



St. Andrew's Chronicle

December 2010



From the Pastor's Desk



It is with joy that Cora and I come to St. Andrews UCC as your Interim Pastor and spouse to serve and honor the Lord here! We're thankful for the opportunity to partner with you in ministry and we look forward to getting to know each of you in the days ahead.

As your Interim Pastor I will be here on a part-time basis, which is the plan that is being worked out with the Consistory, Elders and Pastoral Relations Committee. Details will be shared with you soon.

It is my desire to be available to you as part of this church family even though I won't be in the office every day. Therefore, I encourage you to either make contact with me when I'm in the office or make an appointment through our Church Secretary (Pati) to see me. You may also feel free to call me by phone at (734) 878-3937 or by e-mail at lvanslam@Charter.net.

We believe that it is God's will that Cora and I come into your midst to be His instruments of love and encouragement! In Jeremiah 29:11 it is written: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* What a wonderful promise for us to keep before us! These words spoken through the Prophet Jeremiah long ago are words that we can claim for ourselves in a personal way or as a body of Christ-His church. No matter what challenges we may face, God still has a plan! No matter how discouraged we may become God still has a plan!

The enemy of our souls also has a plan which is to discourage us and blind us to the truth that God is faithful and true to His promises. We must always be on guard against believing these lies of the enemy!

God's plans are to bless us and give us a hope and a future! It has been said that *"the future is as bright as the promises of God!"* As we celebrate the birth of our Savior we are celebrating the fulfillment of the promises of God! We see evidence of God's faithfulness as He sent His only Son into the world to show us His love and to give His life for us that we might be saved and have the promise of eternal life!! In I Corinthians 1:20 the Apostle Paul wrote "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ."

In Lamentations 3:22-23 it is written *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail, they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."* Let me encourage us all here at St. Andrews UCC as we look to the days ahead *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."* (Hebrews 10:23)

Pastor Larry Van Slambrook
Your servant in Christ

Interim Contract Signed

The Interim Contract between St. Andrew's and Rev. Van Slambrook has been signed and Rev. Van Slambrook officially begins on December 1, 2010. A part of the contract calls for the Congregation to support and cooperate with the Interim Pastor in every way and will assume responsibility for:

- Attendance at worship and meetings;
- Continued financial support for the church and its mission and ministries;
- Support of the Interim Pastor in the ministry of St. Andrew's United Church of Christ to the community;
- Sustained lay leadership and shared ministry;
- Provision of a support and evaluation process for the Interim Pastor;
- Participation in the Covenant Association and Michigan Conference; and
- Secretarial support services.

Pastoral services requested of Rev. Van Slambrook include the following:

- Leading Sunday morning worship services, administration of the sacraments, and all special services (weddings, funerals, etc.) as needed;
- Counseling and/or referral in crisis situations;
- Visiting hospitalized and shut-in members, as well as other pastoral calls;
- Attending and resourcing meetings of the Consistory each month, plus other groups as requested;
- Providing leadership and training for members in the special emphases of the church, including congregational self-study, future planning, membership, outreach, and stewardship;
- Providing administrative oversight in an advisory fashion for the daily affairs of the church;
- Remaining active in the name of St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, in the Covenant Association and the Michigan Conference UCC; and
- Providing an active presence with the local religious community.

Girl Scout Bazaar

The Annual Girl Scout Holiday Bazaar will take place in the fellowship hall on **Saturday, December 4th** from 9 am – 3 pm. Handcrafted items made by the Girl Scouts and their families will be available for sale including ornaments, fleece blankets, knitted hats, door draft stops, heating pads, baking mix jars, baked goods, and holiday decorations. The girls use the monies for troop trips, service projects for the community, and dues for girls who cannot afford to pay for activities.

After doing some Christmas shopping, plan to stay for a luncheon that will be offered by the St. Andrew's Senior Choir.

Adopt A Family

Is this the year you would like to help make Christmas a little merrier for a struggling family?

Again this year St. Andrew's will be partnering with Family Service and Faith in Action to make this happen. We will be "adopting" three families this year. We can give you a list that will include the ages and genders of a family and a few of their preferred gifts. The list will be available on **Sunday, November 28th**. Deadline to have the gifts at church will be **Thursday, December 16th**. You will be helping a local family who otherwise would not have much for Christmas.

Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary

The church will be selling poinsettias this year at a cost of \$12.00 each. The flowers can be purchased in loving memory or in honor of a loved one. Please use the order form included in this issue of the Chronicle and return no later than the close of business on **Friday, December 17th**.

The names of the donors and recipients will be printed in the Order of Worship on Christmas Eve. Order forms are available at the church or you can contact the office if you have any questions about placing an order.



Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross Mission Offering

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund will be collected on **Sunday, December 19th** at both worship services. Offerings made toward this cause help provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants. Envelopes for donations to this special mission offering are available in the narthex and on the table outside Pati's office.

