
St. Andrew's Chronicle

January, 2012

New Year's Message from Pastor Larry

Wow—2012 is here! In some ways it seems like it was only yesterday when Cora and I were coming to St. Andrew's as your Interim Pastor and spouse. For me, January brings another birthday and the years seem to roll on faster and faster. Where is the brake to slow things down? There seems to be some kind of time accelerator that is being pushed further down toward the floor with no way to back it off! Does that say something about my age or what!?! Inevitably time marches on with the future becoming the present every moment of every day.

As I look back over this past year at St. Andrew's I give thanks for all that I see the Lord has done in our life as a church family. I sense that the Spirit has been working in each of us through the past year to help us grow in the faith. He has been guiding and helping us to move forward as His church here in Dexter.

God has been bringing new people into our church family. We have received new members into our church. We have seen commitments to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! God has blessed us in so many ways including our finances! We have moved forward to His glory and honor!

What a blessing it has been for us to serve you in this past year! What joy for us to walk together in serving the Lord and moving forward in the work of His Kingdom! You have been and continue to be a wonderful blessing to us. We have come to love and value each of you!

The wonderful truth is that there is more to come in 2012! It is God's plan that we keep moving forward as His people in the days, weeks, and months to come. He has a plan for us, and is guiding us on the path that leads to the fulfillment of that plan. He will empower us by His Spirit to be everything He has called us to be!

In his life of serving the Lord the Apostle Paul was constantly moving forward. In his letter to the Christians in Philippi he wrote "*...one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*" (Phil. 3:13-14). In these and the preceding verses Paul describes his spiritual journey—where he has been, where he is at present, and where he is headed in the future. There are principles in his words that can be applied to our lives and in the situation we're in at the present.

One of those principles is this: Let Go! Paul says it this way: "*But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead....*" This is the principle of letting go—forgetting what is behind. It raises the question: What part should the past play in our lives whether it has been negative or positive?

The past can be celebrated, but it is not to be held in such esteem that we want to recreate it. Memories are wonderful—God gave us the capacity to remember for a reason. Such memories are a blessing to us as we look back with thankful hearts. However, as positive as those memories may be we can't live in them.

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Letting go of the past is making a choice to put the past in its appropriate place. The past is not something to be relived nor something to be held onto too tightly. It is something to learn and grow from. Holding onto the past can hinder us from living in the present and moving into the future. Letting go is not an easy thing to do—for any of us. However, it is God’s will for us as He moves us forward onto the new “territory” He has for us to take!

The second principle we see in what Paul wrote is the principle of pressing on—moving forward with commitment and determination. Paul was clearly letting go of the past and pressing on to the future God had for him. We cannot move into the future by looking back whether what is in the past is good or bad. It would be like attempting to drive by looking in the rearview mirror. In order to move forward God would have us focus on Him and what He is doing now and will do in the future.

In the process of moving forward here at St. Andrew’s God is leading us to assess where we are so that we have a clearer picture of our direction in the year ahead. In this regard the leadership of St. Andrew’s has decided to conduct a church assessment through Leadership Transformations. Every person who is a member or an attender of St. Andrew’s will be invited to participate. You will be provided with much more information about this in January and our plan is to conduct the assessment in February.

We have a great God and our future is as bright as all of His promises! I look forward to walking together with you in the year ahead! By the way, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry*

Christmas Poinsettias Need a Home!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Christmas poinsettia this year. We had a record number of flowers that looked stunning in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services. If you purchased a poinsettia and have not yet taken it home, please feel free pick the plant up during regular office hours or on Sunday morning.

2012 Envelopes Available for Pick Up

Offering envelopes for 2012 are available in the fellowship hall. Please be sure to pick up your new packet and any that belong to family members that you would be able to deliver. These can be quite costly to mail and we appreciate your assistance in getting them to their owner. If you do not currently have envelopes and would like to receive them, please contact Pati Wheeler in the Church Office and she will be happy to assist you with your request.

Winter Warmth Tree Donations Appreciated

I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Winter Warmth tree again this year. We received a variety of items to keep local families warm in the form of gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, ear muffs, etc. Our congregation always steps up to help others in need and this year was no exception.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity for needy adults and children in our area. The items have been distributed by Dexter Family Services.

*With Gratitude,
Jane Finkbeiner, Chairperson*

Thank you Christmas Angels!

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank the Christmas Angels who adopted family members from the four families St. Andrew's agreed to help this year. Families in the area who are in need are selected by Dexter Family Services and distributed to area churches and service groups at Christmas time.

This year's Angels are: Scott and Denise Marshall, Janet and John Ware, Cora and Larry Van Slambrook, Judy and Ron Dioszegi, Betty and Phil Stendel, the Bourdon Family, the Oberholtzer Family, Beverly and Arden Shafer, Audrey Marshall, Roberta Cobb and Mike Sweet, Betty and Bert Davenport, Barb Baldus, Jan Knope, Gerry Sharrar, Lil and Bob Burby, Cathy and Jim Gagalis, Carol Jones, Soni Hargrove, Thelma Rice, Jane Finkbeiner, and Joan Hardy.

