
St. Andrew's Chronicle

November, 2011



Thanksgiving Message from Pastor Larry

In Psalm 113 David wrote *“Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. ²Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. ³From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the Lord is to be praised. ⁴The Lord is exalted over all the nations, His glory above the heavens.”* (Psalm 113:1-4).

These words of David are **positive words** expressing **positive faith** and **positive trust** in the Lord! David didn't say that a person should wait until everything is going well in his or her life to offer praise to God. He asserts that *“from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the Lord is to be praised.”* Praise is to be given to the Lord in all circumstances *“both now and forevermore.”*

When we give thanks and praise to God several things are happening. **First, we are focusing on the positive—not the negative.** To focus on God is a positive! Why? Because the Lord is able to handle any situation we may be facing. He can help us, guide us, give us strength and see us through! He is truly able to supply every need we have in whatever circumstance we may find ourselves.

As humans our natural inclination seems to be to focus on the negative. We all are capable of easily drifting into negativity—complaining, finding fault, looking at the “glass is half empty” side of things. Of course, this plays right into the hands of Satan. **Satan does not want us to focus on the positive—he wants us to focus on the negative.** Satan is delighted when we focus on problems rather than the Lord.

Secondly, when we praise the Lord we are speaking the positive. What we speak has power and impact on our lives. There is power in our words. Speaking negatively brings curses and speaking positively brings blessings! In this regard Paul wrote *“²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”* (Eph. 4:29).

James wrote *“⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”* (James 3:9-10) Speaking negatively opens the door for negative things to come into the lives of others as well as ourselves. Speaking positively opens the door for blessings to come! In other words, what we speak has everything to do with the course of our lives.

Thirdly, praising the Lord is an expression of our faith because we are believing God and praising Him even for what we may not see yet. In Hebrews 11:6 it is written *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”* I think of it this way—faith is the fuel that ignites praise and thanksgiving within us so that it flares up in any situation in which we find ourselves in our lives! I want to encourage you to let positive, faith-filled words of praise and thanksgiving be on your lips each day—including Thanksgiving Day!

A man by the name of Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) wrote the words to the great Thanksgiving hymn "*Now Thank We All Our God.*" Martin was a pastor in Eilenberg, Germany during the 30 Years' War which was a dreadful time. During this time the German population dwindled from 16 million to 6 million. Because Eilenberg was a walled city, it became an over-crowded refuge for those seeking to find a place of safety. Throughout these war years several waves of deadly diseases and famines swept the city and armies marched through leaving death and destruction. The plague of 1637 was severe and at it's height Martin Rinkart was the only minister remaining to care for the sick and dying. He sometimes performed 40 to 50 funerals per day. Yet, despite all of this, he praised God. His faith was so strong that he was moved to write the following:

"Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."

In the midst of a terrible situation Martin Rinkart **focused on the positive, spoke the positive, and expressed his faith in God by praising Him and giving Him thanks! I believe that the Lord would have us approach our lives and the times in which we live in the very same way!**

As we come to this Thanksgiving of 2011 Cora and I are giving thanks and praise to God for His wonderful blessings and the joy of serving Him in your midst! We praise the Lord for each of you individually and for our St. Andrew's church family!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry*

November Monthly Dinner Planned

The November monthly dinner is planned for this Thursday, November 3rd and will feature turkey and all the fixins'. Serving will begin at 5 pm. Tickets for both dine-in and carry out meals will be available at the door for \$8 for an adult meal, \$5 for youth ages 5-12 and free for children 4 and younger. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship and a great meal.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Just a reminder that daylight savings time ends November 6th. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you retire on Saturday evening!

Memorial Sunday Observances

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, we will remember those who have left the Church Militant and entered the Church Triumphant. During this observance, we will honor those who have passed away between November, 2010 - October, 2011. A complete list of those who are remembered will be printed in the December, 2011 *Chronicle*.

Thank you, Veterans!

Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, and those currently serving their country will be honored guests again this year at St. Andrew's United Church of Christ on Sunday, November 13, at 10 a.m. (We will have only one worship service so that we can pay tribute to all of the service persons attending.)

We want to invite all veterans and service personnel to this special event paying tribute to their dedication and sacrifice along with the members of their families as part of Veterans' Day. Girl Scouts of Troop 40513 will be the color guard for the American and Christian flags to begin the program. Veterans will be recognized as they stand at the presentation of the flags of each of the military branches. The anthem of each branch will be played as they are honored.

Patriotic hymns, such as the Battle Hymn of the Republic and others will be sung by the choir and the congregation and a message for the service will be presented by Rev. Larry VanSlambrook.

At the close of the ceremony, taps will be played to honor those veterans no longer with us.

A reception will follow in the fellowship hall. If you know of anyone who might enjoy and find special meaning in this worship service, please invite them to join us. This is our time to say "thank you" to those who so bravely defend the freedom we often take for granted.

Shoebox Ministry

There is a lot of enthusiasm in the air at St. Andrew's surrounding our "shoebox ministry". Thank you. And thank you to all who have already dropped off a shoebox filled with gifts for children around the world this Christmas. There is a display in the narthex with information about this ministry and shoeboxes available to fill if you need them. Filled shoeboxes may also be returned to that table in the narthex. The deadline for this project is November 20th. Pastor Larry will bless the shoeboxes that Sunday before they are taken to the local drop off point in the afternoon. From that location, they will be sent on their way for distribution around the world.

Our prayer is that you are moved to participate in this heartwarming ministry, which, as we saw in a recent video, brings unspeakable joy to children all over the world.

*In Christ,
Joanne Arft*

Thanks to All Who Donated to Missionaries on October 16th Worship Service

On Sunday, October 16, we were blessed to have Dave and Sandy Dean speak to us and share their experiences in ministering in Uganda and their return trip this coming year. Dave and Sandy are laypersons who love the Lord and are being used by Him in wonderful ways in Africa. A special love offering was collected that day, and we are happy to report that a total of \$537.00 in donations was collected to help support their upcoming ministry trip.

We look forward to following the ministry of Dave and Sandy as they continue to spread the good news of the Gospel in different areas of the world.

A Couple of Notes of Appreciation

To My St. Andrew's Church Family and Friends:

I want to thank everyone for their cards, letters and prayers during my recent illness and recovery. I'm feeling better each day and am grateful for the support of my church family.

*With Gratitude
Jim Bradbury*

To My St. Andrew's Friends:

At this time, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your kindness and sympathy shared with us at this difficult time of Veryl's passing. The visits from Pastor Larry extending messages of comfort, and also to the Good Shepherds who made several visits over the past few months bringing goodies and good conversation.

Our memories keep us from feeling like we have lost someone forever, but, they will always be alive in our hearts for as long as we keep them.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
The Steinaways
Kathryn, Gary and Kit, Keith,
Karen and Miles Bowen and
Jeanine, Amanda and Rebecca Bowen*

Thanksgiving Baskets Collected Again in 2011

The annual Thanksgiving food drive will be held from October 30 through November 20, 2011. Donations of non-perishable food items and paper products will be collected in the narthex. Cash donations are also needed to complete the baskets that will be given to four families in the Dexter area in time for Thanksgiving. A suggested list of items needed for the baskets are:

Peanut butter	Juice	Canned yams
Jelly	Box of Jiffy or other baking mix	Pastas
Canned fruit	Cake mix	Gravy or broth
Canned vegetables	Canned tuna	Canned cranberries
Boxes of prepared food (Chili, Spagettios, etc)	Canned or boxed soup mixes	Jello and/or pudding
Canned mushrooms	Laundry Detergent	Canned beans
Spaghetti sauce	Canned pumpkin (large)	
Personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and toilet paper	Canned tomatoes (paste, sauce or chopped)	

Please take advantage of sale items that can be used to complete the Thanksgiving baskets as you do your routine shopping. Serving needy families at Thanksgiving has been a long running tradition here at St. Andrew's Church. Please do what you can to continue to reach out to the needy in our area. **A note of caution:** please be sure to check the expiration dates on foods that are donated.

We want to thank Jane Finkbeiner for coordinating this outreach effort this year.

Memorial Funds Request

If your family has had donations made to St. Andrew's Church in memory of a loved one, we would like to know if you have a special request for how the money is used. If we do not have a purpose for the funds, it will be placed into the undesignated memorial account and used to purchase items needed for the church. If family members wish to have memorial funds of their loved ones used for a particular purpose, please contact Lil Burby at 426-3281.

Worship Service Attendance Figures For October

October, 2011	October, 2010
95	92
117	99
112	101
113	88
90	84



Kudos to the Piece-makers!

The Piece-makers have hit the 100 quilt mark for this year and will likely make it 130 by the end of December. Our quilt group has been meeting since the fall of 2003 and the quilt show planned for May 5, 2012 will be the Ninth Annual.

From 15 to 20 women meet each Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Sunday School area. Not everyone was a quilter to begin with, not everyone does the same thing. It's a production line with chatting and sitting and snacks and Margaret Barrett's good coffee. Some hand stitch binding, some cut fabric, some use the sewing machines, Carole Weber is the official presser for the group and Sue Gardner donates her long arm quilting machine expertise to put it all together.

The quilts are made primarily for young boys as they seem to have been left out of other projects for the hospital. From babies to teens, each quilt is sent with a prayer for the child's recovery.

This labor of love has produced approximately 800 quilts over the years and they go to Mott Children's Hospital with love and prayers for the young patients who receive them. Each quilt bears a label that says "Made for you by the Piece-makers of St. Andrew's Church, Dexter, Michigan and the year". The quilts go home with their young patients, or, sadly with just the parents when their owners do not.

Several years ago, a team of doctors from the Pediatrics Department, captured some coughing bears that the Piece-makers also provide for Mott and spirited them away to children in Guatemala they provide medical care for as a service project on their own time and dime. The Piece-makers happily joined the mission by sending bears and fleece blankets with the Doctors every year since. Wonderful photos come back of the little children and their bears and blankets in that poor country.

Anyone in the community with two hands and one big heart is welcome to join the fun on Thursday mornings. Contributions of 100% cotton material are also welcome any time. Friends, neighbors and relatives are invited, as well.

If you need further information - see Elaine Owsley or Ginny Weber at church, or call Elaine at (734) 426-4980 or email her at efowsley@earthlink.net.

October Consistory Committee Meeting Briefing



REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: See attached reports. As far as the 2011 Budget, Barb reported that we are doing well with the income slightly higher than projections while expenses have been less than budgeted for. The 2012 budget was discussed and will be finalized in November.

Building & Grounds: Discussion was held on soliciting bids for Snow Removal and Custodial services for 2012. Dave would also like to explore gutter heaters to prevent ice build up and will explore this for a future meeting.

Christian Education: Joanne was present to give the CE report about the Shoebox ministry program that the Sunday School will be working on to encourage the children to participate in youth oriented outreach programs

Mission & Outreach: Betty Davenport reported that we once again will hold a food drive for Thanksgiving baskets and giving the extra collected to Faith in Action. We will also participate in Adopt a Family and be given four families to buy for as well as the Mitten Tree. Please note that Outreach is now Mission & Outreach.

Technical: Problems with listening to sermons on the website have been corrected.

Memorial Board: Lil reported that additional donations have been received. It was also discussed that if donations are received and not specifically designated they will go into the undesignated fund area and be used as needed for the Church.

Old Business: No new update on financial issues.

New Business: Bid proposals have been sent to 8 area snow removal services and are to be returned by Oct. 21. Work has begun on developing a bid package for janitorial services. Due to issues with the 35+ year old furnace in the parsonage, Dave solicited bids for replacing it. Bids were requested for 80% and 95% efficiency furnaces that included a coil for air conditioning in the future. A bid from IDC for \$3,230 for a 95% efficient furnace was voted upon and passed by the Consistory.

