



The Bellringer

Publication of St Andrews
Presbyterian Church
January/February Issue

From the Pulpit...

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything with prayer...let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds..."

~Philippians 4:6, 7



Dear Members and Friends,
Think of all the activities that traditionally begin with prayer: mealtimes, bedtimes, church committee

meetings. In school, I always used to begin math tests with a quiet, desperate prayer—though the results were consistently less than miraculous. My Irish ancestors had a prayer for almost every daily event. There was the prayer for rising and a prayer for lighting the fire in the hearth. A prayer for cooking and for leaning, a prayer for going out and for coming home, **they prayed and then**

prayed some more. It's not a bad idea to begin our new journey together with a little prayer. In the face of the unknown, prayer can have a calming effect. But more than that, it can help put things into proper perspective.

Some people are surprised to learn that my workday begins with solitary prayer. I pray for our world and our church, its future, its people. I'm often amazed by the faces and the situations that come to mind when I'm praying. Of course, not all prayers are the same. Some say "please," and others say "thanks," and others just say "help." My favorite prayers don't say anything at all; they drift quietly through stray thoughts, and recurring memories, and abiding hopes, opening all these things wordlessly to "God's calm eternity."

(New Pastor is continued on page 8)



mardi gras
NEW ORLEANS

This coming Friday & Saturday, February 6th & 7th, Jimmy Whisenant and his group of eager helpers will have St. Andrews 8th annual Mardi Gras Meet & Greet. The parades come down Beck Avenue, the children's at 4PM on Friday & the main parade starts at 2PM on Saturday. We hand
(Mardi Gras – continued,, page 2)



(from page 1)

out hot dogs, chips, cookies, brownies, soft drinks and water, coffee & hot chocolate. There is no charge for these items, but donations are gladly accepted.

Besides the food & drinks, folding chairs are



always set up along the curb for anyone who wishes to use them. This year there will be

a **fishing pond** for the kids. Prizes will be awarded to any child that catches a fish & if things go as planned they will all catch one. Jimmy has asked for donations of soft drinks, chips, cookies, brownies and also money to cover other necessary things such as some paper items. If you have already done this, thank you but if not it's probably not too late.

If you come to help out and we really hope you do, it is a lot of fun and very much appreciated but don't forget that this is a "Meet & Greet" opportunity for St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. If you can please invite some of the visitors to join us on Sunday mornings.

PS Every year northern visitors join in and help us in numerous ways. It does not go unnoticed and we are very grateful for their help.



KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will raise him up.

James 5:15

Ever been to one of those walk in emergency clinics? I took Mary Graham once when she was nauseated, pale, weak and beginning to look more like a cadaver than my vibrant friend. But guess what? Everybody ahead of us was worse off than she. From behind her curtained partition we heard. "Gimme a shot, I'm dying here!" One of the nurses asked a guy how he got that spike in his cheek. (We parted the curtain on that one.)

Fear. Pain. Cries for help. The cacophony of need was all around us. The doctor finally came and determined an IV drip would put my little dehydrated Mary back on her feet. But I'll tell you, before we got that simple diagnosis, I was wondering if she'd ever be well again. She was one sick woman.

At times like that, our primary ally is hope.

We can't change what is, we don't have answers and we feel scared and alone. Without hope, the picture is bleak, which is why I love James 5:15. See that part about "the prayer offered in faith?" That's the hope part. When our loved one is sick, we keep hope alive by praying and believing the best for that person. God makes the final determination regarding healing of course, but in the meantime hope gives us courage. Mary needed the healing that day; I needed the courage.

Lord, thank you for granting me courage to face the unknown with hope rather than despair. Amen

Taken from the Women Daily Devotional

Submitted by

Maureen Wade



YA'LL COME TO THE VALENTINE'S "SHINDIG"

Put on your western

boots and hat, or just a plaid shirt will do, and join us for a trip to the old Wild West which is the theme for this year's Valentine dinner to be held on Friday February 13th at 5:30pm. Get your dinner from the chuck wagon and dine around the campfire. The sheriff will be keeping order although some of you may end up in the jail before the evening is over. The old cowboy ballads will come alive made popular by the likes of Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. So grab your partner or your

friend (or bring yourself), leave the ranch and make plans to have a great time and a romantic evening under the stars. See you February the 13th. Just hold your horses and wait for more details but make sure the date is on your calendar. **Brought to you by the cattle barons of the church.**

Watoto Children's Choir

Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:30 in the Sanctuary, Grace Presbyterian Church, Airport Rd at Lisenby.

