



*St. Andrews Presbyterian Church*

*Services on Sunday Mornings at 10:30*

*Church Office: (904) 771-1596*

*September/October 2023*

*www.sapcjax.org*

## Good Faith, Good Company and 'Good Trouble' Guide J. Herbert Nelson

J. Herbert Nelson II, then known as Herbie, was nominated as a deacon at age 15.

"I had no idea what a deacon did," he recalled, laughing.

What he did was begin a new season of serving others and fighting for justice, all of it underscored by faith.

That faith sustains the Rev. Dr. Nelson as another season beckons. After seven years as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, he is stepping down effective June 30. The first African American to serve as the denomination's chief ecclesiastical officer is turning his focus toward time with his wife, the Rev. Gail Porter Nelson, and their adult daughter, Alycia Yvette Nelson.

In a Leading Theologically interview with the Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty, senior director for Theological Education Funds Development for the Committee on Theological Education (COTE), Nelson shared what makes him come alive and where the church might go next.

You can watch the entire interview on [YouTube here](#). You can listen to an abbreviated version of the interview as a podcast, which you can find on Apple or other podcast platforms.

### **Never walking alone**

Nelson, who grew up in South Carolina, is the son, grandson and nephew of Presbyterian pastors. "Church was very much a part of how we sustained community during segregation," he said. Another important influencer was his grandmother — "a prayin' woman, I tell you," he said. "It reminded me I was never walking alone. No matter how bad  
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### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Good Samaritan Offering & Communion
- 4 Labor Day
- 10 Remembering Our Past & Grandparents Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 15 Rosh Hashanah
- 17 Celebrate Our Present & Constitution Day
- 19 Session
- 21 International Peace Day
- 23 First Day Autumn
- 24 Imagining Our Future



### OCTOBER

- 1 Good Samaritan Offering & Communion
- 9 Columbus Day
- 17 Session
- 25 Newsletter Articles Due
- 31 Halloween



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

St. Andrews Church  
6317 103rd Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

*Being the Face of Christ  
In our Community.*

**Address Service Requested**

**Secretaries**

*Judy Medearis*

*Linda Seiler*

*Judith Yeaton*

**Alternate**

*Stephanie Moore*

**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*



*Buildings & Grounds*

## Buildings and Grounds Committee

Hot, hot, hot. It has really been hot and that has taken its toll on our air conditioners. This past two weeks Merritt Heating and Air has had to work on four units at St. Andrews. At the moment all units (except for the Fellowship Hall) are working as best they can under the current weather conditions. Let's hope they keep it up and keep us cool.

A new roof for the west wing had previously been approved and construction should begin soon. Plans for the new roof were under way prior to the loss of the roof on the Fellowship Hall. St. Andrews in the coming weeks will determine how to restore or replace the Fellowship Hall. Our facility is getting old and many smaller items are in need of repair. For example, we had to spend \$498 to repair the Sanctuary front door lock assembly. Our "sewer pumping station" is now required to have a new test performed quarterly. Additional cost to St. Andrews is \$190 per quarter. We had a need to remove several trees on the grounds as they were dying and presented a hazard to the Sanctuary and Narthex and its members.

We need your continued support. There are many chores to take care of and could use your support. Come join us at our next meeting. We tend to have regular meetings starting at 9:30am followed by a short work period to clear up some smaller projects the same day. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 5, at 9:30am. Our October meeting is Tuesday, October 3, at 9:30 am. We tend to have a little fun too. Stay cool.

