
St. Andrew's Chronicle

February, 2012

Message from Pastor Larry Focus on Health

We are in an age where there seems to be a great emphasis on health and exercise. When I exercise at the Hudson Mills Metropark I see people of all ages running, walking, roller-blading, jogging, some pushing a baby stroller, and walking dogs. In almost any kind of weather people are out there working their bodies. There are also places such as Snap Fitness or Anytime Fitness which have trainers and every conceivable kind of exercise machine to be used by people as they seek to gain and maintain fitness.

For the past several years there has been an increasing emphasis on healthy eating as well as weight loss. Cora and I are Lifetime members of Weight Watchers which emphasizes a lifestyle of eating in a very healthy way.

There is much to be gained by regular exercise and a healthy diet as continuing medical research has verified. Most of us value our health because it makes such a positive difference in our lives. Good health involves body, mind and spirit and enables us to live active and productive lives! The World Health Organization defines good health in the following way: *"Good Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."*

Martin Luther once said that *"It is the part of a Christian to take care of his own body for the very purpose that by its soundness and well-being he may be enabled to labor for the aid of those who are in want, and thus the stronger member may serve the weaker member."*

How do we determine how healthy we are? There are many ways but primarily a physical exam by a physician. Such an exam may show that you are very healthy but it may also identify areas of concern which need to be addressed.

We are the body of Christ designed by God to be alive and active in fulfilling His will and purpose here on earth. The Word of God (Scripture) reveals to us the marks of a healthy church. On the basis of Scripture as well as research that has been done in many churches, Stephen Macchia has written a book entitled Becoming a Healthy Church in which he identifies 10 traits of a vital ministry.

These 10 traits are as follows: God's empowering presence; God-exalting worship; spiritual disciplines; learning and growing in community; a commitment to loving and caring relationships; servant-leadership development; an outward focus; wise administration and accountability; networking with the body of Christ; stewardship and generosity.

To assist churches in determining the state of their health an assessment was developed which is referred to as CHAT—Church Health Assessment Tool. It is a very effective means of discovering the state of health of a congregation, identifying areas of good health as well as those that are in need of some attention. The results of this survey helps churches know how best to move forward!

We will be using the CHAT survey here at St. Andrew's to help us look at ourselves to see our strengths as well as those areas of our life and ministry in need of some attention. I believe the Lord will use it to guide us on the path of moving forward in fulfilling His will.

During the month of February, all members and attenders of St. Andrew's are asked to take the CHAT survey either online or by paper copy. Please note that the survey will not be available online until February 1 and then through February 29.

To complete the survey online, go to the website www.HealthyChurch.net and then click on the button that says "Take the Survey." You will then be asked to enter the login information and a password which can be obtained on the "We are Listening" bulletin insert or by contacting the church office.

If you don't have a computer/internet access, paper copies will be made available at your request. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex and copies may be picked up on or after Tuesday, February 1. It is suggested that you connect with someone who has internet access to input your information or place your survey in a box outside of the Church Office and the information will be entered for you.

Whether you are an attender or member we strongly encourage all congregants 13 years and up to participate in the survey. Please take this opportunity to share your thoughts with us. Your feedback will help shape strategic decisions and ministry effectiveness for the future. The more people who participate in this survey the better because it will give us a more accurate picture of the state of our health.

With the information gathered from this survey in hand, our leaders will be working in the months ahead to make plans and take actions that will facilitate our becoming a healthier church than ever!! Let's keep moving forward!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry*

Relay for Life Planning Meeting Scheduled

The 2012 Relay for Life event is scheduled to take place on May 19 and May 20 at Monument Park in downtown Dexter. We are looking for a chairperson and co-chairperson for this year's Relay. A meeting will be held after the 10 a.m. worship service on February 5 for discussion and planning. Hope to see you there!!

Betty Davenport

Fellowship Committee Plans and Events

Needs for the Saline Evangelical Home Project Continues Through February 5th

The Fellowship Committee has been collecting new or gently used items for the patients' store at the Saline Evangelical Home. The patients go to this store to purchase items for a nominal cost for their rooms, for themselves, or items to give to grandchildren, etc.

The needs include the following--

Stuffed animals, costume jewelry, knick knacks, books, current magazines, Reader's Digest, Word Search books, decks of cards, hand-held electronic games like poker and quarters for Bingo.

