

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2020

VOL. 20, Issue 7



Serving the Drive-through picnic, July 12, 2020.

WORSHIP ONLINE
10AM ON SUNDAYS

*Lifting up our hearts and gathering in the Spirit,
right where we are*

<http://www.standrewslebanon.org/watch-live/>

During August we will continue looking at the parables of Jesus.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “

Matthew 13:44-46

August 2nd Communion
Matthew 13:44-50
In Pursuit

August 23
Luke 18:1-8
Persistence

August 9
Matthew 18:23-35
Forgiveness

August 30
Matthew 7:24-29
Building

August 16
Matthew 20:1-16
Grace Expectations

Zoom Fellowship – is happening Sundays 11am – noon, right after online worship. Find a link in the announcements under the “Watch Live Sermons” on the website. WHILE WE ARE ONLINE ONLY

Zoom Sunday School – Sunday school classes will resume in the fall

THE HERALD is published ten times per year at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

A Note from Pastor Robin

Beloved People of God,

The heat reminds us that we are in the heart of summer. And yet, we are still going through the things that make me feel like we are in a seasonless wilderness. In the midst of these days that we long to be behind us, maybe it is a good time to pause on a hot afternoon and reflect. How are you? How is it with your soul? How are you caring for yourself and others? What have you grabbed onto in the last few months? Is it good for you...or just good in the moment? Maybe now is the right time to pause, reflect, re-group, and remember that God is with us always. Are we with God, or on our own?

In July I came across this quote that I used in a sermon: *"You live your life of spiritual formation and growth by experimenting with God, **in the things you are going to have to live through anyway.** So you don't waste your time, you redeem your time, by filling your world with God." (Dallas Willard, Chapel Westmont College, September 12, 2011).* This is speaking to me in these days we must go through. There is so much we cannot do, so much out of our control...so what can we do? This is what I am personally ready to do. To stop reacting and choose to abide in this strange wilderness....and maybe even bloom a bit. I will admit this means turning from the crutches I have found in the last few months...too much junk food, random meaningless YouTube videos...and instead go back to something my soul craves – a few minutes of silence with God. I may not get more than a few. But 5 minutes of silence, outside if possible, being with God, is what I need to do. It is my way of turning more to God. *What is yours? What are you ready to try?*

This month, St. Andrews has two easy options for you to choose from. First, we have a summer **memory verse challenge** going on. Memorizing scripture is a wonderful way to grow in faith. The website has more information, but don't worry about the schedule. Choose a verse that speaks to you, write it on a post it or notecard and carry it with you. Take your time and meditate on it, let it soak into your soul.

The second option is **Mission Week**. The very first week of August is Mission Week and in this newsletter, you will find ways to serve, even now. The opportunities range from trail clean-up, to blessing bags, to reading a book. These are just two of a multitude of things you can do to fill your time, your life, and these days with God. In these long summer days, join me in pausing, reflecting, and choosing to find one small way to bring more of God into your life. This is a choice we will not regret.

I miss seeing you. I feel like I am pastoring blind. Yet, beloved people of God, keep going! I am praying for you!

In the love and grace of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Robin

Mission Week Read

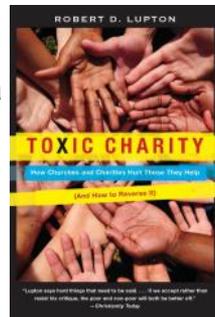
Toxic Charity – How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help

by Robert D. Lupton.

A book recommended by the Medical Benevolence Foundation that might give us a new perspective on some of our charitable work. Read the book during Mission Week then participate in a follow-up discussion.

An online Zoom discussion will be held on **Wednesday, August 12, 7PM.**

Zoom information will be sent out by email prior to the event.



What is the longest running show on Broadway?

Are you ready for a Zoom TRIVIA NIGHT?

Friday, August 28, 2020 7 PM



Don and Maggie Beatty will be hosting an online Trivia Night. It will be similar to the format of the popular tavern quiz nights with several rounds of questions from different categories, a final question, and a tie-breaker, if needed. There will be prizes! Between rounds there will be informative “Did you know...?” spots, making the evening fun and educational! More information and the link to come.

