



FEBRUARY 2017

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 21ST

## The Room Where It Happens

*Rappin' with the Rev by Pastor Dave Milam*



I had the good fortune of having lunch with one of our newest members after church last Sunday. He had not been able to make it to the final Believing and Belonging Class, but did not want to miss out on the two topics of 1) what it means to be a Presbyterian and 2) how to be a faithful participant at St. Andrew. Because of busy work obligations, his time for participation is limited. Yet, he was committed to doing more than just whatever. He wanted to know where he could connect with what is at the heart of the congregation's life.

To describe more fully the connection he hoped for, he described the dynamic at his workplace. He is the regional leader, he explained, of an international company that is ramping up a Washington D.C. location. As such, he has recruited several young adults in their 20s and 30s, trusting that they had the energy and drive to make it all work. "These young hires keep generating new ideas after work hours," he told me. "They go home from work and are either socializing, connecting with their kids' schools, or interacting on social media. And when they come in the next morning, they bring all of those insights gained from those interactions to the challenges we have in front of us." He perceived that a key to the success of his new venture

came from the core conversation at the office that was open not just to the new ideas from the night before, but also from the new hires that kept coming to their organization. "The dynamic at our downtown office has a center, a core, that isn't closed off to newcomers. Our core conversation is alive and creative so that keeps on growing and building." And so he asked me: "Where might I find that place at St. Andrew where the core conversation is happening?"

I'll admit to hemming and hawing over the next few minutes. The question challenged me. I tried to suggest where not just a newcomer, but ANYONE might find core conversation alive and open. Mission trips certainly bring alive a dynamism like that. The Session has the core conversation going, if you are elected to it. Wednesday Afterschool Café. Around tables at WAC or after church or at the Tuesday morning Bible study. Um, hmm. Vital conversations are happening in many places at St. Andrew, but a core conversation? Hmm. Great question!

A tune came to mind as I fumbled for an answer. It was the song from the hit Broadway musical, *Hamilton*: "The Room Where It Happens." The song describes Alexander Hamilton trying to arrange for the be-

*"Rappin' with the Rev"  
Continued on page 2*

## Can We Talk?

*Ministry Musings by Pastor Jessica McClure Archer*



As I sit down to write, I have just come from my first day of a two-day training session on Mental Health First Aid Training for adults working (and loving) youth. The biggest realization is not so much the warning signs or the how to use the first aid triage in assessing the risk of harm and/or suicide in a young person. No, the biggest lesson so far is that we ought to invest in the lives of one another in a way that we create webs of trusting relationships, whereby we are keepers of each other's business and wellbeing. In order for Mental Health First Aid to really have an impact in our community the bottom line is that we need to care for one another, we need to break down the barriers that prevent us from really sharing what is going on in our lives and that we need to dismantle the false assumption that we can't (or ought not) get involved in somebody's else or some other family's stuff.

There can be a dozen panels on suicide prevention held in our churches, schools and in the county, but it will be for naught, if we don't accompany this talk with action. For us Christians it means turning the focus from ourselves to love our neighbor, to remember our call that we are indeed our brothers' and sisters' keepers and that somebody else's problem is our problem, too, because we walk in the way of Jesus. If Jesus noticed the blind man yelling for a healing, a woman who couldn't

ask for relief but still reached for his hem to receive it and hungry people on a hillside, then we are called to do the same for the one who struggles to keep it together, the immigrant working two jobs to keep their family above water, the teen down the street cutting herself, the refugee who needs a new home because they have escaped inexcusable violence, and the young adult who stopped going to college because he is drinking himself to death (but no one is talking about that part).

So, how do we get there, then? I think it will take intersectional (coming together) and intergenerational (across generations and other dividing lines) ministry to do it.

This past year has only heightened our sense of division, and there is no doubt we live in tense times because of them. But, if we just stick to our corners, we continue to live in isolation and dwell in pockets void of challenge (and I would add encouragement). We begin to pretend that we are not in this together as citizens of our common human community. We will accelerate our retreat into a new form of tribalism that seeks to separate us into haves and have nots, black and white, conservative and liberal, gay or straight, young or old and so on and so on and so on.

