



Presbytidings – April 2024

An outreach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Words from Your Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

Transitional Pastor
Rev. Eric
Koenig-Reinke
standrewpastoreric@gmail.com

Office Hours
by Appointment

Administrative Asst.
Mark Brasington

Email
adm.standrewabq@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Thursday
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Phone/Fax
Phone 505-881-9626
Fax 505-884-9636

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I am writing this, with Easter in the rearview mirror, and the joy of that morning fresh in my mind. It was a joyous Sunday, and I enjoyed having a relaxing Monday. One thing that is also true, is that while many pastors say ‘we made it through Easter!’ this sentiment is not quite true. We made it through Easter Sunday yes however the season of Easter, often called Eastertide, lasts 50 days until Pentecost. So, in many ways, Easter has just begun, and the joy of Easter is not just a one-time morning of joy and singing; the dance goes on, and we live as an Easter people. As a blog post I came across recently put it; “So what does it mean to live as Easter people? It means we live as a people, all parts of Christ’s Body working together toward a single purpose: love.”

As St. Andrew seeks to live as an Easter people, we are working in the transition to name our priorities, and our particular expression as the Body of Christ living into the purpose of love. The transition team is getting off the ground to lead the congregation in the work of discernment, and visioning as we seek to answer the questions;

- Who are we as the people of God?*
- Who are our Neighbors?*
- Who is God calling us to be?*

A few Mondays ago, I met with the newly formed transition team: Barb Sanders, Cheryl Heller, Mike Maloney, Jim Copeland, Patty Emord, and Eleanor Milroy. This team will help to guide and coordinate the work that goes into our congregation’s collective discernment as we seek to answer those three questions. The material, feedback, data, observations, and all the other ‘stuff’ they produce will be used to craft the mission study document, and when the time is right a small group will be tasked with the compiling and writing of that document. In the coming months, much more information about the team, and their work will be shared; and remember that this is the team that will guide the process, and also, it is a process that will involve the entire congregation.

As we enjoy this Eastertide, and live as an Easter People throughout the entire year, let us dream about what the God who brought Jesus back from the dead, might be able to accomplish through our ministry and witness of love.

Pastor Eric



Why SAPC gives to the National Church

Bob Busch and Kathy Renfro

The Social Justice and Mission Committee and the Finance and Stewardship Committee want to express thanks for your continued giving. We want to let you know where a significant portion of that giving goes – it goes to mission. Presbyterian mission giving changes lives. While our church's mission is diverse, it is unified in its allegiance to a holistic witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many ways are available to support mission through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For mission giving, our budget provides monies for local missions such as Family Promise and Rio Grande Food Project, and monies for denominational mission or shared mission support. The question is sometimes raised asking why we give money to PCUSA? As a connectional church, when we work together, we accomplish a lot. The support from St. Andrew to the national level, extends the reach of impact around the world, with international and ecumenical partners. We are in ministry together, and together we are the visible presence of Jesus Christ. For every season and every age, the Church is invited, anew, to answer the question of Matthew 25 and decide how we will participate to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

Shared Mission Support is shown as Denominational Monies in the St. Andrew budget. As part of the budgeting process, the Session determines how much money will be sent to the Presbytery, Synod, and Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCUSA). The St. Andrew budget has four line items under denominational mission: PCUSA Mission Giving, Per Capita, 1% to Presbytery, and Theological Education fund. For 2024, the budgeted amounts are \$15,000 to PCUSA Mission Giving, \$5,772 to per capita (\$37 per member), and \$500 each to 1% to Presbytery and Theological education. The churches of Santa Fe Presbytery are asked to send contributions to Presbytery office for the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. The contributions are to be sent in two categories: 1) mission giving 2) per capita. It is important to know that all the monies you send go to the work of the church and that it is ALL MISSION.

There may be confusion on the difference between Mission Giving and Per Capita. Some years ago, the church set up these two categories, which may be confusing. Unified Mission giving includes direct programmatic ministries like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, missionaries, network committees, and youth ministry. Per capita dollars undergird, support, and enable the missional work of the church. Examples of per capita include General Assembly meetings, Commission on Ministry, Stated Clerk, and office expenses. All of these monies go to support mission projects far outside the bounds of the St. Andrew neighborhood. It is because we are a connectional church and part of PCUSA that we provide.

