

Perspective

*Nations shall come to your
light, and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV





Shine, Jesus, Shine

I write to you on the Winter solstice, when darkness has it's way. According to my sources we have 8 hours, 25 minutes and 14 seconds of daylight today. Tomorrow we'll have an extra 5 seconds or so. And the next day another 11. By the time you read this we'll be well over 8 ½ hours of daylight and gaining more than a minute a day and counting as the sun rises at ever higher altitudes in our northern sky and darkness gives way to the light.

It is not accidental that Christmas falls very near the Winter Solstice, even though there is no evidence this was Jesus' true birthday. No contemporary scholars claim the historical Jesus was born on December 25th. The New Testament does not give a specific date. Josephus doesn't mention it. Neither does Tertullian list it among his list of feast days. In 245CE the theologian Origen denounced the idea of celebrating the birth of Christ "as if he were a king pharaoh" for "sinners" not "saints" celebrated their birthdays (saints celebrated the day of their baptism—that's January 13th, for Jesus).

It may have been Sextus Julius Africanus who first popularized December 25th as the birth of Christ because it fell 9 months after the Feast of the Incarnation on March 25th, which was also the date of the vernal equinox, and so considered the date of the creation of Adam (and the crucifixion of Jesus). But the most widely accepted theory for the selection of the 25th is that the date had already belonged to the pagan festival *Sol Invictus*, the "birth" of the "Unconquerable Sun." Dark winter nights in the northern hemisphere were always a great time for a party. Less work was needed on the farm. It was a great time to set the rules aside, gather around the fire and make merry. The Yule Log was lit in Scandanavia to honor Thor, the god of thunder. And each spark from the fire was believed to represent a new pig or calf that would be born in the coming year.

And so Christmas replaced the unconquerable sun with the "Sun of Righteousness" (Mal. 4:2) which Christians applied to the Christ. And while this all may be a bit unsettling to our "puritan" ears (Oh, they didn't like the idea of Christmas *at all*—it was outlawed in Boston from 1659-81 because it was too commercial!), it is here that we begin to capture its symbolic and evangelistic power. But let's have some better writers shed some metaphorical light on this:

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent (PH #5, verse 3)

***Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.***

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (PH #9, verse 2)

***O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

You see, Christians understood that the coming of God into our lives is the beginning of the end of darkness: "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight." These mid-winter celebrations were built around the idea that darkness was literally being pushed back. The day was returning and with it the possibility of sustainable life. Christians saw the connections and wanted to say even further that it is never night when God is near, that the light of Christ scatters the darkness, even if it is in unexpected places—mangers and helpless babies, the poor hearing good news, searchers finding what they seek and all that good stuff. Most of us don't know this hymn, but it's a good one. This nighttime conversation between the traveler and the watchman tells the story better than I do:

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (PH #20, verses 1, 3)

***Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
 Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory-beaming star.
 Watchman, does its beauteous rays aught of joy or hope foretell?
 Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.***

***Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
 Traveler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
 Watchman, let your wanderings cease; hasten to your quiet home.
 Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come!***

It's not that Christians wanted to live in denial of darkness. In fact, just the opposite for this faith that was born in oppression (see: "Christmas story")! Christmas was not a claim to triumphalism or certainty, but a way to live with hope in shaky and difficult times—a call to faith in God's promises for a peaceable realm even as it suffers the burdens of Herods old and new. Yet this way takes us along many unexpected paths and to new discoveries that find us different than when we started the journey. And so we end Christmastide with Epiphany—discovery, light— and pray that we too might shine with the light of Christ in our lives.