There is a plastic tub in the Narthex and one on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall where donations can be dropped off. There will be plastic storage bags available to put jewelry or small items in before placing them in the large donation box. We appreciate your help.

February Christian Education Corner

News from our Sunday School Program

Beginning on Sunday, February 5th, we will be offering an additional Sunday School class for children of pre-school and kindergarten ages. The class will be held in the nursery and will be lead by an experienced pre-school teacher. We are looking forward to this new opportunity to introduce our youngest family members to stories from the Bible, music, and creative activities. If you have a child in this age group, please join us for Sunday School on February 5th.

Attention St. Andrew's Youth

As part of a Youth Enrichment Series, there will be an opportunity for you to experience what life is like in a vibrant senior community. It will take place at Brecon Village, 200 Brecon Drive, Saline, MI, on Saturday, February 4th. Activities which will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., will highlight the mission of Evangelical Homes, introduce the field of senior services as a career option, and present new opportunities for you to engage in services to older adults through outreach ministries. Students who attend will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the day.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please see Joanne Arft. You may also call Rev. Roger Meiller at (734) 295-9956. Rev. Meiller is the Director of Religious Services of the Evangelical Homes of Michigan.

Upcoming Lenten Series

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. Lent is a period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday leading up to [Easter](#). For the believer in Christ, Lent is a time of preparation through prayer and [self-denial](#) — for the commemoration during [Holy Week](#) of the [Death and Resurrection of Jesus](#). It is a time of reflection on one's relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and our journey with Him.

The Lenten season will begin with a special **Ash Wednesday worship service** to be held on **Wednesday, February 22 at 7 p.m.** with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. We hope you will be able to attend.

Then, beginning on February 29 and continuing each Wednesday through March 27, we will have a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a Lenten Series at 6:30 p.m. As your Interim Pastor I am very pleased to announce that Geoff Zahn will be leading our Lenten Series this year! Geoff has been a regular attender at St. Andrew's for the past several months.

Geoff is a former Major League baseball pitcher and former coach of the University of Michigan baseball team. He has been a pitching clinician and instructor for over 20 years and has authored several articles for MLB.com as well as "Collegiate Baseball". He is now a motivational and Christian speaker.

Geoff will have much to share with us each Wednesday. He was a pitcher with determination! He heard from Pro Scouts and his own General Manager that he would NEVER pitch in the Big Leagues! With his Christian Faith and an extreme "Will to Win" he went on to pitch over 11 years in the Major Leagues for the Dodgers, Cubs, Twins, and Angels.

The topics Geoff will focus upon on five Wednesdays in Lent will include the following:

1. Can you trust the Coach's rules and playbook?
2. Are we born self-centered, God-centered, or neutral?
What is your world view?
3. A beatitude attitude. The result is not very attractive.
4. Forgiveness and love: Want peace? Then stop the truce till you can reload.
5. Tebow and us. The question is not if God is on our side.

You are encouraged to invite friends and family of all ages to come and hear Geoff as the Lord uses him in our midst! Audrey Marshall has graciously agreed to make the main dish for each meal and if you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to add to the weekly feast.

The Lenten season will culminate with Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday (April 1), Maundy Thursday (Communion service at 7 p.m.), Good Friday (Community service at Dexter United Methodist Church) and Easter Sunday (April 8).

Notes of Appreciation

My Dearest Pastor Larry, Cora, Paula, Joanne, Pati and My Entire Church Family:

My son Norman came to this church 1 ½-2 years ago. No one knew us from Adam, but we were accepted with love, care, thoughtfulness, prayers and let's not forget all the hugs. *For all of this, thank you just isn't enough.* My son Norman had to be operated on and Pastor Larry came to the hospital and talked with him and myself, stayed till he was back in his room. My son Norman passed away on June 6, 2011 and my whole church family could not have been more supportive to me. *Again, thank you just isn't enough.* Paula gave up her day off so she could play for my son's funeral, Pastor Larry and Cora sang a beautiful song, and again I say, *for all of this, thank you just isn't enough.* Pastor Larry started coming my house to Pastor to my husband, John, when we were told John had small cell lung cancer and couldn't beat the fight. Our Pastor didn't stop coming to visit John and the Pastor came every week and would stay the full time with John so I could go to Bible Study. *Again, thank you just isn't enough.* Pastor and the Holy Spirit hung in there every Thursday til John was saved on November 3, 2011. What a blessing that was. My husband passed away on December 18, 2011. Pastor was there for myself and the entire family again. My church family was there for me with their prayers, hugs and support. I want you all to know I couldn't have got through all of this for the last year without my church family. Paula gave up another day off to play and Pastor and Cora sang for John's funeral. *Again, thank you just isn't enough.* You all have been there for me and I would like to take this time to say I love each and every one of you. I know through all of 2011 with the passing of my son and husband that I could not have gotten through all of the sadness. I know God was and is carrying me because of all your prayers and support. Thank you all for the many cards, prayers and well wishes. St. Andrew's isn't just a church; it is a building with God at the head running everything.

