

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MAY 2021

VOL. 21, Issue 5



THE DAY OF PENTECOST
MAY 23, 2021

WORSHIP WITH US IN MAY

*"...you will receive power when the
Holy Spirit comes upon you." Acts 1:8*

St. Andrews continues to meet in person on Sundays at 10AM.
The service is also streamed at 10AM and will be uploaded and
available on YouTube later in the day.

May 2 5th Sunday of Easter, Communion

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Pruning and Abiding (Pastor Robin)

May 9 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8, 13

The Greatest of These is Love (Rev. Diane Pomeroy)

May 16 Isaiah 40:28-31, 41:10

Hope for Anxious Times (Rev. Diane Pomeroy)

May 23 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

A Breath of Fresh Air (Rev. Diane Pomeroy)

May 30 Trinity Sunday

Youth/Graduate Sunday (Rob Cochran)

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

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May is here! The flowers abound, and hopefully beautifully sunny days as well. This is a month that always finds me thinking about family. Mother's Day is a day we celebrate mothers and pause to reflect on the work of parenthood and even to realize those who become mothers to us, in various ways. This is also a month of graduations for children, grandchildren, and those we have watched grow up in our church family. And finally, May brings us to Pentecost! That day when the church was born, and we celebrate the Holy Spirit but also the gift of the church, our family of faith. For myself, as I write, in late April, I am counting the days until our new baby arrives. He could very well be here by the time you receive this newsletter. All around this is a wonderful season to look to our families and our family of faith.

I hear many of you sharing wonderful moments of seeing family again, after being vaccinated. It is a joy that warms my heart and it is a delight to see these pictures. I too, am breathing deeper and enjoying more time with family now that I am fully vaccinated. I realize vaccinations have somehow become very political. If you are unsure about being vaccinated, I hope you will talk to your doctor to seek clear medical advice, and not listen to what is being said online and in the news. As your pastor, I assure you there is nothing in our tradition or beliefs that stands in the way of this vaccination. As more and more of us are vaccinated, this is a time for us too, to come back together.

This does feel like a strange time to be stepping away, as the new baby arrives. Mostly because of where we are with the pandemic. One can plan a pregnancy, but not a pandemic. Thus, even though I will be away, I do hope and pray that this is a season when as a church family we can come back and worship together. Through this last year Troy, Reilly, and I have also worshiped online. It was good, it was meaningful... it right for that time, but it was not the same. As it becomes safer, as you are ready, come and worship in person. Congregational Life will be hosting fellowship on the front steps, the first Sunday of the month (as long as the weather cooperates). What a wonderful invitation to us all, to come back and fellowship as we are ready to worship together.

Especially, because I will be away, I need you to connect with one another as a family of faith. If you are ready to come worship in person but find yourself missing someone you were hoping to see, please call them. See how they are. Find out what their thoughts are about coming back to worship in person, and what will help them be ready and comfortable. I do realize the pandemic is not over, yet the vaccination availability does offer us a path to a new season. A season of carefully coming back together. A season to celebrate our family of faith as we remember God breathing spirit and fire on the people. We too are ready for a new season, a new spirit, a fresh wind of God, that gathers and leads us.

We are a family of faith. We need each other. Stay connected. Gather one another together.

I know that the Rev. Diane Pomeroy and the Rev. Bruce Humphrey will do a wonderful job, and that they will be a blessing to you this summer. Diane has a wonderful gift of pastoral care and will be caring so well for you, in my absence. Bruce will be moderating session and both Diane and Bruce will be leading worship. I hope you have a chance to get to know both of them and may God use their work to lead you on, in this season of life and faith.

I promise a baby picture will be coming.

All prayers are welcome for this new little one and his entrance and first few months.

I will be back on August 1st.

You are so loved.

Love one another.

Enjoy some time together, as soon as you are ready.

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Robin



Recently, the Thursday night Bible study group participated in a virtual showing of “Being Mortal, a film by Atul Gawande on how people can better live with age-related frailty, serious illness, and approaching death. Following that movie night, the group had a conversation with Roberta Geidner, Manager of the Horizon Program, WellSpan’s name for Advance Care Planning. Contrary to what some people may think, these conversations can be life-affirming.

You are invited to pick up a folder about the Horizon program at the church, in the Narthex. In this folder, you will find a wealth of information and guidance about advance care planning. In the folder is a packet called “Five Wishes.” This document allows you to write down your personal, emotional, spiritual, and medical wishes. If it is properly signed, it is valid in most states. There is also contact information in the folder if you have more questions, or would like to talk to someone. Kathy Hetrick can also be contacted if you have questions.

