



The Fishing Line

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Services on Sunday Mornings at 10:30

Church Office: (904) 771-1596

November/December 2020

I'm always surprised by how fast time goes by. 2020 has flown by. It seems like only yesterday that we heard about the CoronaVirus. Suddenly we were all hunkering down in our bunkers or bungalows or whatever else we could find to hide in. Life in the church—at least corporate life—came to a screeching halt. It was six months before we believed we could safely meet.

Things have certainly changed. We have been meeting together again successfully for about six weeks. So far, so good. Before we reopened, we attended a Presbytery gathering via Zoom, hosted by Chris Lieberman, who was recently hired as the presbytery's "Relationship Coordination Director." Basically, Chris is an idea guy and communicator. The meeting Chris led was helpful, since the PC(USA) had not set down any hard and fast rules. There were "recommendations" but no rules—Jesus Christ was to remain Lord of the conscience. The result was, in my opinion, widespread confusion regarding what were supposed to be safe standards. Many area churches attended the meeting and reported on how they were responding to COVID. Some churches had never closed. Some were doing video conferencing. Some were entertaining ideas of returning to worship pending decreasing numbers of infection. In other words, the churches were all over the board.

The desire to return to church proper—sitting down, singing in the choir and hymns, shaking hands, hugging—were strong. Video streaming is better than nothing, but only just. Reverend Lieberman made several particularly good points, but one made an impression on me: going back to church was not going to be going back to church the way it had been. And the past weeks have proven that to be true. No doubt you've noticed.

We have opted to wear masks—everyone's favorites—NOT! We don't shake hands or hug. Well maybe sometimes, but we're not supposed to. We are fudging a little and are singing together. May God protect us and bless us as we do so! During this time, you have all been very patient. I think most of us have realized that while no one *likes* masks, they are apparently the cheapest and most effective way of controlling the spread of the contagion. If it comes down to wearing a mask or having a tube shoved down my throat and dying alone in a room...well the mask isn't so bad, is it?

Social distancing isn't quite as annoying, but I am getting tired of "fist bumping". It's just not as satisfying as grabbing an outstretched hand and shaking it. Handshaking used to be a way of showing strangers that you were friendly and didn't have a dagger or some other weapon on your person. A closed fist is a closed fist.

Then there's the broadcast angle—worship will never be the same! Thanks to the guys in the AV booth who make it happen. Austin Merrill puts the service on screen from the bulletin, and Matt Merrill, and Brian Gowans get it up on screen and broadcast for the folks who have opted to stay home.

I'd like to think that a vaccine will put us back to "normal". But I hear talk that the vaccine won't be able to completely eradicate the virus. If that's true we may already be living in the new normal. Time will tell. God bless you all!

Amen *Pastor Marc*



NOVEMBER

- 1 Daylight Saving Time, WSCO Food Collection, Good Samaritan Offering, Communion & All Saints Celebration
- 7 Yard Sale
- 11 Veterans Day
- 19 Session Meeting
- 22 Dedication Sunday & Thanksgiving Dinner
- 26 Thanksgiving



- 5 Greening of Sanctuary
- 6 WSCO Food Collection, Good Samaritan Offering, Communion & 1st Sunday of Advent
- 15 Session Meeting
- 21 Winter Begins
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00PM
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

6317 103rd Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

*Being the Face of Christ
In our Community.*

www.sapcjax.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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*



Hello from the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Hope all of you are doing well.

Since St. Andrews has reopened on a limited basis, our committee is also back to work taking care of our buildings and grounds. In the past several weeks we experienced an electrical problem in the narthex which could have caused us considerable expense. Fortunately, Southern Atlantic Electric Company was able to solve our problem. In addition, we had problems with two of our air conditioners necessitating a call to Merritt Heating and Air.

Both situations reflect our aging facility. Our committee always has something to work on. We need your support to work on things around the campus and your continued support of St. Andrews.

