
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 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:

March 2008

Dated Material

St. Andrew's Chronicle

— March, 2008 —

Death Has Lost Its Sting

During February I did two funerals. One was for a 48-year-old and the other was for a 58-year-old. My age is between these two ages (I'm 52 going on 53 next month), so these deaths strikes close to home for me.

Some people have said to me that it must be hard doing funerals. Yes and no. Yes, it is hard, especially when it strikes close to home, for whatever reason. But at the same time, I would also say, no, it is not hard. I am the one who gets to bring hope, even into situations like these when they were ones that go against the natural order by having parents bury their child rather than us older folk having to bury our even older parents.

I cannot imagine what it would be like if there were not that cold cup of water the Gospel provides in those who are parched by the desert of death. If we were just left with knowledge and logic, death would be unbearable. It would blacken our whole life. But with the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, death, at best, is the darkness of an eclipse, where light will return. To be sure, we will not ever forget our loved one, but there is great consolation that, as Paul put in his first letter to the church in Corinth, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55, NIV)

Death has lost its sting. Never are we told in the Bible not to mourn, but we are told not to be afraid of death. With the glorious light of the resurrection on the first Easter morning, death can be seen for what it really is: just a dark shadow that casts itself on us in this world. David used this same image when he wrote, "Yea, though I walk through the

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." (Psalm 23:4a, KJV)

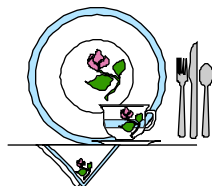
As you can see, there are many images of what death is like from a Christian perspective. The best image is that of Jesus standing in the garden on the first Easter morning, saying to women who had come to prepare his dead body, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Yes, dealing with the loss caused by death can be difficult, but Jesus lightens our burden by preparing a room for us in our God's house (John 14:2).

I hope you will be able to join us on Easter as we thank God for the surprising Good News the empty tomb holds for us, so that your joy may be complete!

Dr. Bob

Join Us For Some Wonderful Dinners



The monthly dinners are always a crowd pleaser! Below is a schedule of the upcoming features through May, 2008:

- March 6:** Corned Beef and Cabbage
- April 3:** Baked Chicken and Dressing
- May 1:** Chop Suey and Egg Rolls

Serving will begin at 5 p.m. and tickets for dine-in and carry out meals will be sold at the door. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for youth ages 5-12, and free for children 4 and under.

Please join us for a tasty meal on the first Thursday of each month.

Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair

The Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair will be held **Saturday, March 15, 2008** at Creekside Intermediate School, 2615 Baker Road, Dexter from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This juried show features over 50 artisans who demonstrate their traditional folk crafts and offer them for sale. Included are weaving, quilting, wool rug hooking, water color, jewelry, wood carving, basket making, spinning, needle felting, and lace making, among others. Musical entertainment and story telling for the children are also included. A lunch will be served at noon by the Dexter Garden Club and a bake sale will be held throughout the morning.

The Fair is sponsored by the Dexter Area Historical Society, and proceeds support the work of the Society and maintenance of the museum. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$.50 for children.

Chronicle Staff and Contributors

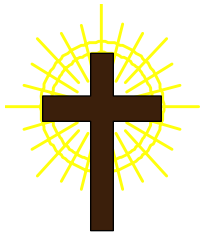
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Pati Wheeler

Steve Lynch
Dr. Bob Summers
Youth Group



Deaths

Robert Allen Marble, age 48, passed away unexpectedly on February 1, 2008. Rob was employed as a State Police Trooper at the Wayland Post 56. Robert is survived by his wife, Deborah

Marble of Manistee; two sons, Brandon and Jason Marble of Manistee; three step-children, Hunter, Hannah, and Haydyn Willey; brother, David (Laurie) Marble of Gaines, MI; and two sisters, Nancy (Randall) Collins of Harpers Ferry, WV and Patricia Marble of Chelsea. Dr. Summers conducted the funeral service held here on Saturday, February 9. Burial followed in the St. Andrew's Cemetary.

