

Perspective



PREPARING FOR
Easter



Loosening Our Grips

As I write this to you, *Carnival* is in full swing in places like Rio and New Orleans. For many of us, *Carnival* is a mystery of sorts—we know it has something to do with beads, wild parties and dark parades, but little else. In her wonderful book *To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration* Gertrud Mueller Nelson, whom you may not know by name, but you know her by her bold, iconographic artwork prolific on bulletin covers and the like, writes of the shape of this dreamlike tradition that holds a “wild pageantry of the dark, unknown elements of the soul.” She says,

Carnival precedes any efforts we might make at dying by allowing us to live in a compensatory period briefly, in a kind of recklessness and daring make-believe way... Carnival sets free for a time our negative, irrational and unacceptable aspects and, by reminding ourselves of the dark and steamy side of our human nature, gives warning what global disasters the unconscious is able to create if left separate from our conscious selves. But through the ceremonies of its ritual action, it also allows us to recognize the vulnerable beauty of our human condition. Carnival is the ritual hint at what lies behind our desire for the Holy.

Carnival enacts what social theorists understand—that if we do not deal in direct ways with those issues and emotions that rise within us, but instead suppress them, they will resurface elsewhere in unhealthy, unexpected and uncontrollable ways. In essence *Carnival* is the exaggeration of a part of our life that we know has a hold on us we would rather it didn't. It gives our vulnerable “NO” to God space to run, so that it can be seen for its darkness, so that we can bring Lenten light into dark corners, invite God to put to death the death in our lives and form us more fully into the life-giving way of Christ's “YES” to us in Easter resurrection.

So in the texts and liturgies of Lent we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families, and even our lives do not last forever. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters which turn out to be not only our death tomb, but surprisingly, our womb of life.

This Lenten season, I am taking a plunge of sorts that I have never before taken. Session has approved my request for a week of study leave in Washington DC March 12th to 18th. During the week, through reading, conversation and exploration I will examine more carefully the link between Christian peacemaking and public policy. On a personal note, on Friday, March 16th my daughter Claire and I will participate in a Christian Peace Witness for Iraq

(www.christianpeacewitness.org). Christians from the gamut of denominations and organizations will gather together for worship and non-violent protest to repent of our complicity with the invasion and occupation of Iraq and provide for a renewed commitment to peacemaking. The witness calls for these commitments on the part of our government: End the US occupation, support our troops, rebuild Iraq, say no to torture, say yes to justice.

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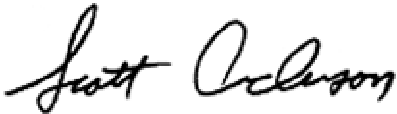
Simplistic slogans by themselves are of dubious value, but they do invite further reflection. And they do recall these larger Christian values that I commend to you from the [National Council of Churches](#) Justice and Advocacy commission:

1. **War is contrary to the will of God.** While the use of violent force may, at times, be a necessity of last resort, Christ pronounces his blessing on the peacemakers.
2. **God calls us to live in communities shaped by peace and cooperation.** We reject policies that abandon large segments of our inner city and rural populations to hopelessness.
3. **God created us for each other, and thus our security depends on the well being of our global neighbors.**
4. **God calls us to be advocates for those who are most vulnerable in our society.** We look for political leaders who yearn for economic justice and who will seek to reduce the growing disparity between rich and poor.

I am fully aware that while I know I speak for many of you, I do not speak for all. These are complex issues and matters of conscience that we all have faithfully struggled with. So I want to be clear that I do not go to this event presuming I am a representative of St. Andrew. I go speaking only for myself.

And I go as a part of my own Lenten journey—to pry loose my fingers from presumed securities, and from the myth that violence of any kind is somehow capable of carrying us from fear to security. And I pray that as I am plunged into these unknown baptismal waters they will turn out to be a womb of life.

Grace and Peace,



NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

St. Andrew Prayers
By Maggie McAdams

Please thank God for the life and work of this community over the last month. Please ask God's help to live our call to be his presence in the world and to understand all that this means.