Our next meeting is November 12, at 9:00 A.M. Come join us if you can as we will be doing a little cleanup on the grounds following the meeting. We could use help in getting St. Andrews back to normal.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

OUR PRAYER LIST



Robert Aloysius,
Pam Atwater,
Elaine Austin,
Diane Baylor,
Kade Buchanan,
Pat Bukovac,
Diane Carr,
Jim Chapman,
Kim Cope,
Connie Davis,
Lynda Edwards,
Jerry Fernandez,
Dave Fountain,
Janet Fowler,
Brian Hackney
Phyllis Herpy,
Lori Joyce,
Jason Kanengater,
Linda Kneece,
Don & Jo McLemee,
Howard McNulty,
Joyce Miller,
Beth Moore,
John Mosley
Charlene Pavlakovich,
Stephanie Ramsey,
Carol Shircliff,
Linda Seiler,
Flo Six,
Susan Spranger,
Phyllis Stubbs,
Betty Tanner,
Art Vaughn,
And Friends & Family Of
Carol Jepsen

Happy Fall to Everyone

We are wrapping up 2020 and I feel lost because so much of our regular routine has been altered or changed in so many ways. However what I have seen during this time of unknown is true friendships thrive, the show of affection and care to those in need and the strive from our church family to hold on and live the Faith of God right here at St. Andrews. Your session has been dedicated to making sure St. Andrews is a safe place to gather and worship and still be active to those in need on the Westside. In this Session your elders this year have probably learned more about the true grit of social distancing and sanitation than they thought they would ever have to know. I am willing to bet that when we were doing elder training in 2019 if we would have said oh by the way just in case there is a crazy air borne very contagious virus to come our way we will have to shut down the church for about 6 months we will need you to figure out how to stream services online and over analyze how much we are in direct contact with each other, eliminate it and still be warm welcoming and inviting to the community. They would have laughed me right out of the meeting. I believe God puts us in exactly the place we need to be with the people we need to be with and the situation we need to experience. This year has proven that to me time and time again. I want to just say a HUGE Thank You to Michelle Banks, Lynda Edwards, Terry Hallihan, Walter McNair, Bonnie McNally, and Judith Yeaton, they never wavered during one of the hardest years in our church life. They all exceeded what a session's responsibilities are and in God's love they are true Sisters and Brothers in the life of the church. Do I dare ask what 2021 will bring? I pray 2021 will be a year of happy hugging reunions, a year of many many fellowship events with all the yummy delights that come with it, and a time of renewing friendships and love. Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Clerk of Session- Summer Hackney



Good bye, best of luck and God Speed to Diane Parker and Julie Herndon as they move from Jacksonville to TX. We will miss them. A special thanks to Diane for all she has done as a member and Elder of St. Andrews over the many years.

Diane's new address is:

513 Maplewood Dr.
Fate, TX 75087

VISITS TO OUR SHUT-INS



When safely permitted, anyone interested in visiting and/or taking Communion to our shut-ins, contact the Office.

Fellowship

We have not been able to gather for “fellowship” for a long time. So we have decided to have our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 22nd after Worship.

There will be changes in how we do things. Two of us will be cooking and service, wearing masks. The tables and chairs will be six feet apart. If weather permits there will be table outside. Six people will be served at a time. The menu will consist of turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, salad and pie. All drinks will be bottled or canned. Condiments will be prepackaged.

Take out will be available for “shut-ins”. There will be order forms to complete if you wish to take a dinner to someone so those meals can be prepared first.

This sounds like a lot, but we want to keep everyone safe so we can have Fellowship now and in the future.

We hope to see you there.

Stay Safe & God Bless
The Fellowship Committee

SALVATION ARMY

We will be doing the “barrels” again this Christmas Season. The “barrels” will be available for toys November 18th and will be picked up around December 16th. 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 for the gift. All gifts are to be put into the barrels UNWRAPPED.

Thank you!
Lydia Windham



Fall Bazaar

Save the date and participate in the St. Andrews Fall Bazaar. Booths will be available for rent.