Financial Report, September, 2011

FUNDS AND BALANCES

SEPTEMBER 2011

GENERAL

Aug 31, 2011 Actual Ending Balance \$33,694.24

Sept Income

Giving	9,649.00
Rental	1,000.00
Monthly Dinner	326.00
Donation – Pancake, Toner, Piper	499.00
MI Tax Refund	827.61
Misc.	<u>8.07</u>
Total Income	\$12,309.68

Sept Expenses

Payroll	4,955.89
Payroll Taxes & Processing	817.24
IRS Payment	500.00
Utilities	1,191.53
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	934.00
Office & Supplies	521.40
Property Taxes	1,826.47
Insurance	3,849.00
Pancake Breakfast	173.53
Sauerkraut Supper	23.00
Hats	381.50
Miscellaneous	<u>233.00</u>
	\$15,406.56

Revenue less Expenses - 3,096.88

Ending Cash Balance \$30,597.36

Checks outstanding +3,031.86

Ending Bank Balance-General Fund \$33,629.22

OTHER FUNDS

Rental Escrow 1,000.00

Building Fund 5,220.02

Bank Account Balance 9/30/2011 39,849.24

YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS

GENERAL FUND

Income \$113,065.97

Expenses 107,532.78

Revenue less Expenses + 5,533.19

Stewardship and Outreach Missions Report

Sunday, November 20, will be our Stewardship and Pledge Sunday. Once again you will be asked to fill out your Time, Talent and Treasure forms for 2012. One of the reasons we complete the pledge cards is to give us an idea of what the giving level will be for budget purposes and in December we will present the 2012 proposed budget. We also hope that by completing a pledge card members are able to plan for the year as to what they want to give to the church. As it states in Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

We also will ask members to complete Time and Talent cards. It has often been said that everyone needs a job in the Church to help the Church grow. Thus, we will be asking you for your help in many areas.

Camp Talahi Update

At the Annual Conference Meeting on October 9 in Saginaw the following action was taken:

1. The conference PASSED Resolution for Camp Talahi Retreat & Nature Center (CTRNC) to operate Camp Talahi. This allows CTRNC to move forward with opening the camp.

2. The conference also passed a resolution to negotiate the sale of camp, with the amendment that they are *required* to ensure that there is an option to lease the property back from anyone they may sell it to (so we may still operate a camp there!)

What does this all mean?

It was dizzying and difficult to interpret at first, but in conversations with conference board members it seems that we are all on the same page, which is: **Camp Talahi plans to be open in Summer 2012!** Members of the CTRNC are on the conference's negotiating team, and will be fully updated on the progress of any sale negotiations. In the meantime, we are moving full speed ahead to have a camp season ready for summer 2012. For more information or updates go to the Camp Talahi website at www.talahifamily.com to keep up on the progress or to get involved with the work needed to open the camp.

Evangelical Homes of Michigan

Evangelical Homes of Michigan cordially invites you and members of your congregation on Sunday, November 13, 2011 to attend our **2011 Annual Meeting and Recognition Reception**, where we will also host a **Hard Hat Tour of the Redies Center for Rehabilitation and Healthy Living**. This year's event will be held at Saint Joseph Mercy Saline in the Lobby and Community Room, located at 400 W. Russell Street in Saline. Below is a schedule of the program.

2:00 - 3:30pm Lobby Reception and Hard Hat Tour of the Redies Ctr for Rehabilitation & Healthy Living (construction underway)

3:00 - 3:30 pm 132nd Annual Meeting of Evangelical Homes of MI

3:30-4:30 pm Recognition Reception and Presentation

We invite each United Church of Christ congregation in the Michigan Conference to send your delegation to the Annual Meeting. Our existing bylaws welcome up to six voting members from each church, but everyone from your congregation is welcome. It would be especially meaningful to us if you personally would attend our Annual Meeting and bring one or more delegates.