No doubt about it, these kinds of conversations are tough. Yet they do allow us and our families to face the future with respect and dignity. Consider picking up a folder.



Pentecost Offering

May 23, 2021



The Pentecost Offering is one of the 4 Special Offerings taken by PCUSA each year. St. Andrews participates in all 4 of these offerings. The Pentecost Offering, taken this year on May 23, helps our youth begin life with a strong start- a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through young adults.

40% of the offering collected at St. Andrews stays locally. The St. Andrews Mission Committee has designated True Life Ministries (formerly known as Youth for Christ) as the recipient of this year's 40%. Visit <https://truelifeyouth.com> to learn more about this valuable community organization. They are "building a community of young lives changed by Jesus Christ." The organization is excitedly looking forward to the day that they can move into their new location in the former Christ Presbyterian Church building in Lebanon.

25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) serving communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

25% supports Ministries with youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word.

10% is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens.

Checks can be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate. Special envelopes will be available in the pews.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

SESSION NOTES

The Session met Tuesday, April 6, 2021. We opened with a reading from John 20 by Pastor Robin.

The transfer request for Robin Welte to Derry Presbyterian Church was approved. All submitted committee reports were accepted without discussion, as there was nothing new to report. The Congregational Life Committee is working to finalize a date for the annual church picnic.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to the main agenda item, a discussion of the future worship schedule. The topic originated from the Administrative and Personnel Committee request for guidance as it considers the filling of the two open music staff vacancies, Praise Team Leader and Bell Choir Director. The big picture discussion revolved around: What would be the ideal music staff at St Andrews, which is centered on an evaluation of our worship needs and our long-term vision of the worship schedule. The pandemic has resulted in temporary adjustments to our normal worship schedule. As we look to a return to normalcy, we are encountering a question of if previous music participants will return and if they do, how fast will that occur. The Session was very aware of the previous discussion on this topic as the topic goes back years and everybody has a personal preference. There were many options discussed, all of which had positives and negatives. To gather more information of the subject, the Session has asked the Worship Committee to develop 2-3 options for future discussion. As we approach the summer months and with social distancing still necessary it was recognized that we would be conducting a single service until at least September. This will provide ample time to make an informed and prayerful decision on this subject. Until a future worship plan is developed, the filling of the music staff vacancies will remain on hold, as it is everyone's desire to hire individuals that will meet St Andrew's needs.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Lowrie

DEACON DOINGS

Getting to Know Donna Kuntz I am pleased to become a member of the St. Andrews Board of Deacons again. I previously enjoyed serving as a Deacon several years ago. I find the deacons to be a thoughtful and caring group of individuals. As a member of the St. Andrews congregation for 45 years, I have personally experienced the willingness of the deacons to share their time and to reach out to when there is a family or personal need.

My professional life included 40 years working in education. I retired as an elementary principal from the Palmyra Area School District eleven years ago. I now spend some of my time volunteering, walking, traveling, reading, and flower gardening.

Personally, I have been blessed with a delightful family. I have two children. My son, Bill, and his wife, Jane, live in Perry Hall, MD. They have two children, Matt and Sarah. My daughter, Kristin, lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Assuming the role of deacon in our church and connecting with the St. Andrews members who are part of my assigned “flock,” is truly meaningful to me. Every one of you has a deacon. Remember, your deacon is here for you with a listening ear and a caring heart. You only need to give your deacon a phone call or send an email.



Deacon Ministry

EPYC Expectations

Summer is quickly approaching! Warmer weather continues to tease and hint at warmer days and sun filled moments. I can't wait! While I love the starkness of the winter months but, I love the warmth of summer! Especially with the opportunity for outdoor activities with the youth. I look forward to the events being planned and worked on for the summer, and the grace that is warmer weather.

Also, as we move into the summer Graduation is quickly approaching! On May 30th we will be having Youth Sunday and Graduate Recognition! It has been an interesting and unprecedented year for the students, and they deserve a day for us to celebrate the work that they have done in this year to navigate a dynamic education setting. Please do continue to pray for the students as this school year draws to a close. Also, if you are a Senior or College Grad and would like a write up in the Newsletter for June, please get in touch with me.

Upcoming

May 2: Trailblazers 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm

May 9: Mother's day No Trailblazers or Epyc

May 16: Trailblazers 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm

May 23: Trailblazers 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm

May 30: Youth/Grad Sunday 10am

June, July, August: No Epyc Trailblazers, Look to upcoming events!

