



The Fishing Line

“GENEROSITY: GOD’S GIFT, OUR HOPE”

“Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2 CEB

One of the many things that have drawn Ann and I both to deeply love and care about this congregation, is the way you care for each other in so many ways. Not just on Sunday mornings at worship, but in the in between times as well. We hear, through various sources, how you reach out, lend a hand, visit, and provide comfort to other members of the congregation. And not just those who are listed on the membership role at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. Family members, friends, acquaintances, and even those with no place to call home, find a caring welcome at our church doors. That fact alone helps St. Andrew’s live up to its namesake, the disciple and Apostle, Andrew.

We are reminded in the gospel of John that Andrew overheard John the Baptist say, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” as Jesus walked by on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Andrew then went and told his brother, Simon Peter, “We have found the Messiah!” and brought Peter to see and hear Jesus as he began his teaching near the fishing boats on the shore.

St. Andrew’s, the church, is blessed with a cadre of volunteers. From serving on the Session to helping to keep the church buildings and grounds suitable for all the activities taking place on Sunday and during the week. Providing secretarial services in the office, administering the financial duties of the congregation, keeping track and communicating with those who find themselves ill, under the care of medical staff, in hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. Administering the food program, the Thrift Store, finding resources to serve the congregation and the community in which we reside. We are sure there is more, and we apologize if we left anyone out. But you know what you and others do to be the “Face of Christ” here on 103rd Street in Jacksonville, Florida. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, and may God continue to bless you and your work for the coming reign of God.

At least once a year, near the beginning of the Advent Season, which ushers in the Church New Year, we are reminded of the gift of God’s self in the birth of the Christ Child. What a wondrous acknowledgement of the love of our Creator, God’s self-giving through the Word made flesh (John 1:14), becoming incarnate in Jesus as the Savior of the whole world. We would do well to remember these words during this time of violence and destruction. God with us, for us, and for all humanity!

How do we exhibit our gratitude for such a generous labor of love, freely given by our Creator? At this time of the year, we are called to seriously consider our giving to all aspects of the work of the church. In this way we as a congregation pledge to support this work with our tithes and offerings. May our generosity reflect our faith, trust, and thankfulness for God’s continued blessing of our work for Christ, through the Holy Spirit here in this place. Thanks be to God! Amen.

With the Love of Christ, Ann & Larry



NOVEMBER

- 4 Yard Sale
- 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends, Good Samaritan Offering, Communion & All Saints Celebration
- 12 Veterans Observance
- 19 Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 21 Session Meeting
- 23 Thanksgiving



- TBD Greening of Sanctuary
- 3 Good Samaritan Offering, Communion
- 19 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.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Secretaries

Judy Medearis

Linda Seiler

Judith Yeaton

Active Elders

Michele Banks – M&E

Joan Goldsmith – Fellowship

Summer Hackney – CE&F

Terry Hallihan – F&P

Stephanie Moore- Worship

Sue Ramsey – CCN

Steve Shaffer - Worship

Worship



Like food and water, Worship is a necessary part of human existence. It's easy to think that we can exist without it because we still exhibit all the outwards signs of life, but that's not the existence we were created to have. We were created to flourish. *"But just as your body needs sleep, your soul needs time to rest in God. To learn more about Him. To talk to Him. To Worship and praise Him. To fellowship with other brothers and sisters."*—**Craig Groeschel**

As we are coming to the end of another year the Worship Committee is planning multiple special worship services. November and December are going to be busy for the church.

November has 3 special events:

- November 5th-All Saints Day, we will be remembering those we have lost in the last year.
- November 12th-Veterans Day, we will honor all those who have served in any branch of the military. Rev Sid Leak, a retired chaplain will be preaching that day because Ann and Larry are taking a much needed vacation. There will also be a video presentation of military veterans connected with this church. If you would like to have your picture or the picture of a family member who was or is in the military, please provide a picture to Matt Merrill before 10/31/23. Include for each veteran- name, branch of service, dates of service, and relation to church member. If you don't have all this information then include as much information as possible. Please email the picture and information to Matt Merrill at Mattspad24@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Moore 904-608-5137.
- November 19th -Thanksgiving Service, Sue Ramsey will make our annual cornucopia for the communion table. This will be a time to remember all of our blessings.

