



St Andrews Presbyterian Church

Services on Sunday Mornings at 10:30

Rev. Dr. Jim Black, Pastor

Church Office: (904) 771-1596

SEE ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU ARE DOING!

I hope you will place your arm over your shoulder and pat yourself on the back! Why? Just look at a small part of the superior work you are doing with your giving through your church:

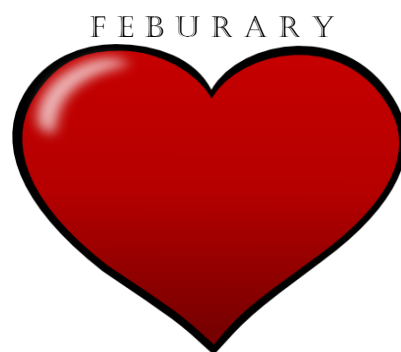
- You own/run over 400 retirement homes in 36 states and in D.C.
- You are in over 75 countries with more than 35 types of missionaries and mission projects, with the locals who have asked us to help in specific ways.
- You own/run 70 schools and colleges.
- You own/run over 50 homes for children.....several homes for children/adults with retardation.
- You provide 125 chaplains for colleges and universities.
- You provide over 200 chaplains for jails and prisons.
- You provide over 100 chaplains in the military branches.
- You sponsor various shelters for battered women and their children as well as work in the area of rescuing women in the slave trade.
- You cooperate with other denominations in joint ministries in over 50 countries.
- You assist other Presbyterian Churches who are able to get low-interest rate loans from our denomination for special projects and building programs.
- You also get much special assistance from St. Augustine Presbytery....and other local Presbyterian Churches....for all kinds of support for our church. This includes finding full or part-time pastors, educational opportunities and local ministries support.
- You work with other Presbyterians when disasters occur anywhere in America and overseas....giving meaningful and needed aid for those in need.
- You offer opportunities when our General Assembly meets to provide you and St. Andrews spiritual leadership that can undergird your thoughts and actions that all of us prayerfully hope will be closer to the Will of God in areas of national and international concern.
- You bring many people to Christ each year through various kinds of local outreach programs and ministries.

And, as is said, "You are only seeing the tip of the iceberg" of all the many great things your giving does as a part of the Presbyterian Church. So, take a moment, use that right hand, put it over your shoulder and give yourself a well deserved pat on the back!

By: Pastor Jim Black



- 10 Elder
- Ordination/Installation
- 21 Speaker & Dinner
- 24 Annual Congregational Meeting



- 7 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 10 Ash Wednesday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Lent Begins
- 18 Speaker & Dinner



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

6317 103rd Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

*Being the Face of Christ
In our Community.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

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

SING IN THE SHOWER? BIRDS NEVER HAD A LESSON EITHER

There is something about singing together. It frees us from tyranny of being too busy for our own good. It slows down time. It gives us a sense of there still being harmony and unity in a world that hungers for such things. Singing is a kind of prayer and, for many, an answer to prayer that can bring relaxation and hope to a weary spirit.

If you think you can't sing or don't have time to sing, you are letting yourself down. No excuses....birds never had a lesson and they do it. Surely you tried to sing in the shower, too. Don't let yourself be bound up by fear of doing it. Actually, SINGING WITH THE CHOIR may change you for the better! Certainly you can challenge yourself to try it once....especially for a Christmas or Easter special.

If you simply cannot or won't, at the very least, enjoy the melody of a hymn, study the words in it. Take them into yourself as one who is sharing a communal prayer with those around you. Allow the words to work their way into your mind and heart. It will help you get energy for your faith journey....get a glimpse of the Holy Spirit speaking directly to you bringing you more and more out of death into Life.

For certain, speak to our choir director or the pastor if you sense a gentle tugging on your heart to join with the choir and help all of us sing our way into a deeper, more beautiful faith.

By: Pastor Jim Black

BFS&P Committee

With the new year just around the corner, our finances haven't improved that much! Our income for the month of November was \$14,906.28; expenses were \$13,896.30, which leaves us with a year to day deficit of \$18,652.49

On December 13th, Session approved the budget for 2016, which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Our pledge campaign went very well. Thanks to all who made a pledge. If you have not made a pledge, you can still make one. Let me know and I'll see that you get a pledge card.

We invite anyone interested in the finances of our Church to attend any of our meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the media room. Our next meetings will be on January 12th and February 19, 2016 at 10:00am. Please note the time of our meeting has changed from in the evening to 10:00am in the morning.

