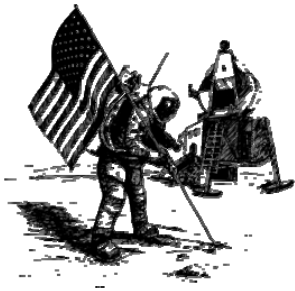

St. Andrew's Chronicle

March 2011

With God, All is Possible

"Do you think man will ever travel to the moon?" This was a question I asked another family member when I was a child. *"No!" "Why not?"* I asked. *"Because the pull of gravity is too strong to break free of and travel into space."* Even though I had read fictional stories about outer space I remember thinking about the impossibility of such travel. It seemed as though we were limited to life here on earth because of the power of gravitational pull.



Needless to say, there were those who believed that it would be possible to overcome the gravitational limitations imposed on us. These scientists and aeronautical engineers worked hard to develop the technology to make space travel possible. Without their belief that a rocket could be developed with sufficient power to break free of the earth's pull we would still be looking at the moon as an impossible target for us to reach.

As the wonders of rocketry developed how thrilling it was to see the bonds of earth be gradually broken until we were not only sending men into space to circle the globe but clear to the moon! What seemed to be impossible became the possible!! It was on July 21, 1969 that Neil Armstrong climbed down the ladder on the Lunar Module and spoke these words as he stepped onto the moon: *"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."* The Lunar Module pilot was "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. and the Apollo spacecraft that circled the moon was piloted by Michael Collins.

There are many things in this life that may seem impossible to us as individuals or as a church family. We are capable of creating limitations in our own thinking. We might use impossibility thinking phrases such as *"We could never do that!" "Are you kidding? That would never be something we could do!"* It is easy for us to adopt such a negative mindset. We do what we might call a "reality check" and look at such things as the size of our congregation and/or the resources we have to draw from. When we then weigh things out in possibility terms we conclude that many things are not possible.

Have you ever wondered what those first disciples must have thought when Jesus gave them the Great Commission: *"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."* (Mt. 28:19-20). Jesus' commission was not just to go to their local neighborhood and share their faith. That would have been much easier. But, He was commissioning them to make disciples of *"all nations"* an assignment that could well have seemed impossible to those early disciples. Yet, they did go forth and accomplished the impossible! You and I would not be followers of Christ today were it not for the obedience of those disciples to go forth!

The Apostle Paul wrote *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."* (Phil. 4:13). Do we believe that today? I once heard a speaker ask this question: *"What is your church doing that it can only do with the help of God?"* I thought much about the answer to that question. So often it seems as though we do that which seems possible in human terms rather than what is possible in God's terms.

What enabled those first disciples to do the "impossible?" The Holy Spirit working in and through them. Remember the assurance that Jesus gave them at the end of the Great Commission: *"And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."* In Acts 1:8 it is recorded that Jesus said *"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.”

It is when we leave God out of the picture that the impossible truly becomes impossible because we’re trying to accomplish it on the basis of our own resources. However, with God we are enabled to break the bonds of “earth” and go beyond all limits!! It is my prayer that as we move forward in our life and ministry here at St. Andrew’s we will go beyond all limits. With God that is possible!!

Just a reminder that during the Lenten season this year we will focus on this matter of relationships on Wednesday evenings. A meal is planned for each Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 6:45 with a teaching and discussion led by me to follow from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. The Sunday morning messages will also be geared to the building and maintaining of godly relationships. Such relationships are crucial in our life as a church family just as they are in our personal families! I want to encourage all of us to plan to be a part of this special Lenten series as we seek to move forward as the family of God!

The first Wednesday in Lent (March 9) we will have our traditional Ash Wednesday Service. The Lenten Series on relationships will begin the following Wednesday (March 16) and be completed on April 13. Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday on April 17 and conclude with our Easter Services on April 24. On Wednesday of Holy Week (April 20) we will hold a Seder Meal in Fellowship Hall, and we will have our normal Maundy Thursday worship service on April 21. The Good Friday Service will be Ecumenical and will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Larry

Upcoming Monthly Dinners

The monthly dinners are always a crowd pleaser! Below is a schedule of the upcoming features through May, 2011:

- March 3:** Corned Beef and Cabbage
- April 7:** Baked Chicken and Dressing
- May 5:** Chop Suey and Egg Rolls



Serving will begin at 5 p.m. and 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.

Please join us for a tasty meal on the first Thursday of each month through May.

World Day of Prayer 2011

St. James Episcopal Church will host the 2011 World Day of Prayer event to be held on Friday, **March 4th** at 7 p.m. We are offering child care and refreshments but also are encouraging children's participation. This service, written and composed by the women of Chile, is both educational and inspirational. The event is being sponsored by the Dexter Ministerial Association.

Please join us and invite your friends and fellow church members.

Sermons Available Online

Thanks to Scott Marshall’s hard work, Pastor Larry’s sermons are available online. You can find them at <http://standrewsdexter.org/Sermons.htm>. This is a boon for those unable to attend a worship service, and we thank Scott for helping make this possible.

Relay for Life 2011

Dexter Relay for Life is underway and the SonShine Walkers are excited to get started. Last year our team raised \$7500. Can we do it again?

On **Sunday March 6th** we will kick off our 2011 fundraising efforts for this amazing cause.

Wear your Relay t-shirts to church if you have one. ☺ You will see some of us in purple capes??

This year we would like to continue our special "Relay moments" each Sunday until Relay. If you would like to share with the congregation why you relay please contact Carol Jones. Our stories are real and they encourage others to share and join us.

Many fundraising events for our team are in the making:

- Passing the can at church - save your change ☺
- Bake sale during monthly dinner on **March 3rd** and **April 7th**
- Pancake breakfast on **April 10th**
- Car wash - date to be announced
- Little Caesars Pizza sale - a big hit last year!
- Special envelope giving on Sunday **May 1st** and **May 8th**

The 2011 Dexter Relay will be held in Monument Park on **Saturday May 14th** through **Sunday May 15th**.

If you would like to join our team, please contact Judy Even or Carol Jones or go online to http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=30160&pg+entry and SIGN UP. We would love to have you!



Open Game Night

On **Saturday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.**, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting an Open Game Night in the parish hall. We will have Euchre, and other card and board games; if you have a favorite, please bring it along. Please bring a snack, hors d'oeuvre, or dessert to pass. We hope you can join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Daylight Savings Time Reminder

Please remember that we will "spring forward" the night of **Saturday, March 12, 2011**. This is the unfortunate time of the year when we lose an hour.



Organ Repair

Some much needed repairs have been made to our pipe organ at the cost of \$700.00. You are invited to assist with covering this expense through a special offering which will be received on **Sunday, March 13**.

Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair

The 38th Annual Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair will be held **Saturday, March 19** at Creekside Intermediate School, 2615 Baker Road, Dexter, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This juried show features over 50 artisans who demonstrate their traditional folk crafts and offer them for sale. Included are jewelry, stained glass, weaving, quilting, water color, wood carving, spinning, toys, and lace making, among others. A craft table for children and a Homemade Bake Sale are also included. There will also be a drawing for door prize items offered by some of the crafters.

The fair is sponsored by the Dexter Area Historical Society, and proceeds support the work of the Society and maintenance of the Dexter Area Historical Museum. Admission is still only \$3.00 for adults and \$0.50 for students K-12.

For more information about the Pioneer Arts Fair or the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum, please visit the website at www.dextermuseum.org.

Congregational Meeting - March 20

When the proposed Constitution for St. Andrew's was printed in the Annual Report, an older revised version was used instead of the most updated copy. As this is the Constitution and we need a Congregational vote for approval, we will meet after the second service on **March 20** for a vote on the most recent copy of the Constitution. Copies will be available in the Narthex at Church.

Corrected Items:

Article III Membership Section IV should read as follows:

Any member who fails to support the Church by financial means, attendance at worship, or partaking of Holy Communion over a calendar year shall be removed from the Church's active membership with the exception of those in the military or doing missionary work.

Article XI Amendments Section I

Additions and alterations to this constitution may be proposed in writing to the Consistory which shall consider the same. Such changes shall be reported at a duly called meeting of the congregation for action. Said changes must be mailed to the entire congregation prior to voting. Said additions or alterations can only be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members.

Section II (entirely new)

The Church Consistory will appoint a Constitution Review Committee at least once every three years, which shall be the same committee charged with review of the By-laws

Article XIII Designation of Heirs

In case of a division in membership of the Congregation, and it is determined that St. Andrew's United Church of Christ of Dexter shall be closed forever, all assets shall be transferred to an irrevocable trust to maintain St. Andrew's Cemetery of Dexter. The administration of such trust shall be handled by the last seated Consistory members.

Thank You

St. Andrew's would like to say a belated *thank you* to Terri Gustafson for making and donating all of the bows that decorated the sanctuary this past Christmas. Your hard work and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sharing Brings Joy!

One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Offering - Sunday, April 3, 2011

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is one of the four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. Working in more than 80 countries, the offering provides hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners, and together we provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives.

Envelopes will be available in the narthex beginning March 13, 2011. If you would like additional information, feel free to visit the web-site at www.ucc.org/oghs/resources. Please give generously.

Festival of Hymns

Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 4 p.m.

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, Dexter, Michigan

A Festival of Hymns: The Writers Tell Their Stories is a unique festival service that features significant hymn writers through the ages, from the fourth century through the 20th century, telling their own stories in first person.

Choirs from St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, and St. James Episcopal Church; the Liberty Brass Quintet with trumpeter, Phillip Rhodes, vocal soloists, the handbell choir, with significant congregational participation; will combine to create a truly inspiring event ! It is intended to enhance the understanding of hymns by all generations.



We look forward to sharing this event with you on **April 3rd**! An afterglow reception will follow in the St. Andrew's fellowship hall. A free will donation will be received. Invite your neighbors!

Additional Information from the Annual Meeting

Financial Report:

In the revised Financial Report for 2010, two errors were made in reporting the amount paid for Payroll Taxes. The correct figure should be \$13,465.39 and not 16,790.28. This then makes the total expenses for the year at \$164,121.71 and the bottom line of income less expense is now -\$8129.70.

Omitted from the Annual Report:

Stewardship Committee

Currently the Stewardship Committee is a committee of one with advisors consisting of the Elders and Deacons. Each month there is an article on Stewardship in the Chronicle as well as a presentation on the topic on the third Sunday of the month. We have explored various areas of stewardship...service, love, giving to the community, time and talents, as well as monetary giving. In 2010 we began the St. Andrew's Angels, a listing of items and supplies that the church needs and that members can purchase and donate to the church. We also completed pledge cards and time and talent sheets during a church service with a good response from the congregation.

Carol Jones, Chairperson

Consistory Highlights from February

The following officers were elected at the meeting: President, Carol Jones; Vice-President, Scott Marshall; Secretary, Cheryl Oberholtzer; and Treasurer, Barb Affholter.

Consistory members and committee assignments are as follows: Building & Grounds, Dave Schmoekel and Rudy Gustafson; Christian Education, Betty Jo Stendel; Good Shepherds, Jennie Breuninger; Music, Linda Evans; Outreach, Betty Davenport and Eva Slavik; Stewardship, Carol Jones; Technical, Scott Marshall; Ushers, Carol Smith and Rudy Gustafson; and Memorial Board, Lil Burby. The following committees are chaired by non-Consistory members: Fellowship, Marie Pleuss and Becky Deanhoffer; Publicity, Elaine Owsley; Cemetery Board, Bob Mast; and Finance, Arden Shafer. Currently there is no Youth Representative.

Reports:

Treasurer's – A newly designed cash flow report was presented and will be used to report to the Congregation and the Finance Committee. It was noted that we did exceed our estimated giving goal in January and that the large total under Payroll Taxes was due to \$8000 paid on the Tax Resolutions, 2010 Michigan Withholding and December 2010 Federal Withholding payments.

