



The Fishing Line

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Services on Sunday Mornings at 10:30

Church Office: (904) 771-1596

July/August 2020

Hope this finds you all well. The times we are living in are tumultuous to say the least. We may even begin to feel like Job, who found himself in extremely trying circumstances. At one point in Job's narrative he is bemoaning his fate:

What are human beings, that you make so much of them, that you set your mind on them, visit them every morning, test them every moment? Will you not look away from me for a while, let me alone until I swallow my spittle? (Job 7:17-19)

Job is wondering why he—a righteous man—is being tried by God. Why is God not protecting him, why are his fortunes running so wrong? The onslaught of trials is never ending and unrelenting. I read the line, “let me alone until I swallow my spittle” and laughed out loud. Job has pretty well described the human condition at least as we sometimes perceive it. Sometimes it feels like we don't even have the time to swallow!

Upper most in my mind, and I assume most of yours as well, is the Corona virus. The Session has debated long and hard about reopening the church. Lynda Edwards sent out a text and Terry Hallihan an e-mail describing our final decision to play it safe in the face of the rising number of cases here in Florida. I've rested much easier since we've decided to postpone reopening.

Reopening may be in the future but the plan we have regarding reopening is in place. Our plan shares some things in common with several other area churches. Social distancing, no handshakes, no hugging. We will have hand sanitizer available throughout the church—in the narthex and by the pews as you enter the sanctuary.

The other big thing is the decision to require masks. I realize that masks are a nuisance. They're uncomfortable. They can make it hard to breathe. We may forget them. Those are a few problems that I can think of.

On the other hand, they are one of the best ways to limit the spread of the virus. In light of this the session, at my urging, has agreed to make masks mandatory. If you are on church property you need to wear a mask. If we all wear masks, we stand a better chance of controlling and limiting the spread of the virus.

I am asking for your patience as we move forward. Masks are a reasonable response as we try to keep everyone safe. Presbyterians like to say, “God is the Lord of the conscience.”¹ In the end each of us will have to decide whether to abide by the decisions of the Session. I pray that everyone will choose to opt for cooperation.

God bless you all, Pastor Marc



JULY

- 4 Independence Day



AUGUST

- Hopefully In Person Worship



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

6317 103rd Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

*Being the Face of Christ
In our Community.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY/AUGUST 2020

Secretaries

*Donna Kirksey
Judy Medearis
Judith Yeaton*

Active Elders

*Michele Banks – CE&F
Lynda Edwards – M&E
Summer Hackney – CE&F
Terry Hallihan – F&P
Bonnie McNally - CCN
Walter McNair – B&G
Judith Yeaton – Worship*

Worship

Dear St. Andrews Members and Friends,

Here it is the end of June and time to write an article for the newsletter again. As I write this, the church is still closed due to the Covid-19 virus but some things are happening. We have been live streaming church services in June as well as uploading a recording so people can still watch it later. We have been experiencing “buffering” issues with the live stream due to the fact that our present phone lines are MUCH too slow to properly handle live streaming and the action comes over very jerky. We may go back to recording and uploading the service without live streaming. That is yet to be decided. As soon as Comcast can get the lines put in, we should have the bandwidth to live stream properly. Unfortunately that may take several weeks to happen. But we’re working on it.

Most of you know that Helen Starks passed away June 14th. The family wanted a memorial service for her on Tuesday the 23rd. The Worship Committee and the F&P Committee and some on the Session worked to make that happen. We taped off every third pew, spaced the seating in the other two pews so that there was proper social distancing and required face masks be worn while in the building. We were able to seat 43 people and had room for a few more. It was a lovely service and it was good to see several members of our congregation again. We didn’t feel that we could have a luncheon in the fellowship hall so Bonnie McNally, Michele Banks and Marie Jean took food to Bill Starks’ house and people were invited to go there for a light meal and fellowship.

I had thought at that time that we could properly open for church services after that – BUT all of a sudden the infection rate went way up for several days in a row and the Session felt that it was no longer a good idea to take a chance and open the church as so many of us are in that “over 60” range. So it was voted to remain closed at least until Session meets again in July. Hopefully they will have a better handle on the virus by then.

In closing let me say that we are keeping each of you in our prayers and ask that you do the same for our Committees and Session. Please let someone know if you experience health issues or other problems so we can possibly help you and at least put your name on the prayer list.

