



# The Messenger

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF  
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS



March 2018

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Well, it's March, and we all know what that brings – March Madness.

It starts with 64 teams. Then they'll be 32. The next rounds are called Sweet 16, Elite 8, and then the Final 4. Making it to the Tournament at all is a big deal. Any team can make it, which is what makes March Madness fun. People predict who is going to win, but anything goes! Little college basketball teams can upset big ones and everyone goes crazy!

But only one school takes home the prize. The Bible actually speaks to this idea of competition. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 it says, *“Do you not know that in a race all runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”*

There are a lot of things you need to have a winning team. Some of those include: hard working players, a good coach, humility, teamwork, and strict training. Basketball is about all those things, but it's also about the basics and fundamentals: dribbling, passing, defense, and shooting. These basics are part of what has become popular in basketball today-the three point shot. These basics apply not only on the court but in life as well.

If you're going to make a great three point shot in life, there are basics you have to follow. First you have to focus on your goal. In basketball, your goal is to get the ball in the hoop. You look at the hoop when you shoot. You focus. You aim for the box right above the net.

In the Christian life, our goal is to become like Christ: to love God and others like He did. Hebrews 12:2 explains this well. It says, *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

How can we remember to focus on Christ? Read the Bible, go to church, pray, obey His word, have a relationship with Him. Proverbs 4:25 says, *“Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.”*

No one is making baskets if they're not looking at the net. You can't win like that. None of us are going to become like Jesus if we're not focused on Him. Focus on your goal, which is Jesus.

If you're going to make a great three point shot, you have to "square up". In basketball, if you want to get the ball in the hoop, you've got to get your body facing the goal: your feet, hips, shoulders. You get things right, balanced and steady. In life, "squaring up" means to make things right. You can't follow Christ and do whatever you want to do. You've got to have a clean heart and a clean mind and get to work with your hands. A section of Hebrews 12:1 says, "*Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*"

We all have to get rid of sin, every moment of every day. We'll never be perfect, but we aim for it. 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV) says, "*Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal. Be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*"

If you're going to make a great three point shot, last of all you have to follow through. In basketball, coaches always say to follow your shot. That means that after you shoot, you try to get the ball back again for a rebound just in case you don't get it in the first time.

In the Christian life, you're going to need to follow God every day. It's a commitment, a challenge, and the greatest reward. But it's not going to be easy. You'll make mistakes, but you never stop trying. Never. You keep shooting anyway, just like a basketball player on the court. We might see a basketball player make 7 shots out of 10 in a game. But that's because they've missed possibly a thousand times before then. If you miss, you shoot again. If you sin, you sincerely ask for forgiveness, and you learn to do what is right.

In the Christian life, we focus on Jesus. We square up, get things right with God, and get rid of sin. And we follow through. We keep following God no matter what. And we try and try again.

Even harder than a three point challenge in a basketball game, is the three point challenge in life. But it's worth it. It's so worth it! Christ believes in you. And He is your biggest fan. He might even be applauding now.

~ Excerpt from a sermon by Kristin Charles

## Virginia Moore's 95th Birthday Celebration

Virginia Moore's 95th birthday is Wednesday, February 28th. Her daughters, Marsha Moore and Karen Turnbull, are hosting a celebration of her birthday on Saturday, March 3rd, in our fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please come and help Virginia celebrate this milestone. Cards are welcome; no gifts please.



### Good Friday Service

Good Friday is March 30th. We will have a Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. Communion will be served. Join us as we recognize and remember Christ's death on the cross.

## Doorstep News

Thank you to everyone who donated soup and crackers during our **Souper Bowl Sunday**

collection! A can of soup can be a meal or two, and your generous donations helped to stock our pantry, and provide meals for your neighbors in need!



We also want to thank everyone who contributed to our **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Soup Line!** Whether you made desserts, donated or won a theme

basket, bought or sold tickets, worked the event or just attended, we appreciate the support! Monies raised from Soup Line will help Doorstep with agency expenses and help provide rent and utility assistance to our neighbors who are struggling, and need some help.

We will sell **cinnamon rolls and tamales** this Spring! We'll take orders in April with delivery in early May! Keep your eyes open for flyers on dates!

Mark your calendars for Doorstep's **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk** at Lake Shawnee. The big day will be **Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**, come out and support Doorstep, and get some exercise at the same time!

Doorstep's **2017 Christmas Store** was a great success thanks to everyone who worked together to provide for those less fortunate. We helped a total of 259 households with 824 individuals with food, gifts, toys and household items spending \$17,699! We had great groups that helped move everything from Doorstep to First Nazarene Church and then back 5 days later! The staff is grateful for all of the volunteers who gave of their time to help us provide Christmas to these families.

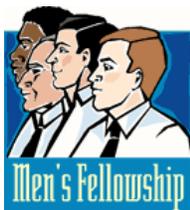


*Set your clocks, Daylight Saving Time begins on March 11th!*

*Move your clock forward one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th!*



## Men's and Ladies' Groups



The Men's and Ladies' Groups had a good time of fellowship at Banjo's Cafe on February 16th. There was a good turnout thanks to Don Newman's email to the congregation. This is not a one-time occasion. We meet the third Friday of each



month. Our next meeting will be at Banjo's on Friday, March 16th at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a time of food and fellowship.

