

# Perspective



**World Day  
of Prayer**

## *A Message from the Pastor*

I became a Presbyterian while I was in seminary. Perhaps it was inevitable (or providential), given the fact I had decided to go to Columbia, a Presbyterian seminary in Decatur, a suburb of Atlanta.

But it was the church Barb and I joined while at seminary that really sealed the deal.

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church was by many accounts a typical Presbyterian church in its early years. Formed in response to a population expansion in the Atlanta metro area, Oakhurst was the namesake of the quiet neighborhood on the East side of town in which it was planted. In the 1950s it experienced its peak membership, boasting some 800 members.

But in the 60s and 70s racial, economic and social developments led to the diversification of Atlanta's neighborhoods. The church's all-white membership began decreasing as long-time neighborhood folks moved outward into the expanding suburbia. In the early 80s a Presbyterian minister was called to the struggling congregation to help it die with grace. It would then be reestablished as an African American Presbyterian church that more closely resembled the ethnic makeup of the changing neighborhood, and given a new lease on life.

This pastor, nurtured in the deeply entrenched segregation of southern religious life, came to understand through the era of the Civil Rights movement that the gospel calls us to life together, not divided. When called to Oakhurst, he envisioned something better. He began to share a vision of the Kingdom of God as a rich tapestry of all creation, gathered together not around familiarity, but the One who is Lord of heaven and earth. In his book about the church *While We Run this Race*, pastor Stroupe says it this way: "The long journey to health had begun with one giant step: white people and black people deciding to stay in the presence of one another."

When we began attending the church in the early 90s, we encountered a decaying church campus. But once we came inside, we found a growing church of perhaps 180 members, almost evenly divided between those of African and European descent, with a wide variety of other nationalities from the European and African and Asian continents thrown into the mix.

Oakhurst was not an easy church to be a part of. At times, I felt awkward, not quite certain how to relate to some of the families within the congregation. Yet I began to encounter a depth and weight to the gospel I had not known before. There was something deeply true here that invited further exploration. When our pastor reminded us (as he did most Sundays) that through his life, death and resurrection Jesus Christ has broken down the barriers of sin that keep us apart from God and one another, the concept of atonement-"at-one-ment" became real for me for the first time. Each Sunday, you see, we were making new pathways through ever-crumbling walls of race and economic disparity; practicing these very promises of God by caring for others we would likely never encounter on even a cursory level had it not been the call of Christ around which our gathering was drawn. This was the Gospel in a way I had never seen it before.

While the specifics of St. Andrew's story may be different, the gospel still calls the church to speak to a world deeply divided by living together as one, as the "provisional demonstration of the Kingdom of God" as our tradition puts it. The church season of Lent invites us to look and listen for the call of God away from patterns that rob us of God's shalom. Our texts and classes will draw us in, but only as much as we position ourselves to be open.

In the adult classes on Sundays and Wednesdays, we'll look at changing patterns of faith in our own culture as a lens to our own life together. Chris Hedges' book *I Don't Believe in Atheists* will be a guide along with other sources. I hope you will take the journey!

Grace & Peace

*Scott Anderson*

## NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## St. Andrew Prayers

Out of respect for the privacy and safety of our readers, names of members and friends, "St. Andrew Prayers," will no longer be published in the Perspective. Please phone the Church Office or email [prayers@standrewpc.org](mailto:prayers@standrewpc.org) to have your name and contact information added to the list for continued access and participation. May the Lord continue to hear our prayers as we pray for one another.

We are thankful for the dedication of the Coordinators of St. Andrew Prayers, Madeleine Jones and Patti Warden.

## A Pastor' Prayer

Theodore Parker Ferris, who was pastor of Trinity Church (Episcopal) in Boston a half-century ago, once wrote a prayer on an airline napkin as he flew home. It's especially helpful during Lent:

"Lord Jesus, I would like to be able to do myself the things I help others do. I can give them confidence I do not have, and I can quiet their anxieties, but not my own. What do I lack? Or is it the way I am made? I want to be free to move from place to place without fear, and I want to face the things to be done without panic....

I like to think that you can be with me, and in me, and that with your help I can do better. This is what I hope and ask for. Amen.