Yours in Christ,
Judith Yeaton, Chairman
Lynda Edwards
Joan Goldsmith
Judy Medearis
Diane Parker

OUR PRAYER LIST



*Nancy Anson,
Diane Baylor,
Connie Davis
Lynda Edwards,
Janet Flower,
Pansy Helms,
Lori Joyce,
Linda Kneece,
Ray Massey, Sue Massey,
Howard McNulty,
Judy Medearis,
Beth Moore,
Charleen Pavlakovich,
Jackie Pully
Ralph Ramsey,
Vickie Roberts,
Carol Shircliff,
Susan Spranger,
Bill Starks,
Jack Strickland,
Phyllis Stubbs,
Pat Sundt,
Clarence Sweat,
Betty Tanner,
Pat Thomas,
Art Vaughn,
Kathy Vynanek,
Sandy White,
& family and
friends of
Alan Brightwell,
Frankie Hawkins,
Redick Loring,
LaVern Smalta,
Helen Starks
and
Ralph Story*

VISITS TO OUR SHUT-INS



On hold pending COVID-19 restrictions.



Buildings & Grounds

Greetings from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Hope all of you are coping with COVID-19 the best you can. With the recent upsurge in new cases it looks like we may involved with this for a bit longer than expected. Don't give up hope. Let's all pray we will get through the virus soon. We miss seeing all of you at church and hope to see you soon.

As life goes on, we can report to you we had another incident with a limb falling from one of our old oaks and punching a hole in the roof of the Sunday school room on the west end. You may recall we had the same thing happen several months back. However, this time no other damage but the hole in the roof. No damage to the new air conditioner replaced from the last event. Some water got in the classroom but it did not appear to cause any real damage. Ron Moore and Walter McNair repaired the hole. We are hoping it will get us through a few more years. The roof is quite old.

We have attached a picture of the hole where the limb went through.

Hope to see everyone soon.

Walter McNair

Limb on Roof & Resulting Hole



JULIET (Join Us Ladies Into Eating Together) First Tuesday each month @ 6:00pm location TBD when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Adult Bible Study – Thursdays @ 11:00am via Zoom



Finance & Personnel

Month ending May, 2020, is as follows:

Income = \$6,902.65; Expenses = \$6,700.95; Positive balance of \$201.70.

May 2020 Year To Date:

Income = \$34,319.55; Expenses = \$45,314.93; Negative balance of \$11,950.71.

The contract for the replacement Konica Minolta was signed and the new copier will be delivered when the Church Office is reopened, allowing training of Office staff.

F& P decided not to start the 2020 "evaluation process" for Church employees since we have not had regular operations for the past 15 weeks and do not know when the current restrictions will be lifted.

Our current contract with CCLI does not cover using their music in Worship Services uploaded to youTube and distributed via "live streaming". We are in the process of expanding our copyright/royalties agreement with CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) to include uploading to the internet (youTube and "live streaming") at a cost of \$68/year.

Received great news for the Church - one of our recent JEA bills reflected a \$13,297.30 credit for overpayments. Mary McNair learned the overpayment was created by JEA installing an incorrect size meter which resulted in excess bills from April 2010 to May 2020. The Church requested a refund of the \$13,297.30. Better for St. Andrews to earn income on this amount; in lieu of leaving the money as a credit against future JEA bills.

Considered purchasing a Zoom license for the Pastor and others to use to hold on-line meetings during COVID-19 restrictions and decided to hold this purchase in abeyance to see what future limitations are implemented on in person meetings.

Telephone/Internet Replacement/Upgrade-three vendors (Google, AT&T and Comcast) were considered. Google did not have service available in the vicinity of the Church. The installation fee for AT&T, our current provider, was \$99.95 which would have been waived but the monthly fee would be \$470 for 2 – 3 years depending upon the cost to install the new lines. Additionally, the AT&T internet speed would have been substantially slower. Comcast's installation fee is \$99.95 with a monthly cost of \$198.25 (which would be reduced by \$10, if the Church enrolled in auto bill and auto pay) for 2 lines with voice mail, caller ID and unlimited long distance for a beginning \$200 credit and a monthly savings of approximately \$150-175/month - \$198.25 + taxes versus what we pay currently of \$85.60 + \$299.68. Per Comcast our existing equipment would work as well as our alarm system. (Thank goodness because we have a "sweetheart deal" of only \$1.00 per year with United Alarm and Specialty Company since he was a member when the alarm system was initially installed and his company has honored that deal ever since. He was contacted and assured us the alarm system will not be impacted by our conversion from analog lines with AT&T to digital service with Comcast.)

Comcast was selected and a 2 year contract signed with a confirmed completion date of September 1st. However, things have moved very fast in the last week. The Comcast contractor was at Church on Wednesday (July 1st) undergrounding the cable. The next step is for Comcast to inspect the laid cable and do the installation into the building. If things continue at this pace, the Church may have faster speed internet with a few weeks. Keep your fingers crossed.

