

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2021

VOL. 21, Issue 8

CONCERT ON THE LAWN

presented by
St. Andrews Concert Series



Lebanon Big Swing Band

Saturday, August 21, 2021

7PM

(please bring a chair)

AUGUST WORSHIP

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.

As We Adapt...

Acting upon the request of Pastor Robin for additional leave to allow her to care for infant son Dashiell, whose health continues to be precarious, the Session of St. Andrews this past Sunday, July 25, voted unanimously to extend her maternity leave for an additional month, through August. The Session also voted to accept her husband Troy, an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle, to fill in for her, as Head of Staff and to assume her duties and responsibilities in leading our congregation for that month.

Pastor Robin will, however, conduct the worship service and administer Communion on Sunday, August 1, and moderate the Session meeting on Tuesday evening, August 3. Except for those two duties, Pastor Troy will assume all responsibilities for Pastor Robin as of August 1.

The Deacons will continue to work closely with Pastor Troy to provide pastoral care to members of the congregation in need of such support.

Pastor Troy will be keeping office hours Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays from 10AM—2PM.

Wednesday Outdoor Worship



WOW!

Wednesday Outdoor Worship continues each Wednesday evening at 7pm on the lawn of the church. It's a wonderful time of fellowship and worship! weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair and join us as we make a joyful noise and praise our God.

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

A Note from Diane

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A month or two ago, I was pulling a few weeds in the yard, and I saw a small brown shoot sticking up out of the ground, with a single leaf on the end of it. "That doesn't belong there, right next to the driveway," I thought to myself, so I reached down and gave it a little tug but it didn't come up. I bent down and pulled, and tugged... and finally, it came up! At the other end of that little brown shoot was an acorn! It wasn't a weed at all. It was the start of a new tree... an oak tree!

In my backyard there are several big oak trees, and that's how they got their start... from a skinny brown shoot sticking out of a buried acorn. And now they're big, sturdy trees.

It is interesting that Jesus used a tree as a metaphor for humans - for you and me. In Luke's Gospel, he says to his disciples, "You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars." OK, so Jesus is really saying, "You can tell what a person is like by the fruit he or she produces." What kind of fruit are you producing? Sweet or bitter? Figs or thorns?

Back to real trees for a moment. I may look at a tree in the Spring and have no idea what kind of tree it is. But come late summer, and I see apples hanging off the branches... Duh! I can tell it's an apple tree. Yes, you CAN tell a tree by the fruit it produces. And Jesus is right to compare humans to trees in that way. When a tree matures and bears fruit, you can tell whether it's a fig tree or a thorn bush. And you cannot pick figs ... or grapes or apples from thorn bushes! All you get from a thorn bush are scratches and bloody fingers.

Do you know any people who are thornbushes? I do, and they're not very pleasant to be around! For the most part you can tell a person by their fruit, and you and I, and all God's people are supposed to bear delicious healthy fruit. In Galatians 5:22 the Apostle Paul gives us a list of the kind of fruit we are supposed to produce: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

God wants to produce Christlike qualities in me and you, so we will be productive, and share our fruit with others. But you know what? In order to produce the fruit of the Spirit, we need to be rooted and grounded in the spirit... God's Spirit. Yes, it's the roots that sink down deep into the soil, that soak up the nu-

trients and nourish the tree. The only way we can produce the fruit of love and faithfulness, peace and goodness, humility and patience, is if our roots are receiving those qualities from what we are feeding on... if we are rooted and grounded in God love, if our roots are sinking deep into God's love.

Rooted and grounded in love, so that we can bear fruit ... The fruit of the Spirit, and share that fruit with all those around us. Are you patient? Are you kind? Are you sharing your love, your peace and your joy with others?

Keep it up! Sink your roots deep into the love of God, so that you may produce and share the fruit of the Spirit.

As Pastor Robin comes back, and as she and her husband, Troy, work together, sharing in ministry, let us show them our care and appreciation, and reach out in love and prayer. And let us extend and share our spiritual fruit with everyone we meet, each and every day.

Many blessings,
Diane



ST. ANDREWS MISSION WEEK

It's not too late to sign up for Mission Week at St. Andrews. It will start on Sunday, August 8, after worship. For about an hour, you will be invited to work on:

No-sew blankets

Crossword puzzle cardboards

Writing cards to shut-ins and veterans

Making a video for veterans at the VA hospital

Snacks will be provided after worship.

