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**St. Andrew's United Church of Christ**

7610 Ann Arbor Street  
Dexter, Michigan 48130

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email: [standrews@provide.net](mailto:standrews@provide.net)  
website: [www.standrewsdexter.org](http://www.standrewsdexter.org)

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** 9:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

**Sunday School** during 10:15 a.m. services

**Nursery Available** during 10:15 a.m. services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.

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**TO EVERY PERSON IN THE HOME OF:**

**January 2008**

**Dated Material**

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**St. Andrew's Chronicle**

— January, 2008 —

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***Jubilee and the Gift of God's Love***

In Leviticus 25 and 27 there is an interesting idea: the year of the Jubilee. The Bible commands us to celebrate Jubilees once every fifty years. One author concisely summed up this idea when he wrote,

The Jubilee Year ... (had) two primary functions. It effected the automatic release or emancipation of a Jew who... had at some moment within the preceding forty-nine years become enslaved to a fellow Jew, and likewise the automatic release or return (of property) to the original owner or his family... which had been sold to a fellow Jew during the course of a similar forty-nine-year period. (*J. Morgenstern, "Jubilee, Year of," The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Nashville: Abingdon, 1962.*)

Obviously, a literal interpretation of the Year of the Jubilee makes it a moot issue for us. However, a spiritual Year of Jubilee is of great necessity for all of us today; that is, a year when we can forgive both ourselves and others. Before we can progress spiritually in any way, we have to deal with our own baggage. We all have made mistakes. We all have been like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In one way or another, we have all failed to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Classically, the Church has called this sin. We are all sinners, yet Christ died for our sins, and we need to accept this forgiveness by letting go of our own sins. God has forgiven us; we need to forgive ourselves. Once we have personally accepted the loving forgiveness of God in Christ, then we need to forgive others who have wronged us.

All of this sounds nice, especially coming from your Pastor. But the reality is that it is very hard to do. The first step is changing your perspective and replacing it with the perspective Paul takes. Paul sees

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God's love for us as a gift. Just as with earthly gifts, this heavenly gift should be graciously accepted. When we do not feel worthy and are getting down on ourselves, we need to remind ourselves that God thinks we are special, and not just special, but loved very deeply by God. When we get down on ourselves, we need to unwrap God's gift of love to us. This can be done by thinking about that older person who loved you as a child no matter what you did (or that dream you had of someone loving you unconditionally). Multiply that love by the biggest number you know, and it is less than God's love! What a wonderful gift God has given us, indeed! No matter how down we get about ourselves, God's gift is there for us. God never has second thoughts about taking the gift back, even when we have second thoughts about ourselves.

Picture, in your mind's eye, the gift of God's love to you. What size box would you picture holding God's love for you? How would it be wrapped? Would it make noise when you shook it? Experience again the excitement you had as a child when you unwrapped a gift. That excitement can be yours all over again if you open God's gift of love to you.

Now picture being the person to give the gift of God's love to someone who really needs it. Who would that be? Who is the person you dislike the most? That is the person who needs the gift the most! What size box would you need? How would you wrap the box? When would you give it to them? After picturing all of this, figure out a way to do just this. It may be difficult, but your soul will be better for it, and you will be creating a Jubilee Year not only for them but for yourself also!

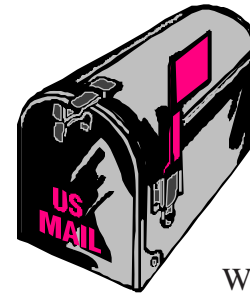
As we begin the new year, let us make it a "Year of Spiritual Jubilee" as we unwrap the gift of God's love for us and then as we become the bearers of God's love to others, especially to those who are unlovable from our current, earthly perspective.

*Dr. Bob*

## 2008 Giving Envelopes Ready for Distribution

**Individual giving envelopes for 2008** are available for pick up in the fellowship hall. The envelopes are in alphabetical order for your convenience. In an effort to keep postage costs to a minimum, we need your help to distribute them. **Please retrieve your envelopes and the envelopes assigned to family members or neighbors who have not yet done so.**

Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.



### *Thank You, St. Andrew's!*

A huge thank you for the turkey and boxes of food given to our family during the Thanksgiving holidays! It is wonderful to see how much the church and community helps others!