## Per Capita



Per Capita is the amount assessed each church to support the work of the church at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The amount per person for St. Andrews this year is \$30.53. It is asked that all who are able pay their share to reduce the expense to St.

Andrews.

## Lectionary for March

**Third Sunday in Lent – March 4, 2018** –Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

**Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 11, 2018**–Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

**Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 18, 2018** –Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

**Passion/Palm Sunday – March 25, 2018** – Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29



We will celebrate Communion on March 4th.

## March Birthdays



Jan Schiesser, March 1st

Mary Ottiwell, March 7th

Jan McPherson, March 8th

Cheryl DeShazer, March 11th

Norm Schiesser, March 27th

Olga Fluke, March 28th

Betty DeShazer, March 29th

## March Anniversaries

Myron and Wanda Wilson, March 2, 1946

Keith and Cheryl Duer, March 14, 1982



## Caring for our Members and Friends



Keep these folks in your prayers this week: Dianne Deuser, Charles Franks, Virginia Bohn, Dick O'Neill, Betty DeShazer, Karl and Dolores Wilmers, John Lucero, Don and Olga Fluke, Mike Kelly, Rita Kelly, Jerry Barton, Sally Shaffer, Jennifer Stellwagon, Carolyn Rathgeber, Kelly Lindenmeyer, Landon Karcz.

Pray for Marine 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Randy Luedke and the other active duty and veteran personnel, firefighters, EMTs, and police officers, the victims of the shooting in Florida and other violence. Pray for peace for those countries suffering from war and conflict; the ongoing conflicts and violence in our own community and country, all our government officials, the hungry and the homeless.

◀ Feb 2018		<b>March 2018</b>					Apr 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				<b>1</b> 10:30 Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal  Jan Schiesser B'day	<b>2</b>  Myron & Wanda Wilson Anniv.	<b>3</b> 2:00-4:00 Virginia Moore B'day celebration	
<b>4</b> Communion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Mary Ottiwell B'day	<b>8</b> 10:30 Bible Study 6:30 - Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal  Jan McPherson B'day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins  Cheryl DeShazer B'day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  6:30 - Girl Scouts	<b>14</b>  Keith & Cheryl Duer Anniv.	<b>15</b> 10:30 Bible Study 6:30 - Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 11:30-Men's/Ladies' Groups	<b>17</b>  Jan Grace B'day	
<b>18</b>  12:30 - Session	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30 Bible Study 6:30 - Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	
<b>25 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  6:30 - Girl Scouts Norm Schiesser B'day	<b>28</b>  Olga Fluke B'day	<b>29</b> 10:30 Bible Study 6:30 - jBell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal  Betty DeShazer B'day	<b>30</b>  7:00 Good Friday Svc	<b>31</b>	

## Easter Flowers



We will be ordering flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. They will be tulips and daffodils. Requests for flowers in honor or memory of loved ones may be made. The cost is \$9.50 per plant. It is requested that all orders be in by Sunday, March 18th. You may put your request in the offering plate, or let the church office know.



## Easter Egg Hunt



Please plan to join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31st, beginning at 2:30pm, rain or shine! Bring your grandchildren, friends, or invite someone you run into in the community. All are welcome!

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS-February 18, 2018

- General fund income for January was \$6,277.50; general fund expenses for January were \$6,518.58. Amount in checking was \$249.06. Per Capita amount due to Presbytery by the end of March. Members who can are encouraged to pay their per capita amount which is \$30.53 per member this year.
- 171 lbs of soup and crackers collected on Souper Bowl Sunday.
- We are on a 3-month rotation basis for food donations to Doorstep and Rescue Mission. January, February and March collections will go to Doorstep; the next three month's collections will go to Rescue Mission, etc. There is a sign by the collection basket indicating which one the donations are going to.
- Session approved Doorstep's use of the Fellowship Hall for their Volunteer Recognition Banquet which will be sometime in April.
- Care of Members are working on prayer shawls and fleece blankets for members who are hospitalized or have long-term recovery from surgery or illness.
- Donuts, coffee and punch will be served Easter morning from 9:30 to 10:30.
- Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 31st, from 2:30 to 4:00. If you want to contribute to the purchase for candy for this event, please give your monetary contribution to Stephanie. She needs to be the one to actually purchase the candy because of specific size and count needed to fill the eggs.
- Fire extinguishers have been updated and replaced as needed throughout the building to be in compliance with fire department code.
- Spaghetti dinner that was discussed earlier has been cancelled. At this time there will be a ham and bean dinner and a Mexican dinner later on.
- Potluck dinner will be on the fifth Sunday of the month in those months that have five Sundays.
- We will have a Good Friday service, which is March 30th at 7:00 p.m.
- Next communion will be on March 4th.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**March, 2018**



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**WELCOME TO  
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday Services 11:00 AM**

