

Important Dates

- 7 - Communion and Food Bank donations
- 9 - Webinar on Community Ministry
- 13 - Garden Seminar
- 20 - Taize
- 21 - Deacons' Series on Aging
- 28 - Palm Sunday
- April 2 - Good Friday and Tenebrae Service
- April 4 - Easter Sunday with Easter Cantata by Youth and Choir

March Volunteers

Liturgists

- 7 - Krenik Family
- 14 - Curt Kochner
- 21 - Patti Johnson
- 28 - Dave Kimball
- April 4 - Cynthia Kessler

Ushers

- 7 - Marvel Shearer and Linda Simpson
- 14 - Fran & Mike Paterson
- 21 - Betty & Jim White-side
- 28 - Chris Chauvin and Jan Spicer
- April 4 - Krenik Family

Perfectly Love

Many of you have probably heard of **Walter Brueggemann** and you probably know of his scholarly wisdom, particularly in the Hebrew Scriptures, but you may now know of his poetry and prayers. While I was on my study retreat last month I began my worship time each morning with prayer from a new book by Walter Brueggemann called *Prayers for a Privileged People*, and I want to share one of his poetic prayers with you this month, during this Lenten season.

We pray, as often as we meet,

*That we might
"perfectly love you."
Indeed, we have been com-*

*mandated from the beginning,
To love with all our hearts and
All our souls and
All our minds and
All our strength.*

*We have pledged to love,
Pledged in our prayers and in our
baptism,
In our confirmation and with our
best resolve.*

*But we confess...
We love you imperfectly;
We love you with a divided heart,
With a thousand other loves
That are more compelling,
With reservation and qualifica-*

*And passion withheld and
Devotion impaired.*

We do not now come to pretend be-
*fore you,
But to confess that we do not,
As we are,
Love you perfectly;
We do not keep your com-*

*mands;
We do not order
our lives by your pur-*
*pose;
We do not tilt
toward you as our deep-*

*est affection.
But we would...
We would love you
more perfectly,
By the taste of bread
become your flesh,
By the swallow of wine
become your blood,
By the praise of our
lips and beyond our usual*

*reasoning,
By the commandments that are
not burden but joy to us,
By embracing your passion for
neighbors,
By your ways of justice and peace
and mercy,
By honoring the world you have
made
And all creatures great and
small,
By self-care that knows you as our
creator.*



FROM
HIS
FULLNESS
WE HAVE
ALL
RECEIVED
GRACE
UPON
GRACE

(Continued on page 2)

Financial Report 2009

	<u>Jan. 2010</u>	<u>2010 YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Income</u>	\$ 8,171	\$ 8,171	\$ 9,432	(\$ 1,261)
<u>Expenses</u>	\$ 13,954	\$ 13,954	\$ 14,837	(\$ 883)
	(\$ 5,783)	(\$ 5,783)	(\$ 5,405)	(\$ 378)



Prayer and Messages from the Heart

Doris Fraser

Lead us past our shabby compromises

*And our cheap devotion;
Lead us into singleness of vision
And purity of heart,
That we may will one thing,
And answer back in love to your
great love to us.*

*Free us from idolatries,
And our habits of recalcitrance,
Tender our hearts,
Gentle our lips,
Open our hands,
That we may turn toward you fully
Toward your world unguardedly.*

*Let us bask in your freedom
To be fully yours, and
So trusting fully our own.
We pray through the Lord Jesus who
loved you singularly, perfectly, fully -
to the end.*

The season of Lent is both a journey inward, to know ourselves and the God beating inside our hearts, but in turning toward God we also are turning outward toward the God-created world, our neighbors, and the rejected. I think that journey both inward and outward is confusing and troubling so we'd just rather not do Lent. What am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to be? How can anyone expect me to confess all my sins and be perfect?

It's not perfection that Lent is trying to forge us into; it's a commitment to the way of Christ, it's a devotion to a God-oriented way of loving and living. It's a recognition that our mistakes and sins are not something

that we plan to do again, and it's an acceptance of a grace in forgiveness that is so beyond what we think is deserving that we describe it as simply other-worldly.

*Tender our hearts,
Gentle our lips,
Open our hands,
That we may turn
toward you fully*

Which brings us to the indescribable beauty of Easter, and the very reason for our season of Lent. That grace and forgiveness and love of God is very much grounded in this world. It is earthy and vulnerably present, which also means it can be attacked and bruised and ridiculed. It is the very life of Christ and a life that we celebrate does not die by human hatred.