Other activities during the week include:

Monday, 8/9: Rails to Trails cleanup (6-8 pm)

Tuesday, 8/10: Trip to Mission Central, Mechanicsburg, to pack school kits (12-3 pm) and Rails to Trails cleanup (6-8 pm)

Wednesday, 8/11 – Saturday, 8/14: Working with Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon, (8-3:30 pm)

Saturday, 8/14: Free Noon Meal at LCCM

There will also be mask kits and crossword puzzle kits to take home. The VA is still taking masks, and prefers the cloth ones.

No need to sign up for the activities on Sunday, August 8. If you would like to help with any of the projects during the week, please go to the St. Andrews website and go to the section on Mission Week 2021. In that section you will find the Sign-up Genius. You could also call the church with your choices and it will be relayed to the Mission Committee.

Being mission minded is not a task, it's a lifestyle. Come join your St. Andrews family as we serve our community.

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who has been contributing to the Little Free Pantry. It is getting a lot of use, so please continue to add items. A few reminders:

Please contribute only **non-perishable** items.

Canned goods, boxed items, soups, peanut butter, and any kind of hygiene products are some ideas.

A **BIG** shout-out and thank you to Ebenezer United Methodist Church for their Love Offering donation to our Little Free Pantry!



Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without know it. Hebrews 13:1-

Christian Ed Volunteer Opportunities!

Sunday School classes for all ages will begin in September. The Christian Education committee is seeking volunteers to be a second adult in classes for children, youth, and the nursery. (The nursery attendant will need to be vaccinated and wear a mask while in the classroom.) Your help every week or once a month is critical!

Please contact Beckie Dreibelbis (bdreib@comcast.net/717-926-1867) if God is leading you to serve our kids!

EPYC Expectations

Where did July go? Further, where did the summer go? As I write this the discussions of going back to school have begun with the students. This year's graduates are looking towards move in dates for college that are just weeks, to days away from when you are reading this!

The transitions of school and life are always incredible to walk through with the students. This is one of the reasons that I enjoy working with the youth. To watch as the students navigate these changes and support them, but also to be reminded of the nature of change in that we each experience. Teens will experience the great changes over a short period of time, but even as we each age we have all experienced change. I share this because while change and transitions happen, our steadfast hope remains in the Lord.

The changes are always reflected of course at the end of summer and beginning of the fall. As we look to the fall and the resuming of the normal school year activities. The youth group times will also look towards the best practices that we can use in this time and year for the safety of the students and the volunteers. The plans and details will be released throughout the month and we will have the information available as soon as possible! Please remember we are striving for the safety of all in what we are doing and will seek what is best in sharing the Word and being together.

THANK YOU!

St. Andrews Explores was held Wednesdays during July for kids from Kindergarten to Sixth grade. Twenty students learned about Creation, Pharisees/Sadducees, Apostles, and Baptism. The Biblical themes were studied using Art, Drama, Sports/games, and a special day of Water activities.

Many thanks to these folks for their time and effort in supporting the spiritual growth of our kids:

**Tim Peelen
Panka Peelen
Karen Fedder
Megan Fedder
Rick Borger
Mel Cochran**

**Rob Cochran
Maggie Beatty
Kate Tshudy
Craig Lowrie
Katie Martel**

THANK YOU from the Christian Education committee!

Deacon Doings

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Soon when you venture into the Gathering Area you will notice a new addition. There will be a new way that all of us can continue to keep in touch with our members who cannot attend as often as they would like. There is a table with a card display rack stocked with greeting cards, mailing labels with the names of our shut-in members, and stamps. This is so that you can write notes to our shut-in members and friends. Please use these cards to write notes of encouragement, get well, birthday or just thinking of you to someone to help to brighten their day. When finished, please place the addressed, stamped cards in the “Outgoing Mail” box. They will be mailed for you. How easy is that!

How can you help? Do you have any greeting cards around the house that you no longer need? The Deacons would LOVE to have them to keep our card supply stocked. If you have cards that you wish to donate, you can bring them to the church office or contact Ken Gries. Thank you from the Deacons!

