
St. Andrew's Chronicle

October, 2011

Our Real Reason for Being!

Here we are again in football season. I've never been a football player but I enjoy the game. Both the University of Michigan and Michigan State have played games already but these don't count in the Big Ten race because they are "pre-season" games. We might consider these games just warm-ups to the real contests that begin when the regular season opens.

It goes without saying that even though there is much hoopla about the games, football is not the real reason for the existence of Michigan, Michigan State and the other schools that are involved. They exist to educate young men and women so that they are prepared to move into various kinds of lifetime careers upon graduation. That is not to say that athletics is unimportant but rather that it is a part of a much larger picture. To focus only upon athletics and winning games would be to lose sight of the primary purpose that the college or university exists.

As the church of Jesus Christ in the 21st century we must never lose sight of our real reason for being which is to proclaim the Gospel—the Good News of what God has done in Jesus Christ, to be God's instrument in helping people enter into a relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to disciple followers of Christ—that is, to help them grow and mature and live out God's call and claim upon their lives. We are called to be the body of Christ as described in the Bible, empowered by the Holy Spirit and deeply committed to be everything God has called and empowered us to be!

The Great Commission is for us today just as it was for those first century disciples: *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the end of the age."* Mt. 28:19-20

I believe that it is accurate to state that many times in the history of Christianity the church has become distracted so that programs and success have become the reason for existence rather than proclaiming the Gospel and touching the world for Jesus. Satan, our arch enemy, loves to work in a way that gets the church and/or individual believers distracted—focused on something other than their real reason for being.

We must guard against this as individuals and as the church. We are called to devote our lives to serving and glorifying Jesus and bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. In his recent book *Revolution*, George Barna states *"One of the most important lessons I've learned from studying the words of Jesus is that He loved fruit. Not the kind you pick off trees or vines, but the kind that's evident in the life of a person when he has changed. He made very clear that the proof of people's faith is not in the information they know or the religious gatherings they attend, but in the way they integrate what they know and believe into their everyday practices. The hallmarks of the Church that Jesus died for are clear, based on Scripture: your profession of faith in Christ must be supported by a lifestyle that provides irrefutable evidence of your complete devotion to Jesus."*

It is my prayer that we will apply biblical principles in our lives so that our words and our lives provide irrefutable evidence of our complete devotion to Jesus. Let us keep focused on our real reason for being as followers of Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Larry

Sermon Series: Walk in the Light

In I John 1:5-7 it is written: *“⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

To walk in the light is God’s plan for our lives. This is the direction/the path upon which we experience the joy, wonder and blessings of being in the center of God’s will. When we walk in the light we live in the light of truth—God’s truth—the truth of His Word—the truth of His Kingdom—and there’s no better place to live than in the light of truth!!

Walking in the light is a reflection of our being in a relationship with God. It means that our words and actions are based upon the truth of who God is, the truths He has given us in His Word, and the transformation we have experienced in Christ!

It is my prayer that this series of messages will be used by the Lord to help us all walk in the light!

Pastor Larry

Many Attended Special Worship Service on September 11th

The fellowship committee wishes to thank the congregation for their support and financial contributions for the “pancake ‘plus’ breakfast” we had for the September 11th service in honor of the first responders.

October Monthly Dinner Planned

Please join us for the October monthly dinner which will be on Thursday, October 6th. This month’s menu will be Scalloped Potatoes and Ham. **Serving begins at 5 p.m.** 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.

Neighbors In Need Offering Collected on Sunday, October 2, 2011

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Two thirds of the offering supports the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) and one third supports the Council of American Indian Ministries. We received the NIN offering on Sunday, October 2nd as part of our World Communion observance.

If you wish to make a donation to this special mission, contributions will be accepted through the month of October. Please designate on the envelope that the donation is for NIN.

Thank you in advance for your generous participation to this important mission offering.

2011 Confirmation Classes Begin

The 2011-2012 Confirmation Class has officially begun. We are meeting on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The theme of this year's confirmation class is "Lifewalk – Faith for Life!" We have three in our Confirmation Class this year and we look forward to some great discussions and planned mission outings with this class.