Specifically we give thanks for...

...Ethel Keirn who celebrated her 89th birthday. Please pray that she is surrounded by love and compassion on her birthday and throughout the coming year.

...Indru Primlani who turned 73. Please pray for a year of peace and joy.

...Farrel McClure-Coleman's dad who just turned 87.

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...the board of South West Mental Health Ministry. Please ask God for discernment and clarity of thought as they move forward.

...God's presence in our community particularly through the music. Please give thanks for Jim Holt and all of our children particularly for the ways they open our eyes to the wonder and beauty of music.

...Carolyn Cox's Grandson Andrew John Paul. Please thank God that little Andrew came through the many complications surrounding his birth and ask God to bless his family.

We also pray for...

...Trulene's Glens niece due to give birth to her first baby on February 19th. Please pray for a smooth delivery and for wise and calming care.

...Andrea Bufort as she begins a walk with her Muslim friend. Please pray for understanding between the faiths, that we might come to know and love each other better.

...Diane Schott's aunt and uncle who both have cancer. Her aunt is now in ICU and so may not continue with her chemotherapy for the time being. Please pray for

healing and strength, and for peace of mind for both Diane's aunt and uncle and their family.

...Larry Schott as he deals with some health issues.

...Andy Resor's colleague Bill who recently underwent open heart surgery. Please pray for strength as Bill

recovers. Please pray for all of those supporting Bill as he regains his health.



Please Pray for:

...Pattie Holt's daughter Katherine who recently underwent surgery. Please pray for a good recovery and continued strength and courage. Please also pray for peace of mind for her family and friends.

...Ted Sharpe who experienced a downturn in his health after his recent surgery. Please pray that his condition improves. Please pray for courage and strength for both Ted and Pat.

...Barbara Anderson and her family. Please pray for strength and peace for Barb's mom Joyce. Please pray for her caregivers that they tend her with care and compassion.

...Ernie Holm, recently taken to hospital with some bleeding. Please pray that the bleeding proves to be nothing troubling. Please pray for Ernie and his family, that they feel held up in their anxiety over Ernie's health.

...all those in our St Andrew family who are isolated from the life of the community.

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Especially we pray for those isolated through due ill health and infirmity: Miriam Falcone, Virginia Rudolph, Ernie Holm, Gretchen Morris, Dorothy Stonehocker, Perk, Ethel Keirn, Mary Lena and Ernie Scott, Virginia Clawson, Eleanor Donald, Jim Brown and Barbara Lynn. Please ask God to help us to be mindful of the need to remain connected

...the inquirers at St Andrews: Lainey Stickinger, Duane Young, Steve and Patti Holt, Richard Jenkins and their sponsors: Karen Lutz, Maggie McAdams, Andy and Jo Peck and Lisa Phillips. Please thank god for the gifts these inquirers bring to St Andrew. Please ask for discernment, patience and courage as this group forges deeper connections with each other, with the St Andrew community and with God.

...our children that we might be guided by the light in them and that we might find ways to explore our faith more deeply with them.

...Peace.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the Lord is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his Gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

A few months ago, as I was facing a particularly difficult time, a dear friend sent this psalm to me. She told me to remember how and why we worship. She and this psalm reminded me that I belong to God. As I come to God in worship I am shaped to understand what it means to be a child of this giant, gracious, living, healing God. I met and was bound to this God as a child thanks to the liturgy (the words, actions and symbols in worship) and I continue to be taught how to live as his child thanks to the work of the liturgy.

I now realize with some clarity the role my church or more specifically my school played for me as a child. My household was very chaotic and scary. My mum and dad have drank for as long as I can remember but when I was not yet ten (I can't remember the exact age) my dad lost his job. At that point they disappeared into alcoholism. They would get a welfare check on a Monday and drink until it was gone. We had little food; they fought and screamed and were violent to each other. My neighbors heard the screams and the kids around teased me. I couldn't understand why no one helped but at the same time I didn't want them to. All through my time with them (I finally left when I was 18) I tried many means to control my situation, I entered the arguments, I withdrew, I stopped eating.

