



JANUARY 2017

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 21ST

Words Matter

Rappin' with the Rev by Pastor Dave Milam



In January, our sermons will have an intentional Presbyterian ring to them. The Brief Statement of Reformed Faith gives a helpful, current account of our Presbyterian understanding of faith. It does so with beautiful lines about God, Jesus and the Spirit, and the church's life, trusting in our triune God. In January, we are going to look at how our words about the God of love matter.

A line in the Brief Statement tells of how God made human beings "equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people." Our faith believes it essential, in other words, that all people both bear God's image and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Affirming this as a person in a world of many faiths as well as different races and peoples, is therefore an expected Christian practice and commitment. One of the very encouraging ways that I get to live this out is by being a part of an Interfaith Clergy group in Loudoun County. Breaking bread (always both kosher and hallal), we share and learn many things from one another – an edifying opportunity. But we also share concerns with one another. For even if we do believe differently about God and many other things, we all share two things in common. We believe that God wants to be in relationship with

human beings and that as God's people we ought also to live with justice and mercy towards one another. Recently we've noticed that disparaging speech has risen especially towards minorities, immigrants and people of faiths other than Christian. It has come to our attention that this has been especially true among young people at schools. This is so sad to us. We know that such attitudes have their root in the homes from which the young people come and from what is current in the media (including and especially social media). We have pondered what to do about this. As a start we wrote a letter which will be published in Loudoun County newspapers, encouraging all people to stop abusive and hateful language and to reaffirm our relationship, or in Presbyterian language, the essential tenet that we are all "made equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people." So that you realize that this is not an issue beyond us, I add that such words have been affecting people in our own congregation directly and indirectly. I share a draft of this letter with you as a way of letting it appeal to your commitment and Christian purpose.

Neighbors in Loudoun County,

*"Rappin' with the Rev"
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Wednesday Afterschool Cafe

Ministry Musings by Pastor Jessica McClure Archer



Our Wednesday Afterschool Cafe program is really about Intergenerational Relationships. Shh... that's the big secret. Sure, the official word is that Wednesday Afterschool Cafe is for fellowship, family time around the dinner table, Bible Study and Worship Arts. But, the real truth is that it is a time ripe for relationships to take root across generations. Our youngest WAC participant is 2 (thanks to Hannah Seipt who joins her brothers for dinner!) and our oldest is well into his 80s. Sure, some are actually registered as WAC kids, while others are known as our wonderful volunteers. Coming together each Wednesday allows this broad spectrum of ages to have a place to meet and get to know one another.

We live our lives these days in segmented realities. Our kids are in school marked off by grades and developmental stages. We big kids go to work and join our peers in the office. Our middle schoolers and high schoolers rebel to avoid the generations on either side of their own as they seek out independence outside the home. Many of us live far away from our extended families, where intergenerational kinship relationships are more widely available.

Wednesday Afterschool Cafe is about providing the space and place for generations to come together and to develop relationships. We know that mentoring has a profound impact on our young people, es-

pecially those most vulnerable. We also know that increasing the number of important adults in the lives our children can make a big difference, especially as it expands their web of support. And, who doesn't need an extra grandma, grandpa, aunt, or uncle! Last month in the church newsletter we posted a picture of Charles working with our tweens. Charles is in his 80s. Most of his days are spent at the Carver Center, where he is able to continue making peer connections and learn new things like how to operate a computer. On Wednesdays, he rides the Carver Center bus to church. In all honesty, Charles' involvement started because his ride to church was in anticipation for Wednesday choir rehearsal (but that doesn't start until 7 pm!). So, we got Charles a place in our WAC program.

We weren't sure how it was going to work out, including Charles in the hectic chaos of WAC, but we soon found him a perfect spot! Charles works with our 3rd-5th graders primarily in the free time, homework room. He brings paper airplanes and 3-D art, among many other interesting projects. He also brings his stories and his simple presence, which is the most important. After his scheduled time with 3rd-5th graders, Charles pops into Bible Study, often with the 6th grade class with Miss Kathi.

*"Ministry Musings"
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"Words Matter"
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We, signees of this letter, have been and always will be committed to bringing people together across religious, racial, economic, and political party affiliations to build a strong Loudoun County. Strong emotions showing seemingly intractable divides have recently brought about hurtful and demeaning talk, at times characterizing other people in our community in uncivil and inappropriate ways. With this letter, we are reaching out to you, Loudoun County, pledging our commitment to reaffirm these same bridges of trust and respect.

Let us begin by saying what we will not do -

We will not disparage anyone's emotional responses, whether they are positive or negative, joyful or fearful. Our ears remain open.