December will also be busy as we await the birth of Jesus.

- Greening of the Sanctuary-Date and Time TBD. Please plan to join us if you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.
- December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th-Advent Sundays. Readers are needed for the Lightening of the Advent Wreath. Please let Stephanie Moore know before November 19th, if you are interested in being a reader. There will be Advent devotional booklets available in the Narthex beginning on November 26th. These booklets are a great way to grow closer to God while we joyously await the birth of Jesus the Christ.
- December 24th -Christmas Eve Service at 7pm. A special service of readings and carols.

The Worship Committee welcomes you to join us at any/all of these worship services/special events. At the beginning of the year when I became the Chair of the Worship committee, I was nervous and felt overwhelmed. However, I have discovered that the members of the Worship Committee are a wonderful, dedicated, and loyal group. They have helped me through this year by guiding me, answering hundreds of questions, and showing up to do the many tasks required of the Worship Committee. Thank you one and all.

In the September-October newsletter the list of people on the Worship Committee was incomplete. Please accept my apology. The full committee is listed below. We will always accept new members at our meetings, the 2nd Sundays of each month after services.

Stephanie Moore (Chair), Steve Shaffer (Co-Chair), Kathy Dahl, Lynda Edwards, Austin Merrill, Harry Seiler, Linda Seiler, Linda Webb, Lydia Windham, Jody Wood, JR Wood, Judith Yeaton, Pastors Ann & Larry Graham-Johnson

OUR PRAYER LIST



Jill Anderson,
Elton Barkeim,
Roger Barr,
Sandy Biggs,
Shannon Boudeaux,
Diane Brown,
Pat Bukovac,
Kade Buchanan,
Helen Cook,
Kim Cope,
Stacie Crane,
Connie Davis,
Lynda Edwards,
Judy Grubbs,
Brian Hackney,
Geroge Hockett,
Chloe Martin,
Sue Massey,
Jerry & Joyce Miller,
Ron Moore,
Al Nelson,
Ron & Jonie Nelson,
Bart Parramore,
Justin & Kaitlyn Pettyjohn,
Vicki Roberts and family,
Barbara Shaffer,
Herman Six,
Susan and David Spranger,
Bill Starks,
David Starks,
Kathy Stretch,
Theresa and Michael Sweat,
Pat Thomas,
Judy & Bob Wendt,
Matthew Windham,
Bert Yeaton III, and
Family of Pansy Helms



Buildings and Grounds Committee

Ken, who has been doing our lawn services and building cleaning, advised Walter that he would no longer be available to do our work. Prior to hiring Ken for cleaning, Walter received a bid from a cleaning company and he will recontact them as to their availability as well as contacting surrounding churches for names of who they use for lawn maintenance.

B&G's next meeting is Tuesday, November 7th, at 9:30 AM. The following month B&G will meet on Tuesday, December 5th, at 9:30 AM. Come out and help us get some chores done around St. Andrews and have a little fun too. Enjoy Fall, Thanksgiving and the Christmas Season!

Walter McNair

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Yard Sale Saturday 11/4/2023

8:00am – 2:00pm

Save the date and participate in the St. Andrews Yard Sale/Fall Bazaar/Christmas Fair. Booths are available for rent.

Checkout our Thrift Shop-Hope Chest

Lots of goodies are for sale!

Thanks & Volunteers Needed

Thanks to Linda Seiler who has agreed to be a Counter and Receiving Treasurer. Several years ago the duties of Recording Treasurer and Receiving Treasurer were combined and Cathy Barr has done both for the last 8 years. After Session approved Linda as a Counter, Cathy trained Linda. Cathy will continue as Recording Treasurer.

We are still in need of someone to become Disbursing Treasurer-contact Mary McNair. Additionally, we need someone to take on the responsibility of preparing the bi-monthly Newsletter and maintaining the SAPC website – contact Terry Hallihan.

If you know of a cleaning service and/or lawn maintenance company please contact Walter McNair.

VISITS TO OUR SHUT-INS



Anyone interested in visiting and/or taking Communion to our shut-ins, contact the Office.