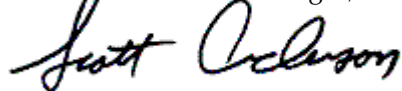
Shine, Jesus Shine (SF #2173, verses 1, 3)

***Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;
 Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 Shine on me, shine on me.***

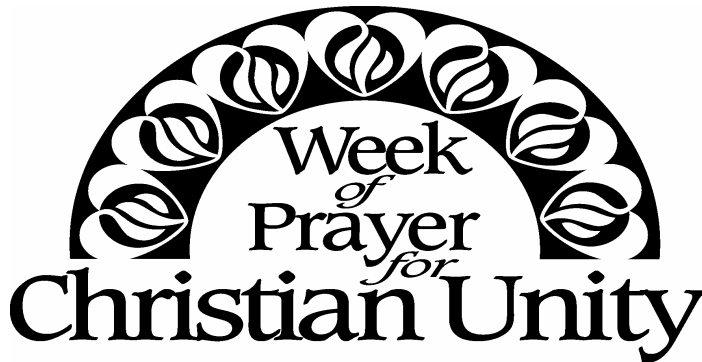
***Shine Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
 blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

***As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
 ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
 Shine on me, shine on me.***

Grace and Peace and Light,



January 18-25, 2008



NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

St. Andrew Prayers



Please Pray for:

- Please be in prayer for Trulene Glen's step dad. Doctors recently found a spot on his lung. Please pray for the family as they proceed with medical tests.
- Please give thanks for the Balkan's new (first!) great grandchild, Little Jason.
- Please pray for the family of Art Norton, a dear friend of Mary Lou Gilbert, who recently died.
- Please keep Larry and Sharon Griffith close in your prayers. Larry will undergo open-heart surgery soon. Please pray for the surgeons and caregivers that they might attend Larry and Sharon with wisdom and compassion.
- Please pray for Dick Lutz's cousin's Heather and Randy. They recently lost their baby. Please pray for healing, comfort and strength during this terribly painful time.
- Please give thanks for the parents of Patti and Gerry Warden. Patti's mom just turned 89 and Gerry's mom is 92.
- Please give thanks for the fact that Trulene's friend Kathy received good results from her recent medical tests.
- Please keep Alma-jean and her Dad in your prayers. Please pray for his continued recovery and for strength for both him and Alma-jean.
- Please pray for Nick Platin who has been diagnosed with a lazy eye. Please pray that corrective measures will be successful.
- Please pray for Maggie's dear friend Kimberly undergoing surgery. Please keep her family, doctors, and nurses in your prayers.
- Please pray for the family Mary Jaslowski's Uncle Tom. Tom has struggled with cancer these past 8 years and he has entered hospice. Please ask God to hold the family close at this time and pray for comfort and strength.
- Please pray for Jim Holt's ex-wife Kathy. Kathy suffers with severe rheumatoid arthritis which makes it very difficult for her to care for Jim when he is with her.

Please pray that there might be someone who would be able to continue communicating the St. Andrew Prayers in the future.

Overcoming personal troubles

Never deal with troubles on your own. Spend time considering them in God's presence. Ask for guidance, insight and wisdom.

Ask a trusted friend to listen as you explain your difficulty.

At a local library, find books and other resources that address your problem.

Make an appointment with your pastor or deacon and explain the situation as best you can. Seriously consider any suggestions you receive.

Don't freeze up or ignore the problem. That will only make it worse. Instead, look at the problem in all its ugliness, keep praying and use your best judgment to face it head-on.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WORSHIP  WITH US!

January 06 Epiphany of the Lord

On this first Sunday after Epiphany, we recall Jesus' baptism as he identified with fallen humankind. Today let us gratefully remember that Christ is here ready to meet us where we are.

January 13 *Baptism of the Lord*

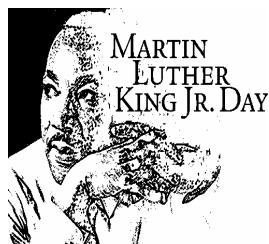
January 20 *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Race Relations, Partnership in Mission

January 27 *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Camp and Conference Ministries

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER



On Hatred, On Love

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born on January 15, 1929, will be remembered this year on January 21.

Given the rancor rampant in today's world, it's fitting to recall King's words:

"Hatred paralyzes life, love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.

Hatred darkens life; love illumines it."