The Pastor's sermon is all about Jesus molding all of us. What a powerful sermon our Pastor gives us every Sunday. I know the Holy Spirit is talking through our Pastor and Cora his wife.

I am so very happy Norman and I walked into St. Andrew's on that Sunday morning. I'm at a loss for words, but I will close by saying thank you to one and all. I truly do love each and every one of you.

*Sincerely,
Your Sister in Christ,
Carolyn Armbruster*

I want to thank all those folks who sent well wishes and encouragement, transported me, fed me, visited with me and fixed things while I mended since December 9.

St. Andrew's is full of angels whose kindness is really appreciated. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and help.

Elaine Owsley

Notes of Appreciation (Continued)

Dear St. Andrew's:

We would like to thank you for donating lots of warm mittens to put in the 50+ holiday boxes for needy Dexter families. Those mittens will not only keep many fingers warm but also send the message that they live in a caring community.

Sincerely,
Jane Boyce, Secretary
DUFFS

I certainly appreciated the cards for my birthday and the beautiful Christmas plant which is still blooming all from the Good Shepherds Committee. God bless all of you.

Alta Frey

Bill is back home after flying forty missions in Afghanistan. He, Thres and their children and I thank you for your prayers.

Sonie Hargrove

2012 Upcoming Monthly Dinners

February 2 Sauerkraut and Knoeffles with Pork

March 1 Corned Beef and Cabbage

****April 12**** Baked Chicken and Dressing

***Because Maundy Thursday falls on the first Thursday in April, the monthly dinner has been rescheduled to take place on April 12.*

May 3 Chop Suey and Egg Rolls

January Worship Service Attendance Figures

January, 2012

January, 2011

108

107

111

113

114

114

84

104

80



January Consistory Committee Meeting Briefing



REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: See attached reports. We were able to make the final payment on January 11 to the IRS due to having received nearly \$10,000 more in giving and keeping expenses down by over \$10,000.

Pastor's Report: Reviewed the upcoming Church Assessment and leaders meeting scheduled for January 29th, and looking to have a meeting in early March to go over the results of the Assessment. Also discussed was communicating to former members who are now attending church that they are eligible to reinstate their membership.

Building: Water shut-offs have been installed and faucets and sinks upgraded in the parsonage (funds to come from rebate on the furnace and the SCRIP account). Munson Electric have installed an electric coil in the gutter over the entry door closest to Fourth Street and added additional lighting for the stairway to the Fellowship Hall (funds to come from Memorial Fund).

New Business: The Consistory along with the Pastoral Relations Committee participated in the 2011 Pastor's Evaluation. Rev. VanSlambrook was evaluated on 20 items and comments were provided for each category. His review becomes a part of his file and is a tool that will be used for future pastors.

Annual Meeting Coming Up!

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church of Christ is planned on **Sunday, February 12th**, immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. This has been an amazing year for St. Andrew's Church. Please plan to attend this "year in review" meeting on February 12.

February Outreach and Mission Report

In the Narthex at church is a box for donations to Faith in Action. Each month we will publish in the Chronicle items that are needed. Besides the list, they can always use additional canned goods and fresh produce. Items needed this month are:

Chunky Soup	Flour and Sugar	Macaroni and Cheese
Cereal	Meal Helpers	Dish Soap
Juice	Shampoo & Conditioner	Baking Mixes
Razors & Shave Cream	Cooking Oil	Canned Chili or Manwich
Laundry Soap	Toilet Paper	Kleenex & Paper Towel
Pineapple and mandarin oranges		Meat—canned, frozen, fresh
Condiments: Mayo, Mustard and Pancake Syrup		Salad Dressings

Seasonal (winter) clothing can be donated to the Chelsea office as well as any medical equipment. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Faith in Action at 475-3305 or visit their website at www.faithinaction1.org. The Chelsea facility is open Monday-Friday and the Dexter Food Pantry is open on Wednesday afternoons.