Neither will we smooth over the tensions, without having the difficult conversations about the issues that matter to the whole of our population. Our minds remain open.

And finally, we refuse to allow anger or fear to prevent us from relating to people who are different from us. Our hearts remain open.

Faith, community and civic leaders gathered in early December to open our ears, minds, and hearts to one another. We listened to the fears, experiences, and hopes of our neighbors in community. Then we asked one another how we might

move forward together. We asked for humility and faith, for patience and understanding, for compassion and respect.

Together, we pledge to uphold these very values in all our engagements in Loudoun County and beyond. Our conviction demands that we stand together as a community, Muslim, Jew, Christian, Catholic, Bahai, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Atheist, American Indians, middle-class, working class, rich, poor, those for whom English is their first language, those whose native tongue is from some other nation or culture, from every race and people, Gay, Straight, Transgender, Republican, Democrat, Independent. We do so believing that we are stronger and wiser when we work together.

Together, we also pledge to pay close attention to the needs of the most vulnerable among us. We are our brothers' and our sisters' keepers. We see and affirm the inherent worth and dignity in all our neighbors. Together we will work to maintain a community that respects that inherent worth and dignity, equally for all, and seek that same pledge and purpose for all of our neighbors in Loudoun County.

Yours in Christ,



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Would you like to make St. Andrew your new church home? Our three-week new member class, Believing and Belonging, will begin Saturday, January 7th, and continue on the 14th and 21st. The classes are held from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Please contact Pastor Dave at revdocdavem@aol.com or 540 338-4332 if you would like to attend class. Childcare will be provided.

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 January 21st. 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 January 28th at 7:30 pm at Ann Schmitt's house. They will discuss The Wright Brothers by David McCullough. Please contact Zoe Sowers at 540 338-0999 or 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 January 9th. For more information,

contact Carolyn Bousman at 540 338-9508 or 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 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 or Deborah Hill at 540 751-9818 or momscully@earthlink.net.

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Pledge Update

As of December 15th, 66 pledges have been received for a total of \$266,769.20. The pledges range from \$5.20 to five figures, so no amount is too large or too small. Please help us reach our goal of 90 pledges for \$320.00.

Charles' involvement in WAC means that anyone can participate and give of themselves, no matter their age or the gift. It is all needed. As we head into the new year, it is a ripe time to connect across the generations. We invite you to be like Charles and join us at WAC in 2017!

Pastor Jessica

The deadline for each issue of *Loaves & Fishes* is the **21st of each month**. The next deadline is JANUARY 21st. Please send your submissions to Sally Brenton at Communications@standrew-pres.org.



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 January 13 -15 at Deer Valley YMCA Camp.



Godly Play Sunday School resume January 8th! We will explore Jesus' stories from baptism to miracles.

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

Alternate Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market netted \$1,746 for the four charities available to the congregation this Christmas. The breakdown is as follows:

Loudoun Habitat for Humanity - \$355

Loudoun Literacy Council - \$335

Heifer International - \$455

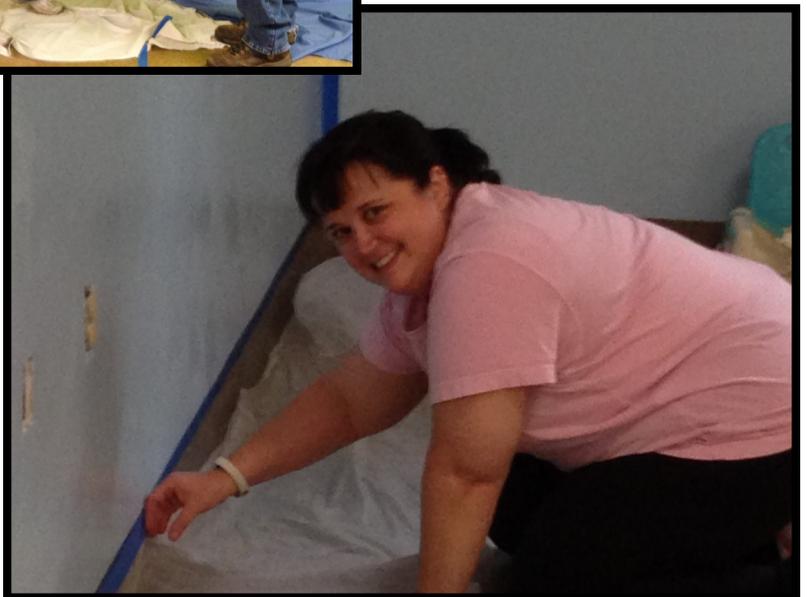
Community Coalition for Haiti - 621

Music with a Cause

Join us on January 22nd for our next Music with a Cause, featuring the pianist, Brian Ganz, performing Chopin.