19 WORDS

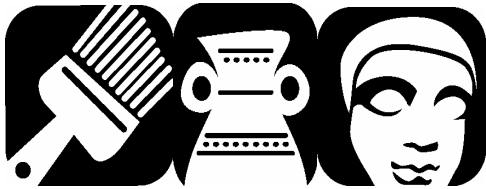
“GOD, OUR FATHER,
WALK THROUGH OUR HOUSE,
AND TAKE AWAY ALL OUR
WORRIES AND ILLNESSES;
IN JESUS’ NAME. AMEN”

(Submitted by Patti Warden)

Bible Quiz

The prophet Isaiah sometimes felt that his fellow Jews had ceased praying and therefore God had hidden his face from them (see Isaiah 64:7, NRSV). Yet Isaiah knew that God was their Father and that the people were the work of God’s hand. Which of the following statements did Isaiah make to God?

- A. “We are the paint, and you are an artist who paints pictures of us.”
- B. “We are the clay, and you are our potter.”
- C. “We are the putty in your hands, and you sculpt us.”



Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year

The Scholarship Fund at St. Andrew helps members and friends who need financial assistance for undergraduate college education or vocational training. The objective of the fund is to provide a \$500 scholarship each year to a qualified student. Eligibility requirements include:

- Applicant or applicant’s family member must be an active participant in worship or other activities of St. Andrew
-

Perspective January, 2008

- Qualified to enroll in an accredited college, university or vocational school
- Need financial assistance in order to pursue studies

For the 2007/2008 school year which started last fall, a Catherine Newell scholarship was awarded to Christa Peck for her studies toward a degree in Business Administration at the University at Buffalo. A Pamela M. Richardson Thomas scholarship was awarded to Shawna Crawford for her studies in Interior Design at the International Academy of Design & Technology. A Pamela M. Richardson Thomas scholarship was also made available to Kelly Rossnagel for studies at Bellevue Community College in criminal justice. Congratulations to Christa, Shawna, and Kelly!

Application forms for the 2008/2009 school year are available from the church office or from any of the Scholarship Committee members. Applicants are requested to prepare a personal essay and provide three letters of recommendation. Applications with the essay and letters of recommendation should be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by March 1, 2008. Additional instructions can be found on the application form.

Any of the Scholarship Committee members will be happy to answer your questions. Committee members this year are Karen Mullen, Sheila Greene, Charlie Thomas, Lezle Resor, Gary Newbury and Don Patterson. This scholarship program made possible by the Newell family and the Thomas family brings to life the Mission of our church - ***“St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, through God’s grace, is a loving, accepting, inclusive congregation serving others and fostering spiritual and personal growth for all ages.”***

--Don Patterson, Chairman
Scholarship Committee

Deacons News

Deacon’s Rides to Worship Services for Elderly

The Deacons have an especially critical need, which is to provide transportation on Sunday

mornings for some of our elderly folks, particularly those living at The Lodge. A recent request was left unfulfilled because we couldn't find the special someone who would have been delighted to help. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact your Deacon or Pastor Scott.

Deacon's Report

This Christmas season the Deacons unanimously voted to contribute \$250 to OEC and \$250 to the Presbyterian Disaster fund for Washington flood relief. We encourage you to give generously to those missions who provide food, clothing and shelter to those most in need, and to keep them in prayer.

The Deacons provided 30 lovely poinsettias for our Christmas sanctuary. We thank all those who participated and honored their loved ones.

Mark your calendars! The Deacons garage sale will be held **May 3, 2008**. When spring cleaning, be sure to save lightly-used items to donate (no clothing, please.) All proceeds are used by the Deacons to help those in need.

Recycling at St. Andrew

What a beautiful planet we have been given to care for. Christians of all persuasions are coming to realize that we must lead by example to change the path that our carelessness and overconsumption have set us on. There is no better place to start than in our church.

Underneath the big table in the middle of the kitchen are recycling bins for aluminum cans, bottles, paper, plastic bags and other materials recycled by Waste Management. There are green wastebaskets without liners in classrooms for recyclable paper used for classes, projects, etc.

he Boy Scouts are collecting aluminum as a fund-raiser, and will take aluminum cans, clean cooking tins, and large all-aluminum items such as window frames. Derek Schott is our contact person to make arrangements for big items.

