



**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

*Services on Sunday Mornings at 10:30*

*Rev. Dr. Jim Black, Pastor*

*Church Office: (904) 771-1596*

### **BECOMING A BLESSED CHURCH STUDY**

This is a synopsis of the introduction to Graham Standish's book on "Becoming a Blessed Church."

He states that the reason so many churches are failing and fading is because they have not truly allowed themselves. . . the members. . . to FEEL and UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE, PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD! Until they do, they are simply marking time with programs and being busy failing their members and Christ since they are not experiencing the reality of God in their personal and corporate lives. You can have all the programs, parties, suppers, Bible studies, prayer groups, worship services, contemporary bands and social activities you want and still fail to become more transformed and "blessed" by the life of the Holy Spirit working within the members and the congregation. To Standish, "blessed" means to "be raised to" . It is only when we have been "raised to" "KNOWING GOD. . . EXPERIENCING HIS PURPOSE, PRESENCE AND POWER. . ." that there is any real hope for LIFE. It is only by having this opportunity can we ever hope to enjoy the "rising up" God wants for each of us. So, his book is to give you and me the opportunity to discover exactly what God's PURPOSE is both for us and through us as a congregation. He also plans to help us know how better to EXPERIENCE God's PRESENCE. From this, we can grow and glow in the wonderful feeling of our own spiritual needs.

You see, to Graham, the goal is not to be successful or get numbers or be more involved or busy or anything else. Some of these. . .MAY. . .happen but these will only be the by-products. . .outcomes.. . of the more important spiritual insight and growth we can be blessed to have as a result of this study.

There were other parts of his introduction as to his own life and travels and sense of emptiness and how he came to where he is today. It seems he tried just about anything else out there in this world to find a sense of satisfaction but nothing worked. He planned to be a counselor and he worked in the mental health field but, finally, his living experiences and studies brought him to where he is today. He also got his doctorate in the study of Spirituality and used some of this in the writing of this important book.

I will send more synopses of each chapter each month to you. In this way, you can be prepared both to save time and get more out of the time we do spend on this when the Session does meet together.

Sursum Corda! (Up Hearts!)



### **N O V E M B E R**

- 1 All Saints Day & WSCO Food Collection
- 5, 12 & 19 Weekly Bible Study
- 8 Veterans' Day Sunday
- 15 Last Day WSCO T-Day Food Collection
- 16 Session
- 22 Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 29 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent



### **D E C E M B E R**

- 3, 10, & 17 Weekly Bible Study
- 6 WSCO Food Collection
- 6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 13 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 20 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Joy Gift Program, Children & Youth Skit & Finger Foods after Worship
- 21 Session
- 24 Christmas Eve



**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

6317 103rd Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

*Being the face of Christ  
In our Community.*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015**

**Secretaries**

*Donna Kirksey  
Judy Medearis  
Jan Poley  
Velvet Whitaker  
Judith Yeaton*

**Active Elders**

*Michele Banks – M&E  
Roger Barr – M&E  
Lynda Edwards – Worship  
Ben Gundlach –B&G  
Donna Kirksey - Fellowship  
Judy Medearis - CCN  
Joyce Miller – BFS&P  
Linda Miller – Fellowship  
Ralph Ramsey – BFS&P  
Judith Yeaton - Worship*

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrews,

*A wealthy man decided to go on a safari in Africa. He took his faithful pet dachshund along for company. One day the dachshund started chasing butterflies and before long the dachshund discovered that he was lost. While wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having him for lunch. The dachshund thinks, "Okay, I'm in deep trouble now!" Then he noticed some bones on the ground close by and immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.*

*Just as the leopard is about to leap, the dachshund exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here." Hearing this, the leopard halts his attack in mid-stride, as a look of terror comes over him, and slinks away into the trees. "Whew," says the leopard. "That was close. That dachshund nearly had me."*

*Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So, off he goes, but the dachshund saw him heading after the leopard with great speed and figured that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, monkey, hop on my back and just see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."*

*Now the dachshund sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them and just when they get close enough to hear, the dachshund says, "Where is that monkey? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard."*

*If you can't outrun them, outwit them.*

I have been pondering the difference between wisdom and knowledge. Some of the lectionary passages I have been studying address this issue. In scripture, wisdom is the opposite of folly. Knowledge is something that we gain from school and books. Wisdom is something we gain from life experiences, making mistakes and gleaning from our elders. Someone can be wise without a diploma or degree. Wisdom is also something we gain learning, growing and studying with others.