Walter McNair  
Buildings and Grounds Committee

### OUR PRAYER LIST



Roger Barr, Diane Brown,  
Kade Buchanan,  
Pat Bukovac,  
Wendy Carter,  
Laura Conrad, Helen Cook,  
Kim Cope, Stacie Crane,  
Connie Davis, Diane Davis,  
Lynda Edwards,  
Judy Grubbs,  
Brian Hackney,  
John Harris, Pansy Helms,  
Marie Jean,  
Kathryn Jennings, Jill,  
Chloe Martin,  
Sue Massey,  
Jerry & Joyce Miller,  
Beth Moore,  
Ron Moore, Al Nelson,  
Ron & Jonie Nelson,  
Bart Parramore,  
Justin & Kaitlyn Pettyjohn,  
Vicki Roberts & family,  
Marolyn Sanford,  
Earl Scronce,  
Barbara Shaffer,  
Susan & David Spranger,  
Bill Slaton,  
Bill Starks, David Starks,  
Kathy Stretch,  
Theresa & Michael Sweat,  
Pat Thomas,  
Judy & Bob Wendt,  
Matthew Windham,  
Jack Woodstock,  
Bert Yeaton III  
and  
Families Of  
Jim McFauls, Mark Smiley  
and  
The Martinez Family

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things may have been, there was a God who would hold our hand as we ran this race, as the hymn goes.”

Nelson’s mother lost her job as a school principal when she would not persuade her husband to cease his civil rights work. The work also often took time away from his family. “Always the question was. When is Daddy coming home? He got home when the work was done,” Nelson said.

Only decades later, after running into a childhood neighbor, did he find out that some men of the church had come to his father. “They said, “We want you to continue to do civil rights. We’ll take care of Herbie,” Nelson said.

“These were men who were at all my games.” Nothing was said, he added. They were just always around.

As a new deacon, and with a fresh driving permit, Nelson’s regular task was to take an elderly couple home from church. Having accompanied his father on hospital visits, acts of service weren’t exactly new.

Still, something was changing.

“Somewhere along the line, I came to understand that there was something valuable about being in the midst of individuals who needed your help,” he said.

### **‘I love this work’**

In Nelson’s seven years as stated clerk, plenty of individuals have needed his help. The work has taken him to places he’d never dreamed of (some he couldn’t spell, he said). It’s allowed him to engage with people, often in the midst of difficulty, across language and other barriers.

“In the depth of their faith there was always a story. In that story, they were able to use that faith consistently as a way to understand that God was still at work in their lives,” he said.

That has strengthened Nelson as well.

“I love this work. It’s the best job I’ve ever had,” he said, crediting the support — and sacrifice — of his family. His wife gave up her parish position in order for him to take the stated clerk position, he said.

Like his own father, he wasn’t home a lot when his daughter, now a master teacher, was growing up. He was busy raising funds, helping people understand difficult  
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concepts and more.

“I was out on the street getting arrested and doing a whole lot of other things. Good trouble,” he clarified, borrowing the John Lewis quote.

Thinking about what his family needs now led to a new understanding of ministry, Nelson said. “Is it about the time on the clock, or is it about the time we have left to love those who have loved us?”

### **Recalibrating Ministry**

“The church is not dying. It’s reforming.” This has been Nelson’s mantra.

The challenge for the not-dying church (and all of Christendom, he added) is to keep finding new ways of recalibrating ministry.

“We’ve spent a lot of time in the house waiting for people to come. We have to get out, be proactive and get to the greatest resistance to the Gospel,” Nelson said. It’s an internal shift as well as an external one, he said. Dismantling the way things have always been requires a certain level of audacity, not to mention discomfort, but that doesn’t mean solutions aren’t there.

The pandemic, for example, forced changing not only the way congregations functioned but how the denomination conducted General Assembly. Only because the younger adults had the Tech skills to take the conference online did it happen at all, he said.

Seeing the gifts of young people — young adults are adults, Nelson noted — is key, and leaders need to be willing to teach and step aside.

The deacon who resigned and nominated Nelson to succeed him all those years ago might have thought so, too.

*Nancy Crowe is a writer, editor, and animal wellness practitioner based in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She is a graduate of [Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#). Send comments on this article to Robyn Davis Sekula, Vice President of Communications and Marketing at the Presbyterian Foundation, at [robyn.sekula@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:robyn.sekula@presbyterianfoundation.org).*

*Blessings & Peace, Ann & Larry*

Interested in becoming our Disbursing Treasurer? Mary McNair is contemplating retirement after 25+ years. This job will take approximately 10-15 hours per month and require the person to have a computer and be computer literate. Church bookkeeping uses Quicken software and most bills are paid on-line via our banking system. Interested individuals should talk with Mary, Terry and/or Pastors Ann and Larry.