ST. ANDREWS EXPLORATION DAYS

This summer St. Andrews is going to take the opportunity to reach out to the community through a summer outreach to students! While the challenges of Covid-19 remain, there is hope as the vaccinations continue. Precautions will be practiced for the outreach similar to practices that schools have had in place over the past year.

These practices will include

- Mask Wearing

- Hand Sanitizing stations

- Activities to be outside as much as possible weather dependent

- Self Monitoring guidelines for students and volunteers

In addition to these practices the outreach will be a weekly event through the month of July, giving time for monitoring and safe practice.

Of course with the safest practices available, St. Andrews will work to build a fun, engaging and encouraging environment for the outreach. For the outreach we are in need of volunteers to help with every area of the outreach.

Areas to Volunteer:

- Food Preparation

- Group leaders

- Activity leaders

- Sign in and Sign out

If you are interested in helping please reach out to Cliffy or Rob to get your name on the list.

Outreach Dates

- July 7

- July 14

- July 21

- July 28



Presbyterian Women



If it's May, it must be Birthday Offering!

This spring offering, all of which is donated directly to Presbyterian Women in the Carlisle Presbytery, supports up to five projects each year that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. These projects include agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence prevention and women's concerns.

Yellow Birthday Offering envelopes are at the end of the pews, as well as in the Narthex, or you can mail a check directly to St. Andrews. Please make checks out to Women of the Congregation. Your donation can make a world of difference!

IN MEMORY



Larry Everhart

Larry joined St Andrews June 2018 when he moved here with his wife Lorna. Larry was an elder in the Presbyterian Church serving as a financial advisor at his former church in New Jersey. In retirement he volunteered in a number of organizations and was a devoted husband, selfless father and grandfather.

Larry joined the church triumphant March 22, 2021



May Birthdays

2	Panka Peelen	22	William Young
3	Kathy Wissinger	25	Wybie Buckingham
4	Madeleine Overholt	26	Avery Dowd
	Lindsay Burkholder		Randy Kreiser
6	William Andrews	27	Valerie Chevalier
	Ted Etter		Matthew Peelen
	Pat Bender	28	Marianne Kopp
12	Kayla Lowrie	29	Stephen Risko
	Reagan Brandt	31	Virginia Brandt
17	Lee Moyer		
20	Jean Gigler		
	Julie Ogurcak		



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

*All that we do is touched with ocean, yet we remain on
the shore of what we know.*

Richard Wilbur

We who stand close to the mystery of death yearn to know more. What is it like to make that crossing? *Is* it a crossing, or is this the end? In the power of faith and hope, we believe that our loved ones have gone on to greater glory.

But what is that like? Do the dead know our lives? Do they know how we love and miss them? People who report near-death experiences tell of hovering above their bodies watching efforts to resuscitate them – and report moving toward images of light and love so inviting that it is almost difficult to come back. When they – or any of us – die, do our spirits stay around for a while and then move on? Do our loved ones come to meet us when we go?

Questions such as these have been raised during the discussions at the Grief Support Group meetings. Some say they like to

believe that the answers to these questions are definitely a “yes”. But then there are often other questions surrounding the strength of one's faith with regards to these topics and many other questions. Very often there are no real definitive answers. But we find that by simply asking the questions and talking about them, we can feel better about where we are with our own grieving, even though there is no real “answer” to the question. Perhaps we don't really need to know the answers after all!

We welcome anyone who has experienced a death, recently or a while ago, to join our group. Our meetings are open to anyone, whether members of St. Andrews or not. Our usual meeting day is the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. The May meeting will be on Thursday, May 13. The June meeting will likely be our annual picnic on Thursday, June 14. Watch for more information about that next month. Please feel free to come and meet with us any time!

If you have questions, please contact our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy, at 717-454-0756; Pat Yates, at 717-273-9297; or the church office, 717-272-9933.

When I read the essay printed above, I was reminded of a story that was shared a while ago in our group. I have been moved every time I read it, and want to share it with you.

The Little Ship (author unknown)

I stood watching as the little ship sailed out to sea. The setting sun tinted his white sails with a golden light, and as he disappeared from sight a voice at my side whispered, “He is gone”. But the sea was a narrow one. On the farther shore a little band of friends had gathered to watch and wait in happy expectation. Suddenly they caught sight of the tiny sail, and at the very moment when my companion had whispered, “He is gone”, a glad shout went up in joyous welcome: “Here he comes!”



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
600 South 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 272-9933
office@standrewslebanon.org
www.StAndrewsLebanon.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lebanon, PA 17042
Permit No. 252

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED