
St. Andrew's Chronicle

June 2010

A Theology of Violence

The tower came tumbling down from the sky and people were killed. Some argued that this was the wrath of God, punishing humankind. Others said it was not an act of God. Am I talking about 9/11 when one of the twin towers came down? No, I am talking about a tower that fell about two thousand years ago. It was the Tower of Siloam in Jerusalem. Jesus said, "Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." (Luke 13:4-5, NRSV)

What we today really need to repent of is our attributing natural disasters as signs of God's displeasure. This Theology of Violence always seems to be against those who the person despises. It has a rich, recent history. In 2009 Rev. Marshall, one of three curriculum reviewers of the Texas Board of Education, preached that Watergate, the Vietnam War and Hurricane Katrina were God's judgments on the nation's sexual immorality. In 2009 a Muslim leader said that the Holocaust was God's punishment on Jews for their corruption. In 2008 a leader in the Jews for Jesus movement said that terrorist attacks on Israel were God's judgment of the unbelief of Jews who haven't become Christians. In 2007 an Anglican Bishop said that floods were due to pro-gay laws. In 2007 one author said that the plague in the middle ages was God's penalty on sinners and that same thing will happen to us. In 2007 a contestant on Big Brother saw her miscarriage as God's punishment for a racism row on the show. In 2006 some Australian clergy said that the country's worst drought in recorded history was God's call for repentance. In 2006 a prominent televangelist said Ariel Sharon's stroke was God's punishment for giving up Gaza

The insanity continues at what seems to be an increasing rate. So far this year:

- A Hamas cleric said that the Icelandic volcano was God's punishment for infidels, especially Americans
- A US news commentator said that the Icelandic volcano was God's punishment for the passing of the healthcare reform. (My question: why did God punish Europeans for the United States healthcare bill?)
- Ted Turner linked the oil spill in the Gulf as well as coal mining disasters as a sign that God is unhappy with us and that we need to work on solar and wind power.
- Several Jamaican pastors said that the drought was God's chastening rod for backsliding Jamaicans.
- A Church of England bishop said that the floods that have devastated swathes of the country are God's judgment on the immorality and greed of modern society.
- David Crowe in Restore America said that Hurricane Katrina was a call from God to America to repent of our wicked ways.
- A prominent televangelist said that the earth quake in Haiti was due to a pact with the devil that Haitians had made in the past.
- A Texas lawmaker said that President Obama is God's punishment on us because we have drifted far away from our American founding values.
- A Virginia lawmaker said that God is taking vengeance on parents who have had an abortion by making their other children disabled.

Now, don't think that this is something new. In 1755 a preacher linked an earthquake with God's displeasure of lightning rods.

Whenever we hear someone going down the road of a Theology of Violence, let us first ask if the person is projecting their displeasure on God and having God side with them. Then, let's stop the insanity and say "No" like Jesus did, remembering how he also said, "Judge not lest you be judged." (Matthew 7:1).

What we need to repent of is having a Theology of Violence where God reeks vengeance upon those we think are going against God's law, especially when it includes innocent people, sometimes even including infants and children. Our theology needs to move into the 21st century and our new scientific understanding of how the world that God created works.

Dr. Bob Summers

2010 Dexter-Ann Arbor Run Road Closures

Remember that the Dexter-Ann Arbor Run takes place on **Sunday, June 6th** starting around 7:30 a.m., and that some roads are closed to protect the runners. Below are the times within Dexter. For a map and road closures in outlying areas, go to <http://www.dxa2.com/roadclosed.htm>.

8:00 to 8:40 a.m.	Baker Road (Kensington to Shield)
8:30 to 8:40 a.m.	Shield Road
8:30 to 8:45 a.m.	Parker Road (Shield to Dexter-Chelsea)
8:30 to 8:56 a.m.	Dexter-Chelsea Road (Parker to Main)
8:35 to 9:05 a.m.	Main (Dexter) and Central

Attention Graduates!

Graduates at the high school and continuing education levels will be recognized on **Sunday, June 13th** at the 10:30 am worship service. If you know of an individual who will be graduating but has not yet received a letter inviting them to the worship service, please contact the church office during regular business hours. A special coffee hour to honor the graduates will immediately follow the worship service. A complete list of the graduates who are being recognized will be printed in the July/August, 2006 edition of the Chronicle.

Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Scholarship Committee met May 4th to select the recipient(s) from the 2010 graduating seniors of our congregation. Earl Affholter was the chairperson with Sonie Hargrove and Jim Gagalis acting as committee members. Ten seniors were contacted with instructions and the qualifications to apply for the award. The committee unanimously decided to award scholarships to the following three students: Sarah Breuninger, Alyssa Lowery, and Kyle Slavik who submitted application packages. The scholarships will be awarded on June 13th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Congratulations and much success in the future! God be with you as you begin this next exciting phase in your lives.

Memorial funds from the following accounts were used to fund this year's scholarship award: Charles O'Bryan Memorial, Vivian McShane Memorial, Jim Deimen Memorial and the Marion and Erwin Guenther Memorial. In addition, a memorial donation was made from the memorial account of Virginia Wilson by Cheryl Eaton in loving memory of Virginia Wilson and Joanne (nee Rosentreter) Bobo.

Rummage Sale

The annual rummage sale will be held on **Friday and Saturday, June 11 and 12**. Don't forget to drop items off starting Sunday, June 6, and during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) until Wednesday, June 9. Please, no late donations!

We'd like clothing to be clean and in good repair. Small electrical appliances should be in working condition. No large appliances, mattresses, box springs, tires, propane tanks, or doors!

Your donations are greatly appreciated and we are happy to provide you with a receipt if you would like one for tax purposes.

Carpet Replacement Project Update

It's a go!!! We are happy to announce that we will be getting new carpet in the Sunday school classrooms, youth room, choir room, nursery and church office. We are grateful to all of those who made monetary donations to make this dream a reality. Here is how the funds were raised:

Memorial Donations

Ernst Elsasser	\$ 290.00
Herman Elsasser	535.00
Virginia Elsasser	575.00
Marilyn Rosentreter	500.00
Virginia Wilson	1,000.00
Shelly Milbocker Nursery Fund	300.00

Other Donations

Senior Choir Donation	115.00
Youth Coin Wars	123.84
Donations from individual members	1,145.00
Total Raised	\$4,583.84

The new carpet will not be installed until after our annual rummage sale in June. We will need volunteers to pull up the old carpet before the new can be installed. The carpet selected is a loop pile solution dyed nylon and is green with flecks of tan. The sample is on display in the fellowship hall. Please consider helping remove the old carpet when the time arrives. Additional details will be available in upcoming issues of the Sunday bulletin and in the weekly e-mail that is sent out each Thursday.

Stewardship Corner

It's June! Time to think about vacations, warm weather, summer events, family gatherings and relaxed weekends. Let's not forget about Sabbath Time. In the Ten Commandments God talks about the Sabbath and that no one should work all of the time. We need to take time simply to praise and enjoy God.

In your Sabbath, whether a day off or a vacation, give of your mental capital and your spiritual energy, to listen for God this summer. Time for reflection, for wonder, for honest questions, and for waiting on the Spirit are all gifts to ourselves, to God and ultimately to our faith communities. This kind of time makes us whole, so that we can work with God to bring wholeness to the world. Give God your time as well as your talents this summer.

Also remember to think about St. Andrew's this summer with the Rummage Sale and Relay for Life in June, Church Picnic in July and Ice Cream Social in August as well as Summer Services at 8:30 and 10:30.

Relay for Life Update

The Sunshine Walkers have been having some awesome fundraising! The quilt raffle sales have been great! We took the quilt to another committee's yard sale, we sold tickets for two days Busch's and had a great time at the HOPE day picnic at Gordon Hall. So far we have raised \$299.00 on the quilt raffle and we are selling out of tickets fast; if you don't have your tickets yet plan on getting them soon or you may be **too late**.

As of this print our receipts are:

1. Quilt ticket sales	\$299.00
2. HOPE bracelets	\$78.00
3. Chips and pickles sold on HOPE Day	\$24.00
4. Footprints	\$42.00
5. Luminaries	\$80.00
6. Cans	\$287.80
7. Euchre party	\$196.25
8. Bake Sales	\$469.00
9. Pancake Breakfast	\$202.00
10. Car Wash	\$711.00

So, our total so far: \$2389.05 toward our goal of \$6,000.00

Thank you all very much for your support! Everyone at St. Andrew's has been very generous with their time and their financial support.

June 6 and 13 will be Special Offering Sundays.

As a reminder – The Dexter Relay For Life will be at the Cornerstone School on Dan Hoey Road from **10:00 a.m. on June 26 to 10:00 a.m. on June 27**. *Celebrate – Remember – Fight Back!*

You will find walker sign up sheets in the fellowship hall. Look over the times available and see if one will meet your schedule. If not, just come when you can! Also, you will find sign up sheets for the food items needed the day of relay. Last year your response to the food requests was awesome. I know you will all be just as generous this year. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Betty Davenport

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for granting me the scholarship for my tuition at college. I am paying for it on my own, so every little bit helps. I really appreciate your generosity.

Sarah Brueninger

I just wanted to thank you for awarding me a scholarship. We all know that money is tight at the moment, and I'm very grateful that you are willing to help my parents and I afford college tuition. Without your aid, paying to further my education would be even harder than it already is. Some of you know already that I plan to major in interior design, and as such need to pay for supplies as well as for my classes, food and housing. The money you have gifted to me will be a tremendous help.

Alyssa Lowery

Thank you for giving me the scholarship at St. Andrew's. I appreciate that you are interested in helping my future.

Kyle Slavik

Attention, Teens in Grades 9-12!

The youth will continue to meet on Sunday mornings during the summer. Join us for this time of fellowship and great discussions!