Submitted:

Ken Gries – Deacon Moderator

Thank You

Dear Saints of St. Andrews,

The past few months have been more than I and my family could take on alone. Thank you for praying for us, for praying for Dashiell, for asking your friends to pray and surrounding us so well with your love and with God’s presence. Thank you for your cards which were a blessing both in the joy of Dashiell’s birth, and in sharing the challenges we faced. And the FOOD! Thank you for the food. The first time we came back from the hospital and we were not sure how to get through the days, food appeared right at dinner time. It was such a gift. Thank you for all your faithful support and love. As we move towards our new normal and enjoy getting to know Dashiell now that he is home and doing so much better, we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

In God’s love,
Pastor Robin, Pastor Troy, Reilly and Dashiell

SESSION NOTES

The Session met on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM in Snyder Hall.

Rev. Humphrey opened the meeting with a devotion considering the various intentions of different worship design styles. He noted that different worship styles can bring fundamentally different experiences to different people as they participate.

The devotion was followed by prayer, and a motion was made and passed to approve the Consent Agenda and the minutes from the June 2021 meeting.

Deacons: Jean Ditzler was the deacon representative at the Session meeting. Jean shared that each deacon will be consulting with their people about preferences regarding online and in-person worship as we continue through this challenging Covid time.

Trustees: Trustees continue to address various ongoing and seasonal maintenance issues. One notable item under consideration involves significant repairs to one AC unit.

The Women of the Congregation (PW) group submitted a letter to Session explaining that they have dissolved the PW chapter here at St. Andrews. Our PW group has served faithfully for years, coordinating important presbytery projects such as the Thank Offering and Birthday Offering. They also supported collections for Agape and DVI of Lebanon, as well as CWS' Blanket Sunday. We are grateful for their extensive, faithful service to God's work in the world.

Standing Committee Reports:

Worship: The Wednesday Outdoor Worship program continues (despite one rainout); attendance has ranged around 30-35 people. The committee has asked Session members to contribute to the reflection portions of these programs.

Christian Education: The St. Andrews Explores program is up and running; sixteen children meet on Wednesdays to participate in a musical opening, scripture discussions, and activities based on the theme of each day (arts, drama, sports, and water). Thank you to the church volunteers who prepare lunches for the children.

Congregational Life: The All-Church Picnic returns on September 12! The committee will continue to encourage fellowship during the summer months with coffee hours outside on the first Sunday of each month.

Mission: The committee is seeking volunteers for Mission Week (August 8-14); there is sign up information in the Narthex. Activities include Habitat, Rails to Trails clean-up, a trip to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, and a special Vet Appreciation Video project through the VA coordinated by Maggie Beatty. LCCM Business: Session members met at LCCM to serve the July Free Noon Meal; the Mission Committee will cover the August meal at LCCM. Kathy Crager is the new second Mission Committee delegate to LCCM meetings. Regarding the prospective, permanent LCCM emergency shelter, planning continues for fundraising for the project.

Administration / Personnel: the committee did not meet in July.

Stewardship and Finance: Two of the three projectors are scheduled to be replaced by the fall; no other budget news to report. The church continues to enjoy the blessings of financial support; offerings can be made via mail, on-line, in person during service, or via text.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted without comment; committee chairs should submit committee budgets to Rob Lowrie before October.

Nominating: The committee has already made progress with nominations, and will send letters describing the nominated positions to potential nominees; committee members will contact nominees as well.

Visioning: The committee has obtained approval for the permit for the play area to be installed on the Poplar Street side of the building. They are currently creating a list of events and activities to be held in the space once it is completed. They are also discussing signage to include scripture passages.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Karen Fedder. The next meeting of the Session is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 7 PM.

Session Notes submitted by Karen Fedder.



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 |
| Lisa Meyer | 18 Cliffy Shiner |
| 9 Kathy Lebo | 22 Dennis Shalters |
| John Hakkinen | 27 Maureen Goetze |
| 10 Roz Presby | Linda Rau |
| 11 Mary Lynne Mulligan | |



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

*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 Cassel Chapel, unless we plan something special. Our August meeting will be on Thursday, August 12, at 2:00, in the Chapel, and the September meeting will be on Thursday, September 9, also in the Chapel. Please feel free to come visit with us.

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

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.



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

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