Per Capita giving is not as glamorous as Unified Mission giving, but it allows the PCUSA through Unified Mission Giving monies to have its greatest impact. We approved a 2024 budget with an estimated deficit of about \$60,000. Through the first 2 months of the year, we are doing well with income exceeding expenses. However, we are not out of the woods yet. Because much of the income in January and February came from people fulfilling all their 2024 pledge, the income is expected to tail off through the rest of the year. One of the ways you can help reduce the expected deficit is to provide monies to cover your per capita of \$37. You might just add \$4 to each month's donation or maybe provide a one-time donation of \$37. Thank you for your continued support of the mission of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.



THE STONE THE BUILDERS REJECTED

by

Anna Redsand

(My email is: aredsand@gmail.com)

The architect stepped out of her pickup and stood by the truck door, putting on her hardhat and pouring coffee into her thermos cup. Her faded Levi jacket kept out the spring wind. She walked over to where the contractor and a few of the builders stood with their steaming cups, waiting on her arrival. They exchanged greetings, a word about the weather, and began a stroll around the golden, dressed sandstone foundation, cups in hand. “Foundation’s looking good,” the architect said, and the masons nodded. “Have you found the right block for the cornerstone?” she asked. She and the contractor had agreed that today they would make the final pick. “I’ve picked two I think would work,” he said, sounding pleased. “Let’s have a look.”

The contractor took her to two blocks he had set aside. She looked and looked some more, without saying anything. Finally, the contractor said, “Well?” “Either one might do. They’re both oka-ay,” she said. “But?” he said. “But they’re not really distinctive. Too much of the same shade as the foundation stones.” She surveyed the building site. “What’s that? Over there?” She pointed with her lips, in the Diné way, to a heap of stones a ways off from the foundation. “Oh,” the contractor said dismissively, “Those are the discards. Some have a crack or a chip we can’t smooth out. Some are just the wrong shade.”

The architect headed toward the pile. She donned her leather gloves, picked up stones, considered them, moved them aside to get to the ones underneath, examining them as she went. The builders headed back to the site. They continued to dress and lay stones for the next course. The architect kept moving rocks, stood with her chin in her hand, and finally pulled one from near the bottom over to the side of the pile. She called to the contractor, and when he reached the heap, she said simply, “This one.” “That one?” he said. There was almost a tone of contempt in his voice. The stone she had chosen was a lighter gold than the foundation stones, almost cream colored, and there were streaks of lavender running through it. “It’s completely the wrong color,” he said. She smiled. “It’s just right. A cornerstone is not a foundation stone, right?” He nodded, a bit hesitantly. “It’s the building’s message bearer. It tells something about the building – when it was built, sometimes who built it. Sometimes it covers a hollow space that holds significant objects, objects that tell a story about the building’s purpose, people connected with it. It needs to stand out, call attention to the story of the edifice. This is the cornerstone,” she affirmed. “I’ll take it to the engraver today. Good choice.”

THE STONE THE BUILDERS REJECTED

(page 2)

The contractor took off his hardhat and scratched his head. “Architects,” he said under his breath. This is a thrice told tale. Oh, it’s probably actually been told more times than that. In fact, I know it has. The first time I know of was told in the Bible, in Psalm 118, probably written by the poet king of Israel, David. In the New Testament, Jesus retold it. Both of them said it this way, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” Many teachers have taught it, and ministers have preached on it, among them my father. He always said that these few lines meant that Jesus serves as the foundation of our lives, the one on whom our faith is built. I love that there are so many ways of interpreting, of understanding, of applying, the words and stories found in the Bible. The search for new ways of seeing, of learning, never grows stale.

The architect in this story looked at Jesus’ and David’s words in a different way from my father’s—she said that a cornerstone is not the same as a foundation stone. Perhaps it was when the Bible was written. But today, a cornerstone is a storyteller. Both King David and Jesus were wordsmiths – a poet and a storyteller. Both had experienced rejection; they were outsiders. The task of insiders is to maintain the status quo. The ones who strive to keep things the way they’ve always been. In ancient times, they were the ones who rejected the poet and the storyteller. Outsiders see things from a different perspective than the insiders do. They are the prophets, the changemakers, the message bearers. The cornerstones. They are the ones who are different from the mainstream – the poets, the artists, the storytellers, the activists, the poor. They may have a different color from the ones in power. The stories they tell can lead us to a new understand-

Adult Christian Education Spring Series: Beyond Death

April 7 Near Death Experiences – Bill Miller

Near-death experiences can happen to anyone and are reported by about 10% of people whose hearts stop. What do these common experiences tell us? Are they a transition from one form of consciousness to another? Bill Miller will lead a discussion based on Bruce Greyson’s book *After: A Doctor Explores What Near-Death Experiences Reveal about Life and Beyond*.