It will take a group effort, including a bit of educating ourselves and each other, and learning new habits, to make our system work. Thanks to Paul Mitchell and others for setting it up and getting the collected materials to the Renton Transfer Station.

-Dan Clawson and Patti Warden



91

Have you ever heard a crowd at a football or basketball game chant "We're number 91?" Not likely. However the Renton CROPWALK was number 91 of more than 2000 CROPWALKs this past year. We brought in \$30,337. It was our best year ever and the first time in the top 100. Being number 91 seems pretty good to me. Thanks again to everyone who participated.

--Gary Glasscock

"A Christian should be an alleluia from his head down to his feet.

--St. Augustine

MISSISSIPPI HERE WE COME!!

The Mission Department is excited to let you know about an upcoming mission trip. Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in April 2005 and 20 months later the region continues to struggle with recovery. The presbyteries in Mississippi and New Orleans are still eager for volunteers to help with reconstruction and have excellent support structures in place to facilitate church mission trips.

St. Andrew is working with the presbytery-Gulfport and will send a team from April 7th to 14th to aid in recovery efforts. They will take any able bodied volunteers irrespective of skill level. This trip will be coordinated here at SAPC by co-directors Craig Johnson and Maggie McAdams. If you are interested in hearing more please attend the information session to be announced in church.

--Sheila Greene, Mission Elder

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul".

--G.K. Chesterton

Mission Development Certificate Program

I recently received a letter from Dean Mielke of the Mission Development Certificate Program which is administered by the Synod of Alaska-Northwest. Below is most of that letter verbatim.

The MDC program has been in existence for over 50 years. It started with a simple idea, "Presbyterians investing to build churches." Since the beginning, the MDC program has helped build over 80 percent of the churches in Alaska-Washington and Northern Idaho!

Through the Mission Development Certificate Program, PCUSA churches and their members, presbyteries and related ministries may invest in the growth of the Presbyterian church and earn interest on their investments. Funds invested in the MDC program are used to make loans to Presbyterian churches for purchases of land and construction of initial church buildings and to established PCUSA congregations for expansion, renovation, relocation and land purchases.

The MDC program offers fixed term certificates with maturities of 6, 12, 36 and 60 months to individuals. The same fixed term certificates are offered to churches and presbyteries. In addition churches can invest in a short term certificate that matures initially in 26 days and thereafter rolls over every 7 days. Churches

often compare the short term certificate to money market investments. Interest rates are very competitive.

The MDC program recently announced a 14 Month Special Growth Certificate at 5.06 APY available to individuals and churches for new investments. This offer, limited for a short time, closed on December 31, 2007. **Due to the positive response the offer has been extended to January 31, 2008.**

More information: Contact Dean at 206 448-6403, Extension 25..

--Gary Glasscock

THE 5TH ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION SUPPORTING SOUTH-WEST MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2008

SWMHM is a program of the Church Council of Greater Seattle in its 16th year of providing hope and support for those among us with mental illness.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

Our SWMHM Board is a small number of very dedicated people who cannot possibly pull this off without "a little help from their friends." If this ministry touches your heart and you have a little or a lot of time to be involved, we could use your help on February 2 and/or in the weeks leading up to this, our major fundraising and fun event. Here are some ways in which you can help:

- Make a dessert for the dessert auction; needed on Feb. 2
- Help set up silent auction items Feb. 2 (you get to see it all ahead of time).
- Be a cashier on Feb. 2 (learn the computer program in January).
- Help make table centerpieces sometime in Jan.
- Help decorate on Feb. 1
- Hand out registration packets at the auction Feb. 2
- Donate goods or services to be auctioned.
- Ask your neighbors and friends to attend the dinner/auction with you – put together a table of 8 for a special rate.

- Challenge your congregation or organization to supply an item or basket of items to be auctioned.

Questions: Sheila Greene (425) 226-6904 to join this effort and to receive more information.



The Mission Committee would like to express a big thank you to all who contributed gifts for the Salvation Army Giving Tree. We had a total of 65 gifts donated from SAPC members. Also lets give a huge thank you to Marlynn & Jerry Olson, and Laurie Rossnagle for collecting and delivering the gifts to the Salvation Army.