Terry Hallihan, Cathy Barr, Phyllis Herpy, Mary McNair, Linda Seiler & Judith Yeaton



July

3 Donald Kollah	10 Suzi Starkey
5 Linda Stickland	12 Dick Massey
8 Kristen Brightwell	15 Pat Thomas
9 Miriam Story	26 Kathy Vynanek
10 Virginia Black	28 Walter McNair
10 Nancy McCall	

August

1 Joel Still	17 Brent Hume
6 Shirley Haynes	18 Joe Fowler
8 Gabriel Bagnola	26 Betty Tanner
13 Connie Davis	29 Charleen Pavlakovich
13 Mary McNair	30 Susan Jones
17 Michele Banks	30 Judy Medearis
17 Scott Brooks-Cope	31 Marie Jean

Fellowship and CE

Due to COVID-19 limitations the Fellowship Committee decided to following Helen's Memorial provide a delicious lunch at Bill 's home for family members. All welcomed the bereavement fellowship.

**God Bless and Hope to See
Everyone Soon,
Michele Banks**

Thanks

Thank you for thinking of me and Frankie's son and daughter and streaming comforting thoughts our way, as well as gently holding us in your daily prayers. It's a difficult and emotional time since the passing of my sister. Thank you for all the sympathy cards. Please keep me and Frankie's family in your prayers. It's hard to accept, but God knows best.

Thanks be to God,

Peggy Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

July

None

August

4 Walter & Jan Poley 17 Bill & Michele Banks
7 Dick & Sue Massey 22 Ralph & Sue Ramsey

A Note from the Clerk



St. Andrews hopes to have numerous activities in August. We'll keep you posted of the COVID-19 restrictions/ impact on Church activities.

~ Summer

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
*** AUGUST 25th *****

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

Mission & Evangelism

M&E committee is continuing our mission of helping members as well as the community in many ways. Although the church is still broadcasting Sunday services until we can meet again safely, M&E is planning to open up our bread giveaway soon. In addition to bread we're also planning to give some of the non-perishables that have been collected in our food pantry. We will have a table outside the bread room with pre-packaged amounts of bread and non-perishables. We will carry bags down to cars or hand to walk ups.

The Session is now requiring anyone on our property to wear a mask to control the spread of COVID-19.

Please keep safe and pray for all our leaders.

Lynda Edwards

Thanks

Special thanks to everyone involved in the beautiful Memorial Service for Helen. Also, thanks for all your prayers, support, meals, cards and encouragement during Helen's illness. Your outpouring of love meant so much to us. Heaven is a better place with Helen in its midst.

Love to all of you,
Bill & Family

Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is the founding document of American history. The following summary of the Declaration of Independence briefly describes its content. Although the declaration is not officially divided into sections, it is commonly referred to in five distinct parts; the Introduction, the Preamble, the Indictment of King George III, the Denunciation of the British people, and the Conclusion.

The Introduction- The Introduction of the Declaration of Independence refers to the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitling the people to assume any type of political independence. The introduction also acknowledges that the reason for independence must be of reasonable terms. The Declaration therefore must be concise and explained thoroughly.

The Preamble- The Preamble contains probably the most famous lines of the Declaration, "*we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal.*" The Preamble states that there are certain unalienable rights that government should never violate. Those rights include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Should those rights be violated and the government fails to protect them, the people have the right to protect those rights themselves by overthrowing the government.

The Indictment- The Indictment begins by stating the suffering of the American colonies and the feeling of absolute constraint in forming a new system of government. The Indictment also refers to the numerous and repeated injuries that King George III placed upon the colonies and then go on to include factual information as to the many things that King George III had committed. The King is accused of twenty seven specific abuses; interfering with colonists' rights to self government and a fair judicial system; instituting legislation that affected colonies without their consent, increasing taxes on colonists; requirement to quarter British soldiers; right to trial by jury; preventing them from trading freely, for example. Also, the King had refused to protect the borders of the colonies thus resulting in the destruction of American life and property. These are among the twenty seven accusations the colonists made in direct relation with King George III in the Indictment portion of the Declaration of Independence.

The Denunciation- The Denunciation portion of the Declaration of Independence basically covers and finishes their case for separating from England in the hopes for a peaceful resolution, but with the clear understanding that war is almost inevitable. This section of the Declaration also notes the attempts that had been made to peacefully work things out as many of the Americans still felt that England was their brother and had appealed to more prominent people among the British. Still to their utter disappointment and their requests the colonies remained ignored and unsuccessful.

The Conclusion- In conclusion, the representatives of the United States of America and the people of the colonies had seen existent conditions that required a change in government structure and policy. The conclusion states that "*these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown.*"