Paula Mae Scherdt, age 58, passed away on February 7, 2008. She is survived by two sons, Brian (Melissa) and Keith (Brian Hill); her grandchildren, Will, Evan, and Ben; her sister, June Rose Neigum; and brother, Paul Guenther. Dr. Summers officiated at the funeral service held at St. Andrew's on February 12, followed by burial in the St. Andrew's Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both families in their time of loss.

Thank You, St. Andrew's!

Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered, and your prayers as well. Thank you, St. Andrew's!

Special thanks to Cheryl Oberholtzer for the ride up and for staying the night. Also to Kevin Wheeler and Peggy Otto for the ride home, and to Bob & Donna Kaercher and Ginny Weber for the use of their vans.

*Youth Group
2008 Springhill Trip*

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer worship service will be held here at St. Andrew's church on **Friday, March 7** beginning at 10:00 a.m. The World Day of Prayer offers the opportunity for Christians of all denominations to gather together in prayer and worship. Please see the enclosed flyer for additional information and mark your calendar to attend this ecumenical event.

Don't Forget!



Just a reminder that we will "spring forward" on **Saturday, March 8**. This is the unfortunate time of the year when we lose an hour.

Easter Lilies

St. Andrew's will be selling Easter Lilies this year, to be given in loving memory or in honor of an individual. The lilies are available for \$15 each and will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning. Just fill out the order form accompanying this newsletter and drop it off in the church office by **Friday, March 15**.

Church Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on **Monday, March 24, 2008**. The staff work many extra hours preparing for Easter celebrations, and they are taking a well-deserved day off. The answering machine will be on and checked periodically throughout the day for matters requiring urgent and immediate attention. Thank you for your understanding.



Holy Week Schedule



March 16 - *Palm Sunday*

9:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services

Palms will be distributed at both services. Please keep them in your home until next year. Return them to the church next year, a week or two before Lent. The palms will then be burned and the ashes used at the imposition of ashes service on Ash Wednesday, 2006.

March 20 - *Maundy Thursday*

7:00 p.m. - Worship Service and the Office of the Tenebrae
“Tenebrae” means “darkness” and is adapted from ancient Tenebrae services from the 7th or 8th century. It is a service of worship that moves from light to darkness, the fading light symbolizing the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The sacrament of Holy Communion is received at this service.

March 21 - *Good Friday*

12:15 p.m. - Community Good Friday Worship Service

This year’s Community Good Friday Worship Service will be held at **St. Joseph Catholic Church** on Mast Road. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meaningful worship service. This event is sponsored by the Dexter Ministerial Association.

March 23 - *Easter Sunday*

7:00 a.m. - Easter Early Service* -
Communion of the Living Service
8:00 a.m. - Easter Breakfast
10:15 a.m. - Easter Morning Worship Service*

*The sacrament of Holy Communion is received at both Easter Sunday services. There are no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Elise Blacklaw | 21 - Joe Weber |
| - Bert Davenport | 22 - Dan Baldus |
| - Jim Kaercher | - Margaret Barrett |
| - Avis Spike | - Kyle Jones |
| 4 - Art Cobb | 24 - Laura Mace |
| - Selma Mast | 25 - Judi Stoll |
| - Don Stoll | - Frances York |
| 5 - Austin Clark | 26 - Catherine Graham |
| 8 - Tim DeGraff | 27 - Ray Even |
| 9 - Bob Mast | - Sarah Krips |
| - Julie Summers | 30 - Ray Boggs |
| 10 - Laura Elsasser | 31 - Lisa Blacklaw |
| - Virginia Weber | - Neil Scherdt |
| 11 - Carolyn Curts | |
| 12 - Ashley Clark | |
| - Bob Kaercher | |
| 13 - Pat Chabot | |
| 14 - Nick Bensinger | |
| 20 - Linda Elsasser | |



If your birthday is in March but isn’t listed,
please contact the church office so we can update our records.