The Greek word that we translate as "perfect" does not so much mean without error, but instead is more along the lines of being fully filled.

We confess that we are not perfect, that we are human, that we at times are quite empty or at least less than we could be, but by being human we are also vessels for such earthy vulnerable grace. Lent is a time to be filled up and pouring out.

Grace and peace,
Brent

Your news concerning St. Andrew and the congregation is always welcome. Regular mail or drop off at the office. E-mail to: office@standrewbillings.org

Deadline for the April issue of the Net is Monday, April 19th. You are encouraged to submit your news before the deadline.

Thanks,
Susan Dickson, editor



February Session Notes

by Curt Kochner
Session Clerk

-Pastor Long be on Study Leave February 25-28. Susan Thomas will lead worship on February 28.

-Two people attended the New Member Class. Linda Simpson and Rachel Kraft will be welcomed as new members on March 14.

-Grady Skaggs will serve as President of the Trustees for 2010.

-Community assignments were made for the coming year. All communities and committees are encouraged to recruit additional members from the congregation.

-Jim Tarr volunteered to lead an Ad Hoc Committee on Church Growth to develop a process for St. Andrew to implement in order to focus on growing the membership of our congregation. Jim will recruit members for this committee from the full membership of St. Andrew. This committee will present a proposal to the Session for consideration.

-Pastor Long and Sandy Welch provided a brief overview on the status of the water supply at Westminster Spires. There are some discussions taking place at the Presbytery level regarding the future of the camp. The Session of St. Andrew expressed interest in being kept informed about any pending actions regarding the future of the camp.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

EDUCATION: The youth assisted in worship on Scout Sunday on February 7, and led worship on Youth Sunday on February 14. Susan Thomas and Curt Kochner will present a six week Lenten Adult Sunday School class beginning February 21, as a second Adult Sunday School class opportunity. The youth will assist in the presentation of the Easter program on April 4. A Basket Auction fund raiser is planned for April 18, to raise money to help support youth activities.

FACILITIES: The Annual Garage Sale is planned for May 13, 14 and 15. The Fa-

cilities Community has reviewed the current Liability Insurance Policy and will drop the Terrorism Coverage.

GARDEN: The recent article that was published about the Community Garden has drawn interest from a number of other groups interested in starting a similar project. A church from Missouri contacted us and Dave Kimball and Grady Skaggs will present a program on the Community Garden to the Laurel Rotary Club. In addition, the Good Earth Market and a group in Huntley have expressed interest in starting gardens.

FELLOWSHIP: Group dinners are being planned and will begin in March. A number of people have agreed to help out with the Fellowship Time following worship. Bob Wood will make an announcement to see if there are more people interested in participating in the Prayer Chain.

WORSHIP: The Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 on February 17. A Service Project to assemble 48 Hygiene Kits to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be completed during the Ash Wednesday service. Four hundred and seventy dollars was collected for this project. Any funds remaining after the kits have been sent will be forwarded to PDA to support relief efforts.

The next stated meeting of the St. Andrew Session will be held on March 16, at 6:15 p.m.



We are Building a
Servant Community
Seeking to be
Christ's Hands
and Heart

1st Presbyterian
Women's Annual
Praise Luncheon
**Noon, Wednesday,
March 31**
RSVP by March 24 with
your reservations to
Marlene Spencer at
252-5027
**Food
Fellowship
Inspirational Message**

St. Andrew's Education Program

Betty Whiting has provided us with the following information regarding the educational opportunities provided at St. Andrew's during 2010.

❖ Children's Sunday School and Church Nursery

Children in grades K – 6 are welcome to attend Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Kids Connection curriculum is being used. A nursery for all ages is available during the church worship service at 11 a.m.

❖ Youth and Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Two classes for youth and adults are being conducted concurrently this spring at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. before worship service:

1. The **Old Testament study** is an academic DVD lecture series with a scholarly presentation of the places and events that the Hebrew people experienced as they led us toward the Messiah. If you love history, geography, languages, and pondering on events in the Old Testament, you'll be fascinated with this class and learn a great deal. Jim Tarr facilitates this group in the sanctuary.
2. In the fellowship room, Rev. Susan Thomas and Curt Kochner are leading a Lenten series, a discussion of the **spiritual disciplines**. "Certain practices help us attend to the work of grace in our life and our times. Spiritual disciplines are the practices that help us consciously to develop the spiritual dimension in our lives" (Marjorie Thompson). The topics are as follows: February 21, **Awareness**; February 28, **Prayer**; March 7, **Study**; March 14, **Solidity**; March 21, **Simplicity**; March 28, **Service**. They meet upstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

❖ Book Study – Spring 2010

The book study group meets Wednesdays at 12:00 noon and ends at 1:00 for those needing to get back to work or who have other appointments. The group meets in the Garden Room. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring a lunch to eat during the discussions.