## **Fellowship Hall Restoration Team**

July 9, 2023 - A day that changed St. Andrews for the foreseeable future. On that day, approximately 30-60 minutes after Michelle and Summer left the Fellowship Hall, a severe wind and rainstorm tore the roof off the Fellowship Hall. We are now dealing with the aftermath of that storm. The insurance company was called and Service Master was on site from July 10 – August 24 working to clear out the damage done. The roof is tarped but because of the flat nature of the roof, it is difficult to stop all leaks. The Fellowship Hall has been stripped down to the concrete block walls and all damaged items thrown away. Some items that could be cleaned were sent to a cleaner. Anything that could be saved is now stored in the Sr. High room.

Of course, all of this comes at a price. Unfortunately, because our insurance deductible is over \$150,000, we have had to pay for the remediation work done. Last week we gave a check to Service Master for \$52,035 for the completed work. A structural engineer is going to be making an assessment to determine if the structure is able to be rebuilt or if it should be torn down and we start over.

The Fellowship Hall Restoration Team was organized to manage the remediation and eventual restoration of the Fellowship Hall. This team will be in charge of carrying out the wishes of the congregation as regards to the future of the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these complex issues.

The Fellowship Hall Restoration Team  
Stephanie Moore & Summer Hackney  
(Co-chairs)

Ann Graham-Johnson, Larry Graham-Johnson,  
Terry Hallihan, Walter McNair,  
Harry Seiler & Linda Seiler

## **Fall Bazaar**

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

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 - 1:00pm

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**Checkout our  
Thrift Shop-Hope  
Chest  
Lots of goodies  
are for sale!**

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The Adult Sunday School will be starting up again on September 5th at 9:30am in the Media Center with Judy Medearis teaching. The group will study "God's Law is Love."

Judy Medearis

# VISITS TO OUR SHUT-INS



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

## Fellowship

After services on Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship will provide donuts, muffins and coffee.

After services on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship will have a cold lunch and asks the congregation to bring already prepared cut sandwiches and cut vegetables and fruit. Fellowship will provide drinks, chips, cookies and brownies.

After the services on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship will have an appetizer/dessert and asks the congregation to bring simple appetizers and desserts for fellowship time. Fellowship will provide drinks.

The Committee  
Joan, Helen, Michele and Summer

## Celebrating Our Church Family!

The following weeks are designed to celebrate and share who we are together as a church family. Who we are as a family directs us in the decisions we make about our future as we look at getting a Fellowship Hall. *If you are here, you are part of our family!*

**Each Sunday Sept. 10-24 will follow this pattern:**

- 10:20 - Special Prelude
- 10:30 – Worship
- 11:00 – Sharing/Discussion
- 11:30 – Refreshments/Luncheon

**Our sharing/discussion time will be the following:**

**September 10: We Celebrate & Remember Our**

**Past.** We will share memories and pictures of gatherings in the Fellowship Hall, and other church memories. Bring your memories!

**September 17: We Celebrate Our Present.** What

are we doing as a church family now. What are various members of our family doing to be the face of Christ in our community?

**September 24: We Imagine Our Future.** Where do

you envision us as a church family five years from now?

*Moving Forward From Here!*

Based on who we are, and a realistic look at our future, what would be the best plans for a Fellowship Hall?

**October 1, and if necessary October 8, following a 45-50 minute worship, we will have discussion together on ideas and possibilities for our Fellowship Hall.**

Ann Graham-Johnson  
Stephanie Moore

## Care of Congregation and Nuture

We are happy to announce that Steve Shaffer has agreed to be on our Committee. He has served at Lake Shore in this capacity for a number of years and brings a lot to the table.

We will be having a meeting in the beginning of September to plan the direction our Committee will be taking to finish up 2023. In the meantime, if you have any needs that we can help you with, please call or speak to any of the following who are on our committee: Marie Jean, Kathy Vynanek, Elaine Starks, Sue Massey, Steve Shaffer or myself.