Church Annual Budget Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, December 19th, 2010** following the 10:00 worship service for the purpose of discussion and approval of the budget for 2011. Thank you to everyone who has returned their pledge sheets, and if you haven't turned one in, please do so immediately. Your responses will help to formulate our financial plan as we move forward into the new year.

Blue Christmas - a Service of the Longest Night

Please join us at St. Andrew's for our "Blue Christmas" worship service on **Tuesday afternoon, December 21st**, at 4:00 p.m. We invite you to lay aside your worries, your pain and sorrows for just a while and spend some time in worship and quiet meditation. Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone and we encourage you to join us for what we pray will be a source of comfort and hope on this, the longest day of the year.



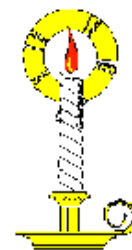
Winter Warmth Tree

The **Winter Warmth tree** (formerly known as the mitten tree) has been placed in the narthex for anyone who would like to make a donation of mittens, scarves, earmuffs, caps, etc. Dexter Family Services has requested that donations be made for adults and children. These items will be distributed to needy families in our area by Dexter Family Services. Thanks to Jane Finkbeiner for coordinating the winter warmth tree this year!

2010 Contributions

Please note that all contributions to the church for 2010 must be received in the office by noon on **December 30, 2010**. Any monies received after that date will be credited to your 2011 giving statement.

Christmas Eve Worship Services



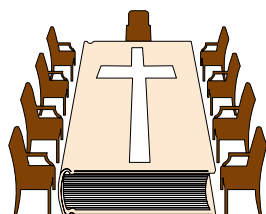
We have planned two **Christmas Eve** worship services this year. The 7:30 p.m. service will be a traditional family service. At 11 p.m., we will have a candlelight service that is more of a meditative service. Holy Communion will be received at both worship services and we invite you join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

End of Year Reports Due

It's that time of year again for us to look back over the past year. Officers and committee chairpersons are asked to submit a written report (typed and print-ready would be most appreciated, but not required) of their respective committee events and activities for 2010. All reports are due in the church office no later than **Thursday, December 30th**. Please do your best to have your report submitted by the requested due date or contact the church office if this will not be possible. Many thanks!

SCRIPS Program Continues to Support Our Church

As you do your Christmas planning, don't forget about the SCRIPS program! The church receives a percentage of your order, but it doesn't cost you anything. What a deal! These gift cards can be, of course, given as gifts, or you can use them for your personal shopping. SCRIP order forms are available from Sue Mors. We try to place orders on Sundays, and the cards usually arrive in two or three days. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Sue Mors by contacting her at home at (734) 426-7057 or by e-mail at Sue.mors@charter.net.



Consistory Highlights from November, 2010

The Consistory met on November 7 and voted unanimously to offer the Interim Minister position to Rev. Larry Van Slambrook. He accepted and will officially begin on December 1, 2010.

At the November 15 meeting the following business took place:

Music Committee: Betty Jo Stendel reported that the Choir will once again provide lunch items at the Girl Scout Bazaar on December 4 with proceeds to benefit the Choir.

Outreach Committee: Betty Davenport reported that the Church will adopt families for Christmas.

New Business:

The Consistory approved the Snow Contract for the same price as last year.

We will be establishing a Finance Committee to set financial policies for the church and are looking for volunteers from the Congregation to be members.

Ginny Weber will chair the Nominating Committee for Consistory, Elder, and Memorial Board candidates.

Sunday, December 19, 2010 has been set for the Annual Meeting on the Budget.

Financial Report

In order to keep the congregation abreast of the financial situation of St. Andrew's, we will be reporting the financial report that the Consistory sees each month as well as the year to date totals.

October Financials

Budgeted Income	\$20,667.17	Budgeted Expense	\$13,616.64
Actual Income	20,723.06	Actual Expense	10,620.84
Budget vs. Actual	55.89	Budget vs. Actual	2,995.80
		Overall for October	3,051.69

Year to Date

Budgeted Income	\$150,531.76	Budgeted Expense	\$153,893.59
Actual Income	117,477.01	Actual Expense	143,587.36
Shortfall	- 33,054.75	Budget vs. Actual	10,306.23
		Overall to Date	- 22,748.52

Worship Service Attendance Report

November 2010	November 2009
94 (Oct. 31)	111
122	109
109	73
102	129
113	95

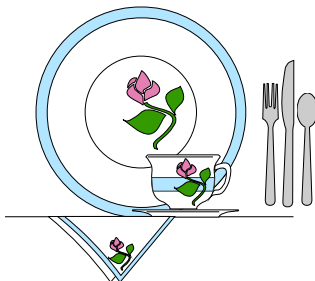
Sunday School News

Last month we had a great time in Sunday School writing letters to Gudeta Roba, our sponsored child in Ethiopia. We also wrote letters to one of our sailors in the navy, Andy Marshall. Andy is stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, and our Sunday School classes celebrated Veteran's Day with patriotic music and learned about Andy's naval service on the ship, the USS Barry.