Rev. Jim Bell is currently leading a discussion of the book, "**A New Earth**" by Eckhart Tolle. The chapter topics for the rest of the spring are as follows: March 3, Role-playing – the many faces of the ego; March 10, The pain – body; March 17, Breaking Free; March 24, Finding who you truly are; March 31, The discovery of inner space; April 7, Your inner purpose; April 14, A new earth.

❖ The Deacons' Series on Aging

The Deacons are sponsoring a set of programs designed to give our congregation, young and old, information we may need to confront issues of aging ourselves or dealing with aging loved ones. The programs are after worship on Sundays with a pot-luck lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend. Following are the topics to be presented:

1. March 21, 2010, Sue Bailey with the Yellowstone County Council on Aging will speak. Ms. Bailey will present information on **long-term care** and the various ramifications involved with that type of health care need.
2. On April 18, 2010, Susan Thomas, Chaplain at Billings Clinic will offer information on what are called "**Advanced Directive**." There may be living wills, durable power of attorney for health care, donor cards, and a discussion of "Comfort One."

(Continue on page 5)



March Birthdays

- 7 - Jim Tarr
- 13 - Ebin Gormley
- 14 - Ben Larson
- 16 - Shirley Wells
- 17 - Betty Whiteside
- 27 - Ray Whearty
- 31 - Jim Whiteside

March Anniversaries

- 17 - Ray & Harriet Whearty
- 29 - Bob & Mary Wood

Rescue Mission Sandwich Makers— every Wednesday at 9:00am



Food Bank Sunday

First Sunday of each month: Bring your canned goods to church



❖ **Youth Fellowship**

Youth Fellowship meets Sunday afternoons with Cynthia Kessler as leader and Patti Johnson as assistant. In January, the Youth led by Kristin Kochner advertised and put on a skit encouraging the congregation to donate to Souper Bowl Sunday, providing food and \$108 for the Billings Food Bank.

Souper Bowl Sunday was February 7, also **Scout Sunday**. You can't help but be proud of our Scouts with all their badges and hours of service and study. Scout troop members participated as ushers, greeters, and in the prayers during Scout Sunday.

On February 14, **Youth Sunday**, the Youth led the entire worship service. The theme of worship was on exploring our identities: What talents do we have to share? Kristin Kochner, Amy Kessler, Cole Krenik, Kyle Krenik, and Zach Kessler put on a dramatic skit, "The Three Trees," showing that God has greater plans in store for us than we can imagine. Kristin Kochner played a flute solo for the prelude and Amy Kessler provided special music during the service. The Youth and Ebin Gormley had a lovely entrance explaining worship symbols. They provided beautiful prayers and thoughtful scripture lessons. Check out the bulletin board in the Garden Room that has leaves of talents our congregation wishes to share. What a great group of youth at St. Andrew.

We want to help with expenses for Amy Kessler and Kristin Kochner who are going to **Triennium at Purdue University** this summer. Supporting our children and youth is the greatest gift we can give, so plan to donate a basket of your talents or buy someone else's basket on April 18. If enough money is raised, we'll also have camp scholarships for other young people to go to Westminster Spires this summer.

Creative Community Ministry

Tuesday noon, March 9, everyone is invited to attend a Webinar in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary. In this one hour, we will be able to see and hear others across the U.S. and visit with them in an Alban Institute program introducing seven creative models for community ministry.

Learn about creative models ranging from mobilizing volunteers to developing a full-fledged program or nonprofit on-site at your church:

- ❖ In-kind donations of space, "stuff," staff time, etc.;
- ❖ Sending volunteers;
- ❖ Partnering with another initiative in the community;
- ❖ Public policy advocacy;
- ❖ Community Organizing;
- ❖ Developing your own community ministry programs;
- ❖ Creating a nonprofit organization at your church - benefits and risks.

The Webinar Leader, Joy Skjegstad, is an independent consultant on nonprofit management and ministry development. She has more than 20 years of experience starting and growing nonprofit organizations with a special focus on faith-based groups, and youth and community development.



