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**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:**

**May 2007**

**Dated Material**

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**St. Andrew's Chronicle**

— May, 2007 —

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***A Message From the Pastor***

We often talk about our church as a family. We celebrate with each other. We mourn with each other. We love each other. Seeing the church as a family is a wonderful analogy. Even if you are an orphan, here in the church you are a member of a large, extended family.

However, we all know that there are often problems in families. When children misbehave, we say, "No!" We might disagree nowadays on punishment, with some believing in spanking and others preferring timeout. But no matter what, we all can agree that when children misbehave, we need to say, "No!"

It is not surprising, nor a new idea, that there can be people in churches who create problems. If that problem were a child misbehaving in a destructive manner, most of us would not hesitate to say, "No!" But what if that child is in an adult body? When we don't say "No!" to destructive behavior of church adults when they act like children, we set the stage for dysfunctional behavior. Too often we are held hostage by our own worry that the person might leave the church. So the dysfunctional behavior is not only ignored but over time it is perpetuated. Then we wonder why visitors do not come back. Had we confronted the dysfunctional behavior and kept our church family healthy, we might lose a member, but we will surely gain new members, and these people will be taught by our church family that we do not allow destructive, dysfunctional behavior.

Our church family is housed in God's house, and we need to follow God's rules. Jesus once said to one of his twelve disciples, "Get

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behind me Satan!” If Jesus confronted one of his twelve disciples, why should we not confront dysfunctional behavior?

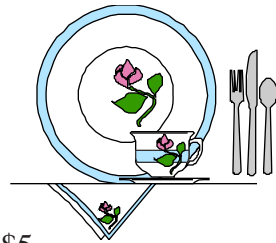
So, what dysfunctional behavior am I naming with this article? None whatsoever! However, I know church families well enough to know that destructive, dysfunctional behavior will always try to creep in. The best prevention is to name the game and empower people to just say “No!”

May we always be a healthy church family!

*Dr. Bob*

## May Monthly Dinner

The May, 2007 monthly dinner will take place on **Thursday, May 3** and features Baked Chicken. Please plan to join us for a great meal at a very reasonable price. Tickets and carry out are available at the door. The cost for a dinner is \$8 per adult (age 13 and above), \$5 for youth (ages 5-12) and free for those 4 and under. This will be the last monthly dinner before the summer break. Dinners will resume Thursday, September 6.



## Quilt Show

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual St. Andrew’s Quilt Show will take place on **Saturday, May 6**. The Piecemakers quilting group has been working long and hard on this event, and it’s sure to be very enjoyable. Come see the wonderful quilts, many of which are family heirlooms, and buy a raffle ticket to get a chance to win a handmade quilt, lovingly made by the Piecemakers, for your own family.

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The true flourishing of your relationship as Pastor and congregation lies in the mutual recognition of the truth that the ministry of this church belongs to each and every person in this community. I promise you that the moment you decide to rely on him for all of the workings of this church is the moment it will fail to function as the body of Christ.

There is far more that I, as a Minister, could say to a congregation welcoming a new Minister. I could remind you to give him room to breathe, forgiveness when he falls short, and opportunities to flourish. I could go on and on about things that congregations are called to give to their Pastors. But, for the sake of not getting him into trouble for bringing in a speaker who rambled forever – consider yourself reminded. Consider yourself reminded that as much as we install him as your Pastor and Teacher today, we install each of you as ministers of this church. As much as we charge him to carry forth God’s work through the ministries of St. Andrews, we charge of you with the duty of walking beside him every step of the way. Because, the true body of Christ is the one in which “the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

## Chronicle Staff and Contributors

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body, we have to include him in the discussion. Pray! Pray for each other, pray for your church, pray for your community, and pray for your Minister. God cannot answer our calls and our questions if we do not take the time to ask them.

Second, using the language of this passage from Ephesians, bear with him. My earliest memory of Bob dates back to when I was five or six years old and he was serving as an intern at the church my father was serving in New Jersey. He did a lot of work with children at the time, and to this day I can picture him walking down the stairs in the front entry of the church wearing jeans and a Mickey Mouse t-shirt. Now, you have to understand that the other role model for ministry I had at the time, my father, had a coat and tie on for dinner every evening. Bob's approach was somewhat different. I didn't realize it at the time, but Bob was teaching me a valuable lesson that there are different ways to do ministry, and different times to do them. Sometimes he will meet every expectation you have, act in the way you expect and do the things you believe he should do. Other times he'll be doing things that you can't believe, and asking things of you that you can't imagine. When you're on the same page, and more so when you're not, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." As he strives to care for each of you, give him the room to lead in ways that you've never seen before. That is, of course, the very nature of the Gospel.

Finally, join him. If there is anything that comes clear in these Pauline images of the body of Christ, it is the fundamental conviction of the ministry of all believers. Contrary to popular opinion, Dr. Summers is not the minister of this church. He's the ordained minister – the one set aside by training and vocation to lead this flock in service – but he is not the only one with a call, he is not the only one with a responsibility to serve, and he is but first among equals in a body ordained for Christ's service. The work of this church is not his ministry, it is yours.

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## Christian Education News

Some great things are "springing" up here at St. Andrew's:

In our next rotation in Sunday School, April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be talking about **Forgiveness**. You won't want to miss this one! Jesus says we should forgive seventy times seven! Do you know how many times that is?? Does anyone know?? There will be a puppet show, an art project and a snack.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, **Mother's Day**, we'll be making a great present for our moms!

Also this Mother's Day, our **St. Andrew's Sonshine Singers** will be singing during the 10:15 worship service. You won't want to miss this special presentation by our Sunday School.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> we will be sailing off into a 4 week adventure with **Noah and the Ark!** We'll be making a mural with all of the animals you can think of, creating a snack, making an art project and watching a movie about Noah and his ark.

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, our youth group will welcome Lieutenant Colonel Bill Hargrove to our fellowship for the evening. We are looking forward to this informative time of sharing and are grateful for his willingness to spend this time with us.

## Bible Riddles

Q: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Q: Who was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A: Moses. He broke all 10 Commandments at once.

Q: Which individual in the Bible had no parents?

A: Joshua, son of Nun.

## *How to Make It Your Worship Service*

Too often worship services are seen as a play in a theater. The clergy and choir are up front. They put on a performance for the audience we call the congregation. With this perspective, the clergy and choir are judged.



Søren Kierkegaard(1) challenged this idea by suggesting that in the drama of worship the congregation is on the stage with the worship leaders and choir in the wings as prompters. And, yes, you guessed it - God is the audience. To be sure, God is not a passive observer in worship. To see it this way would be to go the opposite extreme. Worship is our encounter with God. However, since our places of worship are too often set up like a theater, Kierkegaard's point is well taken.

Thus, it is that we are seeking those with the gift of reading in front of people to prompt us in worship by reading the Responsive Reading and the Scripture Lesson. With a large pool of people, any one person will only read a few times a year. We will mail you a copy of the Scripture Lesson and Responsive Reading early in the week so you can be prepared.

If you are interested, please give you name, address and which worship you attend to the church office, dropping it off or calling it in. Thanks! :-)

(1) Søren Kierkegaard, *Purity of Heart*, pp. 180-81 (SV XII114-15); reprinted in *Parables of Kierkegaard*, Thomas C. Oden, ed.

## *Charge to the Congregation*

*Editor's Note: For those not able to attend Dr. Summers' installation service on April 22, the ceremony included a message from Rev. Marty Hall, who started by reading from Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-16. I wanted to include the rest of his message here, so all of us can benefit from it.*

OK, let's start by dispelling a few very popular misconceptions about a service of installation.

1. This day is not all about Dr. Summers and no one else.
2. We are not here, today, to install him as the minister of this church.
3. The commitments made today are not just those of the newly called Pastor of your congregation.

I am the one who has been given the privilege of reminding all of you that this is not a one-sided covenant or a one-way relationship. I am the one who gets to share, as a Minister myself, that the ministries of a church are not a function of the Pastor alone. I am the one here to jump up in the middle of the celebration and say, 'Hold on now! Let's not forget that the ministries of this church belong to the church..' The simple truth is, as we celebrate today, the members of this church take on as much responsibility as anyone else – including Dr. Summers – but there are three things I really want you to remember.

First, and foremost, pray. Pray fervently, pray often, pray with him and for him. We love to talk, in the mainline Protestant church, about letting God guide our communities of faith. For those of us rooted in the tenets of the Congregational Way, we love to proclaim how our commitment to freedom allows Christ to serve his rightly role as the head of the church. All the while, we consistently fail to actually bring him into the conversation. If we are going to be the Body of Christ, if we are going to allow Christ to serve his rightly role as the head of that

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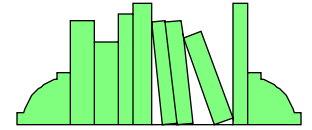
## May Birthdays

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 - Dick Berner       | 18 - Martha Krips     |
| 3 - Joshua Gustafson  | - Denise Marshall     |
| - Lori Jackson        | - Julie Nixon         |
| 4 - Jeff Bourdon      | 19 - Bill Marshall    |
| - Kelly Chalou        | 21 - Phil Hampton     |
| 5 - Nicole Cromwell   | - Frank Slavik        |
| - Eva Slavik          | 22 - Gerry Sharrar    |
| 12 - Shawna Shafer    | 23 - Carol Breuninger |
| 13 - Erika Ganzhorn   | - Christine Hart      |
| - Kim Mitchell        | 24 - Donna Gregory    |
| 15 - Margaret Gilbert | - Melissa Stapish     |
| 16 - Sherie Stacey    | 26 - Emily Hampton    |
| - Dan Tomshany        | 27 - Sarah Scherdt    |
|                       | 29 - Ray Chlebek      |
|                       | 31 - Terra Even       |
|                       | - John Leverett       |

## More Bible Riddles

- Q: Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?  
A: Sampson. He brought the house down.
- Q: Who was the greatest male financier in the Bible?  
A: Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?  
A: The pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

## Annual St. Andrew's Rummage Sale / Bake Sale



It's time to start thinking about items to set aside for St. Andrew's annual Rummage Sale. The sale will be **Friday, June 8** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and **Saturday, June 9** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be accepting donations starting **Sunday, June 3**.

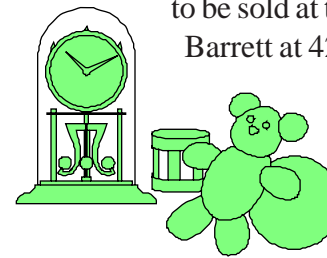
We need adults' and children's clothing in *good, clean condition*, shoes, purses, household items, dishes, books, tools, games, toys, trinkets, small working electrical appliances, yard goods, bicycles, end tables, desks, chairs, sofas, curtains, baby items, computers and printers, etc.

*No* large appliances (like stoves, refrigerators, washers, or dryers), please! Also, please *don't* donate mattresses, box springs, doors, tires, or propane tanks.

Your contributions to the rummage sale are tax-deductible. If you would like a written receipt, please jot down the items you have and make your request known when you drop the items off. We are happy to provide you with this documentation.

Items not sold by Saturday afternoon are donated to Purple Heart. If you have questions, please contact the rummage sale chairperson, Julie Summers, at 253-2199 or the Church office at 426-8610.

In addition to the rummage sale, we will also be having a bake sale and luncheon both days. If you are able to provide a baked item to be sold at the bake sale, please contact Margaret Barrett at 426-8100.



A special thank you to Julie Summers for volunteering to coordinate the rummage sale, and to Margaret Barrett and Joyce Waggoner for coordinating the bake sale.

## *Reaching Out...*

Most of us are familiar with Habitat for Humanity - perhaps you have even helped on one of their building projects. Their mission is to enrich the whole community through a legacy of affordable homeownership.

Now, they have another way to provide funds and to help others. It is the Habitat for Humanity ReStore - a warehouse operated by Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, located at 170 April Drive, Suite A, just off Jackson Road between Zeeb and Wagner in Scio Township.

ReStore accepts new and gently used building materials and home goods in 100% working order from retail businesses, business close-outs, contractors, builders, suppliers, remodelers, property manager and the general public. They then offer them for sale at the warehouse to provide the community with high quality materials at reasonable prices to improve and REBUILD existing housing. The plan also recycles resources and brings in money to help build more houses.

You can help by purchasing new and gently used building materials and home goods from the warehouse at 50-75% off retail. Making a tax-deductible donation of goods you no longer want or need in your home or business or volunteering at the warehouse as a warehouse organizer/stocker/ truck driver or clerical/office worker.

Let's say, hypothetically, you wanted crown molding in your living room and your husband brought several 12 foot lengths home which you didn't like. Suppose he said he didn't want to take them back and eventually you got some you DID like and the other stuff was just hanging around. You call the warehouse and they come pick it up and sell it to someone who is happy to have it. It is a win-win situation, right?

All kinds of materials are available. A friend of ours visited the warehouse and found the temptation almost more than she could resist to

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buy all kinds of things - Appliances less than five years old, architectural items like columns, mantle pieces, cabinet sets; flooring, doors, wire, switches, outlets; paint and stain finished in unopened cans. plumbing material, lumber, lighting, windows, roofing materials and gutters, furniture, tools and outdoor lawn equipment; wallpaper, tools, kitchen items: the list goes on and on.

Visit the warehouse or call and ask them for a complete list so you can donate as you do your spring cleaning. You know you have always meant to clean out that workshop or garage or basement. This is a good deed you can do and have a neater house - it's a win-win for everyone.

ReStore-Rebuild-Recycle with Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley.  
Call (734) 822-1530.

## *Thank You For Your Generosity*

We recently received another letter from the soldiers stationed in Iraq to whom we have been sending "goodie boxes." Thanks to all of you who continue to support us in this youth ministry. Here is the letter:

"To My Kids at St. Andrew's United Church of Christ Youth Group,

We received your boxes of goodies! Thank you so much for the videos and snacks. It is nice to be able to sit down and take a break from all of the danger we face here and watch a movie with friends. And all the snacks make it feel like we are at the theater back home!

Thank you so much for thinking about us! Your thoughts and prayers are much appreciated!

Your friend,

Captain Ken Middaugh"