

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Have you had a chat with the Lord today? No appointment needed, the opportunity is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Keep praying, prayer changes things.

PRAYER EMPHASIS FOR APRIL

A CERTAIN RESURRECTION

*"It is true! The Lord has risen and appeared to Simon."*

Luke 24:34

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***The Beacon***

***St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church***

***200 Marrows Road***

***Brookside***

***Newark, Delaware 19713***

***302-738-4331***

**The Rev. John G. Paderson, Pastor** **April 2015**

**302-738-0840**

Easter comes early this year. April 5th to be precise. On that day we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate the Easter event, which is of course the Resurrection event. The Resurrection is central and essential to the Christian faith. It is so central and essential that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

“…if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those that have fallen asleep [died] are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” (1 Cor. 15:17-19)

In writing this message, I can’t help but wonder what the world would be like had the Resurrection not occurred. If there had been no Resurrection, I imagine we would probably know nothing of Jesus. Without the Resurrection he was a historically insignificant figure. He didn’t organize an armed rebellion against the Romans as other self-styled messiahs did. He didn’t write any memoirs or theological or philosophical tracts. All he left after his Crucifixion was a small group of frightened disciples who locked themselves behind closed doors. If Jesus was not raised from the dead we probably would know nothing about him. Who is going to write a Gospel (Good News) account without Good News to announce?

We would therefore know nothing of the Sermon on the Mount. We would know nothing of his commandment to love one another as He loved us. There would be no John 3:16 or 3:17 or John the Gospel writer.

There would be no Apostle Paul who was called to be an Apostle by the Resurrected Jesus. As a result we would not have his ode to love from 1 Corinthians 13. Nor would we have the concept of salvation by grace instead of works. There would have been no need for the Reformation because there would have been no Church to reform. There would have been no Martin Luther or John Calvin.

It is highly questionable whether most of the world would even believe in one God (monotheism). The great monotheistic religion of Judaism, after two unsuccessful revolts against Roman rule, turned inward and became a religion for an ethnic minority rather than a religion for all peoples and nations.

There probably would not have been an American War of Independence as we know it. There would probably not have been a Declaration of Independence that speaks of the equality of all men who are endowed with God given unalienable rights. There might not have been any abolitionists to work for the abolition of slavery. There would not have been a Martin Luther King Jr. or Civil Rights movement.

Perhaps Godless communism would have taken over the world. That would not have been a good thing given what I saw in the Soviet Union when I visited there in the 1970’s.

There would be no St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church and no St. Andrew for that matter. There would be no Christian Charity that has done so much good over the centuries.

If Christ did not rise from the dead we would only have human nature in which to put our faith. Think about where that has gotten the world. We certainly would be, using Paul’s words, “to be pitied.”

But here is the Good News as Paul recounted it: “But Christ has been raised from the dead.” (1 Cor. 15:20) Christ has been raised. We have a living savior who can straighten us out and will straighten the world out when he returns. We have a living breathing Lord who sits at the right hand of God the Father to reign in power and intercede for us. We have God’s mercy, God’s grace and God’s abiding steadfast love in the Risen Christ. In short we have hope and we will not be disappointed.

This Easter think of the Resurrection and believe.

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Halleluiah!

Yours in the Living Jesus,

John

**To:** The Session of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

**From**: The Rev. John G. Paderson

**Subject:** Report for February 2015

**Date:** March 8, 2015

**A. Service of the Lord’s Day and Occasional Services**

* Prepared and led worship four out of five Sundays in February. I was on Study Leave Sunday February 15th. Gene Stiltz preached in my absence.
* Administered the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on Sunday February 1st.
* Conducted a Service of Witness to the Resurrection at St. Andrew’s for George Winter on Thursday February 5th.
* Installed one elder and one deacon on behalf of Session in Worship on Sunday February 15th.

**B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)**

* **Home Visits:** 2
* **Hospital Visits**: 2

**C. Administration**

* Wrote a message for March Beacon
* Moderated February session meeting on the 8th.
* Moderated a Special Called Session meeting on Saturday the 28th to consider overture from the congregation.

**D. Christian Education**

* Led 2 Sunday evening Church History classes
* Co-led 3 out of 4 Thursday evening Confirmation Classes. Elder Al Crowe led the Confirmation Class the week I was away on Study Leave.

**E. Ecumenical Activities**

* Preached at and co-led the joint Ash Wednesday Service at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church on the evening of February 18th.
* Attended a Pastor’s Support Group meeting in Baltimore on February 26th.