*Sunday, March 1, 2009*

During the month of February we offered up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

A new job  
 A successful surgery  
 A celebration of the life of one's mother  
 The fall without injury  
 The return to work following successful treatment  
 The life of dear ones passed on  
 The support of parents during a difficult situation  
 The recovery of a sister-in-law  
 A successful triple bypass surgery  
 Three years of prayers from the church family during a painful existence and the experience of a significant improvement in one health  
 A welcome weight gain of a tiny baby  
 The joy of being able to go cross-country skiing  
 Family time together with loved ones from afar  
 The successful cancer surgery of a dear friend  
 Achievement in competitive sports by family members  
 Successful knee surgery and recovery

*Let us pray for.....*

Those grieving the loss of loved ones  
 The daughter in need of a bone marrow transplant  
 Good health and healing for the friend of a son  
 The son missing about a year now  
 Caregivers of those suffering with Alzheimer's  
 Comfort and healing of those with Alzheimer's  
 The lonely  
 Prayers for all youth  
 Much needed health care for a granddaughter  
 One making the transition to a nursing home  
 One battling with kidney stones  
 Prayers for caregivers  
 The uncertainty of an undiagnosed ailment  
 Doctors, nurses and all health care providers  
 A possible repair of a torn ACL  
 Those coping with layoffs  
 Continue support of struggling community agencies  
 The recovery of an Aunt recently discharged from the hospital  
 The recovery of a friend struggling with the affects of chemotherapy  
 A friend trying to cope with longevity and welfare of the spouse

---

"Practical prayer is harder on the soles of your shoes than on the knees of your trousers."

*-Austin O'Malley*

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



*Remind us again, O God,  
Of your living presence,  
from which nothing  
can separate us.*

- March 01    1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Self-Development of People
- March 06    *World Day of Prayer*
- March 08    2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
*Celebrate the Gifts of Women*  
Daylight Saving Time Begins  
*Girl Scout Sunday*
- March 15    3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent
- March 20    *First Day of Spring*
- March 22    4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
- March 29    5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent



“Where Are We Going”  
*(Let’s Dream A Little)*

All Church Potluck & Presentation  
Saturday, March 7, 2009  
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

COME –NETWORK  
LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

Presentations by Church Departments  
with open discussion

RSVP TO YOUR DEACON

**Faith Under Negotiation:  
The New Context of Religious Faith**

Led by Rev. Scott Anderson  
Sundays, March 1 through April 5, 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays, March 4 through April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Post-modern? Post-Christian? The defining feature of religion in the Pacific Northwest is that most of the population is “unchurched.” A seismic shift is underway in the rest of the nation as well as far as religion and religious beliefs go. But what is really changing? What isn’t? Where does authority lie and how do we know? What does it mean for our life as a Christian community? We’ll use Chris Hedges’ 2008 book, “I Don’t Believe in Atheists” as a conversation partner.

Join us the Sundays and Wednesdays of Lent, March 1-April 5. Limited copies of the book are available for \$10 from Rev. Anderson.

- Palm Sunday Worship**                      Sun., April 5 -10:30 am
- Maunder Thursday Worship              Thurs., April 9 -7:00 pm
- Good Friday Worship                        Fri., April 10 -7:00 pm
- Easter Vigil Worship                        Sat., April 11 -7:53 pm
- Easter Sunday Worship                      Sun., April 12 -10:30 am

**Session Meeting Highlights – February 9, 2008**  
by Jo Ann Peck, Clerk of Session

1. The Youth Group is planning a 2009 Summer Mission Trip. The Session approved their request to conduct fundraisers to help defray the costs.
2. The chairs will be in the circular arrangement from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, and then they will be returned to straight rows.
3. The Choir Room and the CE Room are being rearranged.
4. Annual reviews of the staff have been conducted.
5. The 2007-08 financial records have been reviewed, and they were found to be in order.
6. The Stewardship Campaign is planned.
7. There will be a lunchtime church potluck on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the session's view for next year.
8. All nineteen requests for "Mission of Your Choice" will be funded.
9. The One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected in April.
10. We will host ARISE for the month of June, and we will be the support church from June 1-15. As support church, we will provide meals for that period.
11. The Session was made aware that it was not recommended to have Nominating Committee seek nominees for vacancies on their committee. Rev. Scott Anderson asked the Session to consider other ways of identifying people to nominate to serve on the Nominating Committee. Suggestions from the congregation are welcomed.