In March

Facilities
2nd at 7

Education
3rd at 5:30

Session
16th at 6:15

Worship
23 at 6:30

Fellowship
24th at 5:30

Deacons
29th at 7



Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010

by Cynthia Kessler

This summer Kristin Kochner and Amy Kessler will be attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in Indiana, from July 20th to the 24th.



Purdue University Campus -- Mall Area

PCUSA and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches are centered around life, teaching and worshiping of God as lived by Jesus Christ. During this event, our youth are helped to discover how praying, serving and going out into the world can help them connect with God as individuals and grow in their faith.

The theme for the 2010 Triennium event is **“For Such a Time as This”**. The book of Esther will be the scripture focus. The program planners saw this as an encouragement to be courageous, to be faithful and to be attentive to God, and to be agents of God, by hearing His calling and going out into the world spreading His love and His word.

To find out more about the Youth Triennium log on to:
www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

Seeds of Joy

by Jeanne Castberg

It's almost that time!
I feel excitement bubbling within me..
Soon we will all be working the soil,
preparing for spring planting,
creating a landscape of
incredible beauty and bounty.

Autumn is my favorite season, but...
who can argue with springtime:
A rebirth following the
snows of winter.
Speaking of winter, I think I know
why God created that season.

He wanted us to slow down, to enjoy
each day of our lives, to repair
ourselves for the labor of spring
planting, to anticipate the
beauty we know is coming, to
appreciate the sights and smells of
flowers and trees in bloom.

What an incredible world has been
Created for us to enjoy!
How lucky we are to have eyes to
see and ears to hear the joys of spring:
Birds and flowers and blossoms--
gifts given freely for all to enjoy.
Hail Springtime!

Thought You'd Want To Know

*More and more Presbyterians are choosing to endow their pledge to their church when they are gone, knowing the church will always carry on the mission and ministry with their help. Check out this website:
www.presbyterianfoundation.org
and click on "Ways to Give."
This would be financial support forever!*

**standrewbill-
ings.org**

Calendar updates

Who is This King?

by Betty Whiting

During Jesus' life, people were puzzled over who He was: The Messiah or a fraud? For Easter worship on April 4, the choir and the youth will portray the confusion surrounding Jesus. He came preaching peace and love, but many were looking for a king who would conquer with power and might.



The music for "Who Is This King?" was written by Joseph Martin and Lloyd Larson. Larson was the composer of the Easter cantata that the choir and church members presented for Easter 2009. The skit the youth will act out between the musical numbers was written by Betty Whiting.

Amy Kessler as Mary Magdalene says she has seen Jesus alive and gives a convincing testimony in "I Know My Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's *Messiah*. The resurrection provides compelling evidence that Jesus is the King of Kings.

May you each be blessed as you contemplate the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection during Passion Week. We hope the story comes alive once more in your heart as together we claim Jesus as the risen and living King.

Basket Auction on April 18th

by Cynthia Kessler

The youth of St. Andrew will have a Basket Auction to raise funds for participation in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, summer camps, and youth retreats. The funds raised will help pay for applicants' registration fees. The youth will also be contributing to pay for their attendance.



This year the youth are asking those who are interested to donate a basket or a basket-less item to be auctioned off in the Garden Room on April 18th after church. The items need not be large or expensive. Some ideas include coffee cups with various flavors of coffee, garden tools or seeds, baked goods, or stationary with pen or stamps. Be creative.

Items already donated for the auction are a watercolor, quilted wall hanging, weekend at a condo in Big Sky and fudge.

All donations or a description of them will be on display in the Garden Room the Sunday of April 11. Please let any one of St. Andrew's youth know if you plan to donate something.

Thank you for your continued support of our youth and children. The youth and their parents are always appreciative of your help, prayers, and willingness to support them.

"Teach a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." -- Proverbs 22:6

(Continue on next column)

Jan Spicer Opens Her Heart to Peru's Chil-



Jan Spicer discovered that the biggest rewards come in the smallest packages while caring for kids recently in Lima, Peru. Jan cared for twenty-two 6- and 7-year old children through Global Volunteers, a non-profit, nonsectarian international development organization in consultative status with the UN.

Jan's service program was at Ciudad De los Niños, an orphanage of 300 boys under the auspices of the Catholic Church. The Orphanage is well organized with each "family" of boys having three tutors living within the unit serving as substitute parents -- and are dearly loved by the boys. The volunteers worked at light household chores and helped the boys with their homework. Jan guided the boys through some basic English exercises and games which they were hungry to learn. The boys were also hungry for attention and loved learning anything concerning the United States.