With much thanks and love.

### **Chronicle Staff and Contributors**

**Editor:**

Ray Lowery

**Contributors:**

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Pati Wheeler

Marie Pleuss

Dr. Bob Summers

## *Men's Bible Study*

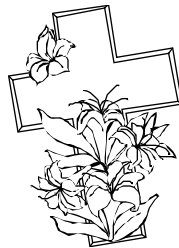
Attention, gentlemen: We are now offering a bible study for men only, on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. This joins our other bible study opportunities:

- Women's bible study on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
- Adult (men and women) study group Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Women's bible study on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

## *Deaths*

### **November 6, 2007**

James M. Deimen, Ph.D., J.D., age 69, passed away at Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jim was a patent, trademark, and copyright attorney and a professional engineer. He was a member of many distinguished Associations at the local, state, and national levels. Many will remember Jim as the "table caller and host" at past sauerkraut suppers, a job he did very well in his trademark orange suit coat. A funeral service to celebrate his life was held here on Friday, November 9 and was officiated by Dr. Bob Summers. Jim will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to work with him and enjoy his friendship.



### **December 9, 2007**

Sandra Anne Mitchell, age 53, passed away with her family and friends by her side. Sandy was a devoted Sunday School teacher at St. Andrew's for a number of years before her battle with cancer began. Sandy is survived by her parents Harold and Ann Nabb, her three daughters Jaclyn Mitchell, Stephanie Mitchell, and Kimberly (Joe) Valentine and two grandsons, Brendon Benedict and Caleb Valentine. Funeral services were held at Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel and were officiated by Rev. O'Dell.

## *Game Night*

On **Saturday, January 12** at 7:00 p.m. the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will host a Game Night for members of the congregation of all ages. Come to the Fellowship Hall and bring cards, games you want to play, and a snack. Feel free to invite guests – the more, the merrier! Let's start the New Year off with some fun!! Beverages will be provided by the Committee.

## *2008 Pledge Responses Needed*

**Please return your 2008 pledge sheet as soon as possible.** You can place it in the offering plate, in Pati's mailbox outside the church office, or mail it to: St. Andrew's U.C.C., 7610 Ann Arbor Street, Dexter, MI 48130. It is most helpful to have an idea of our anticipated income for the coming year.

Please note that your pledge sheet is not a binding agreement and can be modified should your circumstances change during the year. Thank you in advance for your assistance in the budget planning process and for your continued financial support of our church.

## *Christmas Poinsettias Need a Home!*

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Christmas poinsettia that decorated the sanctuary on Sunday, December 23 and at both services on Christmas Eve. If you purchased a poinsettia and have not yet taken it home, please feel free to take your plant home after Sunday morning worship services or stop by the church office between regular office hours to retrieve your plant.





## Baptism

December 23, 2007

KaleighAnn Newkirk received the Sacrament of Infant Baptism during the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Kaleigh is the daughter of Adam and Julie (nee Smith) Newkirk of Lewis Center, Ohio. Kaleigh was born on March 22, 2007. Mark Smith and Debra Albinson served as Kaleigh's sponsors. Kaleigh's grandparents are Mary and Lester Newkirk and Gerry and Barbara Smith. Her proud great-grandmother is Doris Smith.

## Top Ten Predictions for 2008

Submitted by Betty Jo Stendel

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

## Thank You, St. Andrew's!

Thank you to all members of the congregation who purchased the Commemorative St. Andrew's ornaments. This was a very successful sale and we'll always have this ornament signifying our anniversary celebration.

## Sweet Thanks

Thank you to all who made cookies, packaged them, and sold them. We appreciate also those that supported this event by purchasing cookies. Many thanks to Betty Lesser for coming up with the idea of making German heritage cookies and organizing the entire event.