Ushers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to assist with ushering duties at funeral services here at St. Andrew's. The duties would be similar to the ushering duties we do during worship service, such as handing out bulletins, assisting with seating, assisting with directions to the elevator and restrooms, etc. You would be there to help out and represent the church.

The ideal candidates would be available during weekday hours, but we encourage anyone to volunteer as some funerals are held on the weekends. If you are interested please contact Steve Lynch at (734) 424-9098 or Pati Wheeler at (734) 426-8610.

Consistory Members Elected for 2008

The following is a list of the current members of the Consistory Committee for 2008:

<i>Rev. Bob Summers</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
<i>Scott Marshall</i>	<i>Deacon and President</i>
<i>Steve Lynch</i>	<i>Elder, Vice President, Usher Committee</i>
<i>Laura Keefer</i>	<i>Deacon and Treasurer</i>
<i>Cheryl Oberholtzer</i>	<i>Deacon and Consistory Secretary</i>
<i>Barb Affholter</i>	<i>Deacon, Fellowship Committee</i>
<i>Betty Davenport</i>	<i>Deacon, Outreach Committee</i>
<i>Rudy Gustafson</i>	<i>Deacon</i>
<i>Jim Kaercher</i>	<i>Deacon, Building & Grounds</i>
<i>Ray Lowery</i>	<i>Deacon, Christian Education</i>
<i>Erika Nestor</i>	<i>Deacon, Youth Representative</i>
<i>Elaine Owsley</i>	<i>Deacon, Public Relations</i>
<i>Phil Stendel</i>	<i>Deacon, Music Committee</i>
<i>Gerri VanDoren</i>	<i>Elder, Outreach Committee</i>
<i>Ginny Weber</i>	<i>Elder, Good Shepherds Committee</i>

What's Coming Up in Sunday School!

Each month we are writing letters and drawing pictures to send to our friends in Africa and to our shut-ins here at home.

Beginning on March 9 our Sunday School will be focusing on the story of Easter and the events leading up to it. We will be celebrating the Last Supper with a Passover feast; we are going to have an Easter egg hunt and dye Easter eggs; and of course we will hear the story of Easter!

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, March 23.

On March 30 there will be activities which will help us learn about the Resurrection of Jesus.

In April Mary, the mother of Jesus, is going to be telling us stories about Jesus when He was growing up, and there will be lots of activities!

Coffee Hour Coverage



Coffee hours are a great source of fellowship after each worship service on Sunday mornings. We are in need of volunteers to host a number of coffee hours during the month of March, 2008. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Marshall at 426-4362.

Date	9:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Sunday, March 2	Volunteers Needed	Audrey Marshall
Sunday, March 9	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Sunday, March 16	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Sunday, March 23	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Sunday, March 30	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed



March 2008



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 11:30 a.m. Jr. Choir 7:00 p.m. Youth Mtg.	3 7:00 p.m. All Committee Night Meetings	4	5 1 p.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	6 9:00 a.m. Quilting 3:00 p.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Monthly Dinner	7 World Day of Prayer 9:45 a.m. Greeting 10 a.m. Worship Svc. at St. Andrew's	1 / 8 1) 7 p.m. - Glen Geer Sq. Dance 8) 7 p.m. - Family Game Night
9 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 11:30 a.m. Jr. Choir 7:00 p.m. Youth Mtg.	10 7:00 p.m. 125 th Anniversary Committee Mtg.	11	12 1 p.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	13 9:00 a.m. Piece- Maker's Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	14	15 7:00 p.m. Glen Geer Square Dancing
16 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 7:00 p.m. Modern Worship / Youth	17 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Consistory	18 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Curriculum Meeting	19 1 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Jr. Choir 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	20 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Worship Service	21 Good Friday 12:15 p.m. Worship Service at St. Joseph Catholic Church	22
23 Easter 7:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 8:00 a.m. Breakfast	24 Office Closed	25	26 1 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Jr. Choir 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir	27 9:00 a.m. Piece- Maker's Quilting 3:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	28	29
30 9:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship Services 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting	31					