Please join the Ministries of Witness & Evangelism and Care

at 5:30 in Bell Hall for a Potluck Dinner prior to the concert.

Meats, vegetables, side dishes and desserts are needed.

A sign-up sheet will be in Bell Hall on Wednesday and again on Sunday. The regular Wonderful Wednesday dinner is canceled for February 4th.

Please help us welcome these children with your attendance.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all ye lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

Psalm 100:1-2

A Stella Awards #7

Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over toddler who was running inside a furniture store.

The store owners were understandably surprised by the verdict, considering the running toddler was her own son.

submitted by: *Steve Wade*

Birthdays

MARCH

- 07 Ann Tannehill
- 14 Lenora Warriner
- 14 Liz Kelly
- 20 Bobbi Hidle
- 21 Al Rowell
- 22 Brenda Martin
- 23 Vern Ballard

APRIL

- 04 Mary Kathryn Daffin
- 04 Joe Tannehill
- 08 Richard Warriner
- 09 James Dean
- 12 Steve Wade
- 20 Beverly Caruthers



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, JANUARY 2015

The Women of the Church met on Thursday January 8th to continue our Bible study on Paul from 2nd Corinthians. We invite anyone who is interested to join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM at the church. Our next meeting will be February 12th and we will be on lesson #6 in our study book.

Our annual report for 2014 is due on January 15th and also our annual Financial report. The deadline will be met. The women will be assisting with our church Mardi Gras event on Saturday February 7th. We will also be providing baked goods for the food stand, such as cookies, brownies, cup cakes etc. We need everyone in the church who is willing to help us with this project. If you need any further information, please contact me.

Dixie Retherford

Stella's

SIXTH PLACE

Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles , California won \$74,000 plus medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord.

Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.



Bay Presbyterian Men

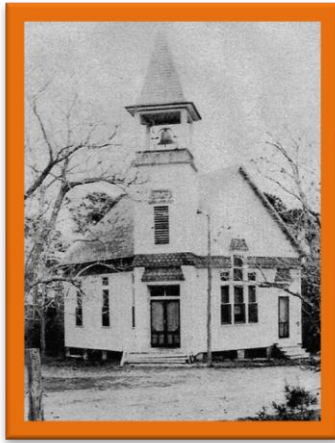
The Presbyterian Men of Bay County met at Agape Presbyterian

Church in Parker on Business 98 this past Thursday, January 29 for a dinner and program.

This writer had all of the best intentions of attending but never got out of the city limits of Panama City.

Francis, I hope you made it. In our conversation, you were heading to Parker on Tyndall Parkway; Agape is on Bus 98...But if you had not told me otherwise, I'd been in Lynn Haven.

The Bell Tower Story, submitted by *George Carothers*



The 1886 Church

Photo #1 Shows how the bell was displayed in the bell tower of the original church. This same bell, erected in 1888, currently resides in our bell tower.



Photo #2 This photo shows the inside of the bell tower just above the ceiling of the entrance to Fellowship Hall.



Photo #3 The wooden structural members in the left half of the photo are above the gray blocks but those on the right have slipped off causing the entire bell tower to lean to one side. (See page over –page 6, Bell article)



Photo #4 This photo shows the original bell, now 127 years old. Due to years of wear, the bell has shifted to one side actually hitting the support member causing the entire structure to rock badly when being rung.



Photo #5 A photo from the outside showing how the bell tower is leaning.

Bell Tower Repair

For over 126 years the church bell of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church has been heard with its familiar announcement that church was about to begin. Over that time hundreds of Sunday school children, families and others have had the memorable opportunity to ring the bell with its three notes, one ring a pause and two more rings, to announce "come-to-church". Can you just imagine the early years when the bell rang over the sparsely populated St. Andrews community, probably being heard miles away.

The bell now sits invisible and silent. This remarkable piece of history can come back to life but suffers from many years of joyous wear, waiting for a time when more children and more families have an opportunity to pull the rope to sound the bell to be heard throughout the community.

