



Presbytidings – February 2024

An outreach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Words from Your Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

I thought long about what I should include in this edition of Presbytidings, and concluded that I should give some sort of update on the transition. I had just recently given our session a similar update for my January Pastor 's report, and decided that it was fitting to share with the whole congregation as well. So that is what I am doing!

January has arrived, and one of the cultural phenomena of the New Year, is New Year's resolutions; goals, intentions, things to work on or toward. I made my own personal list, and will admit that I have already adjusted those goals within the first 2 weeks of the new year. Now that I have been at St. Andrew for a little over 3 months, I feel as though I have better perspective and I believe it is time to make a list. While the items maybe not exactly be 'resolutions' *per se*, they are some of the things that I view as important in this transitional time as St. Andrew moves into a new and ever-changing future. And so, I am including a list for you, know that some of these will change, some we may never get to, and other items will be added (and they are listed in no particular order). Some are items for review, and others are events. Some will be easy, and others much more complicated. This list is just a beginning point and will help guide us as we collectively do the work of the transitional period.

- Communication from session to the congregation
- The website
- Job descriptions of all staff members
- Job descriptions of all church committees
- The committee structure of the church
- The church policy manual (session is starting this process at our January meeting)
- Talking about money
- Lenten Book Study (evening time on Zoom, still to be determined)
- A new member class
- Officer training
- An officer retreat
- Strengthen relationships with the many groups using our building

The work of the transition (or interim) does not happen just from your transitional pastor, or the session, or the mission study team, or any one individual, but rather by the whole church, so I urge you to look for invitations to get involved in this work!



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

St. Andrew News and Events

Words
from your
Transitional
Pastor

The Souper Bowl
of Caring

Lenten
Book Discussion
Shrub Live Oak
HopeWorks

New Church
Phone System'

Lent and Easter
Sanctified Art

An Oasis of Peace
Adult Christian Ed
In February

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FaithWorks Raffle

Sally Aber
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Calendar

The Souper Bowl of Caring



The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." 22 churches raised \$5,700 in the first year."

Since 1990, close to \$193 million has been reported donated to local food charities across all fifty states with over 305,000 unique groups participating. Every dollar donated to Souper Bowl of Caring creates over \$18 for food charities. We unite all communities to Tackle Hunger. For more information on how Tackle Hunger and the Souper Bowl of Caring organizations combat hunger go to: <https://tacklehunger.org>

St Andrew has participated in this offering for many years and will continue to do so on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11. Your generosity to this offering has been outstanding. We have collected close to \$3000 in each of the past three years. The Rio Grande Food Project has been our monetary recipient and will be again this year. Additionally, we invite you to bring non-perishable food (like cans of SOUP) to be donated to SHINE's project of providing Hunger Bags for students at Governor Bent Elementary School.

At the end of the service on February 11, three people will have bowls with the name of the NFC team and AFC team competing in the Super Bowl. You are invited to vote, with your donation, for the team you think will win the Super Bowl. If you Don't Know or Don't Care there will a third bowl for your donation. This really isn't about the Super Bowl, it's about the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING and fighting hunger in our community!

Lenten Book Discussion

Thursdays on Zoom 5:30-6:30 pm I (Pastor Eric) will lead 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). The book examines themes of justice, love, spiritual resistance, racism, hope, and aims to give lessons that will allow our personal and collective thriving.

The blurb on the inside of the book jacket notes that:

“Dancing in the Darkness is a “life-affirming” (Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown) guide to the practical, political, and spiritual challenges of our day. Drawing on the teachings of Dr. King, Howard Thurman, sacred scripture, southern wisdom, global spiritual traditions, Black culture, and his own personal experiences, Dr. Moss instructs you on how to practice spiritual resistance by combining justice and love. This collection helps us tap into the spiritual reserves we all possess but too often overlook, so we can slay our personal demons, confront our civic challenges, and reach our highest goals.”

I hope that you will join me as we think about our highest goals for a church, as we dream for the future, and as we root ourselves in our spiritual lives and the divine. A tentative schedule is:

- February 15th - Forward; Introduction; and Chapter 1: Link Love and Justice
- February 22nd - Chapters 2: Consecrate Your Chaos; and 3: Redirect Your Rage
- February 29th - Chapters 4: Beat Bias; and 5: Rework Your Origin Story
- March 7th - Chapters 6: Practice Prophetic Grief; and 7: Pardon Our Dust
- March 14th - Chapter 8: Dance in the Darkness; and Epilogue
- March 21st - Review and Next Steps?