## January Birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 - Dolores Kehl  |   |
| 3 - Janis Clark   |   |
| 4 - Jenny Deanhofer<br>- Rob Pettigrew<br>- Kent Shafer             |   |
| 5 - Elaine Milbocker  |   |
| 7 - Norwin Elsasser   |   |
| 10 - Carol Smith  |   |
| 12 - Kason VanDoren   |   |
| 13 - Travis Bourdon   |   |
| 16 - PaulaAllison-England<br>- Beverly Ledwidge<br>- Dave Schmoekel |   |
| 18 - Craig Baldus<br>- Marilyn Clark                                |   |
| 19 - Ryan Mosher<br>- Mark Smith                                    | 20 - Mark Mesko                         |
|   | 21 - Carol Jones                        |
|   | 23 - Colleen Bigelow                    |
|   | 25 - John Murphy                        |
|   | 26 - Nicholas Strudgeon<br>- John Weber |
|   | 27 - Mary Dee Heller<br>- Walter Mayer  |
|   | 28 - Coleen Tomshany                    |
|   | 31 - Scott Erdman<br>- Brandon Wing     |

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

## *A Letter From Gudeta*

*This letter was received from our sponsored child Gudeta Roba, who we were recently notified has malaria. Our prayers and best wishes go out to him and his family.*

Dear St. Andrew's United Church of Christ Members,

How are you and your entire families keeping? It is my fervent prayer that this finds you all healthy and happy there. I and my family are safe here by the grace of God and your blessings.

Next to this, I want to bring to you notice that I have received \$75.00 which you sent concerning my birthday through the CCF that has brought great joy and pleasure to me and my family. I extend my heartiest thanks for your blessed provisions.

The sum of money reached here late after the occasion of my birthday. Two rearing goats were purchased for your remembrance. The remaining sum of money as my parents were in a financial fix to buy seeds for sowing, so we used it to buy the seeds.

Here it is the rainy season which runs from June to September. We and other farmers are busy plowing our fields and in sowing different kinds of crops.

We have finished our second semester final exams. Schools are closed for vacation for two months. Hope you will receive my result through the CCF in the future.

The meadows and the hills are green. Animals get good grazing. Hope we shall communicate in our next letter and wish may God keep you in His loving care.

Your sponsored child,

*Gudeta Roba*

## *Coffee Hour Schedule*



Listed below are the dates and hosts/hostesses for upcoming coffee hours. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, but would like to be "paired" with someone else, please contact the church office for more information.

Sunday, January 13	9:00 a.m. (none yet)
	10:15 a.m. Barb & Earl Affholter Ron & Judy Dioszegi
Sunday, January 20	9:00 a.m. (none yet)
	10:15 a.m. Elaine Owsley
Sunday, January 27	9:00 a.m. (none yet)
	10:15 a.m. Jan Knope

## *Letter From Iraq*

Our youth group has received a letter from the new unit of soldiers to whom we have been sending packages! The youth group would like to thank you for your continued donations. As you can see, it is a blessing to the soldiers to receive a little bit of home:

On behalf of the 54<sup>th</sup> MP Company I would like to say thank you! Thank you for your thoughts and efforts as you prepared the boxes. I would especially like to thank Nicole, Emily, Emily, Alyssa, Barb, Joanne, Earl and Denise. I am going to share these boxes with my soldiers. The goodies inside will bring a smile to their faces. Many of my soldiers work long hours and are exhausted when they return to the base. These goodies will be a welcome surprise. Again, thank you. I very much appreciate it. Warm wishes during this holiday season.

*Capt. Campbell*

# January 2008

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b> New Year's Day Office Closed	<b>2</b> 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. Glen Geer Square Dancing
<b>6</b> 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 2:00 p.m. Youth Ice Skating Party	<b>7</b> 11:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. All Committee Night	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Child Choir 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. Piece- makers Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 p.m. Family Game Night
<b>13</b> 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 7:00 p.m. Youth Mtg.	<b>14</b> 7:00 p.m. 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	<b>15</b> 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Curriculum Planning	<b>16</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Child Choir 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Piece- makers Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 p.m. Glen Geer Square Dancing
<b>20</b> 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 7:00 p.m. Modern Worship / Youth	<b>21</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Consistory	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Child Choir 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. Piece- makers Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	<b>25</b> < - - - - - Youth at (Return	<b>26</b> Noon - Sarah Even Baby Shower Spring Hill - - - - -> Sunday, 1/27)
<b>27</b> 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 11:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Child Choir 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	<b>31</b> 9:00 a.m. Piece- makers Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study		