The bell tower on the original church was open so the bell was visible. The roof of the current building supports a large brick foundation on which the bell tower rests just above the entrance to Fellowship Hall and encloses the bell. The tower is in need of repair suffering from rotting timbers and listing to one side and soon may pose a dangerous situation. In addition, the roof requires repair in that area. The procedure to repair the tower will involve placing large jacks inside the framework and gradually over a period of time, raising the corner of the tower that is currently collapsing and replacing rotting timbers. The tower also needs to be weather proofed to prevent water from entering and causing the same deterioration again. The bell itself needs to be centered within its support structure because it currently hits a support

bracket when it swings back and forth thus rendering it usable at the present time.

Most of you have not had the opportunity to see what is going on inside the bell tower and it is hoped that these photographs may help you visualize the repairs that are required. Both the bell and the tower can be fixed and need to be fixed. Members of the Session are currently fine tuning repair estimates and scope of work to be done. Because this work is a necessity rather than a luxury, the repairs need to be financed through money out of the General Fund. It has been decided that because of the urgency, the expenses will be considered a maintenance project rather than pursuing a grant. Repairing the tower rather than removing and relocating it, as was once discussed, is the lower cost option although it expected to still be an expensive undertaking.

Due to anticipated future financial needs, the funds used for this repair need to be replenished and your continued long term support of the bell tower fund would be very much appreciated. Should you wish to donate, please mark your contribution "Bell Tower"

submitted by *George Garothers*

Stella Awards

The Stella Award was compiled by a Web writer after realizing there were others besides Stella Liebeck, 81 year old of New Mexico who spilled hot coffee on herself, successfully sued McDonald's and was awarded a sizable amount. Miss Stella had placed a lidless cup between her knees. The writer of the awards has selected 7 other notables.

Their stories are told in a folder that is currently on the library table. See how much Kara, Amber, Jerry were awarded for 2014.



Preparations

All troops arrived at church 10:00am, Jan. 27th...



...power tools, rakes, wire cutters, chain saws, wheel barrows, handsaws and limb cutters etc.

On board was Jimmy & Jennifer Whisenant, John Wright, Ken Tanner, Rick & Emily Hataway, Vern Ballard, Leo & Margie Nelson, Shelia Palmer, Sara Daffin, George & Beverly Carothers, Dixie Retherford and Patty Fuller

Needless to say a lot of debris was removed the old wire fence, lumber, concrete, leaves and limbs we could have had a grand bonfire and roasted marshmallows.

Just before our lunch break one of our troops, Beverly Carothers stepped on a wooden board with a rusty nail which punctured her foot. All hands were present to offer any medical attention and support. Her husband took her to Seawind for a Tetanus shot as a precaution, even though Beverly wanted to continue working.



What a Surprise! Thanks to the Worship Committee, they sponsored an old fashion southern lunch, ham, beef & tuna sandwiches, with chips, tea and lemon cookies. Then it was back to the work.

Next project was the abandoned "Old White Mitsubishi Truck", with no keys or power the men emptied the bed and rolled the old wreck to a resting place on the corner of the lot, to be disposed of at a later date. (If anyone needs an old fix-it-upper make an offer! Call Jimmy at 532-3805).

After 5 hours our mission was completed with cheers and sighs of relief. Job well done. . .

'For I know he plans. I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper.' Jeremiah 29:11

submitted by: *Patty Fuller*



Every year some winter visitors pitch in and help us with Mardi Gras. Here's two of them - KEN TANNER & JOHN WRIGHT of Louisville Kentucky. Wives Evelyn and Diana usually pitch in to help, but a virus had something to say about that. Thanks all of you! We really appreciate everything you do.

Another Preparation. . .

We attended *Cops & Coffee event at the Four Winds Grille & Spirits at 1000 Bayview Ave. this Monday, January 26th at 8:30am.*

New items were: parade route and street closings. **Friday, Beck Ave will be closed 3:30 pm from 10th St. - north to 15th Street till 6 pm. Beck will remain closed from 12th St. to 10th till 10 pm. Saturday, Beck closes at 11 am; opens up following parade from 12th to 15th St. From 12th Street to 10th St., Beck will remain closed till 10pm.**



Two Sisters of St. Andrews

This quaint little shop is right down the street at 1010 Beck Avenue. It's managed by our own Angie Tucker and owned by her late sister Charlotte's husband Richard Smith. As you can see the store has a large variety of gift items, so why not treat yourself to a visit next time you need something or just want to browse & visit with Angie and Richard.

A Small Group. . .

. . . joined Sheila Palmer for an informal session and friends gathering on Thursday, January 29th, in the Session/Adult Sunday School Room.