At the same time I was attending a Catholic school and through fear more than anything else (at first) was attending church as much as I could by myself. The counter-cultural message that I was hearing resonated in me. Although the church itself did nothing to help me the liturgy held me. The words and the promises affirmed my place as God's child. When I was eight I was asked to read one of the epistles at my first communion. I remember it still as one of the formative experiences of my childhood. I can't remember the exact reading but there were words I couldn't pronounce. I felt part of this tradition, that they trusted me. At age eleven I was asked to be part of a team that set the altar for mass at school. I was being given a place and we made it our own. I remember there was a dance passed from team to team each year that we did with the altar cloth before we put it away, something silly which helped us feel we had a place. I remember the peace I felt as I chose to attend mass every day after the pope was shot, that place was where I could hear God's word and promises.

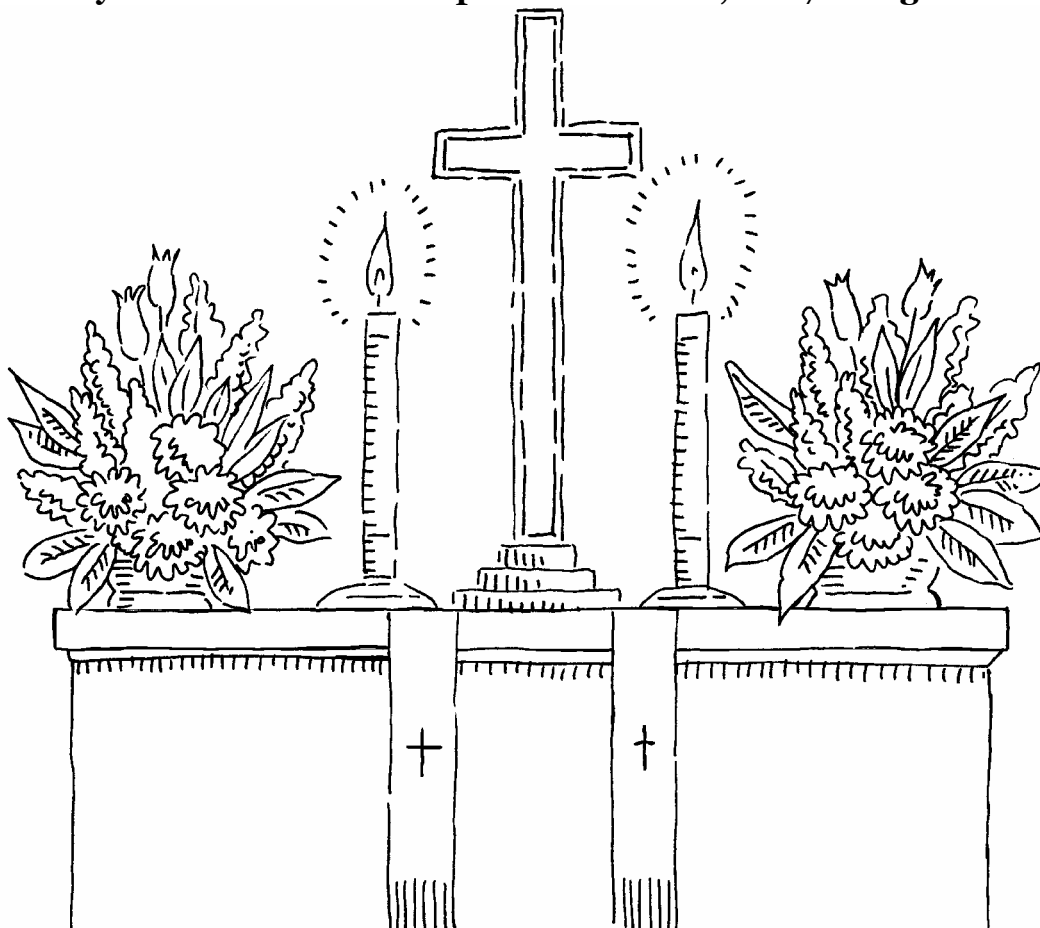
I left home with a deep understanding that I could and should be of use in the world. I was so mad at the whole situation at home and for a while turned my back on God, denying that he could let that happen to me but as I looked for ideologies that fit with what I knew to be true, what I had learned through the liturgy, I could find none. Eventually somehow I came to see how God accompanied me in my childhood and that it is through him that we attain freedom.

