



*"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" -Psalm 27:14*

"There's no time like the present, and there's no present like time." These are lyrics to a song called "Deadline" by the PC(USA)'s own singer, songwriter, and speaker extraordinaire, David LaMotte. I first heard this phrase around 20 years ago, and it has stuck with me ever since. Advent and Christmastide always heightens my awareness of time.

In Advent, we wait week after week to celebrate Christ's coming. As each Sunday passes, our anticipation grows stronger and stronger as our enthusiasm for Christmas morning builds. Worship during Advent reminds us of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings, which adds to our already increasing excitement.

No matter how much we want to fast forward to Christmas morning though, time continues moving at the same speed.

I was reminded recently of the story of a state trooper who lays in wait at a carefully planned speed trap. He spots someone speeding, flashes his lights, pulls the car over, walks up to the driver, and says, "I've been waiting for you all day." The driver responds, "I got here as fast as I could!"

This Advent, I pray that in our waiting, we would slow down and recognize that the time we have is precious and is a present given to us by God. I also pray that we would recognize that even as we wait, there's no time like the present to do God's work.

Whether you know it or not, St. Andrew (you!) are already doing that work. At the November Session meeting, a decision was made to give out of the abundance that God has given us. We will be donating a significant amount to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County to help them in their important work in our local communities. More details are available in the Session highlights submitted by our Clerk Stu Strong for this month's SAC (page 6), and stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks on how we will celebrate this monumental act of generosity!

You have made this possible with your faithful giving. Thank you! In this time of Advent, know that by acts like this, you are already actively sharing Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love to those who need it most. That, my friends, is time well spent.

Grace and peace,  
Tripp

<u>St. Andrew Elders &amp; Ministry Leaders 2021</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
Clerk of Session.....	Stuart Strong
Worship .....	Linda Grissom
Member Care.....	Nellie Gates
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	Turner Matthews
Mission .....	Barbara Mouton
Communications & Outreach .....	Harold Culbert
Treasurer/Administration.....	Philip Gilbert
Finance.....	Greg Vogel
Building/Grounds .....	Bob Naumann
Nominating .....	Nellie Gates



Sharon Thomson      Dec. 10  
 Tommy Gates        Dec. 17  
 Jim Wright            Dec. 19



Dave and Cheryl  
 Ellerbe  
 Dec. 22



**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH  
 SUNDAY, DEC. 19, 8:45 AM**

**No Sunday School**

Due to COVID, we are trying have the fellowship breakfast and to keep it as safe as possible. Food and drinks will be provided. Member Care will be serving muffins, pastries, fresh fruit, sausage biscuits, orange juice, and coffee. We will miss the homemade casseroles and other goodies we usually have, but felt it best to keep it simple this year. Mark your calendars now for this special fellowship time.



**Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight Service  
 Friday, December 24  
 4:00 PM**



**Thank you for your contributions  
 to our Thanksgiving dinners  
 and those who helped pack them.  
 We contributed 47 meals  
 to our community.**

**The Mission Committee**





“Knowing the impact of the programs that the Christmas Joy Offering supports, it has always been important for me to promote the Offering in the many churches I’ve served. And now, years later, I have firsthand knowledge of what a life-changing difference it can make.”

Rev. Jack Eisel  
honorably retired  
Sacramento, CA



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

### Christmas Joy Offering, Sunday, December 19

You will receive a brochure and envelope in the mail for this special offering.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

### Presbyterian Women's Meeting

Tuesday, December 7

10:00 am in the fellowship hall.

Lunch following at Logan's Roadhouse

Leader: Barbara Allen

Lesson: "Ruth and Loyal Love"

Ruth 1 and 2

December Project: Special Friends

## Worship Team Notes From Nov. 17 Session Meeting

The St. Andrew Restart Committee has recently relaxed some of our restrictions during worship. These include the following:

- Wearing a mask is now optional. Masks are still available as you enter the building.
- The choir is again seated in the choir loft, leaving an empty seat between individuals.

The following restrictions will remain in place:

- Social distancing between different family groups is requested in the sanctuary, as well as in the halls and narthex.
- Communion will continue with the individual sealed chalices during the coming months.
- The offering plate will remain in the narthex.
- Congregants will remain in place during the passing of the peace.

During December, the choir will be singing anthems more often, with guest soloists invited.

We celebrated Christ the King Sunday on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and began Sundays of Advent on November 28<sup>th</sup>. During Advent we will again light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion at 4:00 PM. On Sunday morning, December 26<sup>th</sup>, the service will highlight scripture and music of the season.