Here are a few pictures of the dedicated volunteers who showed up on the December church workday to make repairs and improvements to our building.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Happy Anniversary this month to:*
- 18 Stephen Fike
 - 19 Ralph and Lisbeth Immel
 - 23 Tom and June Hutchison
 - 30 Bryan and Ashley Lutz
- Happy Birthday this month to:*
- 4 Nick Kleck
 - 5 Camrynn Archer
 - 6 Alyssa Rosslee
 - 7 Hunter Kadilak
 - 8 Jane Wissmuth
 - 9 Lisa Van Alstyne
 - 13 Henry Myers
 - 14 Cameron Njomo
 - Charlie Schwieger
 - 17 Larkin Howard
 - 18 Stephen Fike
 - Christine Goerges
 - 19 Ruth Smale
 - 20 Grace Cassutto
 - 22 Phoebe Gearhart
 - Hudson Hagert
 - Courtney Howard
 - 24 MK Ntantang
 - 25 Lisbeth Immel
 - 26 Christopher Miller
 - Donnie Van Alstyne
 - 27 Ben Gehl
 - Molly Polizotto
 - Myrick Zobrist
 - 28 Laurie Barbagallo
 - 31 Michael Dragon
 - Cody Gondella

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

We lift up our concerns

Bob Milligan, following the death of his wife, Frances, as well as their daughter Becky, granddaughter Tammy, and daughter-in-law, Tammy. The Archer family following the death of Andy's grandfather. NLC staff member Wilma Pimentel's nine-year-old nephew, Gabriel Madamba, who lives in the Philippines and has been recently diagnosed with blood/bone cancer. The Caulfield family following the death of Kecia Brown's dear friend, Lisa Caulfield. Russ Smith's mom, Dottie, who has moved to Leesburg and is having difficulty with the transition. The Bousman's dear friend, Lynn Staulcup, who is ill. Jim Wiley, who has esophageal cancer and is undergoing chemo.



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.

We continue to pray for

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 Henderson. Lisa Garron. Mickey Rock. Judy Shepherd, friend of Lynn

Do You Smell What I Smell?

By Frank Diehl

Said the choir boy to the ones who sing.
Do you smell what I smell?
Who among us did that nasty thing?
Do you smell what I smell?
Is it you or me I really cannot tell.
But I think we will soon be unwell
If we don't get away from this smell!

JANUARY MUSIC REHEARSALS

Choir Rehearsals, Wednesdays at 7 pm
Contact Zack Henderson, zackh900@gmail.com

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 January 5th on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the Music Room.
Contact Zack Henderson, zackh900@gmail.com

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 if you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the sanctuary or sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex.



January Flower Calendar

1st	Open	7th/8th	Open
14th/15th	Open	21st/22nd	Open
28th/29th	Open		

February Flower Calendar

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



Our faithful flower lady, Nancy Gilmore, poses with the dedicated poinsettias after beautifying the sanctuary in preparation for Christmas Eve services.

JANUARY SCRIPTURES AND SERMONS

Brief Reformed Statement Scriptures and Sermons

January 1st (First Sunday after Christmas; The Lord's Supper)

Scripture: Hebrews 2:10-18

Sermon: *"Pioneering Spirit"* – Pastor Jessica preaching

Liturgist: Chris Henderson

Music: St. Andrew Choir

New Series: "Presbyterians Trusting in the Love of God"

January 7th/8th (Baptism of the Lord)

Theme: We trust in the one triune God.

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-6; Isaiah 43:1-7; John 14:1

Sermon: *"Faith as Trust"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Worship Leader: Will Brown

Music: New Song

January 14th/15th (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Theme: Whom alone we worship and serve

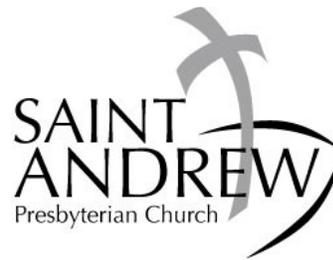
Scriptures: Psalm 1; Psalm 2

Sermon: *"There Is One God"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Liturgist: Charlotte Miller

Music: St. Andrew Ringers and Choir

January 21st/22nd (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)



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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

Theme: We Trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father

Scripture: Galatians 3:23-4:7; Matthew 6:9-13

Sermon: *"Back to the Garden"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Worship Leader: Bonnie Milam

Music: St. Andrew Choir

January 28th/29th (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Annual Meeting)

Theme: God makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people

Scripture: James 3:1-9

Sermon: *"Staying Politically Correct"* – Pastor Dave preaching

Liturgist: Kimball Peele