As I think about how God can, through the liturgy, tend to our private, deep yearnings and pains I wonder what my children and what the children of my church family may need, but I know this is God's work. Our children must be encouraged to full participation in worship in order that they can experience what God has to say to them, how he is ready and able to hold, heal and shape them, how they are claimed as God's own and sent to work in the world.

My job as an adult in their community is to make sure that they know there is a place for them in worship, to walk with them and support them by sharing that part of God in me and to help them and be with them as they make meaning of what they experience and understand. I realize I also need the liturgy to help me know how to do this!

Maggie McAdams

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 4	2 nd Sunday in Lent	Celebrate the Gifts of Women
Sunday, March 11	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 18	4 th Sunday of Lent	
Sunday, March 25	5 th Sunday in Lent	

*We are grateful for all who come
to worship our creator this day.
Let us come together with joy and love in our hearts.
Bless you, friends,
and be assured that you are indeed welcome.*

We've Got People!

A message of gratitude from Ted and Pat Sharpe

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Our experiences during the last few weeks have given new meaning to the H&R Block slogan, "We've got People". As Ted and I maneuvered through the ups and downs of his recent health crisis - we almost wanted to shout out - "We've got people right here at St. Andrew!"

- Kind, generous people who assume our responsibilities at STARS, the church office, and a deacon meeting when we were unable to attend...
- A sensitive prayer facilitator who makes sure that our prayer requests are perfectly worded to convey optimism as well as concerns...
- A supportive pastor who finds us in the ER and prays with us before Ted's surgery...
- A caring deacon who frequently calls to check on us - even when she was ill herself...
- Hard-working people who show up at our home after the big windstorm with rakes in hand - ready to clean up our branch-covered yard...
- Long-time friends who bring delicious homemade soup and other quick-fix meals to our home to nourish our bodies as well as our spirits...
- Thoughtful people who make encouraging phone calls - even from as far away as Tucson!...
- Nurturing friends who send Email messages or leave comforting phone messages so we can hear their voices, even if we missed their calls...
- Compassionate folks who send cards and notes with carefully-selected text to let us know they are thinking about us...
- Faithful prayer-partners who continue to keep us in their prayers as we ride this roller-coaster of scary and hopeful changes in our health and circumstances...

Yes, there is no doubt about it. We've got people here at St. Andrew who truly have become the body of Christ at work in this community. We are incredibly grateful for the gifts you have shared with us on this part of our life journey and you have inspired us to do what we can to bless others as you have so richly blessed us!

Hello St. Andrew!

March 23-24 this year, I will be walking in the Relay For Life at my school, the University at Buffalo. It is a two-day event held at our sports stadium designed to "celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back against this disease," (ACS).

I'm looking for sponsors to help me raise funds to support the ACS and because St. Andrew does not currently have a Relay team of its own, I would like to invite the members of St. Andrew to sponsor me. Donations can be made online by going to www.acsevents.org/relay/ny/sunybuffalo, clicking on the "Sponsor Participant" link at the top of the page, entering "Christa Peck" as the participant, clicking on my name, and then donating via credit card.

I promise it's a lot easier to find the page than it sounds; I just like to give lots of directions. Thank you so much for supporting me in a cause I believe firmly in.

--Christa Peck

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Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Do You Want to Go to Heaven?

Sunday school teacher: "How many of you children want to go to heaven?"

Everyone raised a hand except one little boy.



Teacher to the boy: "Johnny, don't you want to go to heaven?"

Johnny: "I can't, Mother told me to come home right after Sunday school."