Consistory Highlights for April 2010

Treasurer's Report: Barb Affholter spoke about the upcoming inventory of church property and looking for a better rate of interest for the scholarship CD. Barb also reported on an audit of the books for 2009.

Youth Report: Alyssa reported on the collection for the carpet from the youth and updated on the computer for Mrs. Arft. The Youth are trying to plan an end of the year activity.

Buildings & Grounds: Dave Schmoekel reported on drain issues at the parsonage and that there now is list of emergency contact numbers. The stove in the parsonage was replaced with one from the Church on a temporary basis until there is time to look into purchasing a replacement. Dave mentioned that we should be looking a replacing the Sanctuary roof within 2-5 years and will look into quotes.

Christian Education: Ray Lowery reported on plans for a one-day Vacation Bible School in June and July; a Scholarship Committee has been formed and is working on the application for graduating seniors; the Milbocker Family have made a donation to place hummingbird feeders by the perennials; and asked about locking the outside door by the Fellowship Hall at the start of Sunday School as part of Safe Church.

Outreach: Betty Davenport reported on the upcoming events for Relay for Life.

Memorial Board: Lil Burby mentioned using some of the small Memorial monies toward the Scholarship this year.

New Business: Discussion followed on dates for future events at St. Andrews. The Rummage Sale will be June 11 & 12 and the Sauerkraut Supper will be October 21. A motion was made and passed to hold the Ice Cream Social on August 5 (Thursday) and not attempt to do the Carnival this year.

Motion was made and passed to approve Paul Tomshany and Joanne Arft for a Vote of Affirmation.

The consistory is in the process of developing a list of goals to be working on for the year.

June Birthdays

1 - Mary Rettig	8 - Terry Mors	15 - Arden Shafer
2 - Bob Smith	9 - Joyce Stacey	16 - Jim Klumpp
- Hadley Stoll	10 - Jeanette Sortor	17 - Ray Lowery
4 - Ruth Lanter	11 - Amy Jackson	23 - Ben Stapish
- Betty White	12 - Debbie DeGraff	25 - Bob Breuninger
5 - Jacob Even	- Courtney Krips	- Bob Rose
- Tim Guenther	- Thomas Krips	27 - Pat Allegra
- Crystal McCarter	13 - Marty Jackson	- Amy Finkbeiner
7 - Barb Baldus	- Thelma Rice	29 - Jane Finkbeiner
- Ryan Nixon	- Stefanie Van Steenis	- Janet Hampton

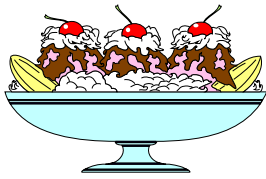
Please inform the church office (426-8610) if we have forgotten any members.

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Ice Cream Social Returns!

Mark your calendars for the return of St. Andrew's Ice Cream Social! The date is **August 5th** from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Additional information will be printed in next month's *Chronicle*.

Only A Quarter

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is an example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always remember - You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Submitted by Betty Jo Stendel

June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 a.m. PG Yoga 6:30 p.m. Yoga Class	2 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 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.	3 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers 11:30 a.m. PG Yoga 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class 7:00 p.m. DHS Honors Night	4	5
6 7:30 a.m. Dexter-Ann Arbor Run 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 2:00 p.m. DHS Graduation <-----	7 ----- Rummage	8 Sale Set-Up --	9 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	10	11 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rummage Sale	12 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rummage Sale
13 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. Special offering for Relay For Life	14 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee	15	16 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 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.	17 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	18	19
20 Father's Day 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 11:30 a.m. Prayer Service	21 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Consistory Items due for <i>July Chronicle</i>	22	23 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group	24	25 53rd Anniversary of the United Church of Christ	26 10:00 a.m. Relay For Life event begins at Cornerstone School
27 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. RFL event concludes 10:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 2:00 p.m. Brecon Village	28	29	30 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group			

Looking For Angels

Recently it was necessary to replace the electric stove in the parsonage. One of the heavy duty stoves used for the Sauerkraut Supper and monthly dinners was temporarily moved into the parsonage and we now need to find a replacement for it. The Consistory is trying very hard not to go over the 2010 Budget and we are looking for a St. Andrew's Angel that would like to donate funds for a stove.

Pastor Contact Information

Dr. Summers can always be reached by e-mail at: Robert.Summers@alum.ptsem.edu. Other steps to follow in the event you need to speak with him are:

1. Call the office and see if he is in;
2. Leave a message at the office if it is not an emergency;
3. If there is an emergency and you need to contact him, please call his cell phone: (815) 985-8515. The church answering machine is available 24 hours a day to take a message.

Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Barb Affholter	Joanne Arft	Sarah Breuninger	Betty Davenport
Carol Jones	Alyssa Lowery	Ray Lowery	Kyle Slavik
Betty Jo Stendel	Dr. Bob Summers	Pati Wheeler	

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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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	Children's and adult Sunday School are both off during the summer Youth continue to meet during 10:30 a.m. worship
Nursery Available	during both services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.