April 14 How We Die – Elizabeth Paterson, NP and Beverly Jackson, RN

How does life end? What are the normal physical processes that are likely to occur for most of us in dying? What is involved in New Mexico’s Medical Aid in Dying law? Two experienced hospice professionals will lead a compassionate journey through the end of life.

Optional resource: Sherwin B. Nuland, *How We Die: Reflections on Life’s Final Chapter*.

April 21 What Do We Believe about Death? – Pastor Eric Koenig-Reinke

“The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians’ attitudes and responses to the event of death.” (Book of Order) What does our Reformed faith tradition teach about death and eternal life? What do you yourself believe? Pastor Eric will lead a discussion about faith, death, and life thereafter.

April 28 Preparing for a Memorial Service – Pastor Eric Koenig-Reinke

“Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, the session should encourage members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death.”

(Book of Order) What is involved in planning a Service of Witness to the Resurrection for yourself or a loved one? Pastor Eric will describe the steps and processes involved and encourage us to update our file of preferences in the church office.

May 5 Planning Ahead – Sonia Lersten

What preparations can we make to ease the burden on our family when we die? Only about one-third of U.S. adults have a will. How can we do some “Swedish death cleaning” to de-clutter a lifetime of stuff so our children don’t have to? What legacy can we leave? Retired financial counselor Sonia Lersten will lead this discussion.

Optional resource: Margarete Magnusson, *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*.

Ponderosa Preschool

Ponderosa Preschool (PPS) is getting off the ground! After receiving zoning approval and finalizing a lease agreement in December, we began classes in January. PPS also began paying rent. Our board began working to develop bylaws and prepare documents for filing for non-profit status with the IRS. We weathered our first state inspection in February. Brittany was invited and joined CNM'S Early Childhood Director's Network Cohort.

There are currently four young children enrolled, with a current maximum capacity of twelve. In April, PPS and Share Your Care are taking a joint field trip to the Rio Grande Food Project. It has been an utter joy to work with our friends at SYC on site, and we look forward to our first community outing together. We are working on several grants to increase capacity and improve programming, including laying the groundwork to provide NM Free Pre-K. We need extra hands to help with grant writing and non-profit filing; classroom volunteers are welcome! Please contact Brittany at bbrinker@ponderosapreschool.com, if you are interested. We want to extend a special thank you to Pastor Eric Koenig-Reike, Karen Ulack, James Wise, Yvonne Wise and Hugh Wishart for their tireless efforts and support.



Session Summary March 19, 2024 – Suzanne Busch

Hello, friends! Session was quite busy this month. We approved a number of items:

- Spend \$1,000 to build a cabinet to house livestreaming equipment.
- Purchase a new inclusive banner for the church.
- Accept resignation of agent Michael Gaylor of St. Andrew to the State Corp. Commission and Appoint Joe Woodworth! Thank you, Joe!
- \$4,000 for new lighting in the Activity Room from Building Reserve Fund
- Therese Smith as Assistant Finance Secretary
- Hold a brief special session meeting on March 24 (Palm Sunday) directly after church to meet and vote on new members. The new members will be received during the worship service March 31, Easter Sunday!
- Building Use Request: ChildCo Day School Pre-K Graduation on a Friday in May (Sanctuary only and have been here before)
- Extra Rehearsal and concert for Encantada Band of Enchantment, May 31 and June 1; and an extra rehearsal for The New Mexico Peace Choir on June 11
- Approve removal of play equipment from courtyard per recommendation of Ponderosa Pre-School
- Clerk's Report: Average Attendance in February - 97, Membership as of February 29, 2024 – 147.

<u>February 2024</u>	Current Month	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Income	34,319	113,398	290,700
Total Expenses	24,279	63,301	346,436
Difference	10,040	50.097	-55,736

**2024 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE
SOME BILLS OF INTEREST THAT PASSED**

HB 7: Healthcare Affordability Fund – Distribution – Health Insurance Premium Surtax – Healthcare Affordability Fund. The effective date for the provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.