Financial Report, December, 2011

FUNDS AND BALANCES

DECEMBER 2011

GENERAL

Nov. 30, 2011 Actual Ending Balance \$ 37,815.78

Nov. Income

Giving	\$17,841.00	
Rental	1,075.00	
Monthly Dinner	520.00	
Donation – Tax Fund	250.00	
Misc.	<u>80.00</u>	
Total Income		\$ 19,706.00

Nov. Expenses

Payroll	\$ 5,088.20	
Payroll Taxes & Processing	793.99	
IRS Payment	750.00	
Utilities	1,072.95	
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	668.16	
Office & Supplies	126.56	
Snow Removal	310.00	
Conference Dues	750.00	
Covenant Dues	570.00	
Monthly Dinner Expenses Sept-Dec.	784.92	
Miscellaneous	<u>159.98</u>	
		\$ 11,074.76

Revenue less Expenses + 8,631.24

Ending Cash Balance \$ 46,447.02

Checks outstanding +3,629.38

Ending Bank Balance-General Fund 50,076.40

OTHER FUNDS

Rental Escrow 1,000.00

Building Fund 5,220.02

Transfer from Memorial for furnace 3230.00

Bank Account Balance 12/31/2011 \$ 56,296.42

YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS

GENERAL FUND

Income \$164,144.31

Expenses 142,761.46

Revenue less Expenses \$+21,382.85

Talahi Plans 2012 Re-opening!

The 2012 Summer Camp at Camp Talahi is being called “Rejoice in New Beginnings” and campers will focus on their relationships with God. You will explore the ways that God helps you to renew, recharge and revive.

The Summer Camp Schedule is as follows:

Summer Youth Camps

Mini Camp (grade K-2)	July 5-8
Junior Camp (grade 3-5)	July 8-13
Senior High Camp (grade 9-12)	July 15-20
Music, Arts, Dance, Drama Camp (grades 6-8)	July 22-27
Wilderness Adventure Camp (grade 6-8)	July 22-27
Adventure Camp (grade 6-8)	July 29-August 3

Weekend Camps

Young Adult Weekend	May 25-28
Family Camp I	June 29-July 2
Family Camp II	July 27-29

Registration for camps will begin on February 1, 2012. Camp age brackets are based on the grade the camper will have finished by the end of the school year. There also may be opportunities for summer jobs of being a camp counselor. Camp costs have not yet been announced. For additional information or to register, go to the website camptalahi.org.

February Stewardship Thoughts

FEASTING ON GRATITUDE

Jesus saw table fellowship as part of his divine task. He took his cue from a long line of prophets – who were hungry and malnourished themselves—and pointed to the great feast as a sign of God’s generosity, goodness, and the promise of life abundant. In God’s Kingdom there is not just enough, there is more than enough. As he said, “Everything is ready, come to the table.”

When asked to make a pledge to the Church in November, many of us find that making a pledge adds to our financial struggles. Have you ever tried to decide as to which charity you would like to give to or support? No matter what we give – whether it be to the Church, a charitable organization, disaster relief, or to someone who is just down on their luck – our charity is always returned to us in some way. It could be a heartfelt thank you from the recipient or a warm feeling of the joy of giving. Our increased giving this year at St. Andrew’s has enabled us to pay off the IRS and put on a new roof.

We come to realize that we are blessed in many ways and what we have is not ours to keep, but ours to share in the same way as God shares with us – freely and unconditionally. We are only stewards of God’s gifts to us.

From, Feasting on Gratitude, The Office of Stewardship, The Episcopal Church

2012 Altar Flower Chart Available

Have you ever been interested in placing flowers on the altar to enhance the worship service or in honor or memory of a loved one? It's easy to do and a very special way to recognize someone special in your life. Here is the process:

- A. The sign up sheet for altar flowers is in the fellowship hall near the bulletin board containing newspaper articles. Please sign your name on the particular Sunday you wish the flowers to be placed on the altar and the reason for the occasion.
- B. Contact Pati in the church office if you have a special request for a type or color of flower to be included in the arrangement. We also print an announcement in the bulletin to indicate who the flowers have been given for and by whom. If you have a particular way the announcement should be worded, please let Pati know that.
- C. The cost for the arrangement is \$25.00. You can drop the check into the offering plate (please be sure to mark it "Altar Flowers") or give it to Pati. If you would like an arrangement with a number of roses or flowers that are not in season, the cost may be a little more. We will notify you in advance if this is the case.
- D. All of our flower requests are filled through Hearts and Flowers and they have always done a wonderful job for us. They will also deliver the flowers to the church on Saturday so there is no need to make arrangements for the flowers to be at the church prior to Sunday morning.
- E. Feel free to take the arrangement with you after the 10:00 worship service, but we ask that you return the vase in a timely manner so that we can get it back to the flower shop. This helps to keep the costs to a minimum.

It is always nice to have flowers on the altar to enhance our worship services and we invite you to take an opportunity this year to participate.

To Be A Christian

When I say that "I am a Christian", I'm not shouting that I'm clean living.

I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian", I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say that "I am a Christian", I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say that "I am a Christian", I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean up my mess.

When I say that "I am a Christian", I'm not claiming to be perfect.

My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say that "I am a Christian", I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say that "I am a Christian", I'm not holier than thou.

I'm just a simple sinner who received God's grace, somehow!

Submitted by Betty Jo Stendel

January, 2012 American Red Cross Blood Drive Update

We have been notified by the American Red Cross blood drive held here in the St. Andrew's fellowship hall on Monday, January 9th that 26 pints of blood were collected and 1 whole red donation. These numbers are down slightly from what is usually collected during this emergency appeal.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the spring blood drive which will be held in the fellowship hall on Monday, April 16th from 1-7 p.m. Thank you to everyone who has and who will continue to donate this life saving commodity.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 - Scott Baldus | 14 - Bill Nixon |
| Cindy Strudgeon | - Carole Weber |
| 7 - Shanna Judit | 15 - Kyle Slavik |
| - Emily Mosher | Darcy Stoll |
| - Peggy Otto | 16 - Bill Allegra |
| 8 - Courtney Thompson | 18 - Benjamin Wheeler |
| - Suzanne Van Natter | 20 - Sarah Even |
| 9 - Ann Shoop | 21 - Julie Swisher |
| 11 - Kathy York | 26 - John Ware |
| 13 - Jessica Oberholtzer | |



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

February, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30 am: Church Staff Meet 1 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm: Adult Study Group 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal	9-11 am: Piecemakers Quilting 3 pm : Ladies Bible Study 5 pm: Monthly Dinner Serving Begins		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30 and 10 am Worship Services 11:30 am: Confirmation Class 11:30 am: Good Shepherds Meet 11:30 am: Relay for Life Planning Meeting	11 am: Gentle Pilates Class	10 am: Gentle Pilates Class	10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30 am: Church Staff Meeting 1 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm: Adult Study Group 7:30: Senior Choir Rehearsal	9-11 am: Piecemakers Quilting Group 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 and 10 am Worship Services 11:30 am: Annual Meeting (Confirmation Class to Attend Meeting)	11 am: Gentle Pilates Class	10 am: Gentle Pilates Class	10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30 Church Staff Meeting 1-2 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6:30: Adult Study Group 7:30: Senior Choir Rehearsal	9-11 am: Piecemakers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 and 10 am Worship Services <i>No Confirmation</i> 11:30 am : Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by the Fellowship Comm.	11 am: Gentle Pilates Class 6 pm: Elders Meet 7 pm: Consistory Comm. Meets <i>March, 2012 Chronicle Deadline</i>	10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30 Church Staff Meeting 1-2 pm: Ladies Bible Study 7 pm: Ash Wedn. Worship Service & Imposition of Ashes 7:30: Senior Choir Rehearsal <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9-11 am: Piecemakers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study		
26	27	28	29			
8:30 and 10 am: Worship Services 11:30 am: Confirmation Class	11 am: Gentle Pilates Class	10 a.m. Gentle Pilates Class	10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30 Church Staff Meeting 1-2 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6 pm: Potluck Dinner 6:30: Lenten Series 7:30: Senior Choir Rehearsal			

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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Dexter, Michigan 48130

Phone (734) 426-8610 Fax (734) 426-8620

email: *standrews@provide.net*

website: *www.standrewsdexter.org*

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 During 10:00 Worship Service

Nursery Available During both services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.