Christian Education and nurture helps us grow not only in knowledge but also in wisdom. One of the responsibilities of all Christians is to grow spiritually and deepen their faith life. We are never too old or young to learn and grow in our faith. One way to grow spiritually and gain wisdom is to attend Bible Study on Thursday mornings. You will learn, grow in your faith and have fun all at the same time.

Pastor Jim - taken from Pastor Suzanne's September 2015 St. Matthews Newsletter & slightly modified.

## OUR PRAYER LIST



Cheryl Bogacki,  
Pat Bukovac,  
Betty Boyd, Kim Cope,  
Joyce Doty,  
Lynda Edwards,  
Dennis & Pam Freitag,  
Barbara Gobbel,  
Ben Gundlach,  
Frankie Hawkins,  
Kim Hunley,  
Christopher Jordan,  
Kathy Kouneh,  
Ray Massey,  
Ellen Murphy,  
David Nelson,  
Bart Parramore,  
Tim Pierson,  
Deborah Sammartino,  
Bill Strubbe, Jr.,  
Bill Strubbe, Sr.  
Clarence Sweat,  
Betty Tanner,  
Sam Taylor,  
Diane Thornton,  
Caroline VanKouwenberg,  
Susie Volp,  
John Vynanek &  
The Family Of  
J.C. Cantrell

# VISITS TO OUR SHUT-INS



Anyone interested in visiting and/or taking Communion to our shut-ins, contact Pastor Jim Black.

**JULIET** (Join Us Ladies Into Eating Together)  
Fourth Tuesday each month @ 6:00pm location TBD.

**Adult Bible Study** 11:00 Thursdays

## Congregational Care and Nurture Committee

We want to thank everyone for your assistance in keeping our prayer list up to date. As a reminder, we keep a name on the prayer list for about 5 weeks unless we are asked to remove it sooner or keep it on for awhile longer. We realize that there are people who will need to remain on the list indefinitely and we do not want to remove a name that still needs our prayers. However, we do not wish to leave a name on the prayer list when the need has already been met.

Summer has come and (almost) gone. We've enjoyed some cooler days. We hope everyone has enjoyed their more relaxed time. Vacations are, for most of us, over. Now that more of us are in town on the weekends we are encouraging all of you (and me) to be faithful in our Sunday attendance. Pastor Jim has wonderful sermons, our choir does a very good job, and we are blessed each and every Sunday we attend. You are the first person who may realize someone has been away for a couple of Sundays or so. Look around you on Sunday morning. Who is not present who usually sits on your pew, ahead or behind you, or across the aisle? Give them a call and see if there is a need.

As hard as it is to realize, Christmas is less than 2 months away. We will again have the Christmas card mail box in the sanctuary. Please check your box each Sunday during December. Also check your directory or call the church office for addresses of our shut-ins or others who may not be attending and MAIL their cards to them. The cost of postage prohibits us from mailing cards that are not picked up.

Let the committee know if we can be of service to you or your family.

By: Judy Medearis



## *Buildings & Grounds*

Buildings and Grounds has been busy trying to keep up with the never ending problems that keep "popping up" on campus. The tremendous amount of rain that has been falling lately has severely hampered our efforts to keep the grounds looking as good as we would like. We were not able to mow front or back yards for about a week due to all the standing water. The wind from these storms brought down several branches on the West wing and Sanctuary roof.

There appears to be no damage or new leaks in the areas the branches fell. We are still working on clearing the fence line and trimming low hanging branches from trees in front and back yards. Thank you J. R. and Jody for the help and use of your new pole saw.

Ron Moore, our resident locksmith, was called upon to repair the Narthex front door lock and replace the door lock leading to the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Thank you Ron!

The A/C unit in Yellow Room has been giving us problems. The fan motor would run continuously due to sticky relay contacts. We think this problem has been solved. Thanks go out to Walter McNair and Jack Strickland.

Our annual inspection of all fire bottles and emergency lights was conducted and certified by Cintas. Everything is good for another year.

A plumbing problem in Nursery bathroom required replacing the fill valve to stop the flow of water.

Our fall workday has been scheduled for 14 November from 8:00 AM until? After cleanup a light lunch will be served by Fellowship Committee. Thank you! Please come and help Building & Grounds clean up the campus. Thank you all in advance for what you will do!

Please keep Pastor Jim and the Session in your prayers as they guide and serve St Andrews.