Answer: As of March 15, 2020, Phantom of the Opera with 13,370 performances

So, “Let’s Get Quizzical” (Sung by Trivia Newton John)

Zoom information will be sent out prior to the event.

MOVIE NIGHT August 21, 8pm

“Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey” (1993)

at St. Andrews by the Prayer Labyrinth.

Over the course of Covid-19 I have Taken the opportunity to introduce my kids to movies that I grew up with. Outside of my sons bemoaning of the ‘Special effects’ of my era, this has been a great moment of connection as a family. In the past this has also been a great moment for the church and the youth in having movies nights.

While Covid-19 has put a pause to this for the start of the summer, now is our moment to have a movie night! We will be watching Homeward Bound: The incredible Journey (1993).



A few things on what to expect.

-The screen will be setup in the back of the church, and the fire pit will be setup as well.

-Please bring your own chairs, blankets, snacks, and drinks. If you would like to use the fire pit to roast please bring your own roasting sticks.

-Please observe all social distance and mask practices for the safety of all.

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me." (Erma Bombeck)



Coming your way...MISSION WEEK 2020!

SAVE THE DATES! August 2 – August 8

COVID-19 regulations have changed the way we are able to do Mission Week. We hope that with a combination of at-home and outdoor projects along with our connection to Habitat for Humanity and LCCM you will be able to find meaningful experiences.

At-home projects - Needed materials and instructions will be organized into a "kit." That can be picked up at the beginning of the week:

Making masks -Pattern and material provided

Crossword/Sudoku/Wordsearch puzzle boards – cardboard with puzzle glued on one side, answers on other side, easier to hold and solve for our more elderly/wheelchair friends especially in hospitals.

No-sew blankets – The layers are knotted together on the sides

Writing cards to shut-ins – cards, names, addresses provided

Outdoor projects – with social distancing

Rails to Trails cleanup – Tuesday, 8/4 and Thursday 8/6
6 PM – 8 PM each night

Church yard cleanup – Date and time to be determined

Yard work for members that may need help (raking, mowing, pulling some weeds) Also need yards in which to work
(Call church office to be added to the list)

Drive Thru Pick-up/Drop off: Sunday, August 2. 11AM – 12 Noon
Pick up Kit projects, "Mission At Work" T-shirts (while supplies last);
Drop off Blessing Bags, donations to the food pantry, aluminum cans for Habitat and pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Drive Thru Drop-Off: Saturday August 8. 12 Noon – 2 PM
Drop off completed projects, donations to the food pantry, aluminum cans for Habitat and pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Other projects

Habitat for Humanity –Wednesday, 8/5, and Saturday, 8/8; working 8:15 am – 3:15 pm; 4-5 workers at a site, strict mitigation procedures in place by Habitat. Some volunteers to make bag lunches for the workers.

Free Noon Meal – Help prepare and package the meal for LCCM on Saturday, 8/8. 10AM – 1 PM

Blessing bags – In a small gift bag place “White Elephant” items that might be a blessing to another person. Drop off the bag on Sunday, 8/2. During the week, everyone who “gave” a blessing bag would receive one. A surprise connection with someone else in the church family!

Blood bank donations – With the severe shortage of blood at the local hospitals we are encouraging volunteer blood donations. A list of local donation sites and times for the week will be made available.

Mission Week Read – *Toxic Charity – How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help* by Robert D. Lupton. A book recommended by the Medical Benevolence Foundation that might give us a new perspective on some of our charitable work. Read the book during Mission Week then participate in a follow-up discussion to be held on Wednesday, August 12, in the evening.

Don't forget our ongoing projects:

Filling the Free Little Pantry. It is still being heavily used. We know many of you have placed items in the Pantry and in the Library. There has also been some community support of the pantry. We ask that you continue buying one or two extra items when shopping and putting them in the pantry or drop off on 8/2 or 8/8.

Recycling Aluminum Cans for Habitat for Humanity- drop off 8/2 or 8/8

Collecting Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House – drop off on 8/2 or 8/8

Keep an eye out for the MISSION WEEK SIGNUPS! If you choose not to or are unable to signup online, but still want to help, please contact the church office at 717-272-9933.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - Mahatma Gandhi

EPYC Expectations

The start of this school year is odd. As I am writing this there is debate over how schools can resume safely or if it is even a possibility for schools to resume in person at this time. This comes at a time when families would normally begin preparing the back to schools list and gathering the needed supplies to start the year. Yet the uncertainty of the moment has given pause and brought the question of what is best for families and students in going back to school.