To borrow a line from Tiny Tim in the old story, A Christmas Carol, - "God bless them, every one!"

Nikki Oberholtzer's Mission Trip January 3 – 12, 2012

As Nikki makes her final preparations to leave for her team's mission trip to Kenya, she is exceedingly grateful for all of the thoughts, prayers, and donations thus far on this journey. Family, friends, and church-family alike have helped to bring her this far, and she cannot wait to go! She wants to send love and thanks to everyone on this journey with her, and asks as a final request for prayers as her group is in Kenya from January 3rd - 12th. The power of prayer is amazing, and her group needs it to keep safe. Thanks so much and God bless!

Fellowship Committee Plans and Events

Needs for the Saline Evangelical Home Project Underway

The Fellowship Committee will begin a project of 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.

The Saline Evangelical Home collection project will be held from January 8 through February 5. We appreciate your help.

Game Night Planned

You are invited to attend a "Game Night" sponsored by the Fellowship Committee on Saturday, January 28th at 7 p.m. If you have a favorite card or board game that you would like to play, please bring it along. The sky's the limit on Game Night at St. Andrew's! The Committee will provide pop and everyone can bring snacks.

End of the 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 2011. All reports are due in the church office no later than Thursday, December 29, 2011. 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!

2012 Upcoming Monthly Dinners

January, 2012	No Dinner
February 2	Sauerkraut and Knoeffles with Pork
March 1	Corned Beef and Cabbage
April 5	Baked Chicken and Dressing
May 3	Chop Suey and Egg Rolls

December Worship Service Attendance Figures

December, 2011	December, 2010
138	140
142	105
165	130
229 (Christmas Eve)	178 (Christmas Eve)
54	48



December Consistory Committee Meeting Briefing



REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: See attached reports.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Van Slambrook distributed the evaluation form that the Consistory and Pastoral Relations Committee will complete and discuss at the January Meeting. The Church Assessment was also discussed and we are looking to do this in February and it will involve the entire church congregation.

Building & Grounds: Dave reported on the issue of the faucets in the parsonage and will be looking to remedy this issue. Also discussed was the parking lot light and Dave will get a light for replacement but we need to have a boom truck to install it.

Music: Linda reported on the luncheon that the choir provided during the Girl Scout Bazaar and the upcoming Choir Christmas Party.

Old Business: We were able to make an addition \$2,000 payment to the IRS in November.

New Business: Larry's 2012 contract was presented and approved. We have had two requests for use of the Fellowship Hall, one is for Lifeline Screening on April 28 and the other is for a school organization, Girls on the Run. The 2012 Church Calendar of events was reviewed. (Included in this month's Chronicle)

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.

Financial Report, November, 2011

FUNDS AND BALANCES

NOVEMBER 2011

GENERAL

Oct. 31, 2011 Actual Ending Balance \$ 39,049.22

Nov. Income

Giving	\$8,903.00	
Rental	1,060.00	
Monthly Dinner	963.95	
Donation – Thanksgiving Baskets	70.00	
Sauerkraut Supper	54.18	
Donation – The Assembly	77.00	
Hats & Booklets sold	<u>507.00</u>	
Total Income		\$ 11,635.13

Nov. Expenses

Payroll	\$5,281.14	
Payroll Taxes & Processing	870.52	
IRS Payment	2,500.00	
Utilities	1,204.02	
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	953.32	
Office & Supplies	211.73	
Donation - Assembly	77.00	
Donation – Neighbors in Need	149.00	
Thanksgiving Baskets	65.87	
Sauerkraut Supper	1,527.97	
Miscellaneous	<u>28.00</u>	
		\$ 12,868.57

Revenue less Expenses - 1,233.44

Ending Cash Balance 37,815.78

Checks outstanding +3,416.65

Deposit outstanding -2,348.00

Ending Bank Balance-General Fund \$ 38,884.43

OTHER FUNDS

Rental Escrow \$ 1,000.00

Building Fund 1,990.02

Furnace for Parsonage \$3,230.00

Bank Account Balance 11/30/2011 \$ 41,874.45

YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS

GENERAL FUND

Income \$144,438.31

Expenses 131,686.70

Revenue less Expenses \$ +12,751.61

January Stewardship Thoughts

FEASTING ON GRATITUDE

There was a landowner in Napa Valley, California who wanted to plant a vineyard. To make sure there were no unwanted introductions to our ecosystem, these particular vines had to be quarantined for three years. So, the one waiting to plant, and begin the harvest, had to wait three years to even get the vines in the ground. At countless points in the process toward grapes, the key word is patience, and also, a whole lot of care. The bottom line is this: it takes good stewards of the land, the vine, the natural resources, all of it, in order to actually get the fruit, and ultimately the wine. Some vines in the California region are nearly 100 years old. Many who planted them are long gone from this earth, but the vines still bear fruit.