If we don't do it as the church, who will? It will take people

*"Ministry Musings"  
Continued on page 2*

*"The Room Where It Happens"  
Continued from page 1*

ginnings of the Treasury Department and our nation's dynamic relationship with banks and loans, organizing our national debt in order to create the economic engine that led to prosperity. The immigrant Hamilton has to convince Virginia naysayers Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, at a deal-making dinner. The three of them gather in the "Room Where It Happens." Hamilton gets the banking system headquartered in New York. Jefferson and Madison gain a promise to move the capital to Washington. Yes, we are the living heirs to the vital conversation that happened at that table.

In the play, the "room where it happens" is a private, secret room. Those outside will either be happy or upset with the results but will wonder how it came about. The church morally and purposefully chooses a way opposite of such elitism and inscrutability. Yet, having a "room where it happens," is actually a great idea. Could we

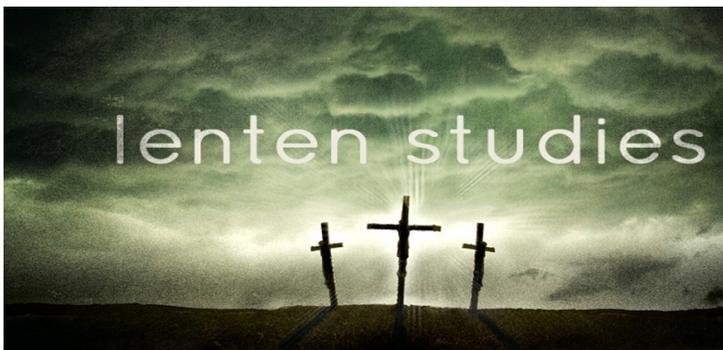
make a place for a conversation so alive and creative that not only a newcomer but anyone and everyone could plug in?

I tell this story as a way to invite us to a "room where it happens." I'm not sure where that room is at the moment. There are many conversations going on, to be sure, but wouldn't it be helpful if they were a part of some core conversation at the center so that we would delight in what holds us together. When we start our vision statement by affirming "Christ our Center," aren't we suggesting there is a center for a conversation that might energize all of the conversations we get going?

What we need is the "Room Where It Happens." One of our new members asked where that room is. Let's say in 2017 that we all begin to look for it.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Dave*



**This Lent: Meeting Simply Jesus Through the Eyes of His Friends**

Join us for our annual Lenten Small Group Experience, as we all discover Jesus through the eyes of his friends and the people he encountered along the way to the cross. Lenten Small Groups will begin the last week of February in preparation for Ash Wednesday on March 1<sup>st</sup>. So, gather up your Lenten Groups of previous years, start a new group, co-opt your existing group and focus on our Lenten study. Books, materials and sign-up sheets will begin February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>!

Don't forget we will gather for Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, with our Annual Pancake Supper (at 5:45 pm) and Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Phoebe's Sisters**

This women's group meets the third Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 10:30 am at a member's home for breakfast, fellowship and Bible study. All women of the church and friends are invited. For the 2017-17 session, the group will be discussing Who is Jesus: What a Difference a Lens Makes. The next meeting is February 18th. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, please contact Bonnie Milam at 540 454-7816 or bonmilam@aol.com.

**The St. Andrew Book Club**

This group meets monthly outside the church. The next meeting is February 28th. Please contact Zoe Sowers at 540 338-0999 or [zsowers@gmail.com](mailto:zsowers@gmail.com) to join the discussion.

**Brunch Bunch**

This group meets the second Monday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the church basement. The next meeting is February 9th. For more information, contact Carolyn Bouser at 540 338-9508 or [bouser540@comcast.net](mailto:bouser540@comcast.net).

**Lovettsville Group**

They meet about twice a month on Sunday evenings, rotating homes in the Lovettsville area for potluck dinner, fellowship, and Bible study. Contact Debra Gutenson at 540 882-3205 or [gutenson50@loudounwireless.com](mailto:gutenson50@loudounwireless.com) for more information.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Please join Pastors Dave and Jessica every Tuesday at 10:30 am as they take us through the passage that will be featured in the next week's services, and explore the deeper meaning of God's Holy Word. All are welcome!

**FP4H**

First Place 4 Health, a faith-based weight loss program, meets every Monday evening at 7 pm. Contact Ally Fetch at 336 508-2610 or [afetch@gmail.com](mailto:afetch@gmail.com) or Deborah Hill at 540 751-9818 or [momscully@earthlink.net](mailto:momscully@earthlink.net). See page 4 for more detailed information,

*"Can We Talk?"  
Continued from page 1*

of faith who love Jesus more than they are fearful of engaging in hard conversations with people who are different because of age, sex, race and socio-economic status. Perhaps, 2017 can be a year where the Church forges a new way in transforming the manner in which we speak with one another, moving beyond talking

past each other to active listening, to finding common ground and appreciating deeply one another's sacred place in the world as a child of God. And perhaps, this could lead to a deeper sense of understanding and a profound new sense of empathy for each other and our world.

