



JANUARY 2018

Nuturing Families

Rappin' with the Rev by Pastor Dave Milam



Christmas Eve was a delight – all three unique services. At the Family Service, the children participated by displaying stars on the ceiling and by adding light to the sun, spotlight on Caesar and the angel who sang “Glory to God, peace on earth,” to the shepherds. But the evening’s delight came from characters who played an emcee blinded by the sun’s light, Caesar Augustus, the shepherds, Sam and Sheep Doggy Dog, and Joseph and Mary. These were played respectively by John and Lizzie Barbagallo, Brad Morell, Josh Shields and Mitch and Clark Seipt (with an assist from Jack Sassak who filled in, wonderfully, for baby Jesus). They played their roles to the hilt, helping us imagine, for instance, the efforts of Joseph and Mary, who found their way to Bethlehem riding on a donkey named, “Eeyore,” while traveling the 100 miles without Dunkin’ Donuts open to provide mugs of coffee. Despite the darkness and the hardship of their journey, the birth of their baby Jesus became the source of a new, gentle and fresh light giving us hope. Several NLC families were there to join in the celebration – the whole gathering lighting candles from the Christ candle – as we considered how we might bear that light of hope to the world. As January begins, we start a new series of sermons that

follow up on the Christmas Eve theme. Since September, we’ve taken several “journeys through the Bible,” seeing how it has spoken to questions like “who we are,” “where we find home” and how does it speak to us about “wealth, work and charity.” In January, we focus on what the Bible has to say to us as we nurture families. Because we have been telling the Christmas story, to start the series, last week I spoke to how Jesus was a “child of promise” in ways that we also can see our children be the promise of newness. Part of what gave Jesus that sense of promise was the way his family raised him within the covenant-defined faith life of Israel. In the biblical world, God gives a gift – of life, of freedom, of love – and then asks those who receive this gift to respond to it. Delighting in my own three children, I told of how proud of them I am that they have become good people – caring for others (especially those who have borne social injury), caring for our earth, and loving God as a centerpiece of their lives. I find it so essential that we nurture our children with such covenants as “love God with all of your hearts, soul and strength,” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” Threats to the future come from the despairing rejection of such covenants which end up saying: “I’m the only one that mat-

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 21ST

ters,” “I’ve got to protect only those around me,” and “might makes right.”

In the coming weeks, I will be talking about how too much burden is put on parents alone to raise their kids – about how partnerships with extended families, church, schools and the like are needed; how discipline and freedom work in a balance together as we nurture our kids and so on. After the worship services, some tables will be set up where parents can hang together to talk about their delights and challenges in parenting over a cup of coffee. I hope that this will be helpful not only for the families already present in our church, but also for others

who might be invited as guests. As a church family I also hope that those experienced in nurturing our families of children might contribute to the discussion. Please make it a point to be worshipping and contributing your questions, experiences and ideas with everyone else.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor David Milam



Pictures courtesy of Eric Sassak

ADULT MINISTRIES

Phoebe's Sisters

This women's group meets the third Saturday each 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. The next meeting is January 20th. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, please contact Bonnie Milam at 540 454-7816.

The St. Andrew Book Club

This group meets monthly outside the church. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on January 27th. The book under discussion will be My Own Words by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Please contact Zoe Sowers at 540 338-0999 or zsowers@gmail.com to join the discussion. Do join us; we are a friendly group!

Lovettsville Group

This group meets twice a month on Sunday evenings. The meeting place rotates among the members of the group. Contact Debra Gutenson at 540 882-3205 or gutenson50@loudounwireless.com for more information.

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.

Men's Group

This group meets the first Saturday of the month in the fellowship hall. Coffee starts at 7:30 am and breakfast/fellowship at 8:00 am. The next meeting is January 7th. All men of the church are invited. To join, contact Jeff Kauffman at jnk@thekauffmangroup.com.

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 8th. We will be discussing Cloud of Witnesses. For more information, contact Ann Paciulli at annpaciulli@gmail.com.

SAPC Investment Group

Everyone is welcome to join the next meeting on January 3rd from 9:00 to 9:50 am in the church basement. The group will meet every other Sunday and a different topic will be introduced at each meeting. The meetings are hosted by Manny Njomo and Scott Ziegler.

ADULT MINISTERIES COMMITTEE

We will be holding a meeting on January 10th at 7pm at the church for all current small group leaders and anyone else who is interested in leading a small group during Lent. We will be working on the discussion theme for Lent and organizing small groups.

The Peace of Jerusalem

Spirit." And we supported Israel – but not because it was a Jewish state, an innovation coming as a modicum of justice to Jews because of the horrors of the Holocaust. We supported Israel because the prophecies about Jesus' coming corresponded with our readings of the Bible that said conflict with Israel was the key to understanding that now is the time for Jesus' return.

As a young person, I loved the fantasy, but since then – especially because of having a Palestinian Christian as a teacher and a mentor – I have rethought such ideas. Instead of reveling in triumphant notions that some of us were the lucky ones headed to heaven, while a good portion of the world was just about to get swept away in the devil's fall, I began to wonder why aren't we seeing God's goodness triumphing in much the same way that Jesus triumphed by enduring suffering, siding with the disenfranchised and unclean, loving those who were maligned as unworthy?