For students this also presents a new challenge in connecting with the peer groups that they have developed over the course of their education. Having the time to interact with friends, work with classmates on projects, and the independence of being in the school setting. All of these things are changing constantly (at the time of writing) and adding stress to the lives of students across the country.

I share all of this because this is another element that COVID-19 has changed. In March when the schools shut down, it was with the expectation that this would only be for a month or two. Yet here we are at the beginning of August wrestling with what is going to be another new pattern of life for families. Each of us has experienced this state of change in any manner of ways because of the pandemic.

Yet, I believe that there is always hope, hope first and greatest in Christ, but also hope in our ability as community to come together. So for us the community of believer I ask that you would especially lift up families and students as they wrestle with life changes that may run so deep as to changing how parents are able to provide for their families, and students engage with their education building their future. The challenges that we each face are lightened through the Prayers and Grace that we are each able to provide, and I appreciate yours for our families and students!

Upcoming:

August 2: Trailblazer 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm, outside church weather and Covid-19 dependent

August 9: No TrailBlazers/Epyc

August 16: Trailblazer 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm, outside church weather and Covid-19 dependent

August 21: Movie Night at the Church, Movie, Homeward Bound, will start at 8pm. Bring your own chairs, snacks, and drinks

August 23: Trailblazer 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm, outside church weather and Covid-19 dependent

August 29: Pedals For Progress 9am at St. Andrews

August 30: Trailblazer 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm, outside church weather and Covid-19 dependent



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE

Scripture memorization is a valuable part of our faith journey. Anyone at any age is welcome to participate, and for memorizing a scripture there will be prizes. The two immediate examples of prizes right now are that for a month's worth of scripture memorization anyone can get a gift card to Patches Creamery for ice cream. For the best artistic take on a scripture the artwork will be featured on the September newsletter. As the summer goes on new prizes and challenges will be announced. If you are interested in participating please contact me for the scripture list and to be put on the mailer.

August

Week one: Psalm 23 (NRSV)

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me besides still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Week two: Hebrews 12:14-15a (NRSV)

¹⁴Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God.

Week three: Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you says the lord, plans for your welfare and not harm, to give you a future with hope.

Week four: Ephesians 2:8 (NRSV)

⁸for by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.



Another YouTube feature: “St. Andrews Reads” Stories are an important part of each of our lives, so this summer we are going to share some of the stories that we have all loved. What I am looking for is people who would like to read a favorite children’s book, maybe it’s from your childhood, maybe it’s one you have read to your children or grandchildren. If you are interested, please reach out to Rob!



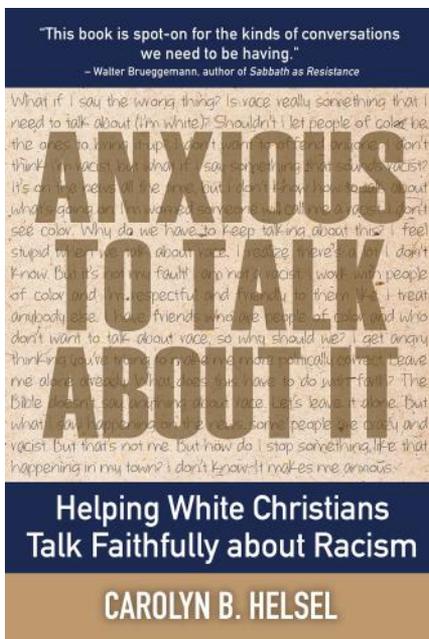
Wednesday Evening Bible Study

We will be beginning our study season on Wednesday September 16th at 7:00 pm with a 7-week study of the book "*Anxious to Talk about It*" by Pastor and Professor Carolyn B. Helsel. If you would like a preview of the book, please see the link below for a short video by the author:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYjydtcTh7Q>

If talking about racism makes you anxious, afraid, or even angry, you are not alone. In this book, the author offers insight and tools to embrace, explore and work through the anxious feelings that often arise in these hard conversations.