The Computer Prayer Chain continues to be very busy with updates about our shut-ins and requests for prayers. Please telephone 904-554-5211 (Sue Ramsey) with any prayer requests.

**Sue Ramsey**



### F&P

The July 31, 2023 Financial Statement reflects the following:

	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$11,171.39	\$ 68,488.87
Expenses	<u>11,864.21</u>	<u>65,341.06</u>
	(\$ 692.82)	\$ 3,147.81

New accounts were created to reflect Fellowship Hall Restoration Income (# 2023) and Expenses (#1114E). Any expenditure will require submission of a "pink slip" with 2 approval signatures (co-chairs of the Fellowship Hall Restoration Team (FHRT)). Our 2023 Stewardship will focus on Fellowship Hall Restoration. St. Andrews was fortunate to receive a \$62,500 bequest from the estate of Phyllis Stubbs. These funds were used to pay bills for clean-up from the July 9<sup>th</sup> catastrophe.

"Rental Income" of \$1,875.00 was received from United Church of God in July - July \$1,075.00 (Sanctuary + Fellowship Hall for one Saturday) and August \$800.

St. Andrews provided scholarships for two of our teens to attend Camp Montgomery this past summer.

The front door lock of the Sanctuary was repaired - \$498. Folks should be mindful the door must be unlocked from the outside using a key. The door should not be opened from the inside and then propped open, otherwise the rod on the eastside door will not dis-engage and eventually the door will need to be repaired again.

The next meetings are September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>.

In Christ's name,

Terry Hallihan, Chair  
Kathy Barr, Mary McNair, Linda Seiler &  
Judith Yeaton  
Pastor Larry – Advisor





### September

13 Hunter Jones	18 Jody Wood
14 JR Wood	22 Bonnie McNally
16 Kristie Christiansen	26 Summer Hackney
16 Judith Yeaton	29 Linda Seiler

### October

4 Steve Shaffer	
6 Frank Edwards	12 Sue Massey
8 Michael Banks	20 Joyce Miller



### September

10 Walter & Mary McNair

### October

4 John & Suzi Starkey  
19 Brian & Summer Hackney

October is traditionally “peace” month in the Church, with the first Sunday celebrated as World Communion Sunday and other events throughout the month. St. Andrews on October 15<sup>th</sup>, will celebrate our “Peace Pole” acquired from Lake Shore.

## Worship

Please join us during the months of September and October for some special worship services. The dates are as follows:

- September 10-Remembering Our Past
- September 17-Celebrating Our Present
- September 24-Imagining Our Future
- October 1 will be World Communion Sunday

In an effort to be loving to all members of our church family, the Session is asking us to observe the Passing of the Peace in a contactless manner. Also please consider wearing a mask during service. There are members of our family who are at high risk and there has been an uptick in the number of COVID cases. Thank you for your cooperation.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matt:18:20 (ASV)

The Worship Committee would like to invite anyone who is interested in helping to plan worship services to join us at our next monthly meeting on October 8, 2023, immediately after church in the Media Center.

Your Worship Committee  
Stephanie Moore, Chair  
Kathy Dahl  
Lynda Edwards  
Linda & Harry Seiler  
Lydia Windham  
JR & Jody Wood  
Judith Yeaton

**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 September and October. If you are comfortable, please participate with your mask and social distancing.*

*~ Summer*

## Mission and Evangelism

The Bread Give-Away and Thrift Store have continued to thrive during this hot weather, despite the problems with the AC Unit in the Bread Room.

The volunteers have been invaluable in staffing these rooms and being the “face of Christ in the Westside Community”.

Countless individuals each Wednesday pick up free bread for their families and share their stories.

The Thrift Store made \$474 in May, \$351 in June, \$316 in July and \$365 through August 23rd.

As you do your Autumn Cleaning identify items to donate to the Thrift Store and our upcoming Fall Yard Sale on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Michele Banks

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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**DUE**

**\*\*\* OCTOBER 25th \*\*\***

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

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