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# St. Andrew's Chronicle

August, 2011

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## Why are we here??

We recently received notice for a birthday celebration for a former church member who is turning 100 years of age! Not only is it remarkable that she is reaching this age but also that she still drives to church as well as other places. This precious woman has a marvelous memory and it is fascinating to converse with her as she reflects on various events that have taken place in her 100 years. Even though she is healthy and able to be active, I recall one conversation I had with her in which she said, *"I don't know why the Lord leaves me here."* She was ready to leave this earthly life and wondered why the Lord didn't take her home. I tried to assure her that she was a wonderful witness to the Lord and that she was still making an impact on the lives of others by her faith!

"Why are we here?" This is an important question for all of us to ask of ourselves individually as well as of ourselves as a church family. What is our purpose as a church? What is our reason for being? The answer to this question is vitally important because our understanding of who we are as the church and our reason for being determines the direction and shape of our ministry. Everything we do as a church body is based upon our understanding of our reason for being.

We are seeking to move forward as St. Andrew's United Church of Christ but what does "moving forward" mean? The answer lies in our understanding of our reason for being—our purpose. Does moving forward mean increased offerings and attendance? Does it mean making a greater impact for Christ in our community and beyond by sharing the Good News? Does it mean being God's instrument to bring healing, encouragement and a transformed life to the hurting, the broken, the lost?

The full answer to these questions would require greater space than is possible in this article. However, I will share what Scripture reveals as one of the two primary reasons for the church's existence. We are to be a Great Commission Church. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus gave what is called "the Great Commission." *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age."*

Notice the action words: "go," "make disciples," "baptizing them" and "teaching them." Jesus is the head of the Church and it is clear from this passage of scripture that He sees our reason for being as that of going out, making disciples, baptizing them and then teaching them to be obedient to all that He commanded.

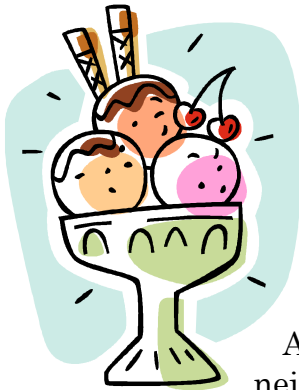
You and I are here today in His Church because there were those who fulfilled this Great Commission. What about us as His body of Christ today—are we fulfilling His Great Commission? Are we reaching the unchurched in our community and beyond—those who are seeking to live out their lives without a relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?

(Continued on Page 2)

To make an impact for Christ in our community means to touch lives with the wonderful truth of the Good News—that God sent His Son, Jesus, who lived and died and rose again so that through acceptance of Him as Lord and Savior there is forgiveness of sins and the assurance of life eternal in heaven! We have the privilege and challenge of spreading that Good News in the world today—that is why we are here! According to Acts 1:8 Jesus' encouraging word to His disciples was this: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* I believe that is His word to us today!!

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Larry*

## *Annual Ice Cream Social Thursday, August 4 from 4-8 p.m.*



It's August and time again for the Annual St. Andrew's Ice Cream Social. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 4 from 4-8 PM for the event. The social features Knockwurst and Sauerkraut, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, German and American Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Fruit Cups, Chips, Beverages, Ice Cream Sundaes and Cones, and Free Cake with a food purchase. Please help support St. Andrew's; come for a meal and bring your friends, relatives and neighbors!

## *Rummage Sale Reminder*

Just a little reminder: If anyone still has signs from the Rummage Sale please return them to the church. We would like to put all of the signs away for next year but we are still missing a few of them. Also thanks again to everyone who volunteered their time and hard work that made the Rummage Sale a big success.

*Bob and Carol Smith*

## *Fellowship News and Notes*

*Thanks for the memories!* We would like to thank Becky and Arnie Deanhofer for hosting the All Church picnic again this year. All who attended enjoyed the good food and fellowship. Some enjoyed the swimming pool.

*A Good Time Was Had by All!* Many members of the church participated in the social adventure to see "The Music Man" at the Encore Theater in Dexter on July 24, 2011.

## *Christian Education News and Updates*

We hope everyone is enjoying the summer. It's hard to believe September is just around the corner! Our Adult Education Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 14, 2011. If you have not attended in the past, we would love to have you join us this year. In addition to great discussions, there is the blessing of Christian fellowship, mutual support and the offering of prayers for our friends and families. Over the years we have laughed and cried together, and the time spent together has become very special.

The class schedule is as follows:

**Wednesdays:**

- 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group

**Thursdays:**

- 2:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

**Sunday school** will resume on September 18. Stay tuned for information about our opening event this year!

There will be a confirmation class this year! We will be sending a letter with information to the families of our eighth graders.

O Lord, may Your steadfast love be upon us as we seek to do Your will and walk in Your ways.....

*In Christ,  
Joanne Arft*

### *Update on Camp Talahi*

A few months ago, the Livingston Press reported that the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) from the State of Michigan was interested in purchasing Camp Talahi from the Michigan United Church of Christ as there was some federal monies available for the purchase and because the DNR owned the property on both sides of the camp and did not want it sold to a commercial development. In May, the Board of Directors of the Michigan Conference voted not to sell, before there was any formal offer on the table from the DNR. The camp was closed at the end of 2009 and has not reopened.

On Saturday, July 23, a meeting was held at Pinckney Community Church regarding the future of Camp Talahi. A resolution was presented to open the camp beginning with the 2012 season as a family retreat and nature center. The resolution proposes using a significant amount of the proceeds (in the neighborhood of \$600,000) from the sale of Bows Lake to finance the start-up costs and make essential improvements to the property with the hope that the camp would then operate with enough money to cover expenses, taxes, etc. This resolution, if accepted by the Board of Directors, will be voted upon at the Conference Meeting in Saginaw in October.

## *Notes of Thanks and Appreciation*

St. Andrew's – Thank you for the words of encouragement! My tour in Djibouti is winding down. I am hoping to leave here on 15 August. The last 8 months have passed rather quickly, now if I can only maintain my sanity for 2 more. Then it's on to retirement from the Navy Reserve. (I'll still keep my civilian job.) That will give me 24 years active and reserve. It's time to pass the torch to the younger generation. Enjoy the summer!

Warmest Regards,  
*CDR Ross Davenport*

St. Andrew's U.C.C.:

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards my scholarship. It will greatly help fund my books at WCC this fall. More important though thank you to everyone who was there to support me over the years as I grew up at St. Andrew's.

*Austin Clark*



The church would like to thank our “**mystery painter**” for the fine job he/she did to help organize us in the parking lot. The lines are much easier to see and will probably allow a few more of us to park across the street! Thanks again for keeping us in line (so to speak)!

## *Volunteer Drivers Needed*

The Dexter Senior Center is looking for volunteers who would be willing to deliver *Meals-on-Wheels* to homebound seniors in the Dexter area. If you are interested in delivering a hot noontime meal to a homebound older adult and can volunteer 2 hours in a day, please call the Dexter Senior Center at (734) 426-5397.

# *Worship Service Attendance Report*

## **ATTENDANCE REPORT**

July 2011	July 2010
79	48
79	77
106	81
87	82



## *Consistory Highlights from July, 2011*

### **REPORTS:**

**Pastor's Report:** Rev. VanSlambrook announced that he and Joanne will be conducting Confirmation classes beginning in the fall and that they have been working on the curriculum for the classes.

**Treasurer's Report:** See attached reports.

**Building & Grounds:** In Dave's absence, Carol reported that we now have the 50% that we need to make the down payment for the roof, and the project is scheduled to begin on August 1. If they are not done by the 4<sup>th</sup> (Ice Cream Social), they will move things so that there will be no problems for parking, etc. for the event. Also discussed was purchasing appliance insurance for the parsonage through DTE.

**Outreach:** Betty reported that we have been given 5 students from Faith in Action for backpacks for the coming school year. Discussion followed on getting more involved as a church with Faith in Action.

**Memorial Board:** See attached financial update

**Finance Committee:** Currently working on an audit of the books and will have a report for the next meeting.

**New Business:** On July 23 an informational meeting will be held in Pinckney about the future of Camp Talahi. Barb and Carol will try to attend. Also discussed was the current committees in the Church and what may be needed.

# Financial Report, June, 2011

## FINANCIAL REPORT

FUNDS AND BALANCES JUNE 2011

### GENERAL

May 31, 2011 Actual Ending Balance \$ 24,404.11

#### June Income

Giving	8,721.00	
Rental	1,350.00	
Rummage Sale	3,982.78	
Misc.	41.31	
Scholarship Donation	50.00	
Interest	<u>14.54</u>	
Total Income		\$ 14,159.63

#### June Expenses

Payroll & Mileage	5,263.05	
Payroll Taxes & Processing	2,230.43	
IRS Payment	500.00	
Utilities	1,066.87	
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	350.55	
Office & Supplies	158.52	
Scholarship	400.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>36.84</u>	
		\$ 10,006.26

Revenue less Expenses +4,153.37

Ending Cash Balance	28,557.48
Checks outstanding	+3,633.78
Ending Bank Balance-General Fund	\$32,191.26

### OTHER FUNDS

Roof Fund	2,026.00
Rental Escrow	1,000.00
Building Fund	5,220.02
Memorial	15,353.27
Marshall Memorial + 1705.00	
Cemetery	10,677.35
Lawn Mowing - 435.00	
Bank Account Balance 6/30/2011	\$ 66,467.90

Year-to-Date Totals	General Fund
Income	\$ 77,792.73
Expenses	74,299.42

Revenue less Expenses + 3, 493.31

## *Financial Update*

As you may have noticed when reading the June Financial Report, we have now erased the church's deficit from the beginning of the year and we are now in the black for the year 2011 with income versus expenses. However, we still do have deficits in two areas...what we owe to the IRS and what needs to be repaid to the Memorial Fund.

We began 2011 with an approximate balance owing the IRS of \$34,500. We have paid \$11,330 toward this balance (which includes the \$500 additional agreed payment) and have received about \$4800 in tax abatements. Currently the balance owed is \$18,300. We are still working on an appeal for abatements for the years 2006 and 2007. Current withholding taxes are being submitted on a timely basis.

In reviewing the money borrowed from the Memorial Fund to complete the remodeling project in 2001, it was reported that a \$65,000 Certificate of Deposit was cashed in, deposited into the general fund and used for additional remodeling expenses and other church expenses. What was not reported was that some of that \$65,000 was actually monies from numerous memorials. \$39,010.82 was actually the borrowed amount and \$5000 was paid toward that amount in 2010. Thus, the balance due to the Memorial Fund is 34,010.82.

## *August Stewardship Corner*

### *Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes*

### *Matthew 14:14-22*

Not much of a snack for one let alone a banquet for thousands. That's all they had – five loaves and two fish. The disciples thought, "There is not enough; we can't do it." So often we respond the same way in our church and in our lives.

This text is Jesus' Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; Jesus provided for both the spiritual and physical needs of the people. The disciples were uncertain as their vision was limited to the physical, to what they could see in front of them. It's that way for us, too. We set the limits that the world sets and we often miss the divine limitless boundaries that are possible.

When we faced the need for a new roof, how many of us thought "there is not enough money available to do what is needed." We thought the cost would be well above our means. And when we found out that the need was now and not a few years from now, again we must have thought, "How can we afford such a project?" Did we say there is not enough!

No, we said, "With God all things are possible!" So we looked for a good company to do our project and sought donations with a great response from the Church's congregation. Now we can say, "Let the banquet begin. All are invited."

## *Special Worship Service on September 11<sup>th</sup>*



On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrew's Church is planning a special service at 10 a.m. to honor our local first responders in the Sheriff's and Fire Departments and HVA. Following the service, we will have a pancake breakfast. More information will be available in weekly e-mail updates and in the September, 2011 issue of the *Chronicle*. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this moving service as we honor those individuals who protect and serve the public. These are the bravest of us all...the ones who run into the face of danger and not away from it.

### *Faith in Action!*

As many of you know, Faith in Action is a community funded, faith based assistance and resource center serving the Dexter and Chelsea area. We ask that you put your "faith in action" to help support this worthy cause by donating items that are needed by the center. Future issues of the *Chronicle* will include specific items that are currently needed. A box has been placed in the narthex and is labeled for your donations. The food pantry needs include:

Canned, fresh or frozen meat

Juice

Canned Chili

Pasta Side Dishes

Pancake Mix and Syrup

Condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup)

Deodorant

Toothbrushes

Kleenex

Dish Soap

Laundry Soap

Cleaning Products

Shampoo and Conditioner

Shaving Supplies

Tampons

Items in the donation box will be delivered to the food pantry on a monthly basis. Please watch for sales at our local grocery stores for any of the items listed above. Items can be dropped off on Sunday morning or during the week during normal business hours.

We hope that this will turn into a great outreach opportunity for St. Andrew's. If you would like additional information about getting involved with the program, you can visit the web-site at [www.fiachelsea.org](http://www.fiachelsea.org) or call the Chelsea office at (734) 475-3305.

## *August Birthdays*

1 -	Joanne Arft Ruth Shoop	13 -	Judie Dioszegi Tom Smith
4 -	Carolyn Lowery Paul Tomshany	15 -	Betty Lesser
5 -	Audrey Marshall	17 -	Linda Evans
6 -	Kristina Jaeger Janice Knope	19 -	Sonie Hargrove
8 -	Bob Van Natter	20 -	Emily (nee Wheeler) Oswald Lois Ritchie
10 -	Becky Deanhofer Kyle Gorny Doris Smith Kathryn Steinaway	21 -	Jeff Smith
		22 -	Debbie Phillips
		28 -	Ned Blacklaw Jeff VanDoren

*Please inform the church office if we have forgotten any members  
by calling 426-8610.*

## August, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1 p.m.: Church Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 11 a.m.: Ice Cream Social Set Up 4-8 p.m.: Ice Cream Social	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30 and 10 a.m. Worship Serv.. 11 a.m.: Memorial Board Meets 2-5: Party for Doris Smith <i>Holy Communion Received</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1 p.m.: Church Staff Meeting	<b>11</b> 9-11 a.m. Piece-makers Quilting Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 2-5 p.m.: Party for Bill Lowery in the fellowship hall
<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc.	<b>15</b> 6 p.m. Elders Meet 7 p.m. Consistory Comm. Meets	<b>16</b> 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	<b>17</b> 1 p.m. Church Staff Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>September, 2011 Chronicle Items Due</i>
<b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10 a.m. Worship Service	<b>22</b> 7 p.m. Fellowship Comm. Meets	<b>23</b> 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	<b>24</b> 1 p.m. Church Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> 7 p.m. Finance Comm. Meets	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10 a.m. Worship Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	<b>31</b> 1 p.m. Church Staff Meeting			

# Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Joanne Arft

Austin Clark

Ross Davenport

Carol Jones

Marie Pleuss

Bob and Carol Smith

Pastor Larry Van Slambrook

Pati Wheeler

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## St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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The Reverend Larry Van Slambrook, Interim Pastor

The church office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Our answering machine is always available to take a message.

### Sunday Schedule

**Worship Services** 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School** **Will Resume in September, 2011**

**Nursery Available** During both services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.