B-I-B-L-E

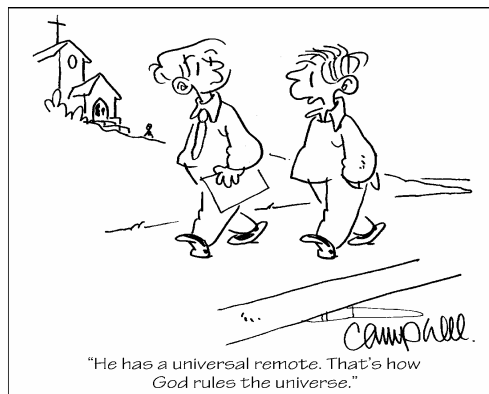
BIBLE: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

Recall the old story of the grandmother who was reading the Bible. When her grandson asked her why, she said, "I'm getting ready for my final exam."

I Believe in the Church

I believe more profoundly in the church every hour that I live. We can make our money and our witness go further through the church than through any independent movement. We can do more constructive work through the church than any other way in the world. That is my deepest conviction. I have watched all kinds of independent movements, and my conviction steadily deepens that Christians are doing the wisest thing possible when we link our lives with the church.

--George W. Pruett (1867-1944), Baptist pastor



Bible Quiz

In Luke's gospel, as Jesus prepared to enter the city Jesus said that he thought many in Jerusalem would not accept him and his ministry. Even so, he said that he had the desire to "gather your children together as a _____ and you were not willing!"

Which statement below belongs in the blank above?

- A. mother dog gathers her pups to her side
- B. hen gathers her brood under her wings
- C. father protects his wife and his children
- D. shepherd gathers his flock

(The answer is in Luke 13:34, NRSV).



Pointers On Gardening?

There is the story of the minister who was making a wooden trellis to support a climbing vine.

As he was pounding away, he noticed that a little boy was watching him. The youngster didn't say a word, so the preacher kept on working, thinking the lad would leave. But, he didn't.

Pleased at the thought that his work was being admired, the pastor finally said, "Well, son, trying to pick up some pointers on gardening?"

"No," he replied. "I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer."

--Homiletics



Tony and Midge Lopez
March 18
28 Years
CONGRATULATIONS!



March 01 Lisa Phillips
Rachel Phillips
March 02 Bob Mullen
March 05 Kristy Patterson
March 07 Wendy Flores
March 09 Jerry Warden
March 10 Obie Tate
March 11 Marlynne Olson
March 12 Dennis Crawford
Cameron McClure-Coleman
March 13 Pat Eman
March 14 Kimberly Behymer
Rob Behymer
Ernest Holm
Thomas Kendra
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 22 Farel McClure
March 23 Polly Niblock
March 27 Connor McAdams
March 29 Pete Anderson
Japke Telquist
March 31 Jeremiah Calhoun

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

SPECIAL DATES

March 02 World Day of Prayer
March 04 Second Sunday of Lent
March 03-04 Purim
March 11 Third Sunday of Lent
Girl Scout Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 17 St. Patrick's Day
March 18 Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 21 First Day of Spring
March 25 Fifth Sunday of Lent



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MARCH 11, 2007

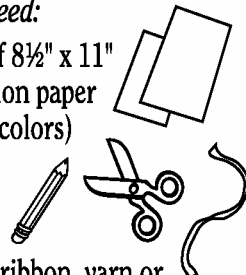
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BY ONE HOUR!

A PRAYER REMINDER

Many times we fold our hands together to pray. Here is a “handy” craft that can help you remember what to include in your prayers.

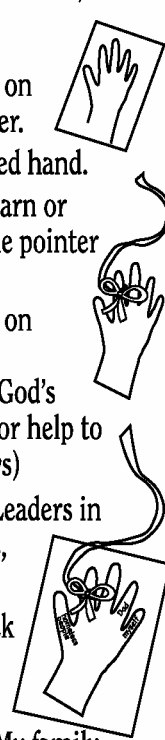
What you need:

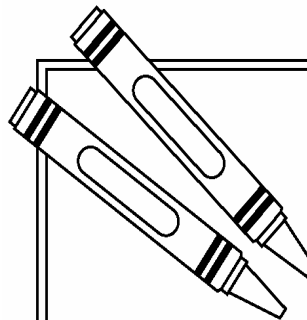
- 2 sheets of 8½" x 11" construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Crayons
- 1 piece of ribbon, yarn or string about 6-12 inches long
- Glue (white or glue stick)



What to do:

1. Trace your hand on one sheet of paper.
2. Cut out the traced hand.
3. Tie the ribbon, yarn or string around the pointer (index) finger.
4. Write a message on each finger:
 - (Pointer finger) God's guidance (pray for help to follow God's ways)
 - (Middle finger) Leaders in my life (teachers, pastors, etc.)
 - (Ring finger) Sick and old people
 - (Pinky finger) Myself (Thumb) My family
5. Glue the hand onto the other sheet of paper.
6. Start with the ribbon finger and pray for God's help. Then pray for all the people on each finger.






Just for KIDS

Remember to Pray

There are many verses in the Bible that talk to us about prayer. Solve the puzzle below to see the lesson Paul teaches about prayer in Philemon 1:4. Think about your own life and your prayers.



Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks, and then read Paul's message.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

“ _____
 R Z O D Z B H G S Z M P N B

 T L W Z H R I V N V N Y V I

 B L F R M N B K I Z B V I H ”

... Philemon 1:4, NIV

Answer:
I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers

HERE I AM, LORD

*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.*

By Alma-jean Marion

Greetings Members and Friends of SAPC. Considered the longest month of the year March has arrived. I've always viewed this month as one that is wet, windy, and cold. I was once informed that as we age that the days move by faster each day. Well, February went by like a blurr - whew!

As we continue to prepare ourselves during this Lenten Season for Easter, the churchwide calendar reminds us of some very important dates in the month of March.

First, is World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 2nd. By action of the PCUSA, General Assembly, 1993, in Orlando, it is noteworthy that "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" appears in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar each year. This year it is on the first Sunday, March 4.

This day is set aside for two reasons: to celebrate and honor individual women who contribute their gifts to church and community and to lift up issues of women's rights. The occasion provides an opportunity for congregations to recognize particular women whose faithful service makes a difference in the church's life. It also gives congregations a chance to lift up specific issues of concern to women locally, nationally and internationally.

Through World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to: Become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation. Be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures.

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Parish Associate: Rev. Rob McClure

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Web: www.standrewpc.org

- Take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them, and
- Become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.

March 11 is Girl Scout Sunday; let's remember to give them our support.

"Beware of the Ides of March!" Beware of the physiological experiences of adjusting to Daylight Saving Time (March 11) and the First Day of Spring (March 21).

In the life of the Church this past month our individual faith has been challenged. Three of our church members said farewell to their mothers and these mothers joined the Church Triumphant. Keep Maggie McAdams, Sue Patterson, and Laura Clawson and their families on your prayer list.

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Last month I called on Perspective readers to join me as part of the production team for this publication. Enclosed is a form entitled, "Help Us Report the News" Please use it to contribute articles for publication. Feel free to continue emailing me; this form is primarily for those who do not have email.

Additionally, help us determine where the talent is at SAPC. Please complete the "Time and Talent Survey" and place it in my mailbox at Church or in the Offering plate for your convenience.

Thank you for your help; and please continue the flow of information and communication at SAPC.

*"Too often we underestimate
the power of a touch, a smile,
a kind word, a listening ear,
an honest compliment, or the smallest act of carig,
all of which have the potential
to turn life around*

--Leo Buscaglia

PERSPECTIVE DEADLINE: 2 nd Week of the month Distribution: 1 st day of the month: Jan.-June & Sept.-Dec. EMAIL COPY TO: almajean99@netzero.net

Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Kim Ellenburg, Church Secretary

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages): 9:30 a.m.

Perspective Newsletter Team: Alma-jean Marion, Editor

Reporters: JoAnn Peck, Lois Summers, Maggie McAdams



LENTEN CALENDAR

**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**

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abundant gifts we are
given. We strive to be
ambitious disciples of Christ and to provide
a safe supportive haven
to all.