My prayers for 2016 are that God will continue to bless each of you and St. Andrews as we continue to do his will.

By: Joyce Miller

OUR PRAYER LIST



*Kenny Beardsley,
Cheryl Bogacki,
Betty Byrd, Pat Bukovac,
Kim Cope, Joyce Doty,
Lynda Edwards,
Dennis & Pam Freitag,
Barbara Gobbel,
Ben Gundlach,
Carol Hackney,
Ellen Hume,
Christopher Jordan,
Emily Kehler,
Kathy Kouneh,
Brian Marchin,
Ray Massey,
Tina McDaniel,
Melissa McPherson,
Courtney Meadows,
Bart Parramore,
Tim Pierson,
Deborah Sammartino,
Lester Silba,
Coni St. Germaine,
Bill Strubbe, Jr.,
Bill Strubbe, Sr.,
Clarence Sweat,
Betty Tanner,
Sam Taylor,
Caroline VanKouwenberg,
Susie Volpe,
Karen White
&
Don Wight*



HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

1. If you have not returned your pledge card or.... oh-my-goodness!.... did not receive one, please either call Joyce Miller at 317-9747 and let her know of your willingness to join in being an even more effective member. Or, simply send your card in to the church office.
2. It would sure be a financial help to our congregation if each member would respond to this simple request: as you know, each church is asked by Presbytery for an extra \$7.50 or so each year above a member's regular pledge. Why? For these reasons:
 - It helps defray the cost of various mailings of the work of presbytery for all of us
 - It helps the local congregation defray some of its cost for our newsletter and other mailings. Some members cannot pledge but are willing to carry their own weight when it comes to doing what they can to help us all keep up with one another in various ways as to what is going on here at the church and the work we are doing together.
 - Admittedly, it is not a "tax" but a Supplemental Offering to promote the work of our missionaries a bit more around the world.

Thanks to each of you in advance for considering this small Supplemental Offering in your giving. You may place it in an envelope any Sunday morning and please mark it "Supplemental Offering".

By: Pastor Jim

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 in Lieu of Sunday School – Each Thursday at 11:00AM

We had the best Christmas Bazaar ever!

The final figures are:

Venders	\$ 120.00
Kitchen (Linda Miller)	111.25
Bake Sale (Michele Banks)	131.10
Raffle (Linda Miller)	103.00
Yard Sale	1,358.51
Am. Vets (Pick-up)	<u>222.60</u>
Total	\$2,046.46

Thanks go out to everyone who donated items for the sale, took a chance on the raffle, those who came out the day before to help with pricing and all who came to help on the Big Day. Many hands made light work – and we had fun working together.

By: Judith Yeaton and Jan Poley



January

5 Terry Hallihan	20 Joyce Oleson
7 Ben Gundlach	20 Diane Parker
11 Chloe Allen	24 Jan Poley
11 Jack Herpy	25 Kristen Merrill
14 Hannah Miller	26 Donna Kirksey
18 Bert Yeaton, Jr.	30 Bill Starks
19 Helen Ballester	

February

1 Lynda Edwards	13 Liz Parker
4 Jennie Leverett	16 Roger Barr
6 Sydney Baldwin	21 Kyle Miller
6 Claire Helmer	25 Olivia Hume
11 Baylee Parramore	



January

4 JR & Jody Wood

February

None



Buildings & Grounds

Buildings and Grounds (B & G) would like to thank all who participated in our fall cleanup day held in November. We had a nice turnout with 20 St. Andrews members and 19 Girl Scouts and their leaders. We missed having the Boy Scout Troop again this year as they had a camping outing scheduled. A lot of work was accomplished including cleaning all buildings, trimming shrubs, weeding flower gardens and picking up trash just to name a few. A light lunch was served by the Fellowship Committee. Thank you all so very much!

B & G would also like to thank each and every committee member for serving this past year and hope you will all return again in 2016. The campus would not look so beautiful if not for all the hard working individuals that spent so many hours to make it so. Thank you all!

Welcome aboard to J. R. Wood, who will be the new committee chairman next year. We also welcome Jody Wood, JR's personal secretary, and Ron Moore our resident locksmith to the committee. Their talents and skills will be a great addition to our already talented and energetic committee.

The air conditioning units in the Media Center and Yellow Room needed repair this past month. One needed a relay and the other a start capacitor. Units are working fine at this writing.