Shrub Live Oak

This 20-ft tall “shrub live oak” tree has been growing at the edge of an arroyo running through the Elena Gallegos open space at least since the Civil war, and maybe since the Revolutionary war. Because it has its roots sunk deeply into the moist soil at the bottom of the arroyo it has survived, through good times and bad. If we are as deeply rooted in God, as this tree is in the arroyo, then we too will survive, whatever may come.



St. Andrew is doing **HopeWorks** on Monday, February 12. We have 4 chicken/rice casseroles, but need 4 more, & we also need 8 dozen cookies/ brownies. Please contact Sharon Burkhardt if you're willing to do a casserole or provide cookies. Please deliver cookies & cooked, heated, casseroles to church by 11:15 am on the 12th. Thanks for participating in this effort.

Sharon Burkhardt, Moderator of Deacons

New Office Phone System

Our new Elevate VOIP internet-based office phone system is now installed and offers new features and 24-hour access by St. Andrew office staff, either in-person or remotely when necessary. There is also a new dedicated Voicemail choice for either the office (Mark) or for Pastor Eric.



This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out — just like us.

As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "**Come Thou Fount**" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God.

In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Lent & Easter 2024

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

FEB 14 | 7PM | SANCTUARY

Ash Wednesday Service

AN OASIS OF PEACE



A Sunday afternoon hike in Teec Nos Pos, deep in the Navajo Nation, took me, my father and my siblings to a spot we'd never seen before. We started in the familiar arroyo bed across from the mission and followed it south and gently upward toward the blue-black Carrizo Mountains. And then we came upon it—a rare, high desert oasis, a small, spring-fed pond surrounded by granite boulders, some of them softened by velvety moss. Reeds edged the pool, and a great cottonwood's low branches brought relief from the sun. As if the discovery of water and shade weren't enough, beneath the surface we saw a cluster of glassy globes, each with a tiny black dot in the center. "Those are frog eggs," Dad told us. The place was magical, and over the years it's returned to my memory again and again.

There is a sense of peaceful respite and succor in stories and real-life experiences of oases, turning just the word into a powerful metaphor for soul-sustenance. In *The Book of Joy*, conversations between the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, the Archbishop tells us, "Become a reservoir of joy, an oasis of peace, a pool of serenity that can ripple out to all those around you." Recently I reread this quote, and I couldn't help thinking of St. Andrew's mission to a weary world, a world that can seem as dry as the high desert we love but from which at times we also need to find refuge and replenishment.

In Tutu's reference, the oasis of peace is meant to ripple outward, which I take to mean the cultivation of peace starts within each of us—through our connection with the Holy One in the diverse ways we find to make that connection. Our union with the Divine is the wellspring that feeds the pool at the center of the oasis. Then the first ripple can extend a spring-fed spirit of peacefulness when pain or conflicts arise with the people closest to us—family, friends, our St. Andrew family — an eagerness to provide comfort, a willingness to not insist on our own way, to not be easily provoked. Further outward then, in hospitality toward the communities we live in. And then to the world, in the many ways St. Andrew does, including in our prayer lives, perhaps praying the news as we read it or watch it. May God grant that each of us become an oasis of peace, rippling out into a weary world.

– Anna Redsand

*I've been worshipping with St. Andrew via livestream, and Catherine Robinson suggested I might connect further by doing some writing for Presbytidings, so I thought I'd give it a try. You can connect with me through my website or email, or phone (I am in the church directory), and you might be interested in following my new serialized memoir: **Fissure: A Life Between Cultures**.*

Here's a description: <https://www.annaredsand.com/newsletter183034.htm>
and a link to the first installment: <https://www.annaredsand.com/blog/posts/43813>

Adult Christian Education In February

February 4 St. Andrew's Transition Timeline

What are the steps from here to the calling of a new installed pastor? Pastor Eric will walk us along the winding path that lies ahead for us as we begin the transitional process of self-study and reflection toward a new vision for St. Andrew.

February 11 Governor Bent Elementary School Update

Patty Emord will update us on St. Andrew's partnership with Governor Bent school. Come hear heart warming stories about our volunteers' experiences. You'll hear why our volunteers are so loved by the kids and the staff, and what we have planned for the rest of the school year.