Remember: And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He that gives you the power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:18

By: Bill Starks

## Directory Updates

### New Address:

William Stubbe, Jr. J31047  
UCI - Dorm H2-201-1  
7819 NW 228<sup>th</sup> Street  
Raiford, FL 32026

Jean Yeaton  
2020 Park Street Apt. # 406  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Joel Still  
4301 Confederate Point Rd. Apt. 101  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

### Birth:

Ace Yeaton September 17, 2015  
Great-grandchild – Bert & Judith Yeaton

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### **BFS&P Committee**

We are fast approaching the end of the year! Unfortunately, our finances are on a downhill spiral!! Our income for the month of September was \$7,020.48. Our expenses were \$9,614.32, leaving us with a deficit for the year of \$19,014.37.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, you received a letter from Ralph Ramsey, Chairman of our 2016 Pledge Campaign. A pledge card was also enclosed. Pledge cards also are available in the narthex and the Church office. Please pray and let the Lord lead you in the amount you can pledge. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Pledge Dedication Service. Please bring your pledge card with you then.

If you are interested in the finances of the Church, we invite you to attend any of our meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on November 10, 2015, 7:00pm, in the Media Room. We will not be meeting in December.

By: Joyce Miller

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### **Deep Appreciation**

Thanks to all at St. Andrews for your prayers, cards, calls, visits and words of encouragement during my surgery, extensive hospital stay and rehab. I'm finally home!

In Christ's Name – Frankie Hawkins

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Don't forget that our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Christmas Bazaar** is Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. **Only three weeks away!!** We decided to move it up a week because life tends to get hectic after Thanksgiving – and hopefully the weather will be a bit warmer.

This year as in the past, we will be having a huge **Yard Sale** as part of the Bazaar. The room is already filling up with donations so if you have anything just lying around the house (also clothes, shoes, etc.) be sure to bring it to the church on Sunday or any morning Monday thru Thursday, 9 – 12 am (the hours that the church office is open). Donation deadline – Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Also look around for **Christmas items** that are new or in good condition that you no longer want, as well as **ornaments, collections, plants, crafts, and homemade baked goods**. We will use them all. We will also be having hot dogs and egg salad sandwiches for sale for lunch. **FREE COFFEE FOR WORKERS AND CUSTOMERS!!**

Last, but just as important, we need **YOU** to help out with the Yard Sale outside and Christmas sale inside. We have a lot of fun working together. The bazaar goes from **8:00 am to "2ish"**, as long as we have customers we will sell, sell, sell. At 3:00 we WILL close and pack up the things to donate to No More Homeless Pets who will have a truck to take away all that's left. If you want your unsold items back, be sure to get them by 2:00 pm.

**ALSO** – we will **rent spaces** to individual vendors for \$20.00. They need to bring their own tables as all of ours will be in use. I already have 2 spaces rented out.

If nothing else, please come and support our church-wide venture. You never know what you will find that you can't live without! If you want to volunteer or have questions or concerns, contact Judith Yeaton or Jan Poley.

Judith Yeaton & Jan Poley





November	13 Jack Strickland
1 Kelly Johnson	20 Kandice Perry
2 David Nelson	22 Allyson Baldwin
3 Cathy Barr	24 Pansy Helms
4 Jonathan May	24 Luke McNair
4 Jonathan Miller	24 Jerry Miller
5 Gabby Heredia	24 Vicki Roberts
7 Nicholas Villa	24 Ralph Story
12 Bill Banks	25 Nancy Anson
13 Jennifer Allen	29 Zach McNair
13 Steve Bierly	29 Herman Six

December	
1 Jerry Hallihan	
2 Jim Dennison	12 Chelsey Roberts
2 Donna Lambly	15 Grayson Zeilie
4 Stephanie Moore	22 Cheryl Bogacki
4 Chloe Welch	22 Anastasia Fekete
5 Jean Yeaton	22 Amber Sweat
6 Amelia Rose Simms	25 John Starkey
8 Austin Merrill	28 Denny Roberts
9 Lydia Windham	31 Ron St. Jacques
11 Linda Miller	



November	
4 Roger & Sherrie Smith	19 Ralph & Miriam Story
13 Chris & Patti Vynanek	24 Ron & Janet St. Jacques
December	
7 Jerry & Joyce Miller	24 Frank & Lynda Edwards
9 Chuck & Rachel Kersten	28 Brent & Meredyth Hume
10 Chuck & Patty DeWolf	31 Brett & Kristie Christiansen
16 Alan & Annesley Brightwell	
21 Jack & Phyllis Herpy	