So, can we talk?

*Pastor Jessica*

**Officers of the Class of 2020**

- Elders: Anthony Semiao, Frank Diehl, and Clark Seipt
- Deacons: Melissa Macdonald, Kathi Hottinger, Sally Gehl, Betty Willis, Scottie Hill (youth for 2018) and MK Ntantang (youth for 2018)
- Trustees: Daniel Faubert, Tom Hill, Mitch Seipt, Meagan Butkus
- Class of 2019: Josh Shields and Donnie Van Alstyne
- Class of 2018: Kim Griffith and Brad Morrell



# WINTER CALENDAR



*Winter RETREAT is NOW Open to Families. We will have multiple tracks for families, Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers.*

*Our theme is:*

*Staying Present in the Midst of Conflict!*

*Mark your calendars for Winter Retreat for February 10-12 at Deer Valley YMCA Camp. RSVP to Pastor Jessica by February 1 at [mclurearcher@gmail.com](mailto:mclurearcher@gmail.com).*



**Godly Play Sunday School will focus on Jesus life and ministry in February. On February 5th, our Godly Play students will celebrate their ARK goal and pick a new mission project and goal during Sunday School!**

**Interested in teaching Godly Play? We could always use a few more storytellers! See Pastor Jessica for details.**

## SESSION REPORT

My initial experience as Clerk of Session in 2016 for SAPC has been very positive and enjoyable. I'm sure that's because I work with a good group of fellow Elders, as well as all the Ministry Team and the pastors. I have nothing but praise for all the people in our church who volunteer and work to make our church the wonderful place that it is to worship and enjoy our congregation. Thanks to everyone.

If I may speak for the Session, I'd say we were well pleased with the outcome of the 2016 Church Budget, which ended with little over \$3,000 in the black. We have tried to increase our Mission budget items as a priority, and we are making some progress there. The 2016 budget was approved last year

with faith and hope, and it worked. This year, for the 2017 budget, we took a firmer stand to stay with a proposed balanced budget. This always means not being able to project more money for some of our prioritized issues, one of which is now Building Maintenance, but the Session will revisit the budget during the year to see if more money can be reallocated to prioritized needs. We thank all you givers, pledgers and tithers for your financial support last year, and your ongoing support this year so that we can fulfill our church goals. It's difficult sometimes to explain how rewarding it is to give to the church, but for me personally, my giving is returned in blessings that sometimes astound me.

What a great feeling to see new members, and families, joining SAPC. And even volunteering to serve on their first day of membership! The Annual Meeting on January 29th was well-participated and new members got to see and meet our congregation. Pastor Dave did a great job with the new member class. They were ready to go on day one. Welcome to all the new members, and thank you for choosing our congregation. (I'll be in touch to serve you up with some jobs!) The new Elder, Deacon, and Trustee Classes can be found on page 2. Our church could not operate without the strong volunteer support we get from our congregation. It's a blessing. Session meetings are held at 7:00 pm each month on the 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday. The meetings are open to all, and there is a designated time for guest comment. Feel free to attend or to contact any of the Session members if you have questions or comments that you think we can help with. We make an effort to maintain a spiritual presence at the meetings as well as to hammer out issues of finance, personnel and planning. We are also attentive to the pastors. In my opinion, our pastors are a wonderful blessing to our church. Let us all continue to be proud of your church and of our place in the local religious community.

*Kimball Peele, Clerk of Session*

### **First Place 4 Health (FP4H) - Faith-based program for weight loss, health and wellness.**

First Place 4 Health (FP4H) is a faith-based program centered around Mark 12:30, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Through weekly meetings, daily Bible study, prayer, and lots of fellowship, First Place members learn to live a more balanced life. With Christ at the center of all we do, the four parts of our life outlined by Mark – heart, soul, mind and strength – come into balance, bringing us greater physical health, emotional wellness, mental strength, and a closer relationship with our Creator.