This month, we are planning to make Christmas cards for our shut-ins and include pictures of our Sunday School classes. And, we will be participating with the choir in our annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday morning, December 19th.

Stay tuned. We will continue to keep everyone up to date with our Sunday School's activities in the New Year.

Upcoming Monthly Dinners



January, 2011	No Dinner
February 3	Sauerkraut and Knoeffles with Pork
March 3	Corned Beef and Cabbage
April 7	Baked Chicken and Dressing
May 5	Chop Suey and Egg Rolls

December Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 - Allison Krips | 14 - Delores Berner | 25 - Ron Dioszegi |
| 6 - Nancy Baldus | - Nicole Chalou | - Malinda Henes |
| - Sarah Breuninger | - Kristin Lowery | |
| 8 - Carl Lesser | 16 - Garnet Winquest | |
| 9 - Alta Frey | - Susan Mors | |
| 10 - Joseph K. Weber | 20 - Sarah Oberholtzer | |
| 11 - Cheryl Eaton | 21 - Debbie Bourdon | |



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

Thanksgiving Baskets Distributed to Local Families

We want to thank every one who donated food for the four local families that enjoyed a wonderful meal for Thanksgiving. The food was distributed to local Dexter families and we appreciate the generosity of all who brought in items.

2011 Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets

Pledge cards and time and talent sheets have been distributed at the worship services. If you took the information home with you to consider, please return the completed forms as soon as possible. There is a basket in the narthex for the time and talent sheets and pledge cards should be placed in the locked box that looks like a church. If you would like to have the information sent to you, please contact Pati in the church office.

Our Treasure From God

At this time of year, our minds are drawn to thoughts of our Savior, as they should be. The ages-old story is always fresh and exciting to us as Christians as we rejoice in our Father's great love for us shown in His sending His own Son for us. That Son came in the form of a Baby. The angels announced His birth; the shepherds left their sheep and came to worship Him; the Wise Men traveled many miles to adore Him and bring Him their gifts.

We, too, have this "treasure...that all-surpassing power...from God and not from us." We have the Word dwelling in us! His great power enables and equips us to be stewards who can fulfill any task our Savior lays before us. He gives us courage to witness His birth and life and death and resurrection. He gives us financial resources to support the mission and ministry of our churches.

During this time of Advent and Christmas, let us "treasure...these things and ponder them in our hearts." And let us ask God to use us according to His plan to spread the news of that treasure.

Offering Envelopes Soon Available

Offering envelopes for 2011 will soon be ready for distribution. In an effort to keep postage costs to a minimum, we hope to distribute most of the envelopes by asking that they be picked up from the fellowship hall. Additional information will be forthcoming, and I appreciate your patience as the project is completed.

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group	2 9:00 a.m. Quilting 11:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Monthly Dinner	3	4 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Girl Scout Bazaar
5 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc. After Worship: Relay for Life Meeting After Worship: Christian Ed	6	7 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates 6:30 p.m. Handbells	8 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group 7:30 p.m. Choir	9 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting 11:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	10	11
12 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc.	13	14 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	15 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir	16 9:00 a.m. Quilting 11:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study Adopt-a-Family Deadline	17 Deadline for Poinsettia Orders	18
19 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc. 11:00 a.m. Prayer Service 11:30 a.m. Annual Budget Meeting	20 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Consistory Items due for Jan. 2011 <i>Chronicle</i>	21 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates 4:00 p.m. "Blue Christmas" Service	22 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. Worship Svc. 11:00 p.m. Worship Svc.	25 Merry Christmas!
26 10:00 a.m. Worship Svc.	27	28 10:00 a.m. Gentle Pilates	29 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Group	30 End-of-Year Reports Due Last Day - 2010 Contributions 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	31 New Year's Eve	

Thank You For Your Kindness

I want to thank all of the people from St. Andrew's church who put so much effort and love into the luncheon held on November 13th after the interment service for Dr. Stewart C. Arft. Not only was the food delicious, but I think most of Stew's famous jello dishes were served! The comforting presence of God and your fellowship was very much felt by all of our family during this time of sadness in the loss of our loved one.

With appreciation and prayers for the continuation of your good works,

Dorothy Arft Spencer

Emergency Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold an emergency appeal blood drive in the fellowship hall on **Monday, January 3rd, 2011** from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. To make an appointment to donate blood, you can call 1-800-GIVELIFE (1-800-44835433) or visit the ARC web-site at www.givelife.org. During the holidays, the need for blood is greater than ever. Remember, blood can't be manufactured; it can only come from generous donors like you.

Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Joanne Arft	Betty Davenport	Carol Jones
Ray Lowery	Denise Marshall	Dorothy Arft Spencer
Pastor Larry Van Slambrook	Pati Wheeler	

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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email: standrews@provide.net
website: www.standrewsdexter.org

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.