Saturday, November 7nd

8:00 - 1:00pm

Thrift Shop- Hope Chest

Checkout the goodies for sale!

Of all the responsibilities my office encompasses, writing about stewardship is one of my least favorite. Most of us have heard the various rationales behind giving. Certainly, modern churches require money to operate. We all like air conditioning and heat. Lights are nice too. The computers and video equipment have gotten to be necessities—we're not supposed to pick up hymnals or Bibles these days. In other words, we're not meeting in barns or cemeteries anymore.

I realize that I am one of the biggest expenses on the payroll. Another reason I'm a little reticent to hold my hand out and ask for ten percent of your hard-earned income.

Back to the business of scriptural models for giving. They range from warnings about "robbing God" (Malachi 3:8) to the less noxious "cheerful givers" plan from 2nd Corinthians 9:7.

I suppose most of us fall somewhere in between these two poles. As far as "robbing God" goes I don't think any of us sets out to rob God. Everything we have comes from God. Why would we even think we could rob God? Add to that the fact that we know that our offerings keep the lights on here, but in addition to that, the dollars we give carry the gospel out into the world. They fuel the churches' mission to "go out into all the world" as Christ commanded.

Cheerful givers? This can be problematic too. It sounds good, but if I just give what I want can I count on the AC being on next Sunday? I'm pretty stingy if I'm honest. Still I realize that I should pay my fair share and pull my weight. I don't think many of us are born cheerful givers. I think it's more something we have to grow into as we come to find that God can be trusted.

I have wrestled with these two models of Biblical giving throughout my life as a Christian. I have never liked the guilt trip in Malachi, but I know that the "cheerful giver" model has its problems too. When we get down to it most of us know that the norm for giving in the church is ten percent. That's what the tithe is. Ten percent of our income. Gross not net. It was instituted by Abraham when he met with Melchizedek after his battle to rescue Lot from captivity. Ten percent is what the Lord requires of us. These days ten percent can be hard to come up with. I understand, but I have also discovered in my own giving that the Lord provides. There's enough to go around even after we give the Lord his due. Therefore, I invite you to step up to the tithe if you are not already doing so. If you are already God bless you. Give, not out of a sense of guilt, but in gratitude for the goodness God has shown each one of us.

The church depends on us all. God bless you,
Pastor Marc



September 2020 Financials:

Year to Date Income	\$53,525.89
Year to Date Expenses	<u>71,117.49</u>
Deficit	<u>(\$17,591.60)</u>

September Income	\$6,568.06
September Expenses	<u>8,231.31</u>
Deficit	<u>(\$1,663.25)</u>

The \$100/month payment to WSCO was paid in one installment for the past 5 months.

Southern Atlantic Electric was able to repair the "electrical problem" and the bill for their services was \$279. The cost for Miller Electric was \$273.

Even with the JEA refund, Year to Date we still have a major deficit. Comparing Income September 2019 to September 2020 there is a \$22,000.00+ shortfall despite the slight decrease in expenses due to our limited activities.

In the past we have experienced decreased income when individuals are not regularly attending Worship Services (summer/vacation). With our closures in second quarter and limited activities since March, Tithes are substantially down. Our savings continues to be tapped to cover day-to-day operating expenses. It is important St. Andrews members remember their 2020 commitment to the Church

The Stewardship drive will begin on November 1st with distribution of the all-congregation letter (in the left column of this page) and pledge card. Please give thoughtful prayer and consideration to your giving for next year – monetarily and volunteering.

Dedication Sunday is November 22nd with our Thanksgiving Dinner. God provides us every day with a multitude of gifts and we need to do our part to sustain St. Andrews through our Tithes.

If at all possible please bring current your 2020 Tithe and give prayerful thoughtfulness to your 2021 commitment.