When getting to know the children of a different culture, Jan said she formed very warm and genuine relationships with those she served. Her participation on service programs (this was her fifth with Global Volunteers) helps her keep life in perspective and offers her the chance to be more empathetic with others -- especially those with different experiences than her own. She was impressed by the close community of 300 boys and firmly believes "peace and understanding grows -- by small groups of people helping others."

Jan and the other volunteers stayed in a modest hotel about 45 minutes away. During their free time, they enjoyed tours, and had many one-on-one conversations with the local people. She says that the Lima people are wonderfully accepting and loving.

Jan explains that no special skills are required to volunteer -- only a curiosity about other cultures and a desire to be of service. Work projects generally include teaching conversational English, caring for at-risk children, construction and light labor, and assisting with health care. Families, individuals, couples, and groups of all ages and backgrounds may serve in this unique way -- to give back and make a genuine difference by working with and learning from and about local people in their community

For more information you can visit the Global Volunteers website at www.globalvolunteers.org. Service program fees are tax-deductible for U.S. citizens. Airfare and visas are extra.

Haiti Disaster Relief

by Curt Kochner

Thanks to contributions from members of St. Andrew, on February 18, we shipped 54 Hygiene Kits to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be used in relief efforts in Haiti. During our Ash Wednesday Service we assembled 48 kits and 6 additional kits were donated.

Due to the shopping skills of Mary Apple, we had some funds left over from the Hygiene Kit donations which will be added to donations that were made specifically for Haiti relief. A check for \$730 will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Thanks to everyone for supporting this very important mission outreach



Address Service Requested

Coming Soon

March 9th - Webinar on Creative
Community Ministry

March 13th - Community Garden
Seminar

March 20th - Taize

March 21st - Presentation on
Aging with pot-luck lunch

March 28th - Palm Sunday

April 2nd - Good Friday Soup and
Bread dinner at 6:30 pm, and
Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm

April 4th -- Easter Sunday --
Special Choir Cantata

Taizé

A Service of Worship
In Prayer, Silence,
Scripture and Song

March 20th

Third Saturday of each
month at 6:30pm



JESUS
a name above every other name
PHILIPPIANS 2:9

Church Growth Study Group

by Jim Tarr

The Session wants to hear from you on the subject of things we could decide to do to grow the participation of others in going to this church. What do you think we could do to let the community around us know about St Andrew and why we like to worship and participate in this fellowship? Those of us who are participating, wonder what it will take to help others experience what we experience here? How do growing churches increase their attendance? What is their attraction? Is there a process which we could adopt which will result in seeing new faces coming through our doors?

We need to communicate to the Session some ideas we have about what is working in other groups in which we participate or know about. Our personal time to do things we consider important is limited and yet we still make time to go to church; however, many of our acquaintances do not feel this way. We could look at our reasons for going to church and their reasons for not going to church and maybe discover a plan.

Personally I like to fish and fishing is a learned skill. Like many sports you can't be good at it without a lot of practice and using the right equipment. You also need to know the species you are after, the feeding habits, the places they like to hang out, the time of day they are hungry, and the temperature of the water.



Altogether, is the process you select going to get the fish to bite?

Even with all these steps, you still have to develop a delivery presentation which will not spook the fish.

I think there may be a reason we are called to be fisherman as we bring people to participate in the body of Christ. If you want to discover together how we can become better at fishing for fellow human beings, please join me in this study.

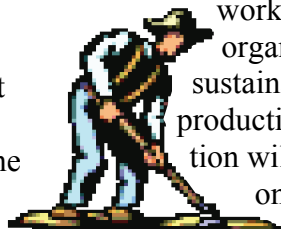
Gardening Seminar

by David Kimball

The Community Garden is sponsoring a Gardening Seminar on Saturday, March 13, from 9:00 to 12:00 at the church. The seminar will include presentations on three different topics.



The first topic is a DVD presentation on Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew, the author of the book on this subject. This will be followed by a discussion of small space gardening techniques. The second topic will be a presentation by Wayne Bureson on his experiences in Africa promoting small gardening practices in Rwanda, Mali and Ethiopia. He spent five months in Africa last summer



working with three different organizations promoting sustainable and healthy food production. The final presentation will be by Dave Kimball on selecting varieties of common vegetables for your garden.

We anticipate hosting a second seminar this spring on home food preservation. More information will be provided when the details are finalized.

The seminars are open to anyone interested in gardening.