**F. Denominational Activities**

* Met with Executive Presbyter Jim Moseley on February 19th to discuss congregational overture.

Respectfully Submitted,

John

**ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2015**

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Mary Anne Colbert, Sue Staudt – outgoing clerk, Jane Wright, Cliff Wood, Florence Fonjweng, Allan Crowe, Chester Pasapane,

Brenda Saulsbury, Clerk of Session

**NOT ATTENDING:** Winnie Wagner, Flora Atangcho, Emmanuel Ndifor

Moderator John Paderson Opened with prayer at 4:30 pm.

Minutes from Congregation Meeting approved.

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer’s report (pending approval) approved.

Clerk’s report reviewed and approved.

Pastor’s report was approved.

**Motions to be considered at this meeting**

Move Vivian Ntang to inactive rolls from St. Andrews – approved

Restore Janet McFarland to St. Andrews rolls – approved

Brenda Saulsbury to office of Clerk of Session – approved

Winnie Wagner to continue as Treasurer – approved

Assignment of Responsibilities Teams for 2015

Building and Grounds – Chester Pasapane Clerk – Brenda Saulsbury

Christian Education – Jane Wright Nominating Emmanuel Ndifor

Fellowship – Cliff Wood Pastor/Personnel – Mary Ann Colbert / Chet Pasapane

Insurance – Jim Sparks Stewardship – Cliff Wood

Membership – Florence Atangcho Treasurer – Winnie Wagner

Memorials – Brenda Saulsbury/Joyce Sparks Worship – Al Crowe

Missions – Florence Fonjweng

Authorize Communion on Following Days:

First Sunday of Month, First Sunday of Advent, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Christmas Eve

Motion approved.

Form subcommittee on Standing Rules/Changes and rewording

Elections in November for all Elders and Deacons

Motion Approved

Motion to set special Session meeting for February 28 at 9:30 am discuss Motion “To petition the Session for a study of the relationship between the congregation and the PCUSA, with a report to the congregation prior to the end of October 2015”.

Motion approved.

Motion to authorize youth on Youth Sundays to serve as Lay Leaders at Sunday Morning Services.

Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn at 5:42pm. Motion approved.

**DEACONS REPORT**

**Keep Our Pantry Stocked**

We hope to see fully stocked pantry shelves as well as hams and turkeys in the freezer when we’re ready to fill food baskets for the families we help during the holidays. Thank you for your Easter donations.

Please continue to bring in food; calls from the hungry come year-round. Place your donations in the food collection basket in the narthex on any Sunday.

**Camp Donegal**

See Linda DiMartine or Matt Kupelian for a camp brochure and application as well as information about campership funds. Camp Donegal’s website at <http://www.campdonegal.org> will have answers to many of your questions. Watch the *Beacon* for updates. Applications should be turned in by April 30th.

**Hope Totes**

The Hope Totes from St. Andrews have been delivered to the Sunday Breakfast Mission for distribution. The items in the Hope Totes you filled will give homeless people hope and comfort in knowing you care about them. They thank you.

**Laundry for the Lord**

Your contributions in March to Laundry for the Lord amounted to $331.00. The money will buy about 50 laundromat vouchers for the homeless in our community, so they can experience the joy of wearing clean clothes. They thank you.

**Church Picnic**

The picnic this year will be at Lums Pond on September 20 as a kick off to Rally Day, the start of the fall worship season. Please plan to come.

Our next Deacons Meeting will be April 12th immediately following worship.

**CIRCLE NEWS**

All ladies of the church are Presbyterian Women, and are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

* The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday April 2nd at 10 AM in the home of Betty Winter.
* The Naomi circle will meet on Tuesday April 21st at 7PM in the home of Jean Pasapane .
* The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday April 20th at 7PM in the home of Jere Ebert. .

PW NEWS

  Our ladies held a PW meeting/ Women's Day on Saturday, March 21.  There were about 25 attendees.   Devotions given by New Castle PW Moderator Elect, Nancy Long. She spoke of God's love of women, women in the Bible and their importance, especially during the Lenten season which included a moving reading as the three women who went to the empty grave of Jesus.

We discussed a few business items.  Since there are no budgeted monies for Mission this year our PW voted to give $1000 to this needed area.  It was also voted to give monies to some other charities such as the Food Bank, the clean water project, and funds for our own blankets for homeless project. And money was voted to start our own PW Scholarship fund which will help women of St. Andrews to grow in our Faith.