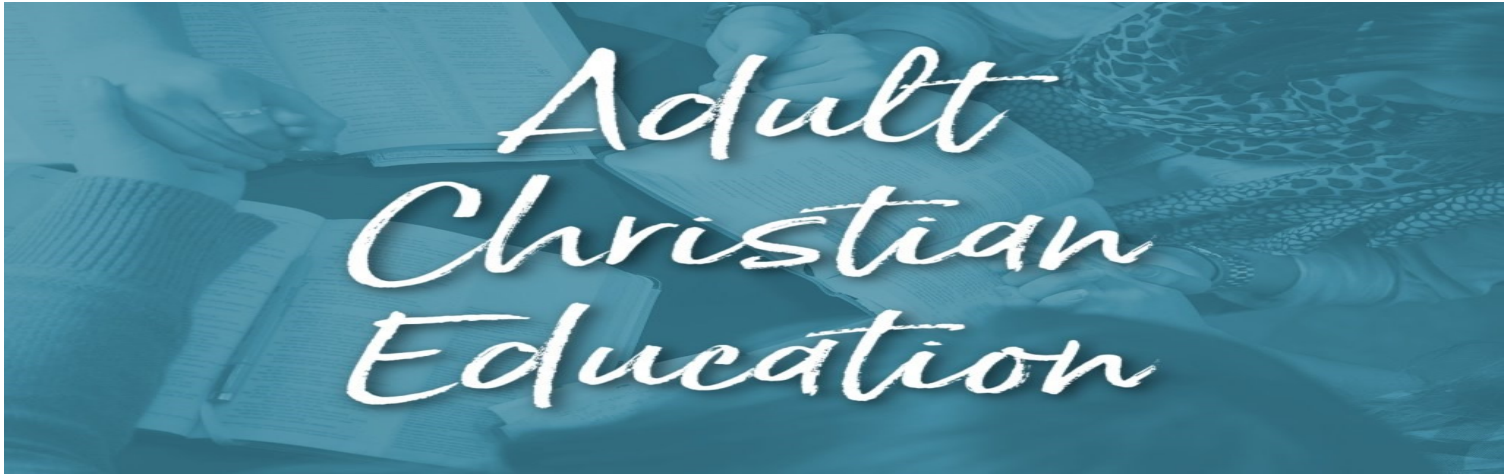
February 18 Visio Divina for Lent

We kick off the Lenten season with a Visio Divina meditation by Pastor Eric based on Sanctified Art for Lent. An ancient spiritual discipline, *Visio Divina* literally means "sacred seeing" and invites us to experience the Divine through prayerful encounter with visual images.

February 25 The Other Six Commandments (first of 3 sessions)

Facilitated by Rev. Catherine Robinson and Bill Miller

Don't murder, commit adultery, steal, or give false testimony. Check! But how about the other six? Can we name them, and how are we doing in following God's roadmap for living together as a forgiven community? In the season of Lent, let's reflect on what the other six mean for us today. With a bit of background, we'll be discussing two per week. In this session we'll discuss the first two commandments: *Having and worshipping no other gods.*



Adult Christian Education



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

**Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, February 6
at 10:00 am in the Adult Christian Education room.**

Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence
of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts is our current study.

Lesson Six: A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus
Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

Main Idea: God calls us to affirm that each person is a child of God
who should be treated with dignity and equity.

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.

Session Summary

Suzanne's Session Summary January 16, 2024:

Following prayer and a quiz and discussion on the names of the confessions found in The Book of Confessions Session met on and approved the following:

- Building use on Sunday afternoons for Encantada: The Band of Enchantment
- Hiring Lynne McLaughlin as a guest conductor.
- Bill Miller as Adult CE Elder.
- Establishing an Interim Music Director Search Team
(Pastor, a member each from: Worship and Music, PPR and the choir).
- A job description for an interim choir director and posting the position.
- Positions requiring annual approvals: Debbie Steffen, Treasurer; Kathy Summers, Asst. Treasurer; Suzanne Busch, Clerk of Session; Bill Miller then Beth Dillow, Assistant Clerk; Chuck Evans, Financial Secretary; Sharon Burkhardt, Memorial Secretary; Trustees of the Corporation – Ester Griego, President; Karen Ulack, Secretary; Mike Molony, Beth Dillow, Marie St. Claire, Directors; Beth Dillow, David Schneider, and Marilyn Stoops, Presbytery Commissioners; Karen Ulack, substitute; Karen Ulack (chair), Barb Sanders, Nominating Committee.
- Moving \$170 in miscellaneous memorial gifts to the Session Memorial Fund.
- The St. Andrew Policy Concerning Members and Non-Members Who are Paid Staff and recommended no changes.