We discussed some intriguing new possibilities for St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. If you have questions at this time, please call Jennifer or drop her an email.

Thanks, Jennifer (Clerk of Session)

Meet Our New Pastor. . . (from pg 1)

Part of my ministry, as laid out by the presbytery, is to help you discern the future direction of St. Andrews. That is an especially daunting task and one that will require much grace, careful listening to one another and the willingness to be led by God's Holy Spirit.

As we embark on this journey of discernment together, prayer is the only thing that I ask. Specifically, that each person who loves St. Andrews Church to say the same prayer daily for one month: *"Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your vision for St. Andrews Church? Help me to discern how can I best serve and glorify you in this time and place. Amen."*

Prayer itself becomes a journey. There's no telling where it might lead. It can change our hearts and minds in ways we never expected. It can open doors we didn't even see. It can amaze us with new possibilities. Whatever new venture we are facing, prayer is a good start.

Blessings,

Pastor Sheila



February at a Glance

To be found in Education wing of Church

New presbytery moderator installed



At the Presbytery's Jan. 24 Winter Stated Meeting, out-going presbytery moderator Hugh Hamilton, shown above at left, installs 2015-16 moderator William H. "Bill" Green, at right, First Presbyterian Church of Crestview and Laurel Hill pastor Mark Broadhead looks on. Green is a ruling elder at Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs, FL. Attending from St. Andrews Presbyterian were: Pastor Sheila Palmer; Elders Jimmy and Jennifer Whisenant, Sally Teer, and Vern Ballard.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

We had our Christmas candle lighting service on the evening of December 21st. Sheila had told the first part of the story of Christ's birth at the morning service and the rest of the story was continued in the evening.

At the conclusion of the sermon we gathered around lighting our candles. Rev. Gary Cecil, pastor of Grace Presbyterian and Sheila's husband, accompanied us with his guitar while we sang "Silent Night."

We were then treated to finger food refreshments in the fellowship hall, hosted by Rose Stallins and her Christian Education Committee.

Called Worship Committee Meeting

Sara Daffin, chair of the Worship Committee, has called a Worship committee meeting for Tuesday, February 3 at 10am. No agenda announced but all members are requested to attend. All are invited.



No, this was not a big night on the Town!

This was the first night for the 'Jingle Bell Trolley' that St. Andrews Presbyterian participated in. There were two. Shown: Sally Teer, Barbara Slieke (is involved in the Church through our Fitness program/Line Dance, Vern Ballard; they had their picture taken while waiting for the Trolley to roll into its stop on 10th Street, downtown St. Andrew.



Pictured here is our very own "***Last Rose of Summer.***" This tiny yellow flower was still hanging on the last time I

checked outside the door to our fellowship hall, despite two nights when the temperature went way below freezing.



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Line Dancing Resumes/Girl Scouts Are Here Again/Fitness & TOPS Continues

This pretty well sums up our week-time schedule of activities.

The big news is that the weekly schedule **Line Dancing** begins again Thursday, February 5. Forget the old time, the new time is 4pm. Jane Perry, Maureen Wade and Beth Stream head up the program. They have learned several numbers and will spend the next several weeks practicing after the almost two month break. It's fun. It's physical, and it's a good bunch of people – come join them – just to see what it's all about or to become a regular. **That's Thursday s at 4pm!**

Girl Scout Troop #400. . .

Is our 'Bright shining Star'. They have two new, interject leaders plus a leader assistant for a troop that is both a Brownie organization and a Girl Scout troop. They meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the Sunday schoolroom at 5pm.

Meet Our New Pastor

This is our new pastor Sheila Palmer and a few facts about her very



interesting life. She was born in Oklahoma, but since her father was a military attaché for the army her family traveled a lot. First to Germany where they lived for seven years - German was

Sheila's first language. Later they were assigned to China, Uruguay and South America.

She attended college in Panama City South America and was there during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Later she attended seminary in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and has worked for the Presbytery.

Sheila has two sons: Doug Palmer is a provost at Washington University in Ohio where he is the dean of international studies and Mitchell Palmer who is a physicians assistant in heart thoracic surgery.

Sheila will be in her office here at the church from 9 AM to 1 PM Monday through Thursday.

If you have a concern or know someone who does or just want to have a delightful conversation don't hesitate to drop in. I'm sure you will be glad you did. The telephone number at the church is (850) 785 8358