Fellowship

Fall season is finally upon us and with the destruction of our Fellowship Hall roof, activities are scaled back. As we enjoy the cooler weather and mark the end of a busy Church year, we must also prepare for the future of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

On November 4th the Fall Yard Sale will be held in the Church parking lot, we hope for great weather and a good turnout, we're sure you will find something you need so plan to attend. Hotdogs, egg salad sandwiches, chips, soda and water will be for sale as well as cookies, cupcakes, and many delicious baked goods/delights.

You may also rent a space for \$10.00 if you have items to sell rather than donate. Come join the fun.

Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching and the traditional luncheon is planned for the Sunday before, on Nov. 19th. Turkey and ham will be provided by the Church with members bringing the sides listed on the "helping hands" Narthex Bulletin Board sign-up sheets. All warm food must fit in the hot trays in the Media Center. Since we do not have a Fellowship Hall hope for good weather because tables will be set up in front of the Media Center.

We have much for which to be grateful so plan now to come and celebrate with your Church family. Fellowship Committee

Joan, Michele, Summer and Helen

SALVATION ARMY

The "barrels" are in the Narthex. Please add your donated toys between now and the end of November. This gives us 30+ days to fill the "barrels" with toys. Thank you for your continued 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 and the price of a toy should not exceed \$20 - \$25. All gifts are to be put into the barrels UNWRAPPED.

Thank you!
Michele Banks



Care of Congregation and Nuture

CC&N would like to begin a new tradition at St. Andrews with an activity that will benefit our own families as well as our shut-ins. Let's call it "St. Andrews Christmas Cookie Mission". You probably remember the days when you enjoyed baking and the house became filled with an assortment of beautiful homemade cookies at Christmas time. Somehow over the years that tradition seemed to get slowed down, but the memory is still there. Let's put a spark back in the holiday with this plan: St Andrews Christmas Cookie Mission 2023 - Please bake one double batch of your favorite Christmas cookie and bring them to Church Thursday, December 14th between 9 a.m.– 12. Each participant will be eligible to receive, a large gift box of assorted cookies for their family which we will distribute on Sunday, December 17. We also plan to make some smaller boxes of these cookies to give to our shut-ins. "Nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven" as the old saying goes. These assortments would be appreciated by your family like you had spent many hours in the kitchen or even to be given as a gift to someone you care about. I hope you will be able to participate in this "mission" because every batch will add a touch of excitement and love to the total project. May God's Blessings be with you as you join this endeavor.

*If you cannot bring your cookies at that time, please make arrangements with Sue Ramsey (904-554-5211) to get them to the church prior to December 14. Thanks.

Susan Ramsey, Marie Jean, Kathy Vynanek, Elaine Starks, Steve Shaffer and Sue Massey



Finance & Personnel (F&P)

The September 30, 2023 Financial Statements reflect the following:

	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$8,777.24	\$ 84,894.71
Expenses	<u>8,820.67</u>	<u>85,815.50</u>
Deficites (\$	43.43)	(\$ 920.79)

Our 2024 Stewardship is under way with the Pastors letter mailed October 23rd and Pledge Cards to be distributed on November 5th. However, with the anticipated cost of the Fellowship Hall replacement and/or restoration, 2024 will be a difficult year. Individuals are encouraged to maintain their 2024 Pledge at the same level or higher than their commitments in 2022 for 2023 and to donate to the Fellowship Hall Fundraising once decisions are finalized.

Over the years St. Andrews has been blessed with bequests from deceased members and their families. The recent receipt of \$62,500 from the Estate of Phyllis Stubbs made it possible for us to pay the storm "clean-up" expenses of over \$53,000, for the report of the structural engineer (\$1,450 - which Guide One reimbursed), costs of trees removed to prevent damage to our sanctuary from falling limbs due to winds, and roof replacements on the East and West Wings.

Church annual operating expenses are approximately \$125,000 and our projected 2023 Income is \$128,529, which leaves very little wiggle room. We anticipate increases in 2024 for Church cleaning expenses, lawn maintenance and payroll if we hire an accountant to do Disbursing Treasurer duties.