All we have been given in this life is on loan, at best. It is not ours; we will never truly own it. We have it, for whatever reason, in order to care for it as best we can. This is true of everything we, or the bank, says we own, and it is just as true for every relationship we have. We are *stewards* of all of it; called by God to leave the land, our material possessions, our money, and our relationships better than we found them, or they found us. All we now see, hold, and know is God's vineyard, and we are called to tend it, for the one who truly owns it all.

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

January 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 (Fall) clothing can be donated to the Chelsea office as well as any medical equipment. Want to be a volunteer, 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.

Camp Talahi Plans 2012 Reopening

The 2012 Summer Camp at Camp Talahi is being called "Rejoice in New Beginnings."

Do you or your family want to support Camp Talahi for generations to come? Become a member of the Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center. Members will vote on key camp issues and elect board members at the fall Annual Meeting; be recognized on the website and in the Annual Report; and know that they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of kids (and some adults too!) each summer.

There are several membership levels available:

Youth Membership	\$ 50
Individual Membership	\$100
Family Membership	\$250
Hippo Hill Membership	\$500

Donations can be made at any level and will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be made at camptalahi.org or mailed to Bethel UCC, 10425 Bethel Church Road, Manchester, MI 48158. Visit the website at camptalahi.org for more news on Camp Talahi and the upcoming camp season.

January Birthdays

2 - Dolores Kehl	18 - Craig Baldus
3 - Janis Clark	- Marilyn Clark
- Pastor Larry Van Slambrook	19 - Mark Smith
	- Johnny Weber
4 - Jenny Knope	20 - Mark Mesko
- Kent Shafer	21 - Carol Jones
5 - Elaine Milbocker	26 - John Weber
10 - Carol Smith	27 - Mary Dee Heller
12 - Kason VanDoren	- Walter Mayer
13 - Travis Bourdon	
16 - Paula Allison-England	
- Dave Schmoekel	



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

January, 2012

2012 Calendar for St. Andrew's

JANUARY

- 9 Blood Drive
- 16 Elders and Consistory Meeting
- 28 Game Night

FEBRUARY

- 2 Monthly Dinner
- 12 Annual Meeting
- 19 Pancake Breakfast (Fellowship)
- 20 Elders and Consistory Meeting
- 22 Ash Wednesday
- 29 Lenten Service

MARCH

- 1 Monthly Dinner
- 7, 14, 21, 28 Lenten Services
- 18 Fellowship Breakfast
- 19 Elders and Consistory Meeting

APRIL

- 5 Maundy Thursday Services
- 6 Good Friday Service at DUMC
- 8 Easter and Easter Breakfast
- 14 Monthly Dinner
- 16 Blood Drive
- 16 Elders and Consistory Meeting
- 28 Lifeline Screening

MAY

- 3 Monthly Dinner
- 5 Annual Quilt Show
- 12 Afternoon Tea
- 19- 20 Relay for Life
- 20 Confirmation
- 21 Elders and Consistory Meeting

JUNE

- 8-9 Rummage Sale
- 18 Elders and Consistory Meeting

JULY

- 15 Church Picnic
- 16 Elders and Consistory Meeting

AUGUST

- 2 Ice Cream Social
- 20 Elders and Consistory Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Monthly Dinner
- 17 Elders and Consistory Meeting

OCTOBER

- 4 Monthly Dinner
- 14 Homecoming Sunday
- 15 Elders and Consistory Meeting
- 18 Sauerkraut Supper

NOVEMBER

- 1 Monthly Dinner
- 4 Memorial Sunday
- 11 Veterans' Day Remembrance
- 19 Elders and Consistory Meeting

DECEMBER

- 6 Monthly Dinner
- 16 Budget Meeting
- 17 Elders and Consistory Meeting
- 21 Blue Christmas
- 24 Christmas Eve Services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 10 am: Gentle Pilates Class	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	5 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 3 pm : Ladies Bible Study	6	7 11 am: Memorial Service for Tim Tomshany
8 8:30 and 10 am Worship Services 11:30 am: Con--firmation Class	9 11:30 am: Gentle Pilates Class 1-7 pm: ARC Blood Drive	10 10 am: Gentle Pilates Class 6-10 pm: LaCrosse Meeting	11 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	12 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting Group 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study	13	14 11-5: Marshall Family Event in Fellowship Hall
15 8:30 and 10 am Worship Services 11:30 am: Con--firmation Class	16 6 p.m. Elders Meet 7 p.m. Consistory Comm. Meets	17 10 am: Gentle Pilates Class	18 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	19 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study	20	21
22 8:30 and 10 am Worship Services 11:30 am: Con--firmation Class	23 Noon: Gentle Pilates Class	24 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	25 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	26 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study	27	28 7 pm: Game Night
29 8:30 and 10 am: Worship Services 11:30 am: Con--firmation Class	30 Noon: Gentle Pilates Class	31 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates Class				

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

7610 Ann Arbor Street

Dexter, Michigan 48130