HB 33: The Prescription Drug Transparency Act – Relating to prescription drugs; enacting the Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act to increase transparency across the prescription drug supply train; requiring prescription drug manufacturers, pharmacy services administrative organizations, health insurers and pharmacy benefits managers to report prescription drug price trends to the Superintendent of Insurance; requiring the Superintendent of Insurance to collect and publicly report aggregate information on prescription drug price trends; prescribing civil penalties.

HB 151: Post-Secondary Affirmative Consent Policies – Requiring State-funded post-secondary educational institutions to adopt policies and procedures addressing affirmative consent and prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and harassment or stalking.

HB 5: Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Fund – Relating to workforce development; creating the Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Trust Fund; making annual transfers from the Trust Fund to the Public Work Apprentice and Training Fund and annual appropriations to the Work force Solutions Department for the purposes of the Apprenticeship Assistance Act, clarifying that the Workforce Solutions Department administers the Public Works Apprentice & Training Act the Apprenticeship Assistance Act

HN 177: NM Match Fund – The New Mexico Match Fund, a new section of the Department of Finance and Administration Act, is created as a non-reverting fund in the State Treasury. The fund consists of distributions, appropriations, gifts, grants and donations The Department shall administer the fund. The Department may use the money in the fund to make grants to an eligible entity for State matching funds for federal grants and to offset higher project costs incurred to comply with federal requirements.

SB 3: Paid Family Medical Leave – failed to pass the House floor vote – The main criticism of the bill was that it did not have provisions in the bill for assistance in funding for the program by the government which is crucial to maintain a viable program for small businesses and non- profit organizations that are operating on a shoestring. When this issue is addressed adequately, such a bill will probably pass in the future.

HB 41: Clean Transportation Fuel Standards – An act relating to the environment authorizing the Environmental Improvement Board to adapt rules to establish and assess fees for a clean transportation fuel standard.

HB 91 Geothermal Resources Project Funds – Relating to geothermal resources; amending the duties of the Energy Conservation and Management Division of the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept. creating the Geothermal Projects Development Fund; authorizing grants; creating the Geothermal Projects Revolving Loan Fund.

SB 169: Land and Water Conservation Fund Changes – Relating to Finance; amending the State Supplemental Land and Water Conservation Fund; removing the Political Subdivision Fund matching requirement; removing the Incorporated Municipality Population Cap; amending Eligible Recipients of Funds; requiring prioritization of funding requests of Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos; clarifying fund usage; removing a reference to a defunct entity; revising citations.

In order to have access to the texts of the bills log on to www.nmlegis.org

Lenten Book Discussion

Thursdays on Zoom 5:30-6:30 pm, Pastor Eric continues a discussion on the book *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*, by Otis Moss III. It is no secret that we live in a turbulent time (perhaps all times are). This book examines themes of justice, love, spiritual resistance, racism, hope, and aims to give lessons that will allow our personal and collective thriving.

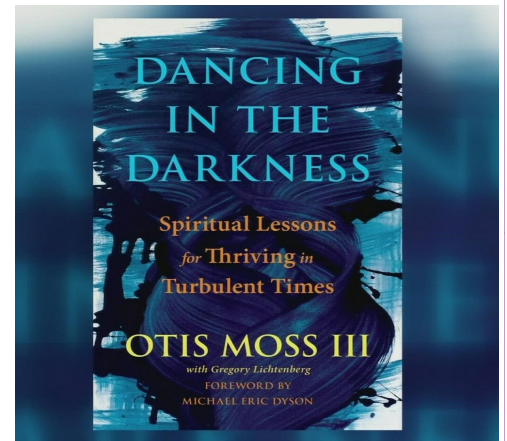
Our conversations have proved rich, and meaningful, leading us to fall behind on the original schedule as we dive into discussion! Note the schedule below, and always remember you are welcome to join!

- April 4 – Chapter 7: Pardon our Dust
- April 11 – Chapter 8: Dance in the Darkness
- April 18 – Epilogue and Next Steps

The Zoom link to join in and participate in this study is listed below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84595551039?pwd=Q052cG1HMmJUZEk1TDREQ285ZTJadz09>

Meeting ID: 845 9555 1039 Passcode: 581780



Little Green Bucket Food Waste Recycling

Our long awaited recycling service began on March 15. The Little Green Bucket is the name of our service and the scheduling for pick up and delivery of the new container will be on Friday of every other week. Each has the directions for recycling on the top of the container. Signs are posted above the containers and in both kitchens. Locations: 1 in the mini-kitchen; and 1 in the activity room. The pick up and delivery dates are every other Friday, and service began on March 15.