Linda Grissom, Chair

## CCC FOOD PANTRY Collection the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.



### Items Needed Most

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Grits/Oatmeal    | Soup          |
| Hamburger Helper | Crackers      |
| Peanut Butter    | Canned Greens |
| Canned Fruit     | Pasta         |
| Canned Veggies   | Pasta Sauce   |
| Dried Beans      | Rice          |

**Please leave items in shopping cart.**



**CARING HANDS MINISTRY: December 9 at 1:00. No other meetings in December. Beginning in January we will meet the 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month, 1:00 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME! No skills needed, we will teach you.**

## Congregational Meeting



Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, December 12. The meeting will be for the purpose of approving any changes in the terms of call for the pastor, receiving the nominating committee report for church officers, electing incoming officers and members to serve on the nominating committee. All members are encouraged to attend.

## Seekers Sunday School



Beginning Sunday, January 9, the Seekers class will be viewing and discussing the television series, "The Chosen." "The Chosen" is a multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus, which was created outside of the Hollywood system and allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew him.

Imagine that you could see the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people that walked on earth with him – the disciples, Mary his mother, the Pharisees, the children, those he healed. What would that look like? Come and see what they saw.

All are welcome! Please join the Seekers in the junior high room on Sundays at 8:45 a.m.



St. Andrew has been fortunate to have several wheelchairs and walkers donated for use at the church. These items have been needed recently, but were not available. If you have a wheelchair or walker that you have borrowed from the church, please call the church office to let us know. As soon as you are through using the wheelchair or walker, it needs to be returned to the church for others to use.

### Guidelines

- Wheelchairs and walkers are primarily for use at the church.
- If you need a wheelchair or walker for a period of time, please check with the office to let them know you are removing the item from the building and for how long.

Nellie Gates, Member Care

**When the kindness and love  
of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us.**

Titus 3:4-5, NIV

**Restart Team Revised Guidelines  
November 29, 2021**

- Wearing a mask is optional. However, masks will be available.
- The congregation is encouraged to practice social distancing throughout the building before, during and after the service.
- The kitchen will be opened on a limited basis for groups to bring their own refreshments. No cooking.
- St. Andrew will be open to small groups with the understanding they will sanitize and practice social distancing.
- The nursery is closed until further notice.
- The choir will resume its normal routine for Sunday services with practices remaining in the sanctuary.
- There is no Sunday School for children at this time.
- Communion will continue to use the individual packets.

**The following items are highlights from the November 17, 2021, Stated Session Meeting**

The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of September 15, 2021, were approved.

- ◆ Our membership as of October 31, 2021, is at 76 with the death of Milton Bridges on September 9, 2021
- ◆ Greg Vogel reported that October YTD income is about \$4300 below budget, but our spending is approximately \$26k below budget, so we continue to be in very good shape.
- ◆ Nellie Gates reported that all is going very well as we continue to meet in person and take appropriate measures for members safety regarding COVID. We will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments to our policies as required. The next meeting of the Restart Team is on November 29, 2021.
- ◆ Bob Naumann advised us that the Building and Grounds team has installed piping to carry away water from downspouts to prevent erosion in the area around the south sanctuary entrance, where the tree was removed. The ground has been sloped appropriately, and sod has been laid. Plants will be added once selection has been made.
- ◆ Terms of the Pastor's Call were discussed (in the absence of Tripp) and will be voted on at a Congregational meeting on December 12, along with election of new Elders and Nominating Committee Members
- ◆ Throughout 2021, we have been considering alternatives for utilizing money which has accumulated during the COVID situation (due to underspending because of reduced activities and gains in our assets). We believe that to be good stewards of the blessings which God has given to us that we should find good use for the money and not just build up a bank account. After careful deliberation and prayerful discussion, the Session acted upon a recommendation from the Mission Team and voted to give \$30,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County. This money will help build a home and will help to sustain the program for years to come, since mortgages paid by Habitat homeowners contribute money back into the system each month to help build future homes. Habitat is currently building its' 94<sup>th</sup> home in Morgan County over the last 31 years.

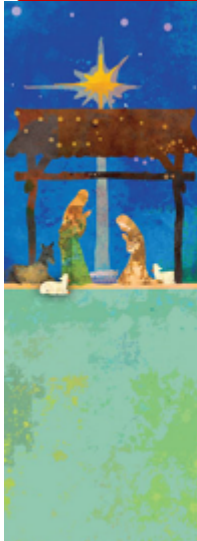
The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session



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## DECEMBER MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS



December	5	12	19	26
Liturgists	Linda Grissom	Bob Naumann	Nellie Gates	Linda Grissom
Ushers	John Shull Shelly Shull Cerese Sweeley	John Newbill Sylvia Newbill Harold Moore	Don Foster Betty Matthews Fate Webster	Barb Mouton Cerese Sweeley

Merry Christmas!

				December		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 DAR 12 noon	3	4 River City Christmas Musical at Westmeade Bapt Church 6:30p
5 2nd Sunday of Advent	6 Color Group 9:30 am	7 PW 10 am, then lunch	8	9 Caring Hands 1pm	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting 11 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 4th Sun. of Advent 8:45 am Christmas Brunch Joy Offering	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve SERVICE 4:00 PM	25 
26	27	28	29	30	31	