In addition to the business meeting, we are honored to recognize our Platinum Circle of Friends, Golden Circle of Friends, Silver Circle of Friends, Zoar Legacy Society members, and our numerous volunteer leaders. It will also be our pleasure to bestow the 2011 Reverend C.W.F. Haass Award upon this year's honoree.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the contributions of those who support our ministry. With your passion and commitment we continue to create communities and transform lives.

Blessings,
Denise B. Rabidoux
President and CEO

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship Service Planned

A community-wide worship service will be held this year on Wednesday evening, November 23, at 7 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 3279 Broad Street. The event is being sponsored by the Dexter Ministerial Association.

We need your help "Hanging the Greens"

Before we know it, Advent will be upon us, and that means it's time to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas! We are looking for individuals who are interested in helping on Saturday, November 26th from 10 am - noon. The decorations have already been purchased and need to be set up. We have always had an outstanding "Christmas Crew" that helps with the ladders and to decorate the Christmas tree.

We would welcome any comments or ideas to enhance the Sanctuary during this very special time of the year. Some funds are available to purchase items that would enhance the atmosphere during this joyful time of the year.

If you have additional questions or ideas, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

November Birthdays

4 -	Ron Pettke	22 -	Marcia Rankin
6 -	Ezekial Breuninger		Joyce Waggoner
11 -	Judy Even		Donna Sumner
14 -	Nick Heller	23 -	Jane Ritchie
15 -	Kevin Wheeler	25 -	James Bradbury
19 -	Linda Munson	29 -	Melissa Jaeger
20 -	Pam Munson		
	Nicole Oberholtzer		
	Armona Pettit		



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

November, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 am: Gentle Pilates Class	2 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	3 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 3 pm : Ladies Bible Study 5 pm: Monthly Dinner Serving Begins	4	5
6 Memorial Sunday 8:30 and 10 a.m. Worship Serv.. 11:30 am: Confirmation Class <i>Holy Communion Received</i>	7 11:30 am: Gentle Pilates Class	8 10 am: Gentle Pilates Class 6-10 pm: LaCrosse Meeting	9 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	10 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting Group 3 pm: Ladies Bible Study	11 TBD: Wedding Rehearsal for Cady/Bourdon Ceremony	12 5 pm: Wedding Ceremony of Lizzy Cady and Travis Bourdon
13 10:00 a.m. Special Veterans' Day Worship Service followed by reception 11:30 am: Confirmation Class NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	14 11:30 am: Gentle Pilates Class	15 10 am: Gentle Pilates Class	16 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	17 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 3 pm: Ladies Bible Study 7 pm: Finance Committee Meets	18	19
20 8:30 and 10 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 am: Confirmation Class <i>December, 2011 Chronicle Items Due</i>	21 11:30 am: Gentle Pilates Class 6 p.m. Elders Meet 7 p.m. Consistory Comm. Meets	22 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	23 11:30 am: Church Staff Meeting 7 pm: Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service at St. James Church	24 Thanksgiving Day! Church Office Closed	25 7-10 am: Preparation for Seniors Get Stuffed Luncheon	26 10 am: Hanging of the Greens!
27 First Sunday of Advent 8:30and 10 a.m. Worship Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	28 11:30 am: Gentle Pilates Class	29 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates Class	30 10 am: Ladies Bible Study 1-2 pm: Ladies Bible Study 2:30: Staff Mtg. 6:30: Adult Study Group 7:30: Senior Choir Rehearsal			

Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Joanne Arft

Carol Jones

Pastor Larry Van Slambrook

Jim Bradbury

Elaine Owsley

Jane Finkbeiner

Kathryn Steinaway

Pati Wheeler

Upcoming December Events:

Thursday, December 1

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4

Sunday, December 11

Sunday, December 18

Saturday, December 24

Sunday, December 25

Roast Beef Monthly Dinner

Girl Scout Bazaar and Luncheon Hosted by the
St. Andrew's Senior Choir

Second Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Worship Services

One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Also Watch for Information on the Annual Adopt a Family for Christmas Program!

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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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.