Elder's – At the Elder's meeting, Rev. Van Slambrook proposed a workshop in the near future with all committee chairpersons. Also discussed was creating CD's of Sunday Services for shut-ins interested in receiving them and the possible need to get some inexpensive CD players as well as CD discs to do such a project. The Good Shepherd and Technical committees will be working on this.

Building & Grounds – Dave Schmoekel reported on the snow removal costs for this year and the potential for more snow and costs. Dave also reported on the state of the pavement at the Fourth Street parking area and the need in the spring to resurface this area.

Christian Education – The committee met on Sunday, Feb. 20. There are 4 people who have expressed an interest to work with the youth; Denise is planning a Vacation Bible School event in June; looking for a space for Sunday School for grades 5-8 next Fall; and are working on getting the information out to graduating Seniors for the St. Andrew's scholarship.

Music – Linda Evans reported that the organ is being repaired.

Outreach – A report received from Betty Davenport, \$337.25 was collected for the Ronald McDonald House on Sunday the 20th. Plans are underway for St. Andrew's SonShine Walkers for this year's Relay for Life event.

Ushers – Rudy will continue working for a few more weeks as the Usher Chairperson until Carol Smith is able to take over.

Old Business:

It was reported that an earlier form of the revised Constitution was printed in the Annual Report. Consistory decided that the corrections will be noted and there will be another Congregational Meeting to vote on the Constitution on March 20.

New Business:

The Consistory has set the following goals for 2011:

1. Keep the Church solvent
2. Repair the Fourth Street Parking area
3. Begin accumulating funds for replacing the roof over the Sanctuary
4. Build up the Youth Program
5. Increase Church Membership
6. Reactivate members currently not active

Stewardship Corner

What are the challenges we face at St. Andrew's United Church of Christ? Of course one big challenge is finances. We know we have to watch what we spend by understanding where we stand on the current budget, tightening our belts and trying to give a little more when we can; we have the opportunity to make up the deficit that we face.

But another challenge we often face (as do many other churches and organizations) is volunteers. Is it quality or quantity that matters? There are times when we need as many volunteers as we can find such as at the Sauerkraut Supper. Then there are situations where we need someone who can really engage for the long haul such as serving as an Elder or Deacon on Consistory.

Both matter and both are important in the life of the church. We have many events at St. Andrew's and most of them need at least a few people to help out. Volunteers make a difference in every event that we host at our church. So if you are asked to help, please say yes. Let's all be able to say, "I make a difference, I serve!"

Taken from Church Volunteer Daily

March Birthdays

1 - Elise Blacklaw	13 - Pat Chabot	25 - Miranda Mors
- Bert Davenport	14 - Nick Bensinger	- Judi Stoll
4 - Selma Mast	19 - Nick Gagalis	- Frances York
5 - Austin Clark	21 - Joe Weber	26 - Catherine Graham
9 - Bob Mast	22 - Dan Baldus	27 - Sarah Krips
10 - Virginia Weber	- Margaret Barrett	31 - Lisa Blacklaw
11 - Carolyn Curts	- Kyle Jones	- Neil Scherdt
12 - Ashley Clark	24 - Laura Mace	
- Bob Kaercher		

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



Old Cell Phones Collected

We are collecting old cell phones. The monetary value of the cell phones is used to purchase calling cards that are given to our soldiers overseas. Calls home from those serving in the military mean so much to their families back home. There is a collection box for the cell phones in the narthex and in the fellowship hall. Thank you for making this donation to our troops. In January, we collected 12 phones to support this effort.

Worship Service Attendance Report

February 2011	February 2010
79	96
90	90
92	87
TBA	82

Consistory Members Elected for 2011

The following is a list of the current members of the Consistory Committee for 2011:

Rev. Larry Van Slambrook	Pastor
Carol Jones	Deacon and President, Stewardship Committee
Scott Marshall	Elder, Vice-President, and Technical Committee
Cheryl Oberholtzer	Deacon and Consistory Secretary
Barb Affholter	Deacon and Treasurer
Jennie Breuninger	Elder, Good Shepherds Committee
Lil Burby	Deacon, Memorial Board
Betty Davenport	Deacon, Outreach Committee
Linda Evans	Deacon, Music Committee
Rudy Gustafson	Elder, Building and Grounds, and Usher Committee
Dave Schmoekel	Deacon, Building and Grounds
Eva Slavik	Deacon, Outreach Committee
Carol Smith	Deacon, Usher Committee
Betty Jo Stendel	Deacon, Christian Education Committee