---

*"The average pencil is seven inches long,  
With just a half-inch eraser."*

*Remember that, in case you thought  
Optimism was dead."*

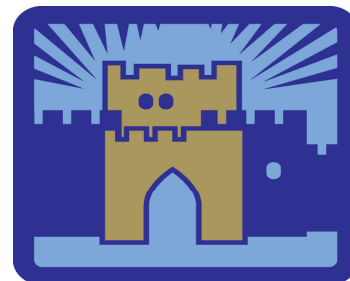
*--Robert Brault*



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead  
One hour on Saturday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Before you go to sleep!!!**

**BIBLE QUIZ:** In the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C., a prophet of God condemned the sinfulness of many of Jerusalem's citizens. On behalf of God, he chastised anyone who abused power, was unjust toward the poor and used bribes and position to gain money and status. He even condemned prideful women who walked "with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet." (He was referring to little bells attached to women's ankles.) Who was that prophet?

- A. Isaiah B. Amos C. Hosea D. Jeremiah



(Answer on Page 7)

**Perspective March, 2009**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION**

### **The YMCA**

Teresa Platin presented the Moment for Mission during the March 1<sup>st</sup> church service. She spoke about her family's involvement in the YMCA, her position on the Lake Heights YMCA Board of Managers, and the new YMCA scheduled to open in August in Newcastle. Teresa spoke of how important the Y's services are in the community, from childcare to sports activities and teen enrichment to senior citizen programs.

Her involvement with the YMCA began 13 years ago when daughter Rachel began attending the daycare program part-time as an infant while her parents worked. Daughter Lizzy soon followed, and son Nick now is being cared for by the very same preschool teacher that both daughters had! Nick will be in T-ball through the Y this spring. Lizzy still attends the afterschool program the YMCA runs at Hazelwood Elementary, and both Rachel and Lizzy will again take part in summer enrichment activities at the Y.

Teresa noted that the YMCA has a strong reputation of being there to help families, and this was underscored by her own health issues in the fall of 2007, when she had to take a leave of absence from work to recover. The YMCA opened its doors to Nick on many an unscheduled day for him, when Teresa was too ill to chase after a 3-year old, and husband Brad needed to be at work. The assurance of knowing Nick was safe in a loving and enriching environment allowed Teresa to focus on recovering, and it gave Brad a much needed break. Teresa said that this very personal experience of the Y's value in the community is mirrored in what she sees it doing day-in and day-out.

Teresa ended with the exciting news that the YMCA will be opening its newest facility in August, 2009 as a 49,000 square foot Coal Creek Family YMCA on Newcastle Golf Club Road. This facility is intended to serve Newcastle, Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, and Renton as a regional resource. A 25-yard fully accessible pool, full work-out facilities, a community kitchen for healthy cooking demonstrations and celebrations, a youth development center, two wellness studios and a reflection room, and a host of special programs for youths and seniors are some of the highlights we'll see in this beautiful new building.

Mrs. Platin encouraged the congregation to drive by the project and see the progress, to pick up a brochure about the Y and the opportunity for charter membership, and to ask her questions about the new Y or any of the eastside facilities or programs.

(Perspective Readers please share your Mission stories with others).

### **Shopping Daze**

I watched a frustrated mom trying to get the weekly grocery shopping done. She was becoming increasingly frazzled with 3 kids putting her through her paces. They could have been a great help. Instead they were as distracting as a swarm of bees.

Mom's head was constantly switching back and forth, paying attention to each kid who was running up to her face so that she could see what they wanted. They had each mastered the art of "Look Mom," followed with the begging face and pumping body. The message was clear: "I need this right now or I will probably die before your very eyes." She kept saying, "No, you don't need that." But she was finally worn down to the point of giving in. Before long her basket had items that she never intended to buy.

Later that morning I saw another family. The kids had specific missions to find certain items for mom. They sailed through the store in half the time. I asked this mom how she did it and she told me her plan. "We have several practice trips to the store. Now the kids pick their tasks from my shopping list. The kids add their treats to the list before we go, or out of the basket and back onto the shelves.

If they ever ask for anything else, I just say, "It's on your dime," and they know that if I have to repeat it, their treats go off the list or out of the basket and back onto the shelves.

This is love and logic in action. Examples, stories, and ideas for parents, grandparents, and teachers to try. Leading young people with empathy and consequences. Want to hear more? Watch the worship aids for training opportunities, or come hear the Ministries Dept. explain our upcoming plans at lunch on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

--Laurie Rossnagel & Pattie Holt



**Refining Fire**

Religion is not a nagging parent, nor is it a report card keeping track of our achievements and failures and grading our performance.