We still have projects to accomplish in the upcoming year that we did not have time to complete last year - some roof leaks, wall paneling and clearing vines and brush from back fence area. St. Andrews is an official police stop station now for anyone who has not heard. Hopefully, their presence will enhance our security.

Please keep Pastor Jim and the Session in your prayers as they guide and serve St. Andrews. Also, note our monthly meeting time is now 11:30am on the first Tuesday.

Remember: Give, and it will be given to you: good measure pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

By: Bill Starks

THIRD THURSDAY NIGHT DINNERS

We will be holding our Thursday Night Speaker & Dinner series starting

January 21.....speaker Ken Olsen.

February 18.....speaker Stephanie Moore.

Stay tuned!

By: Pastor Jim Black

*A Note from
the Clerk*



- Installation/Ordination of elders January 10, 2016
- Annual Congregational Meeting January 24, 2016

Summer

Worship Committee

Our Advent/Christmas holidays were enjoyed by all. The Hanging of the Green went smoothly with members putting the last touches on the decorating of the sanctuary. The Cantata, although put together quickly by our new director, Alex, was a huge success. The Joy Gift Program was scripture readings by our youth. Christmas Eve service had rain threatening, but we all enjoyed the stories and songs of the evening.

Don't get too settled yet. Here is the upcoming schedule for Lent/Easter:

- Ash Wednesday (**Wednesday, February 10, 2016**)
- First Sunday of Lent (**Sunday, February 14, 2016**)
- Second Sunday of Lent (**Sunday, February 21, 2016**)
- Third Sunday of Lent (**Sunday, February 28, 2016**)
- Fourth Sunday of Lent (**Sunday, March 6, 2016**)
- Fifth Sunday of Lent (**Sunday, March 13, 2016**)
- Palm Sunday (**Sunday, March 20, 2016**)
- Maundy Thursday (**Thursday, March 24, 2016**)
- Good Friday (**Friday, March 25, 2016**)
- Holy Saturday (**Saturday, March 26, 2016**)
- Easter (**Sunday, March 27, 2016**)

By: Lynda Edwards

**MARCH/APRIL
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
DUE**

***** FEBRUARY 22nd *****

*Articles can be e-mailed to
Terry Hallihan:*

99gwhfth@comcast.net

*Or placed in the Newsletter box
in the office*

Clerk

It seems each year gets busier and busier and 2015 was no exception.

I want to thank the session for always working hard to do God's work in the church. I want to say a special thanks to Linda Miller and Ben Gundlach, they are exiting off session.

I want to welcome Mary McNair, JR Wood, and Summer Hackney who will be reinstalled, and Elaine Mechelke who is being ordained for the 1st time, to session.

Session is already preparing for 2016. We will be looking closer at how we can connect more with our westside community.

Along with session work, your committees can always use more helping hands. If you are being called to help more with your church you can let me know or Pastor Jim. Volunteers are always welcome.

With Christ's Love,
Summer Hackney

Updates

Passing Of: Mark Windham November 20th

Mission & Evangelism Committee

Thanks to all who supported our food collections in 2015. We start 2016 with our continued WSCO Food Collections on January 3rd and February 7th. Additionally, the Youth will be doing the Souper Bowl Collection on February 7th.

If you are interested in being part of Mission & Evangelism, please attend our monthly meetings on the second Sunday at 9:15am – January 10th and February 14th.

In Christ, Michele Banks

Congregational Care and Nurture Committee

A big thanks to the members of my committee: Elaine Mechelke, Sue Massey, Jan Poley, and Velvet Whitaker. I appreciate all that you have done this year. We are looking for new members to expand our committee. If you would like to minister to shut-ins, help with bereavement meals, etc. please let me know.

Please remember if you use the microphone at the pulpit, **DON'T** adjust it. No matter how tall or short you are, it has been set to pick up your voice from the sound booth.

By: Judy Medearis

BECOMING A BLESSED CHURCH (PART 3)

The Church started with Abraham. The Christian Church started at Pentecost...when the Holy Spirit entered into the disciples and it was an AH-HAH moment! The point is, until each of us **ASPIRES TO BE INSPIRED**, our local church will **EXPIRE**! Read that again. If we are disciples and really want to try and be followers by word and deed, we must know in a deep, personal way, the place and practical importance of Jesus Christ in our own personal life. We simply cannot give away or share what we do not have. We can only know, in a personal/practical way, who Jesus is and the absolute awesomeness of Him by being people of the **BOOK**, people of **PRAYER** and with **OTHERS** who know Him. We call these (and the Sacraments) “the Means of Grace”. There is no shortcut to be able to know him emotionally and be strengthened to be able to make him known to others....period! If you ever hope to know anyone, it is best to spend time talking with them and watching how they come across to make some impression on you.