If you would like a book, the cost is \$12.00. Please contact Ken Gries: knagries@aol.com or phone 717-838-4936 (home) or 717-679-0677 (cell) by August 16th.



In this time of social distancing and quarantine small groups have been one way to stay connected to our church family. Hopefully, this study will be able to be done together at the church, but if the church is still meeting online the study will be done over the Zoom platform.

In Christ,,

Ken Gries



PW Bakeless Bake Sale 2020



"Sharing the Pie" - Funding PW Missions



Lend-A-Hand



Habitat for Humanity



***Domestic Violence
Intervention***



Glad Tidings India



***Lebanon Rescue
Mission***



***LCCM
"Fresh Start"***



Ting Ministries



***American Foundation
for Children with AIDS***

I Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

We are hoping this annual appeal finds you and your family safe and well. Thank you for prayerfully considering a donation to our annual Bakeless Bake Sale. Please make checks out to "Women of the Congregation." We, the women of St. Andrews, so appreciate your generosity and support!

Find on YouTube:



“St. Andrews Cooks”: While we have been in lockdown, I have been enjoying leveling up my personal cooking skill. For Mother’s Day I made some amazing steaks with homemade mashed potatoes, gravy, and roasted green beans, and what I am proudest of, homemade bacon jam garnish. Maybe you have been doing the same thing, or maybe you have been experimenting with family favorite recipes. What I am looking for is a couple people who would be willing to share a video of how they cook a favorite meal that they would be willing to share with the church. Please reach out to me if you can help!

Rob

SESSION NOTES

The regular meeting of Session was convened at 7PM Tuesday July 7, 2020 in the sanctuary with prayer and, devotions by the moderator Rev. Morgan. The meeting was held with members wearing masks and maintaining social distance. Members who couldn’t attend in person attended by zoom.

A discussion was held considering how we move forward to reopen the church building. The Safety Recommendations from the Task Force were reviewed. The Session approved reopening the church for worship services on July 19th with one service at 10AM. Only the sanctuary will be open and the safety regulations will be communicated to all members.

Vacation for Rev. Morgan was approved for July 21-27

Deacon and Trustee reports were received. The Trustees reported two diseased trees have been removed from the church grounds.

Worship Committee - Discussing worship ideas going forward with restrictions due to the virus.

Christian Ed Committee – Anne Stewart will be the zoom theologian July 13&20.

The youth continue to meet on line with Rob on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Congregational Life Committee -Drive through picnic July 12th, 11 - 1PM.

Mission Committee – Mission Work Week scheduled for August 2-8.

Administration & Personnel Committee- Staff reviews continue via Zoom

Stewardship & Finance Committee – Online contributions are increasing and are encouraged during this time of online worship.

The next scheduled meeting of Session is August 4, 2020 at 7PM.

A special meeting of Session was called by the Moderator Rev. Morgan on July 16 at 8 PM for the purpose of reviewing the plans for reopening the church for worship services. The meeting was held online and was called to order with prayer by the moderator.

A discussion was held concerning the new government regulations. The Session decided to **continue streaming worship services online only**. This decision will be reviewed at the regular August Session meeting.



Mission Week Blanket Tying

July 2020 Deacon Doings:

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

-1 Peter 5:2-3

The Deacons of St. Andrews join with the Pastor to help meet the ministry needs of our church. The deacons are here for you in good times and in bad and are as near as your telephone. Please don’t hesitate to contact us. If you have a need with which the Deacons can assist or know of a need please contact the church office, your assigned Deacon, or any Deacon that you know, and we will be happy to help.

As we begin to move toward voluntary ‘in-person’ worship, please know that if the idea of ‘in-person’ worship is not something you feel comfortable with, that is ok! It is not required and we will still be able to worship online.

What can you do to help? Call someone or a few people in the congregation or other friends and just talk to them. Purchase a few extra items when you go to the grocery store and put them in the St. Andrews food pantry. Remember to wash your hands often, wear a face-mask covering your nose & mouth, and practice social distancing with everyone.