In Christ's name,
Terry Hallihan, Chair
Kathy Barr, Phyllis Herpy,
Mary McNair, Linda Seiler,
& Judith Yeaton



November

3 Cathy Barr	23 Joan Goldsmith
4 Jonathan Miller	24 Pansy Helms
12 Bill Banks	24 Jerry Miller
13 Jennifer Allen	24 Vicki Roberts
13 Jack Strickland	25 Nancy Anson
14 Donna Miller	29 Herman Six
20 Kandice Marie Perry	

December

2 Donna Lumley	22 Amber Sweat
4 Stephanie Moore	25 John Starkey
9 Lydia Windham	27 Priscilla Myers
11 Linda Miller	28 Denny Roberts



November

4 Roger & Sherrie Smith	29 Harry & Linda Seiler
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December

7 Jerry & Joyce Miller	21 Jack & Phyllis Herpy
9 Chuck & Rachel Kersten	24 Frank & Lynda Edwards

Worship



Can you believe it!!! The Holidays are upon us. But first is **All Saints Day** on November 1st. We have eight members who have left us to gain their wings in that City not made with hands in Heaven. They are:

Jean B. Yeaton, 11/9/1019
 Sam Taylor, 2/10/2020
 Ralph Story, 4/19/2020
 Alan Brightwell, 4/21/2020
 Frankie Hawkins, 6/05/2020
 LaVern Smatla, 6/05/2020
 Helen Starks, 6/14/2020

Blackie Andrews (beloved cat/companion of Sam Taylor and many of us at church) 8/23/2020

This will be a memorable service and we will be sharing Holy Communion as well. Be sure to come and collect your special flower. **Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour** or you'll be very early to church that day.

Flower envelopes will be in the bulletins starting November 15, 22 & 29. Not sure of the price yet but will let you know.

November 22nd is Thanksgiving Sunday. We will have a special Cornucopia on the Communion Table crafted and filled by Sue Ramsey. Advent Devotional Booklets will be available that day also. Thanksgiving is the 26th and the following Saturday, November 28th, we will put out our lovely Advent Wreath and other decorations and have our first Advent Wreath reading on Sunday, November 29th. We need 5 groups of two (or three) for the readings. November 29, December 6, 13, 20, and Christmas Eve, the 24th. We are open for volunteers. If interested please see Judith or any of the members of the Worship Committee listed below. The Christmas Tree will arrive on December 5th. The Christmas Eve Family Candlelight service will be held at 7:00 pm.

Please continue to stay well as this busy season winds down the 2020 year. Our hearts share a prayer that 2021 will be a happier year.

Yours in Christ's name,
 Judith Yeaton, Chairman

Lynda Edwards
 Joan Goldsmith
 Judy Medearis
 Austin Merrill

Diane Parker and sister Julie Herndon have moved to Texas - missed greatly
 JR & Jody Wood

JULIETs (Join Us Ladies Into Eating Together) & **Romeos** – Once we can safely meet again, will be scheduled for the First Tuesday each month @ 6:00pm location TBD.

Adult Bible Study – Each Thursday at 11:00am Via Zoom.



*A Note from
the Clerk*



St. Andrews has numerous activities in November and December. If you are comfortable, please participate with your mask and social distancing.

~ Summer

Mission and Evangelism

M&E committee is continuing our mission of helping members as well as the community in many ways. The reopening of the Hope Chest and the Bread Give-a-way had rough starts but all seems to be going smoothly now. The outdoor tables of the Hope Chest have items available for sale on Wednesdays 8-12. The Hope Chest total for September was \$631.65. Our Fall Yard Sale will be November 7th, tables will be available to rent. No food will be sold and there will be no games or cake walk.

We are still teaming up with the Gleaners who provide free bread and bakery items to the public.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 22nd. We are preparing Thanksgiving bags for give away on Wednesday, November 18th. Please bring and place in the "food chest" by November 15th – 16th the following items for the bags:

- Stove Top Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy
- Instant Potatoes
- Canned Vegetables
- Powered or Shelf Stable Milk

Mission and Evangelism meets every first Sunday after service in the yellow room, next meeting is November 8th.

Lynda Edwards

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

DUE

*** DECEMBER 27th ***

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