The trouble with most churches is that they have lost **VIBRANCY** and have fallen into the trap of **FUNCTIONALISM**....playing at being church with heady stuff (Robert’s Rules of Order, Books of Order, the usual way of going about church “business” **TOO** much. Today, it is easier to organize a thousand people than it is to redeem one of them! We have lost our understanding of our **PURPOSE**...to know Him and to make Him known; to know inwardly that we have been blessed with the Christ story so as to become a blessing to others. The healthy church cares for the whole person and works to allow each member to become “integrated” and “balanced” spiritually, mentally, physically and relationally, so that each may get their own life together and then be in a healthy relationship with God, first and foremost, and then be in relationships with all others. This is a major Gift of God for God’s entire world.for the world to get its head screwed on right and to get its “act together”. Surely, by now, you know what the world is like without God at the helm.

These areas are also important: a Session that earnestly prays, trying always to think and act as to what the leaders really feel would make God smile....place God’s agenda for God’s people over egos or anything else. The worship experience should be one that helps others feel the Truth of God, helps them know how to live, how to remain in touch with God and find ways to live into the future. Good leadership, being truly “God-centered”, is an absolute must. Even the Session’s docket should reflect a worship experience...candles, hymns, prayers, a sense of seriousness about their high calling.

Again, it is so important that we earnestly “aspire” to be “inspired”, so that the Holy Spirit will bless us and that this church will not expire. As the Psalmist reminds us, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1).

By: Pastor Jim

WHERE TO FROM HERE FOR ST. ANDREWS?

Remember the three-legged stool? Which leg is more important when you suspect that each leg has its place? The three “legs” include the following (in order of importance): (A) A church who really knows Jesus Christ and feels the place and importance of Him in their personal lives. They make it their aim to please Him because they realize that only in Him can we truly live and move and find our true being. (B) Now, feeling the truth of this, they constantly try as hard as they can to make Him known to others. He is too good not to both spread and share this tremendously, wonderful, life-giving news! Now, having known Him and feeling compelled to make Him known we can expect the next step automatically to take place....grow in membership as the result of A and B. Membership growth is the natural outcome... the “C” leg... of this stool. Now you have the formula for a bright future.

Sounds good on paper and not all members will share in this venture because it takes faithful planning and faithful follow through. “A” requires a lot of things taking place such as faithful Bible study, honest prayer and sharing together. It takes listening to people outside our congregation as to what would make worship a more meaningful part of their lives....good Biblical preaching, uplifting music, a warm fellowship of believers whose lives are caringly intertwined and very welcoming of others with their ideas and suggestions taken seriously. This may foster a few changes and adjustments. As I said, planning and acting on our plans are absolute musts. This is the most important part for St. Andrews having a future here.

The “B” part also takes consistent planning and action. Here are a few ways to approach making Christ known: 1. Where is the “market” we hope to target...older, middle aged or younger people? I suspect it will be the first two in light of the community around us. Will you include them in your discussions and decisions? This will require member education and some training to do it well. 2. It may involve many ways to use different types of media to let others around us know that we know their needs and have ways to address them. 3. It may involve taking on things like having Social Services and leadership from area Presbyterian Churches using our rooms for parent training classes, money management classes, etc. 4. It would mean faithfully following up on any and all who use our property for any reason...once we obtain their names and addresses or phone numbers. 5. It may involve writing very tailor-made types of notes to new residents in our area codes that we find in each Friday’s paper. 6. It may involve finding the names of those on the church roll of Faith Lutheran Church and making contact with them....and other churches that have closed around us. 7. It may mean offering space for business persons to come and offer ways people can be trained for job interviews and how to find employment. It may mean finding persons needing help on how to shop and make use of their limited finances or how to sew and become independently employed by use of skills they have learned. Well, you get the point. Visibility, visibility, visibility! Folks would really miss us if St. Andrews were not here. They need to recognize this and step up and be involved with us for their own sakes and share and care for the community we live in.

Any pastor you get will know much of this and would expect you to be serious about growth with him or her. May the Holy Spirit drive us to commit to “grow forward into Christ together”!

By: Pastor Jim