The prophet Amos rebukes his contemporaries for wishing for God's coming wrath. In the fifth chapter of his Old Testament book, he says:

¹⁸ Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹ as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

It is clear to me that a good part of the reason for our government's change of policy with regard to having our embassy in Jerusalem comes as an appeal to folks like those I worshipped with at Calvary Chapel. The support given to Israel, as such, is an appeal to the vanity of those who believe that they are on God's side and to hell with the rest. As a flight of fantasy, I welcome my more fundamentalist brothers and sisters to it. But when it becomes a basis for the formation of public policy, I'm with Amos: "No, really, you don't want the Day of the Lord. It is a day of darkness and not light." Yes, indeed, I would love to see peace come to Jerusalem, but I have deep doubts that this change of policy is not really about peace. It is supported by those who want Armageddon, a fantasy of war that brings with it death and destruction.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Dave Milam

The Peace of Jerusalem

Would that there was peace in Jerusalem. Having visited the city, I have seen both the promising prospects and agonizing barriers that there are to such a peace. So, when I heard that the U.S. was taking action to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, I thought to myself: "Oh boy. Would that such a move wouldn't be so difficult. And oh, what outcomes might there be if the politics of this move backfires."

Forty years ago, I was a part of another church – a fundamentalist and charismatic church one of whose staples was their readiness for the second coming of Jesus. The church – Calvary Chapel – even had a sign on its building, saying: Jesus is Coming Again: Soon!

We talked excitedly and confidently about such things as "the rapture," "the final week (seven years) of tribulation," "666" and "Armageddon." We looked forward for the "Day of the Lord," shaking our heads at the foolishness of those who hadn't made themselves ready by being "born again," or being "baptized in the

YOUTH AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

Carson and I are so excited to be a part of this church family. Advent was a wonderful experience at St Andrew. It started with the Advent Workshop and Chili Cookoff. All of the chili crock pots were delicious but first place this year went to Chris Butkus. The sanctuary was full for the NLC Christmas Program. Pastor Dave helped out with the NLC Polar Express Day. Wonderful church volunteers decorated the church for Advent. The Christmas Eve services were all different and meaningful and well attended. In Sunday School, the children learned the Christmas story through Godly Play. A special thanks to our wonderful Godly Play team, WAC team, and CYM team for caring about the children and families of St Andrew.

January begins a new year filled with new possibilities. Sunday morning and Wednesday night opportunities for children to experience God's love and learn from the Bible will continue, even though it may look a little different. Involving kids in mission opportunities and teaching them to help others will continue. Welcoming families from the NLC and our community to join us on Sundays for worship will continue with exciting outreach events planned throughout the year. I look forward to a full year of worshiping and serving at St Andrew.

Blessings,
JoAnna



Dear St. Andrew Congregation,

Bonnie and I so appreciated your wonderful generosity demonstrated in the Christmas gift that you shared with us this year. We were overwhelmed with your generosity and encouraged in our service to the congregation. We hope that you found the joy of Christ's presence in your lives and those of your family during this season, as well. Thanks to the many who came to our home for our Christmas party. We delight in having our house filled with people, conversation and joy. And, of course, the choir's Christmas cantata and the Christmas Eve services all help point us to the generosity of God who gives the greatest gift, Jesus Christ.

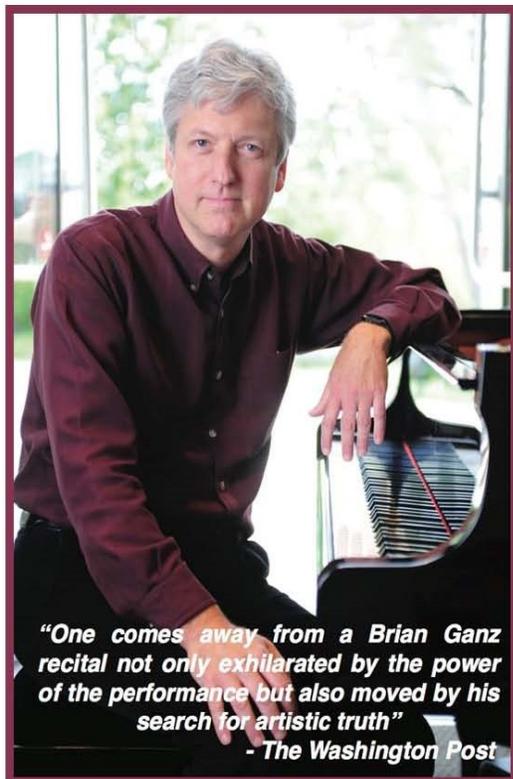
Anyway, thanks so much for making us feel beloved.