Our project for OEC was just as successful. A big thank you goes out to all who helped to sort clothes and toys on Sat., Dec. 15 in preparation for the Holiday Store. Volunteers included Lois and Norm Summers, their two grandchildren, Jerry Balken, Anne Vandermay, Sheila Greene, Maggie McAdams, Diane Schott, Kaitlyn & Brianna Schott. Good work! God bless you all.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH



- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 01 | Larry Griffith, Clarence Hover |
| January 02 | Laurie Rossnagel |
| January 05 | Gregory Darnell |
| January 06 | Bill Walker |
| January 07 | Steve Dreier, Eddie Ramsey |
| January 08 | Susan Baker, Davis Delfin, Heather McClure-Coleman |
| January 10 | Karen Lutz |
| January 13 | Roger Paulsen |
| January 15 | Elizabeth Platin, Mary Scott |
| January 17 | Ted Elder, Ray Johnson, Helene Krasko |
| January 19 | Jean Laakeri-Miller |

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| January 22 | Diana Kordus |
| January 24 | Mike Westover |
| January 26 | Bob Armstrong |
| January 27 | Jerry Balken, Rob McAdams |
| January 31 | Martha Brugger, Ginny Payne |

Clues to Aging Well

Whether or not we like it, “the days dwindle down to a precious few,” as an old song puts it. We’re aging daily and hourly. “The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on....”

The question, sooner or later is: How do we best handle the aging process?

It begins with keeping a healthy spirit. The body ages, but our spirits can remain vibrantly alive. We can keep spiritually alert by carrying on a conversation with God, truly listening more than talking. We can strengthen our spiritual life by attending worship services and reading the works of people who lived close to God, such as Mother Teresa, E. Stanley Jones, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others.

Keeping one’s body in tune through exercise and diet are also keys to aging well. But just as important are fellowship with others, working on interesting projects, engaging in family activities, learning something new and traveling.

Most importantly, remember that you’re never too old to grow in love for others. After all, St. Paul tells us that love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8, NRSV).



- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 02 | Tim & Bonney Haugen |
| January 03 | Rob & Maggie McAdams |
| January 09 | Jerry & Sherril Balken |
| January 16 | Indru & Mary Jo Primlani |
| January 18 | Larry & Sharon Griffith CONGRATS! |

COUNTDOWN TO THE

New Year

Celebrate the blessings of the previous year and the hope of the New Year with this fun party idea and craft.

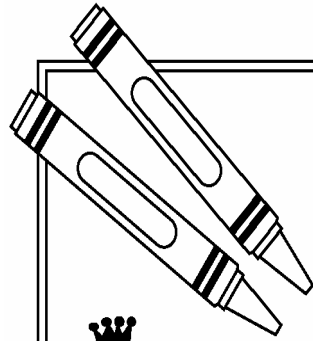
What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bags or colorful bags
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)
- Inexpensive prizes or treats (see ideas below)



What you do:

1. Before New Year's Eve, assemble a bag for every hour before midnight that you plan to celebrate.
2. Use construction paper and markers to make a clock with a different time for each bag.
3. Glue a clock onto each bag.
4. Decorate the bags with stickers or other designs.
5. Fill the bags with inexpensive prizes or treats, each accompanied by a Bible verse. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Plastic party-favor watches ("The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121:8, NIV.)
 - Bookmarks ("Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV.)
 - Small notepads and pencils ("Let love and faithfulness never leave you ... write them on the tablet of your heart" Proverbs 3:3, NIV.)
 - Sweet treats ("Taste and see that the LORD is good" Psalm 34:8, NIV.)
 - Party noisemaker, in a bag to be opened at midnight ("Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" Psalm 98:4, NRSV.)
6. Open each bag at the time shown on its clock.