Nancy Long talked of the upcoming PW events, the Retreat in Ocean City in April, the Synod Retreat in Massanetta Springs, VA, and the International Triennium in Minnesota in early summer.  All great opportunities for Presbyterian Women. Scholarship money may be available.

We sang hymns, old and new, and enjoyed a program by Winnie Wagner on Women of the Reformation, which was very informative.  She had a very lovely picture show which was taken during her tour and she had brochures and booklets to share as well.

After a great lunch, provided our Circles, we assembled 7 double sided fleece "no sew" blankets to be donated in the fall to Newark Empowerment for homeless in the Newark area. We are very thankful to Chery Denneny from NCPW who led us in this project.  She led a similar project last year at Massanetta Springs to make blankets for children at AI Du Pont Hosp.  This project provided us with an opportunity to find fellowship with other women while doing God's work which we know makes Him happy.  It made us happy, too.

We hope this gave St Andrews ladies a glimpse of New Castle PW happenings as well as incoming officers of New Castle PW a glimpse of our wonderful St.Andrews Women.

The PW May dinner will be held on May 15th at the Candlelight Dinner Theatre. We will be seeing Steel Magnolias. Please see Bea Fairchild or Linda DiMartine for more information. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Report

We held our first Italian buffet of the year on February 28. We raised over $600 and donated it to the church. On Sunday March 22 the Youth Group, Faith Club and Adult Bible Study went on a field trip to LAUNCH Trampoline Park. We held a breakfast buffet on Palm Sunday to raise money for our mission trip. The confirmation class of spring 2015 will become members of ST Andrews Presbyterian Church on Easter Sunday. We held a breakfast buffet on Palm Sunday. Any youth interested in attending Camp Donegal this summer must turn in their completed registration form to Linda DiMartine as soon as possible to be considered for a campership.

\*\*\*Upcoming Events\*\*\*

The youth will be having a church clean out/ yard sale, the date is still yet to be decided.

Important News: No Sunday Night Activities Easter Sunday

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

What do floods, storms, drought, famine, earthquakes, epidemics, refugees, and tsunami have in common? They are disasters that have affected millions of people in the last five years. A disaster can strike anywhere at any time, leaving victims without food, water, shelter, clothing, or medical supplies. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs that offer both immediate aid and ongoing development assistance long after the media attention fades away. While we typically receive this offering on Easter, we won’t turn down any contributions over the next couple of weeks.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries for April**



***3 – Morgan Guns***

***6 -- Pete Stiltz***

***7 -- John Paderson***

***9 – Tracy Hardy***

***11 -- Denzel-Rollie Osang***

***26 -- Carol Stiltz***

***28 -- Ellen Stiltz***



***15-- Dave and Myrtle Arnold (65th)***

***25 -- Rick and Ann Hardy (40th)***

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2015**

1 Wednesday Church of Service Worship 7:30 p.m.

2 Thursday Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 p.m.

3 Friday Good Friday Service at Kingswood 7:00 p.m.

Church of Service Youth 6:00 p.m.

5 Sunday **HAPPY EASTER**

Blended Service with Communion 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday

Coffee/juice hour

Church of Service Worship 12:30 p.m.

8 Wednesday Church of Service Worship 7:30 p.m.

9 Thursday Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal 6:30/7:00 p.m.

10 Friday Church of Service Youth 6:00 p.m.

11 Saturday Church of Service Prayer Service 7:00-9:30 p.m.

12 Sunday Blended Service 10:00 a.m.

Coffee/juice hour

Deacon Meeting 11:00 a.m.

Church of Service Worship 12:30 p.m.

Session Meeting 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group

And Adult Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

15 Wednesday Church of Service 7:30 p.m.

16 Thursday Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal 6:30/7:00 p.m.

17 Friday Church of Service Youth 6:00 p.m.

19 Sunday Blended Service 10:00 a.m.

Coffee/juice hour

Church of Service Worship 12:30 p.m.

Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group

And Adult Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

20 Monday BEACON DEADLINE

Ruth Circle Meeting 7:00 p.m.

21 Tuesday Naomi Circle Meeting 7:00 p.m.

22 Wednesday Church of Service 7:30 p.m.

23 Thursday Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal 6:30/7:00 p.m.

24 Friday Church of Service Youth 6:00 p.m.

26 Sunday Blended Service 10:00 a.m.

Coffee/juice hour

Church of Service Worship 12:30 p.m.

Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group

And Adult Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

29 Wednesday Church of Service 7:30 p.m.

30 Thursday Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal 6:30/7:00 p.m.