Yours,
Pastor Dave

MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Music With A Cause

Featuring **BRIAN GANZ**



Pianist,

**Sunday,
JANUARY 21
@4PM**

Tickets are \$20. Advance tickets can be purchase online [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (search "music with a cause")

Proceeds will benefit
Community Coalition of Haiti

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Happy Anniversary this month to:*
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 14 | Brad and Aiza Morell | 17 | Larkin Howard |
| 19 | Ralph and Lisbeth Immel | 18 | Stephen Fike |
| 21 | Mark and Kate Rohrbaugh | | Christine Goerges |
| 23 | Tom and June Hutchison | | Joseph Ratke |
| 30 | Brian and Ashley Lutz | 19 | Ruth Smale |
| | | 20 | Grace Cassutto |
| | | 22 | Phoebe Gearhart |
| <i>Happy Birthday this month to:</i> | | | Hudson Hagert |
| | | | Courtney Howard |
| 3 | Kate Rohrbaugh | 24 | MK Ntantang |
| 4 | Nick Kleck | 25 | Lisbeth Immel |
| 5 | Camrynn Archer | 26 | Christopher Miller |
| 6 | Alyssa Rosslee | 27 | Ben Gehl |
| 7 | Hunter Kadilak | | Molly Polizotto |
| 8 | Jane Wissmath | | Myrick Zobrist |
| 9 | Aiza Morell | 28 | Laurie Barbagallo |
| | Lisa Van Alstyne | 31 | Michael Dragon |
| 13 | Henry Myers | | Cody Gondella |
| 14 | Cameron Njomo | | |
| | Charlie Schwieger | | |

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

We lift up our concerns

Congregation

Tom Bolduc scheduled for a heart transplant. The Brownell Family, for the passing of Jim Brownell on Nov. 19. Melissa Macdonald Scoliosis (back pain). Prayer for the Cahoon and Buttrick families, for the death of Rev. Steve Cahoon. The Wiley family, for the death of Dr. Jim Wiley. Diane Pitman recovering from surgery. Andy Miller. Sarah MacWhorter who is undergoing cancer treatment. Tom Hutchison

We continue to pray for

Friends and Family

Laurie Barbagallo asks for prayers upon the death of Clarke County High School junior Landen Warren. Kristen Westfall's friend Gale's 99-year-old father, who passed away. Lisa Van Alstyne for the Sheen family. Shelby Waugh's family and friends. Emily Henderson's grandmother has pneumonia. Leslie Dragon's brother, Todd has passed away in Richmond. Mitch Seipt's aunt Marilyn's kidney transplant. The Diehls pray for their grandson, Dimas. Laurie Barbagallo for a Social Studies teacher in Clarke County, whose wife Judy Ravenscroft died. Deborah Hill's friend, Sunita Runke who's doing well after illness. Former member of church, Meredith Moore had surgery and is in Rehab. George Cassuto's sister, Hetty, who awaits kidney donation.



Eugene Evans mom. Aileen hospitalized for lung infection.

NLC

Good news - Toni Kontos cancer tumor is shrinking and she welcomed grandson Gabriel.

Joys

Sharda Edward's cancer is in remission. Luke Rohrbaugh earned his Black Belt. Scotty Hill recovering from back pain surgery. Kirsten Shields for a successful Music with a Cause Concert. LAWS Adopt a Family was a success. LVHS won the national cross country championship. John Barbagallo completed his student teaching. Kim Yager's niece Rachel had a baby. Lisa Van Alstyne welcomed a new addition to

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

Flower Calendar



A new flower calendar for 2018 is in the church entry way. Please consider providing flowers for Sunday worship.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gilmore at 540-338-3154 or ngilmore5@verizon.net.

Christmas Poinsettias

Thanks to all who donated poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services.



The sanctuary ready for the Christmas Eve services.

PRAYERS (CONTINUED)

the family, grandson Isaac to daughter Nissa. Drew and Debra Gutensohn's zip line adventure. The marriage of Ally Moler to Brandon.

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.

SCRIPTURES AND SERMONS FOR EPIPHANY

Journeys Through the Bible Series: Family and Tribe

January 7th (Baptism of the Lord; The Lord's Supper)

Theme: The Challenge of Growing Up in a Fragmented Age

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-18; Mark 3:31-35

Sermon: *"Negotiating the River with Baptismal Direction"*

Worship Leader: Emily Brenton

Music: St. Andrew Choir

January 14th (Second Sunday after Epiphany)

Theme: Gender Roles and the Problem with Patriarchy

Scripture: Judges 19:1-30; Galatians 3:28-4:7

Sermon: *"Marriage Equality"*

Worship Leader: Kate Rohrbaugh

Music: New Song

January 21st (Third Sunday after Epiphany)

Theme: Dysfunction in the Family

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-10; 2 Samuel 11:27b-12:12

Sermon: *"Stuff: It Does Happen"*

Worship Leader: Mitch Seipt

Music: St. Andrew Choir and St. Andrew Ringers



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The Rev. Dr. David Milam, Pastor

The Rev. Jo Anna Rich, Children and Family Ministries Director

Kimball Peele, Clerk of Session

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

January 28th (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany; Annual Congregational Meeting)

Theme: Repairing Trauma in Marital and Family Relationships

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Sermon: *"Healing by the World Turned Upside Down"*

Worship Leader: Dan Miner

Music: St. Andrew Choir