All church members remain in our prayers during this very difficult and unusual time of waiting and not knowing exactly what God has in store for each of us individually, and as a community next? Do remember this – *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen . . .*

” Hebrews 11: 1 (NRSV)

Stay healthy and keep the faith!
Mary Lynne Mulligan

IN MEMORY

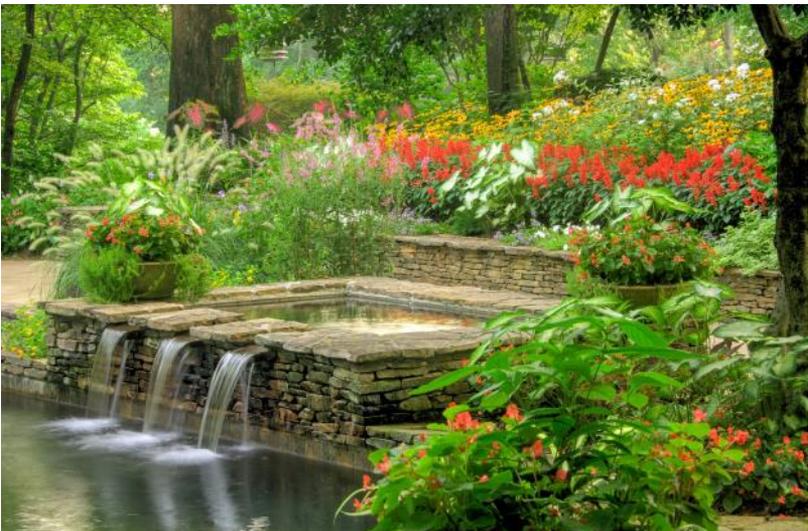


Eric Powell

Eric joined St Andrews in June 2013 on transfer from First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, Pa, where he grew up. Eric was a municipal manager, serving the Borough of Myerstown most recently. He entered the church triumphant on June 29, 2020.

Conrad Knight

Conrad joined St Andrews along with his wife Joanne in November 2008 on transfer from Conyers Presbyterian Church of Conyers Georgia.. Conrad was a retired math professor and spent many hours volunteering at hospitals during his retirement years. His daughter is Terry Williams. He entered the church triumphant on July 6, 2020.





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Shirley Etter | 12 Jim Tibbitts |
| 2 Karen Shalters | 13 Tom Shott |
| 3 Jeff Burgis | 14 Shawn Burgis |
| 5 Michael Yordyr | Judy Kurtz |
| 6 Rebecca Lister | John P. Goetze (son) |
| 7 Helen Leaman | Teagan Lowrie |
| Bryna Lister | 15 Ford Rau |
| 9 Kathy Lebo | 18 Cliffy Shiner |
| John Hakkinen | 22 Dennis Shalters |
| 10 Roz Presby | 27 Maureen Goetze |
| 11 Mary Lynne Mulligan | Linda Rau |
-



We would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards we received on the passing of Maggie's dad. His passing has brought us tears, but prayers and cards have warmed our hearts. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a caring church family. Thank you.
Don & Maggie Beatty



**A Grief Support Group
of
St. Andrews Church**

*O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, And whose breath gives
life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak,
I need your strength and wisdom.*

Native American Prayer

To whom shall we turn in our sorrow? We have many choices, and need different kinds of comfort and reassurance at different times. Sometimes we need other people. Sometimes we need our own solitude.

Sometimes the world of nature speaks a healing word. Seasons follow upon one another and return-- with new leaves, new blossoms. Stars sprinkle the sky in discernible patterns, though they are light-years away.

“To whom shall we turn in our sorrow?” Most of us, fortunately, have friends and family to whom we can turn in our time of grief. Also, at St. Andrews we have the Grief Support Group to help us through these difficult and sad times.

We have found over the years that everyone grieves in a different way and at a different pace. Sharing our experiences within this group helps us to understand that what and how we are feeling and reacting is very “normal”. They are usually feelings, thoughts, and emotions many of the rest of the group have felt and are still feeling.

By sharing with the members of our group, we are sensing the strength of the Creator and the strength of others within the group. This is a powerful force. Somehow we know that some day, some how, things will be better!

We usually meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM, in Cas-sel Chapel, unless we plan something special. If you have any ques-tions, please contact our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy, at 454-0756; Pat Yates, at 273-9297; or call the church office, 272-9933.

***Grief Support will follow the church policy and will
reconvene when the church has reopened.***

You do have people to whom you can turn in your sorrow, right here at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church!

Everything changes; all is not lost.

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