Religion is a refining fire, helping us get rid of everything that is not us, everything that distorts, dilutes or compromises the persons we really want to be until only our authentic selves remain.

--Harold Kushner



QUIZ ANSWER: A

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- March 01 Lisa Phillips, Rachel Phillips
- March 02 Bob Mullen
- March 05 Kristy Patterson
- March 07 Wendy Flores
- March 09 Jerry Warden
- March 10 Obe Tate
- March 11 Marlynne Olson
- March 12 Dennis Crawford
- March 13 Pat Eman
- March 14 Kimberly Behymer, Rob Behymer  
Kendra Thomas
- March 15 Victoria Eastman
- March 16 Mariah Calhoun,  
Alma-jean Marion
- March 17 Janine Glenn, Brad Holstine,  
Patti Warden
- March 18 William Mitchell
- March 19 Susan Eastman, John Niblock
- March 20 Marilyn May
- March 23 Polly Niblock
- March 27 Connor McAdams
- March 29 Pete Anderson, Japke Telquist
- March 31 Jeremiah Calhoun



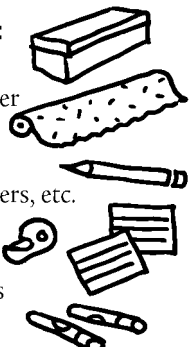
**March 18 Midge & Tony Lopez  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

# PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

**What you need:**

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



**What you do:**

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.



## A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

**KEY:** a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"He \_\_\_\_\_nd \_\_\_\_\_ll \_\_\_\_\_h \_\_\_\_\_s \_\_\_\_\_f \_\_\_\_\_m \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_  
 A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_\_v \_\_\_\_\_t \_\_\_\_\_nd  
 A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G \_\_\_\_\_d - f \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_ng; h \_\_\_\_\_g \_\_\_\_\_v \_\_\_\_\_  
 B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g \_\_\_\_\_n \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_s \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_t \_\_\_\_\_th \_\_\_\_\_s \_\_\_\_\_n  
 A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n \_\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_\_nd \_\_\_\_\_pr \_\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_\_t \_\_\_\_\_G \_\_\_\_\_d  
 A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r \_\_\_\_\_g \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_." \_\_\_\_\_cts 10:2, NIV  
 A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Court  
Renton, WA 98056  
(425) 226-5547

Pastor Rev. Scott Anderson  
Rev. Rob McClure, Parish Associate  
Kim Ellenberg, Office Manager

Website: [www.standrewpc.org](http://www.standrewpc.org)  
Email: [kim@standrewpc.org](mailto:kim@standrewpc.org)

PERSPECTIVE DEADLINE: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Week of the month. Distributed 1<sup>st</sup>  
Day of the month, Jan.-June  
& Sept.-Dec.

EMAIL COPY TO:  
[Alma-jean@comcast.net](mailto:Alma-jean@comcast.net)  
Or [almajeanmarion@yahoo.com](mailto:almajeanmarion@yahoo.com)

Church Ofc. Hours: 10:30am-1pm,  
Mon., Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

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

**Perspective Newsletter Team:**

Alma-jean Marion, Editor  
Jo Ann Peck, Clerk -Session  
Jan Tessin-Thuline, Deacon  
Patti Warden/Madeleine  
Jones, St. Andrew  
Prayers

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's time again to bid another season farewell and prepare to receive a new one. Irregardless of the cold winds and rains of March, the new season has arrived. If you don't believe it behold nature all around. Some of us have already planted the sacrificial crop of peas and witnessed new growth. Gardeners are excited about the possibility of outdoing their efforts of the previous year.

SAPC is preparing now to remove remnants of the past season as spring cleaning parties are organized to tidy up the grounds.

We have all witnessed and some of us have experienced the harshness of Mother Nature over these past months. Many of us comforted and assisted where needed.

During these difficult days we are all hearing, reading and talking about, I find encouragement from the words of Crowfoot, a chief of the Siksika First Nation, prominent Native American in the late 1800s. This brave warrior offered the following insight into the brevity and wonder of life:

***What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night.  
It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime.  
It is the little shadow, which runs across the grass  
And loses itself in the sunset.***

Crowfoot's observations reflect the theme of Psalm 90. Verse 4 reads: "For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night." The prayer in verse 12 is that we would keep our earthly life in proper perspective: "Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart."

AMEN

# Perspective

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
3604 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Court  
Renton, WA 98056

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUIRED

MARCH, 2009



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.