Most members join with the goal of losing weight. But the benefits are so much more. Our local First Place group here at St. Andrew has been going strong for 2 ½ years. Here are some testimonials from group members:

"I've never been a "group" person. I am independent and a self-thinker. I was even voted "Most Individual" in my HS graduating class. FP4H has shown me how powerful it is to be part of a small, caring, Christian community. Staying connected every week has benefited me. I've lost weight, made friends, prayed and read my Bible more often and consistently than ever before. Now, maintaining and improving a balanced life in Christ is a daily affair. I look forward to Monday nights!"

"I realize now that God has always been speaking to me - I just wasn't taking the time to really listen. First Place has helped me to do that."

"When I joined I was on a slide down. FP4H gave me a new way out of the hole. It gave me wonderful ladies to talk with about new ways to lose weight and a chance to put Bible study back every day."

"Through First Place I have not only deepened my personal relationship with God, but I have also found a fellowship of women I've never experienced before. I am so blessed to be a part of this group that supports me, prays for me, calls me out in love when I'm off track or need to change my thinking, and helps lift me when I couldn't make it through on my own. Weight loss is coming, too, but I've been blessed in so many deeper ways."

"Not only has FP4H brought to my attention what I was eating (snacking more than I realized) therefore, allowing me to lose weight but it has taught me about prayer. Allowing me to realize you really can pray anywhere and at any time. Having a huge impact on my daily life spiritually as well."

"The FP4H memory verse one week was Mathew 21:22 "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." It was the perfect message to me from God that week as I received distressing health news. For the next several months, just as the First Place memory verse assured me, so did our First Place small group support me through the healing months and beyond. This was near the beginning of our journey together and another strong signal that healthier living is God's will. While it took me some time to build up the "muscle memory" for all the healthy ideas from our group; the plan works! Since August, I have lost 22 pounds and feel better than I have in years."

On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding an informal luncheon and info session for any and all (men, too!) interested in this fantastic program. RSVP to either Ally Fetch (afetch@gmail.com) or Deborah Hill (momscully@earthlink.net) are preferred. We hope to see you there!

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- Happy Anniversary this month to:*
- |                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 18 Harold and Lucia Pull | Hannah Seipt |
|                          | 16 Rusty Ray |
|                          | 17 Tom Hill  |
- Happy Birthday this month to:*
- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Lena Mitchell      | 20 Harris Hagert     |
| 3 Tom Ciolkosz       | Kate Parker          |
| Johnny Immel         | 21 David Dragon      |
| 4 Alyssa Pull        | Rick Gondella        |
| 6 Peter Rinek        | Chris Henderson      |
| 7 Angela Brown       | Kayleigh McGranahan  |
| Donna Greco          | 22 Bob Bousman       |
| 9 Virginia Carpenter | 23 Jessica Carneal   |
| Atem Samson          | Marj Diehl           |
| 10 Jill Kurtz        | Claudia Kirk         |
| 11 Chris Buttrick    | Tyler Sullivan       |
| 12 Daniel Faubert    | 24 Chip Paciulli     |
| 14 Mike Brenton      | 25 Raye Ann Kauffman |
| Hailey Shields       | 26 Ron Brown         |
| 15 Anna Broskovitch  | Jillian Wilburn      |
| Debra Gutenson       | 27 Samantha Tiffany  |
|                      | 28 Mary Anderson     |

**LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS**

**We lift up our concerns**

NLC staff member Wilma Pimentel's nine-year-old nephew, Gabriel Madamba, who lives in the Philippines, has passed away from blood/bone cancer; pray for his family. Karen Cogle's (NLC staff) father, Roger Gilley, who is in the hospital possibly with a recurrence of meningitis. John Niccolls' uncle who is recovering from bladder removal due to cancer. Nicole's (NLC staff) friend's son Zyne Fadeley who was born very premature and is having many health issues. Jay Ruhnke, husband of Sunita Ruhnke who leads the Girl Scouts here and is a friend of the Klecks and Hills, who is still undergoing tests to determine the cause of his recent heart attack. Dylan Wagers who had gallbladder surgery. Roger Hesse-nius' daughter, Kristen, who is recovering from injuries she suffered in a fall. Russ Smith's mom, Dottie, who is in rehab. The Bousman's dear friend, Lynn Stal- cup, who is ill. Jim Wiley, who has esophageal cancer and is undergoing chemo.

**We continue to pray for**

Tracy Zervakis' daughter, Victoria. The Shield's family friend, Catherine. Bonnie Milam's cousin, Leslie Lesicka Paternoster. Dan Miner's mom, Joyce. Mary Parker's friend, Jamie Towson. Owen Brown's cousin, Umberto Fiero. Jenna Hen- derson. Lisa Garron. Mickey Rock. Judy Shepherd, friend of Lynn Krepich. Kristen Sullivan's father.