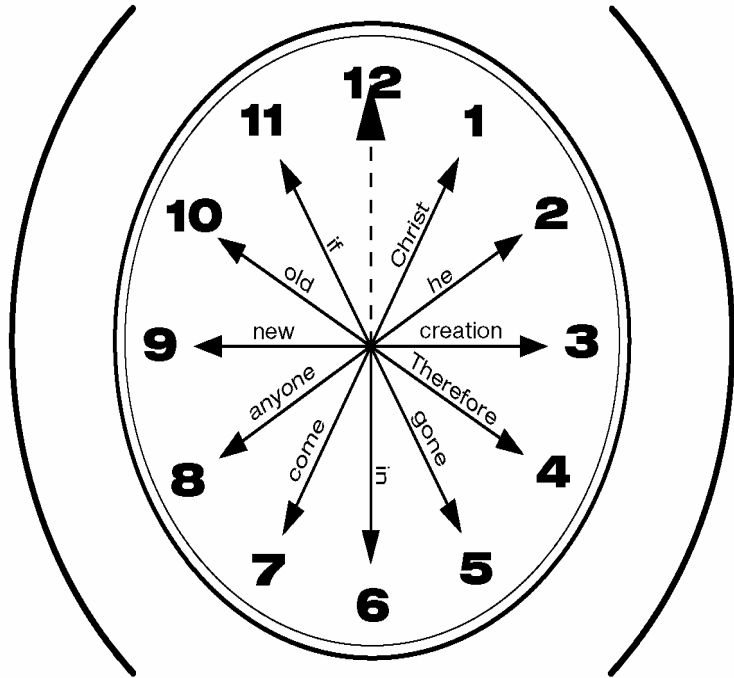


Just for KIDS

IN WITH THE NEW

It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



" _____ , _____ is _____ , _____ is a _____
 _____ ; the _____ has _____ , the _____ has _____ !"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

HERE I AM, LORD

By Alma-jean Marion

"Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you need me, I will hold Your people in my heart."

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

3604 NE 10th Court
Renton, WA 98056
(425) 226-5547

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson
Rev. Rob McClure, Parish Assoc.

Website: www.standrewpc.org
Email: standrewpc@aol.com

PERSPECTIVE DEADLINE: 2ND week of the month. Distributed 1st day of the month, Jan.-June & Sept.-Dec.

EMAIL COPY TO:
almaje99@netzero.net

OFC. HOURS: 11am-1pm, Mon., Wed., Thurs.

Sunday, Regular Worship, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., all ages

Kim Ellenberg, Church Secretary.
Perspective Newsletter Team:
Alma-jean Marion, Editor
JoAnn Peck, Clerk
of Session
Lois Summers, OEC News
Maggie McAdams
Youth Ministry
Laura Clawson
Deacons

GREETINGS SISTERS & BROTHERS IN CHRIST!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME TO THE BEST OF THE REST!

What does the New Year offer?

- A fresh start in the totality of our lives
- A chance to do more good things for others
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent and possessions
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit

What do we as Christians offer the New Year?

- More prayer to God for what we may not like about our church and our denomination
- Faithfulness to the one in charge – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- More prayers for current and future leaders of SAPC and the tedious hours of work of committees and task forces.
- Prayers for wisdom and good judgment in the decision making processes of the Church
- Prayers for the youth – tomorrow's leaders.
- Continual prayers for one another

Recent and current natural disasters throughout the world have brought out the goodness in those who care about their neighbors. Volunteers from all walks of life are organizing efforts to help the homeless, the hungry and less fortunate. God is truly doing a new thing among us as he unfolds his plans for our lives.

Poet Peggy Ferrell writes:

"Today is a gift from God above with time for our work and time for love. When work pushes hard and haste wants to shove, that's just when we need to share more love."

In the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr:

"The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents, and discerns those inner qualities that make all (people) human and therefore, brothers (and sisters)."

MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU.

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
3604 NE 10th Court
Renton, WA 98056**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUIRED



JANUARY, 2008

ST. Andrew

**Presbyterian Church
through God's grace
is a loving, accepting
inclusive congregation
serving others
and fostering spiritual
and personal growth
for all ages
We rejoice in God's
presence and in the
abundant gifts we are
given. We strive to be
ambitious disciples
of Christ
and to provide
a safe supportive haven
to all.**