## STEWARDSHIP ONE-LINERS

1. Give, not until it hurts, but until it helps!
2. May we give in accord with what God has given us lest God give us in accord with what we give!
3. Never let your yearning power outrun your earning power.
4. In light of all God has done for me, I don't ask, "how much should I give. Rather, how much do I DARE hold back?"
5. At a restaurant, a little girl, noticing that her folks left 20% for a tip, asked why. "Because the service was good", replied mom. "Well", said the little girl, "you give 5% at church. Is God bad?"
6. If a pizza, with delivery, is \$12.00 a week, that comes to \$576.00 a year. Is God's work for you and the world in Christ worth a whole year's worth of pizzas? With 75 families here, it would come to \$41,000 for our church budget.
7. Did you hear about the town whose only bank ran out of ones? They went to the Presbyterian Church and got all they had and that solved the bank's problem.
8. Don't give from the top of your purse. Give from the bottom of your heart.
9. "Where a man's heart is, there will his treasure be also". Where do your priorities lie?
10. "Christ is not valued at all if Christ is not valued above all". (St. Augustine)

Pastor Jim

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**January/February**  
**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**  
**\*\*\* DECEMBER 22nd \*\*\***

Articles can be e-mailed to Terry Hallihan:  
**99gwhfth@comcoast.net**  
 Or placed in the Newsletter box in the office

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## THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH TRUNK N TREAT!!!

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### Upcoming Events

November 1 - All Saints Day

November 8 - Veteran's Day Sunday

November 15 - Christmas flower sale begins  
to December 6

November 22 - Thanksgiving Sunday

November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent

December 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24 - Thursday Christmas Eve

January 3 - Epiphany Sunday

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### Music Director – Alex Sanchez

St. Andrews welcomes our new Music Director, Alex Sanchez.

Alex received a Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music in January 2010 from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has been a music teacher in the Florida school systems since his graduation. His current position is Chorus Director Grades 9 - 12 at Westside High School (previously named Forrest). Additionally he has served as pianist, organist and/or Choir Director for several churches in Jacksonville, Debarry and Deltona.

We are delighted to have Alex as part of the ministry at St. Andrews. Over the next few weeks, please take a minute to chat with Alex and show him the power of our warm and enthusiastic church family.

Terry Hallihan



### Worship Committee

It's Holiday Season again and we have a lot planned here at St. Andrews. On November 1<sup>st</sup> we will honor all those who have left this earth to join with Christ in the Church Triumphant while November 8<sup>th</sup> will be a tribute to all in the US Military.

November 22 will be our Thanksgiving Sunday and the Cornucopia will be overflowing with fruits and vegetables taken from the fields of plenty provided for us by our Lord. The next four (4) weeks we will celebrate Advent which is a time for waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

November 29<sup>th</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the church year. During this time we will be lighting the Advent Wreath and have readings reminding us of the special event that is about to happen. The church will be decorated for Christmas with the Hanging of the Greens on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have a Cantata by our choir and will celebrate the Birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> we will welcome the arrival of the Three Kings to make our Nativity scene complete.

The Worship Committee hopes that you can all attend these special services and be blessed by these Holy Events.

In His Name, Lynda Edwards

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### Mission & Evangelism Committee

We will be participating in the WSCO Thanksgiving Basket Collection. Please bring your contributions of canned peas and corn and place them in the bin in the narthex on or before November 15<sup>th</sup>.

As part of St. Andrews' mission work M&E will be passing out bottled water at the Christmas Bazaar. The water will be labeled with information about St. Andrews Church.

The Joy Gift Special Offering will be collected on December 20<sup>th</sup> and the children and youth of St. Andrews will present a Christmas Program that morning during Worship. Immediately after Worship there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall with finger food.

Michele Banks



### SALVATION ARMY

We will be doing the "barrels" again this Christmas Season. The "barrels" will be available for toys the first part of November and will be picked up on December 10th. That gives us ample time to fill the "barrels" with toys. Thank you for your support of this worthy organization's endeavor to bring a little happiness into a child's life that otherwise might not happen!

Please remember the Salvation Army wants NEW toys. The children's age group is infants through 12 years old. In years past we had set a price not to exceed \$20 to \$25 dollars for the gift. All gifts are to be put into the barrels UNWRAPPED.

Thank you!

Helen Starks & Flo Six

Salvation Army - Carissa 301-4782

*A Note from  
the Clerk*



*St. Andrews has numerous activities in November and December. Please bring your family and friends and participate. Annual Committee Reports due January 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*~ Summer*

### LIFE EVERLASTING NOT DEATH

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining. And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. "

"I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. . . I know my Master is there and that is enough."

May today there be peace within you!