The monthly service cost includes all the services above; and also one large bag of compost delivered to us once a year. We are pleased to be joining the recycling efforts of the Little Green Bucket, helping to divert food waste away from our local landfills and put it to good use in our soils.



Habitat
for Humanity

In a recent sermon message, Eric mentioned the importance of “training others” to carry on the ministries of St. Andrew as time passes. I’m feeling the need to do just that! I have coordinated St. Andrew’s work with Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity for several years. I am familiar with the Habitat staff, the process of recruiting and scheduling volunteer construction workers, the variety of ways to raise funds for a house, working with other denominations to see that a house is completed, etc.

If a person in the St. Andrew congregation is willing to work with me for the next year to get familiar with the tasks, or maybe two people who would like to share the tasks in the future, would you please contact me so we could have a conversation? Connect with me, Marilyn Stoops, at worship, or call me at (505) 265-8358 or email me at mstoops@swcp.com



Lectionary Schedule

Sunday – April 7

The Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133: 1-3

Second Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2

Gospel John 20:19-31

Sunday – April 14

The Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4:1-8

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday – April 21

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23:1-6

Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel John 10:11-18

Sunday – April 28

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel John 10:11-18

Memorial Service celebrating the life of Edith Waugh-Feliciano

The memorial service celebrating the life of Edith Waugh-Feliciano will be held on Saturday, April 27th at 2:00 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Avenue NE, in Albuquerque New Mexico.

A reception will follow.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, April 2, at 10:00 am in the Adult Christian Education room. *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* is our current study.

Lesson Eight:

Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship

Scripture: Acts 16:11-15

Main Idea: Baptism connects us to God and the community of faith.

Rev. Catherine Robinson will lead the study and all are welcome to join us. You are also welcome to stay for a brief business meeting following the study.

April Birthdays

- 1 Andrecia Washington
- Jennifer Moore
- 6 John Dean Ann Harrison
- 7 Eleanor Milroy
- 8 Bill Renfro
- 9 Judith Wilde
- Max Templeton
- Michael Molony
- 14 Keri Soliz
- 15 Sarah Montoya
- 19 Agnes Franzak
- Daniel Wishart
- 21 Michael Gaylor
- 27 Walker Yates
- Ann Weeda
- 28 Pierce Green
- 29 Sonia Lersten

Slow Mountain Walkers and the Old Orchard

The Slow Mountain Walkers will go to the Ojito de San Antonio open space north of Tijeras on Saturday, April 6. We will leave the church at 1:00 pm and return by 4:00 or 4:30 pm.

We will walk past an ancient acequia, through an old orchard and up to a knob with great views. Contact Joe Woodworth for more information. We may catch the cherry trees in bloom.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Monday after Easter Church office is closed. No pastor out of office hours at Sawmill.	2 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am 4:30 pm Social Justice Committee Weekly Announcements Due	3 N.M. Peace Choir rehearsal	4 10:00 am Spiritual Formation on Zoom Worship and Music Committee 4:00 pm on Zoom 5:30 pm Lenten Book Study	5 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	6 Slow Mountain Walkers 1:00 - 4:30 pm
7 9:30 am Worship Service and Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	8 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	9 Weekly Announcements Due	10 4:00 pm Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	11 8:30 am Finance Committee/Zoom 10 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Group on Zoom 5:30 pm Lenten Book Study Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	12 Church Office Closed	13 Church Office Closed
14 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	15 Church Office closed ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	16 Church Office closed Weekly Announcements Due Racial Justice 4:00 pm Session 6:00 pm	17 Church Office closed 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	18 Church Office closed 10:00 am Spiritual Formation/Zoom 10 am Stroke Club 5:30 pm Lenten Book Study Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	19 Church Office Closed 10:00 am Outreach Committee 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm ABQ Science Fiction Society	20 Church Office Closed
21 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	22 Church Office Closed ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	23 Church office closed Weekly Announcements Due	24 Presbytidings Articles due for the May/June Issue 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	25 10 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Group on Zoom Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	26 Church Office Closed	27 Edith Waugh-Feliciano Memorial Service 2:00 pm
28 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E.	29 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	30 Weekly Announcements Due				

The church office will be closed April 12 through April 23 and will reopen on Wednesday, April 25 at 8:30 am.