Marcia Owens' brother-in-law, Larry Hargrove, and Marcia's sister Linda. Leslie Dragon's brother, Todd. Russ Alizade. George Macdonald's dad, Allan Macdonald. Terrie Combs' grandson, Mason. Mary Parker's mom. Don Fetch's aunt, Wendy Childs. Ann Denison's cousin, Becky Peterson. Steve Cahoon. Jim McFarlane. John Butler. Ally Fetch's father, Bob Rumpf. Jane Sutermeister. Tim Davis' father, Bill Davis. Anna Kramer. Leslie Dragon's sister-in-law, Sarah. Charlotte and Andy Miller. Rusty and Karen Ray. All who serve our country and their families as they await a safe reunion.

**Joys**

Deborah Hill gives thanks for Toom's cousin Greg who has over- come alcoholism and liver disease. John Howard gives thanks that his co-worker is cancer-free. Davis Wil- lis gives thanks that Betty survived the heart attack she had at this time 17 years ago.

**FEBRUARY MUSIC REHEARSALS**

**Choir Rehearsals, Wednesdays at 7 pm**  
 Contact Zack Henderson, zackh900@gmailcom  
**New Song, Sunday mornings after the service**  
 Contact Laurie Barbagallo 540 454-8215 or lauriewm85@hughes.net  
**St. Andrew Bell Ringers, Mondays at 7:15 pm**  
 Contact Zoe Sowers 540 338-0999, zoesowers@gmail.com  
**Children's Choir, For Kindergarten through 5th grade. Begins February 5th on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the Music Room.**  
 Contact Zack Henderson, zackh900@gmailcom

**Flower Calendar**

There is a new Flower Calendar for 2017 with all dates available. Please consider signing up to provide a floral arrangement for Saturday and Sunday worship services.  
 Contact Nancy Gilmore (540-338-3154) or [ngilmore5@verizon.net](mailto:ngilmore5@verizon.net) if you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the sanctuary or sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex.



**February Flower Calendar**

4th/5th	Open	11th/12th	Open
18th/19th	Open	25th/26th	Open

**March Flower Calendar**

4th/5th	Open	11th/12th	Open
18th/19th	50th Anniversary	25th/26th	Open

**Musical Fun with Recorders**

Are you interested in playing recorder in a group, just for fun? Ibby Dickson and Janet Locklear are hoping to gather interested players to make music together. This group is not geared to performances, we just want to have some fun and make a joyful noise. All levels are welcome. Even if you don't still have your recorder, please join us - we'll surely have an extra recorder or two sitting around! If you're interested, contact Ibby ([edickson36@gmail.com](mailto:edickson36@gmail.com)) or Janet ([jlocklear@rstarmail.com](mailto:jlocklear@rstarmail.com)).



**Music with a Cause**

The January Music with a Cause, featuring Brian Ganz playing Chopin, was attended by 165 people and netted \$2000.00 for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS).  
 Join us on February 26th at 4 pm for our next Music with a Cause, Maryory Serrano on the violin and Hsin-Yi Chen on piano.

## **Brief Statement of Faith Sermon Series**

### **February 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> (Boy Scout Sunday; The Lord's Supper)**

Theme: We rebel against God and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; Romans 8:19-25

Sermon: *"Stewards of the Earth"* – Pastor Jessica preaching

Worship Leader: Destry Jarvis

Music: St. Andrew Choir

### **February 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Theme: We deserve God's condemnation

Scripture: Romans 11:25-36

Sermon: *"Doxology"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Worship Leader: Joshua Shields

Music: New Song

### **February 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Theme: God chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

Sermon: *"The Gift of Responsibility"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Liturgist: Bonnie Milam

Music: St. Andrew Ringers and Choir



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The Rev. Dr. David Milam, Pastor

The Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, Associate Pastor

Kimball Peele, Clerk of Session

The Gathering, Saturday at 5 pm

Blended Worship Service, Sunday at 10 am

Communion is celebrated on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month

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### **February 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> ((Neighborhood Learning Center Sunday; The Transfiguration of the Lord)**

Theme: Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still

Scripture: Isaiah 49:14-15; Luke 15:11-32

Sermon: *"Chesed"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Worship Leaders: The children and teachers of the NLC

Music: St. Andrew Choir