Membership as of December 31, 2023: 149
Average Attendance in December 2023: 98

Sincerely and joyfully,
Suzanne Busch

<u>December 2023</u>	Current Month	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Income	19,871	328,399	310,700
Total Expenses	32,523	315,311	324,179
Difference	(12,652)	13,088	-13,479

FaithWorks Valentine's Day Raffle!

ABQ FaithWorks is excited to announce that they are now selling raffle tickets for their Valentine's Day Raffle. The FaithWorks staff has collected many exciting and unique prizes donated by local artisans and businesses.

You can purchase tickets by contacting the ABQ FaithWorks office at 505-457-1728 or by contacting staff members, board members, and volunteers.

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 a ticket!



ABQ FAITHWORKS COLLABORATIVE
NOW SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS
for Valentine's Day Raffle

\$5.00 a ticket

TOP PRIZES

1 Hour Facial & Hair products by Aesthetix Beauty
Handmade Quilt, Puzzle Books & Gourmet Popcorn
1 Hour Massage & \$50 to Longhorn Steakhouse

other prizes include:

Jerky by Art	Puzzle Books - Sugar Beet
Rudy's Bar-B-Q	Fused Glass Bowl- Linda Weiss
Green Sweep	Tumbler- Addicted to Glitter
Jewelry - Sarah Friederich	Lavender Gift Set - K & C Naturals
Color print - Vickie Pleau	Acrylic Bowl - Lisa Biby
Tote Bag - Bag Lady of NM	Leather Satchel
Crochet Strawberry- Areysi's Boutique	Crochet Head Scarf
	Tumbler & Pen - Erika's Crafts

Drawing will be held on February 14th
(need not be present)

(505) 457-1728



Lectionary Schedule

Sunday – February 4

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

Sunday – February 11

The Transfiguration of the Lord

First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel Mark 9:2-9



Sunday – February 18

The First Sunday in Lent

First Reading Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Mark 1:9-15

Sunday – February 25

The Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Memorial Service celebrating the life of Sally Aber

The memorial service celebrating the life of Sally Aber will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 2:00 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Avenue NE, in Albuquerque New Mexico. A reception will follow. Please hold Sally's family and community in your prayers.



February

- 14 Darryl Encino
- 15 Beth Dillow
- 16 Richard Wood
- 18 Aja Lopez
Steven Greer
- 21 Phil Witherspoon
- 22 Victoria Lopez
- 23 Paula Mills
- 26 Sharon Burkhardt
- 27 Laura Hahn

March

- 5 Carley Rose Maze
Kyle Stickler
- 8 Willard Hunter
- 9 Max Light
- 13 Dana Bell
Frank Lopez
- 14 Beverly Jackson
- 15 Carol Benson
- 18 Paula Delap-Padilla
Elmer Jackson
- 19 Clyde Scott
- 20 Susan Copeland
- 23 Bob Fosnaugh
Lucy Encino
- 25 Sean Ward
Kathy Gaylor
- 26 Brenda Stickler
- 28 Susan Quass



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 am Spiritual Formation/Zoom 10:00 am Stroke Club Worship & Music Committee 4:00 pm in-person Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	3 Sally Aber Memorial Service 2:00 pm
4 9:30 am Worship Service and Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	5 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	6 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am in Adult C.E. Room 4:30 pm Social Justice Committee Weekly Announcements Due	7 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	8 10:00 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Group on Zoom Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	9 7:30 pm ABQ Science Fiction Society	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	12 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	13 Weekly Announcements Due	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Service 7:00 pm 4:00 pm Deacons Meeting Presbytidings Articles Due 6:30 pm Peace Choir	15 8:30 am Finance Committee/Zoom 10:00 am Spiritual Formation/Zoom 10:00 am Stroke Club Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	17
1 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	20 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	21 Weekly Announcements Due Session 6:00 pm	22 Presbytidings Articles due 1:15 pm Outreach Committee 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	24 Church Office closed Mark on vacation through March 1	25 Church Office closed Mark on vacation through March 1
26 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	27 Church Office closed Mark on vacation ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	28 Church Office closed Mark on vacation Weekly Announcements Due 6:00 pm Session	29 Church Office closed Mark on vacation 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	30 Church Office closed Mark on vacation 10:00 am Stroke Club Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm		