
St. Andrew's Chronicle

February 2010

[Home](#) | [Announcements](#) | [Christian Ed](#) | [Chronicle](#) | [Contact Information](#) | [History](#) | [Music](#) | [Schedule](#) | [Youth](#)

Church Family



Churches are much like an extended family. There are infants and children to look after. There are teenagers, some with so much energy and others who are laid back. There are the people who have children, as well as people who have never had children. There are adults looking forward to retirement, some with excitement and others with dread. There are kind and loving grandparent aged people as well as cranky old people. Those of us with small families may not have experienced all of the above, and even in some large extended families, there may not be that much diversity.

In the Church (with a capital C meaning the church universal) there is every imaginable type of person. Therefore any local church may be viewed as a family. Some families have healthy relationships while others are dysfunctional. The vast majority of churches are somewhere between healthy and dysfunctional.

One big difference between churches and families is that we have the living Christ as the head of our family. We are all, individually and as a family, trying to be ever more Christ like. (To be sure, there is always someone we, as a church, will have to drag along kicking and screaming as we move toward becoming a healthier church family, but Christ would have us include everyone and try to help them.)

I am sure that some of you are thinking, "So where is St. Andrew's UCC in all of this?" With the Appreciative Inquiry process from the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ, I believe we are heading in a positive direction. During Lent, which starts with Ash Wednesday on February 17 this year, we are going to continue moving forward by having all of our Bible Studies use Unbinding the Gospel during Lent. There are Bible Studies during the daytime as well as evening. The Adult Class on Sunday morning between services will also be joining in. If you are already in one of these Bible Study groups or the Adult Class and have to miss your Bible Study, please plan to come to another group during the week. If you are not a member of any Bible Study group, please give prayerful consideration to joining any one of the studies during Lent this year so that we, as a church family, can continue to move in a positive direction.

Dr. Bob Summers

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

- Sunday, February 14:** The Fellowship Committee is planning a brunch on Valentine's Day between the worship services. You are welcome to bring a hors d'oeuvre if you wish.
- Monday, February 22:** Fellowship Committee meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunday school classrooms.
- Saturday, February 27:** Game night! Bring your family and friends for a fun evening of games, cards, etc. beginning at 7 p.m. Please bring a game or cards and a snack or dessert to share. An evening of fun and fellowship will be enjoyed by all.

Join Us For Some Wonderful Dinners

The next monthly dinner will be on **Thursday, February 4th**, starting at 5:00 p.m. The menu features Sauerkraut and Knoeffles — always popular here at St. Andrew's.

Tickets for dine-in and carry out meals will be sold at the door. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for youth ages 5-12, and free for children 4 and under. Treat your friends and family to a wonderful meal at great prices, and share in the fellowship.



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church of Christ will take place on **Sunday, February 14th** immediately following the 10:15 worship service.

This has been an amazing year for St. Andrew's Church. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Special Offering to be Collected for the Ronald McDonald House

We have designated **Sunday, February 14th** and **Sunday, February 21st** when we will be collecting a special offering for the Ronald McDonald House. The mission of the Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House is to provide families of children experiencing a serious illness or injury requiring hospitalization or treatment on an outpatient basis, a "home away from home" that assists in alleviating the families' emotional and financial stress. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated. **Please make your check payable to Ronald McDonald House.** Donations are tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your generosity to support this cause.

Donate Now to Provide Haiti Earthquake Relief

The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal for Haiti after a major earthquake struck the country. Thousands of people are feared dead and countless have been left homeless. The quake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, struck 10 miles southwest of the capital just before 5 pm local time on January 12.

It is still too early to know the full extent of the damage, but One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is expecting very high loss of life, widespread destruction of homes, schools and other buildings, and major damage to key water, electricity and road systems.

One Great Hour of Sharing funds are being rushed to our Haitian partners to support their initial emergency response. As damage assessments are made and plans for relief, recovery and rehabilitation are developed, additional support will be shared. The need is massive.

Here's how **You Can Help**:

1. Pray for the people of Haiti their leaders and emergency and humanitarian aid workers.
2. Please help the people of Haiti by sending gifts payable to St. Andrew's UCC marked for "OGHS – Haiti Earthquake Relief." Your gift will be sent to your Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ who will make sure it helps the people of Haiti. OGHS envelopes are available at the church in the narthex and on the table outside Pati's office.

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Theresa Jackson | 8 - Courtney Thompson | 15 - Darcy Stoll |
| 3 - Scott Baldus | - Suzanne Van Natter | - Kyle Slavik |
| - Cindy Strudgeon | 9 - Ann Shoop | 16 - Bill Allegra |
| 4 - Ruth Ann Luckhardt | 11 - Kathy York | 17 - Jenny Mace |
| 7 - Shanna Judit | 13 - Jessica Oberholtzer | 18 - Benjamin Wheeler |
| - Emily Mosher | 14 - Bill Nixon | 20 - Sarah Even |
| - Peggy Otto | - Carole Weber | 23 - Angela Chabot |

Please inform the church office (426-8610) if we have forgotten any members.

Stewardship Corner

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he or she can find the appropriate expression of their devotion to their loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. The Lord says, "These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me." (Isaiah 29:13)

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment. With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to "give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart" (Deuteronomy 15:10) and to "share with God's people who are in need" (Romans 12:13). As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us.

Our Many Thanks

At this time, we would like to thank Dr. Bob and Joanne for their numerous visits to Veryl since his recent health issues, and Dr. Bob's comforting prayers.

Thanks to the Good Shepherd visitors and at Christmas with the beautiful "stuffed" stockings that help decorate our apartment. The Church School children did a very nice job designing cards – keep up the good work.

Last but not least, thanks to everyone for your get well wishes, encouragement, and prayers. Everything has been greatly appreciated and many thanks for the thoughtfulness and consideration.

God Bless Everyone.

Veryl and Kathryn Steinaway

Congratulations, Dominic!

Dominico Matthew Julius Lanter received the Sacrament of Infant Baptism on Sunday, January 17, 2010. Dominic is the son of Matthew and Ruth (nee Gustafson) Lanter. Dominic was born on September 6, 2009. William Lanter and Laurie Cummins served as Dominic's Godparents. Dominic's proud and beaming grandparents are Rudy and Terri Gustafson, Steve and Kathy Trusty and William and Stella Lanter. Dominic is blessed with great-grandparents William and Michaela Lanter who was able to attend the joyous occasion.

Jennie Breuninger represented the Elders of St. Andrew's Church at the baptism.

New Carpet Donations Needed

At the last Consistory meeting we were given a letter from Peggy and Travis Otto offering to give us some carpeting at cost for the many different rooms under the church. Since this was not a budgeted item, we decided to go to the congregation and ask them for help. We are starting a new fund called New Carpet Fund and are asking you to donate money for this purpose. It is going to cost us \$15.00 per square yard and we need to purchase about 343 square yards. Please help us since it really needs to be replaced. If you have any questions just call Virginia Weber at 426-3275 or the church at 426-8610.

Consistory Reports from December

Youth: Alyssa Lowery reported that all youth were in the Christmas Pageant and several attended their Pajama Breakfast. They plan on meeting on Wednesdays in January after school.

Building and Grounds: Dave Schmoekel reported on contacting Munson Electric to upgrade the electrical outlets and circuits to code in the parsonage. He also reported on asking the residents who park in the lot to move their vehicles in the lot when the snow fall gets over 3 inches.

Christian Education: Ray Lowery reported that the Sunday School students continue to support Gudeta: the cookie sale raised \$44 and a congregation member donated \$50. The Wednesday evening bible class is meeting at 6 p.m. and there will be a Lunch and Learn program on January 13 titled "Planning Ahead" presented by George Ott.

Good Shepherds: Ginny Weber reported that the group is plugging along but have more work than there are people to do it and need more people on their committee.

Outreach: Betty Davenport reported that the Outreach Committee would like to do a special offering in 2010 for the Ronald McDonald House.

Old Business: Discussion on carpet replacement project for the basement

New Business: Discussion on the program on Appreciative Inquiry to be presented by Rev. Curt Demars-Johnson in January either on two Sundays or on a Wednesday.

Thank You For Your Love and Kindness

Thank you, my St. Andrew's family, for your love and kindness after my mother's (Marilyn Rosentreter) chariot ride to heaven. St. Andrew's members, thank you for caring, for sharing all God's love. The church luncheon was very lovely and the special fellowship will always be remembered.

A special thank you to Pastor Bob and Joanne for the talks and prayers together during this very difficult time. Only because Christ lives, I can face tomorrow. Only because of Christ, I have the promise of salvation.

Thank you.

Cheryl Rosentreter

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 a.m. PG Yoga 6:00 p.m. Yoga Class	3 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehears.	4 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Monthly Dinner 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class	5	6
7 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	8	9 10:00 a.m. PG Yoga 6:00 p.m. Yoga Class	10 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehears.	11 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class	12	13
14 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 9:30 a.m. Church Brunch 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 11:30 a.m. Annual Mtg.	15 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Consistory	16 10:00 a.m. PG Yoga 6:00 p.m. Yoga Class	17 Ash Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Worship Svc. 7:45 p.m. Senior Choir Rehears.	18 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class	19	20 Items due for <i>March Chronicle</i>
21 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 11:30 a.m. Prayer Service 7 p.m. Confirm.	22 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee	23 10:00 a.m. PG Yoga 6:00 p.m. Yoga Class	24 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Worship Svc. 7:45 p.m. Senior Choir Rehears.	25 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class	26	27 7:00 p.m. Family Game Night
28 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 2:00 p.m. Brecon Village						

Do You Have an Email Address?

We are in the process of developing an e-mail list of members and friends so that we can send out announcements and updates from time to time. A sheet has been placed in the narthex and on the table outside Pati's office for you to update this information. You can also send an e-mail to the church at: standrews@provide.net. Your address will be copied into the contact list from your e-mail.

Thank You Notes

On behalf of the Dexter Senior Center, I would like to thank you for making "Seniors Get Stuffed" a huge success. As a result of your efforts, approximately 175 delicious turkey dinners were served. Such an event could not be possible without the ork of organizations such as yours. Thank you again for sharing with us.

*Kimberly Martini
Director, Dexter Senior Center*

We'd like to thank you for your donation of many mittens and books. They were added to the Christmas boxes for over 60 families who will have a Merrier Christmas. Part of their joy belongs to you! May God bless you and yours,

*Jane Boyce, Secretary
Dexter United Family Services*

Home | Announcements | Christian Ed | Chronicle | Contact Information | History | Music | Schedule | Youth

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

7610 Ann Arbor Street
Dexter, Michigan 48130

Phone (734) 426-8610 Fax (734) 426-8620
email: standrews@provide.net
website: www.standrewsdexter.org

Dr. Robert Summers, 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 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School	Adults: 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth: during 10:30 a.m. worship
Nursery Available	during both services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.

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