A Note of Thanks

I want to thank the Good Shepherds for the Valentine goodies they delivered in time for Valentine's Day. This is a wonderful group of people who help keep those who are not able to attend the worship services on a regular basis in touch with the church. The goodies were very tasty and I want to express my sincere gratitude for their thoughtfulness. The Good Shepherds are a true blessing to the ministry at St. Andrew's Church.

God bless,

Alta Frey

Keep On Going

One step won't take you very far;
You've got to keep on walking.
One word won't tell folks who you are;
You've got to keep on talking.
One inch won't make you very tall;
You've got to keep on growing.
One little deed won't do it all;
You've got to keep on going.

Author Unknown

Financial Report - January 2011

Funds and Balances

General

Balance Forward, 12/31/2010	28,339.42
Less outstanding checks	3,275.25
Jan 1, 2011 Actual Balance	25,064.17
January Income	
Giving	11,382.54
Rental	1,075.00
Interest	14.24
Less unposted deposit	<u>2,246.00</u>
	35,289.95
January Expenses	
Payroll	5,057.64
Payroll Taxes	10,406.94
Payroll Fees	71.00
Utilities	1,528.69
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	1,508.42
Snow Removal	2,624.00
Insurance-Workman Comp	376.00
Office & Supplies	247.85
Miscellaneous	<u>170.73</u>
	21,991.27
Ending Balance	13,298.68
Checks outstanding	6,302.43
Ending Bank Balance-General Fund	19,601.11

Other Funds

Future Fund	1,387.16
Rental Escrow	1,000.00
Building Fund	5,220.02
Memorial	12,666.82
Donation for 20.00	
Check-poinsettias 250.00	
Cemetery	10,647.69
Plot & Burial for 1200.00	
Bank Account Balance 1/31/2011	50,522.80

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	2 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group & Handbells 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00 a.m. Quilting 11:15 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Dinner & RFL Bake Sale	4 7:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer Service at St. James	5
6 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc.	7	8 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	9 Ash Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Handbells 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship 8:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	10 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 11:15 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Finance	11	12 7:00 p.m. Game Night (sponsored by Fellowship Committee)
13 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc. 11:30 a.m. RFL & Christian Ed. Meetings Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	15 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	16 6:00 p.m. Handbells and Lenten Potluck 6:45 p.m. Lenten Worship Series 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	17 St. Patrick's Day 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 11:15 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	18	19
20 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc. 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting Items due for <i>April Chronicle</i>	21 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Consistory	22 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	23 6:00 p.m. Handbells and Lenten Potluck 6:45 p.m. Lenten Worship Series 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 11:15 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	25	26
27 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc.	28	29 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	30 6:00 p.m. Handbells and Lenten Potluck 6:45 p.m. Lenten Worship Series 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	31 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 11:15 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	Each Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting	

Our Thanks For Your Kindness

My entire family and I would like to thank all of you for your comforting words, many cards, prayers, beautiful funeral service, hospitality at the funeral luncheon, and the opportunity to be at the serene St. Andrew's Cemetery. Our loss of Raymond is difficult and very sad, but you have eased, and continue to ease the burden for us. God bless, and much love!

Judy Even and family

Thank You For Your Generosity

Thank you for your donation of mittens, gloves and books to Dexter Family Services for our Christmas family program. Without the help of organizations and individuals in our community we would not be able to help so many people in Dexter. This holiday season we were able to help 55 families with food and gifts. On their behalf we thank you.

Dexter Family Services

Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Becky Deanhoffer

Dexter Family Services

Judy Even & family

Alta Frey

Carol Jones

Ray Lowery

Rev. Larry Van Slambrook

Pati Wheeler

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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 During 10:00 a.m. worship service

Nursery Available during both services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.