years ago in a Hershey garage, and grew to become one of the finest contemporary music groups in the Mid-Atlantic region. Although the style, Third Stream, is known as a fusion of Classical music and jazz, the group actually thought of three streams of water flowing into a larger body of water, when they named their group.

Over the years, the group have taken these streams and played the full spectrum of jazz: Dixieland, swing, be-bop, fusion, free, etc. The group continues to refine their sound, expanding with exciting new arrangements and compositions, bringing quality music to their audiences.

We are thrilled to welcome Third Stream back to our sanctuary for this concert. Their last appearance in our series was December 2008. The current ensemble members include: **Tom Strohman** (flute, alto flute, pennywhistle, ocarina; **Jim Miller** (acoustic and electric bass); **Jim Easton** (guitar); **John Peifer** (drums); and **Greg Strohman** (trombone and piano). We hope you all will plan to be in the audience to enjoy the exciting and interesting sounds of Third Stream.

As with all APPLAUSE... MEMORABLE MUSIC concerts, a reception will follow the concert, with lots of yummy goodies prepared and served by Elaine Behney and friends. It will be a nice time of fellowship and an opportunity to greet the performers.

Your Concert Series Committee has worked diligently to provide entertaining and enjoyable concerts for you again this season. We truly hope you will plan to be with us as we continue this concert series with **THIRD STREAM, on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, at 7:30 PM**. See you then!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Richard Hofman	19	Jesse Salahub
3	Benta Samuelson	21	Sarah Hamme
8	Richard Dowd	22	Dorothy Bliss
	Margery Zakian	26	Chuck Mackey
10	Barbara Hains		Rick Borger
11	Ruth Ann Fenton	27	Kaitlyn Mulligan
	Jill Kreiser	28	Carol Smith-Kilgore
15	Nansi Alexander		Ken Gries
18	Sue Fisch		



SAVE THE DATE Saturday, March 24— Annual Lenten Breakfast!

The breakfast begins at 8am at the Lebanon Expo Center. It will be catered by Country Home Catering. Entertainment provided by the St. Paul the Apostle Church Bell Choir. The speaker is Rev. James Heath, pastor, Cornwall United Methodist Church.

**All proceeds benefit the FRESH Start Resource Center and
Emergency Shelter**

Thank you—to the following churches for hosting extra meals during the project: Calvary Chapel; Holy Trinity Lutheran; Salem Lutheran; St Andrews Presbyterian & St. Luke Episcopal. Contact us for a tour of our new Resource Center at 717-272-4400 or email troy@lccm.us.



A Grief Support Group of
St. Andrews Church

For everything there is a season...a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

If there is one thing griever's know, it is how changeable our moods can be. One moment we are relatively calm, in control, keeping our grief at bay. The next moment we are overwhelmed, our equilibrium shattered.

Anything can set us off – a fragrance, the words of a song, the first sign of spring – and our loved one is not here to share it.

Other times we are carefree, relishing the moment, and then

wonder why we are susceptible to such mood swings. We wonder – “When will my moods be more measured so I am not always in danger of being swept away with the feeling of despair?”

Those questions and many others are things we talk about when the St. Andrews Grief Support Group meets together. We have discovered that we are not alone with these feelings, that others have exactly the same thoughts and feelings. The sharing of these experiences with other people who are going through the same grieving process has become a valuable tool for many of the folks who attend our meetings. Through our conversations we realize that these sudden feelings of being overwhelmed are actually very normal among people who are grieving. These emotions even occur to those of us

for whom the grieving has been a continual journey for a number of years. Finding out that others experience the same kinds of feelings and emotions can be a comfort to us. For these reasons, I have always found great comfort in the scripture from Ecclesiastes that is quoted above and continues at the end of this article. It lets me know that in time and with God's help, I will be OK and feeling more comfortable with my grief.

Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings, regardless of how recent or how long ago the grieving process began. If you know of someone who might benefit from coming to our meetings, please encourage them to come, even if they are not St. Andrews members. A better idea would be to let them know about our group and offer to come with them for the first time.

Our meetings are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel, unless we plan something special. The dates for the next two months are: Thursday, February 8; and Thursday, March 8.

If you have questions about our group, please feel free to contact our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy, at 717-454-0756; Pat Yates, at 717-273-9297; or the church office, 727-272-9933.

Our lives have been shattered by the death of a loved one. Of course it will take time for the pieces to come together in any coherent pattern. For some it takes longer than others. But with God's help we all will realize it is now “*the time to build up, the time to laugh, and the time to dance*”.

I will be patient with myself, honoring the seasons of my grieving, trusting I am on my way to being healed.

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

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