In Christ's name,
Terry Hallihan, Chair
Cathy Barr, Mary McNair, Linda Seiler &
Judith Yeaton
Pastor Larry – Advisor



November

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

December

2 Donna Lumley	19 Larry Graham-Johnson
4 Stephanie Moore	25 John Starkey
7 Diane Brown	27 Priscilla Myers
9 Lydia Windham	28 Denny Roberts
11 Linda Miller	



November

4 Roger & Sherrie Smith	29 Harry & Linda Seiler
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December

7 Jerry & Joyce Miller	24 Frank & Lynda Edwards
9 Chuck & Rachel Kersten	

Fellowship Hall Restoration Team

In September there were 3 special congregational meetings. These meetings made it clear that a Fellowship space was, is, and will be vitally important to this Church family. At the last September meeting a report was presented to the congregation on the work of the committee. This report included the results of the report from the structural engineer. The building was found to be mostly sound and could be rebuilt. However, there are some issues that need to be addressed:

1. The steel beam connections are failing and need to be replaced.
2. The columns show evidence of corrosion. They need to be wired brushed to check the extent of the corrosion. They could possibly need to be replaced. The grout at the bottom of one of the columns definitely needs to be replaced.
3. The exterior doors are not up to code with the width of the doors and the direction of egress.

Three options for securing a Fellowship space were presented to the congregation and were discussed:

- Option 1-Renovated the existing Fellowship Hall. Cost will be at least \$160,000-170,000.
- Option 2-Use some of the West Wing classrooms as a Fellowship Hall. If we combined 2 rooms it is possible, we would have to knock down a load bearing wall. Or we could use the Sr. High room and incorporate the closet without knocking down a load bearing wall. It would be a smaller space and we would not have all the appliances that were in the old hall.
- Option 3-Use the back of the sanctuary as a fellowship space. This would involve removing 2 or 3 rows of pews. A half wall would be needed to differentiate the worship space from the Fellowship space.

The Team decided to ask an architect to help with drawings for the different options. The architect informed us that we instead needed a contractor to do the drawings and estimates. The Team met with Brian Wilkins from World Construction to discuss our options. Brian toured the site, listened to our options, and took measurements. His company is working on the plans. We will let you know when we receive the plans.

A grant proposal was prepared and submitted to the Presbytery on 10/4/23, which may yield up to \$5,000.

Terry Hallihan due to her travel schedule resigned from the Team. We thank Terry for all of her hard work in beginning this process.

Co-Chairs - Stephanie Moore & Summer Hackney
Linda & Harry Seiler, Walter McNair &
Larry Graham-Johnson

JULIETs (Join Us Ladies Into Eating Together) & **Romeos** – the First Tuesday each month @ 6:00pm location TBD.

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



*A Note from
the Clerk*



St. Andrews has numerous activities in November and December. Please plan to participate.

~ Summer

Mission and Evangelism

Greeting from all of us at M&E, we have been very busy getting ready for the Nov. 4th Yard Sale. It will be from 8-2, all are welcome. We have many different articles for Sale. Plus there will be a Christmas Shop and the Thrift Store will be open! If you are too busy shopping to go home for lunch we can take care of that with food for sale – hot dogs, egg salad sandwiches, chips and drinks. Also, as always there will be plenty of cookies, candy, cupcakes and other goodies for sale. We hope to see you there.

We are preparing Thanksgiving baskets for give away in November. Please bring and place in the boxes next to the “food chest” in the Narthex the following items needed for the baskets:

- Stove Top Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy
- Instant Potatoes
- Shelf Stable Chicken or Turkey Stock
- Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- Canned Green Beans or Peas

Mission and Evangelism meets every first Sunday after Worship Service in the Media Room, next meeting is November 5th and the December meeting is on the 3rd.

The Thrift Store is doing well with income for September of \$391.90 and \$334.30 in October. We have some really exciting news for the Bread Give Away. The Dollar General on Normandy is now giving us donations of items close to their “sell by date.” So far, we have gotten milk, produce, cheese, yogurt and fruit. This has been so helpful and is an expansion of the benefits we offer to those living in the community. St. Andrews is making a difference in their lives.

The Salvation Army Barrels, are in the Narthex. We are collecting new unwrapped toys. The Barrels will be picked up the end of November.

Michele Banks

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

DUE

***** DECEMBER 15th *****

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