Fellowship Activities

Please join us on **Sunday, October 9th, when we will have a special homecoming Sunday** worship service. All individuals who have been confirmed at St. Andrew's are welcome and encouraged to attend. Letters have been sent to those who were confirmed 50, 75, 77, 78, 79 and 80 years ago! We hope you will be able to join us and take some time to look over memorabilia that will be available for your perusal. *Happy Birthday, St. Andrew's!*

An Open Invitation to all St. Andrew's Family and Friends

Tacy Roberta Cobb and Michael Donald Sweet request the honor of your presence to share in the celebration of their marriage on Saturday, October 8th at 4 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. A reception will be held on Sunday, October 9th following the 10 a.m. worship service in honor of Roberta and Mike. We extend our best wishes to both Roberta and Mike as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

90th Annual Sauerkraut Supper Planning Underway!

Tickets for the annual Sauerkraut Supper are currently **on sale**. Please remember that there will be **advance ticket sales only** and that tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets can also be purchased at Dexter Pharmacy on Baker Road, Hearts and Flowers Gift Shop, Loreen's Village Café and the church office. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 5-12 and free for children 4 and under.

A few other noteworthy concerns:

The next meeting of the various committees is planned on Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Sign up sheets have been placed in the fellowship hall in the "Sauerkraut Corner". Each sheet contains a description of the date and times various jobs will be performed. If you have any questions, please see the Chairperson of that Committee.

We need chairpersons for the following committees: Set Up, Clean Up, Kitchen I, Dining Room 1 and 2, Dishwashing and cooking the sauerkraut.

We will have a Country Store again this year and need your help to stock the store. Please bring **crafts and/or baked goods** to the church so that they can be displayed for sale. If you have any questions concerning the Country Store, please call Pat Schmoekel at 426-2013.

We are looking for entertainment ideas. The entertainment would take place in the Sanctuary for people to enjoy as they wait to be seated. The entertainment in past years was well received and appreciated by our guests. All ideas are greatly appreciated.

If you have any other concerns, ideas or suggestions, please contact either Judy Even at (734) 546-2395 or Pati Wheeler at 426-8610 (church).

Volunteers Needed to Staff Nursery

This fall, we would like to begin a ministry to families with nursery aged children. On the first Sunday of the month, we would like to offer parents, who have small children, the opportunity to attend our worship service and receive Holy Communion. Often, these parents are downstairs in the nursery with them, and are not able to participate in worship. We are asking for volunteers to staff the nursery on those Sundays, so please pray about this opportunity to serve in our church. There will be a sign-up sheet outside the nursery for volunteers. We will keep you informed as to when this new ministry will begin.

Joanne Arft

Notes of Thanks and Appreciation

Thank you all for everything you did for us in our time of need.

Robert Anderson and the Family of Carol Anderson

Missionaries to Speak at October 16th Worship Service

On Sunday, October 16, we will be blessed to have Dave and Sandy Dean speaking to us in our worship services. They will share with us 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. Through our support of them we will have an opportunity to be a part of sharing the Gospel with those who live in another part of the world!

Finance Committee Completes Audit

The Finance Committee has conducted a review of the financial records for the year ended December 31, 2010. As a part of this review, the committee conducted the following procedures:

1. We examined the supporting detail for each transaction appearing on the bank statement for the general checking account of the church. The supporting detail included invoices from vendors and comparison to budget for payroll transactions.
2. We verified that each item appearing on the general checking account bank statement, including deposits, checks, and bank debits, were properly posted to the general ledger.
3. We verified all transactions posted to the ledger for the SCRIPS Program to a separate bank account established for the program.

We thank the Finance Committee for the work they have performed. A great deal of time and effort was put into completing this audit for the congregation.

Memorial Funds Request

As you have noticed in past copies of the annual reports, we have a number of memorial funds for those who have left this life and entered the Church Triumphant. 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 Report September, 2011

ATTENDANCE REPORT

September, 2011	September, 2010
75	71
148	126
87	94
87	117



October Stewardship Corner

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:

Canned, fresh or frozen meat
Juice
Canned Chili
Pasta Side Dishes
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup)
Deodorant
Toothbrushes

Kleenex
Dish Soap
Laundry Soap
Cleaning Products
Shampoo and Conditioner
Shaving Supplies
Tampons

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.

Financial Report, August, 2011

FUNDS AND BALANCES

AUGUST 2011

GENERAL

July 29, 2011 Actual Ending Balance 30,176.11

July Income

Giving	10,244.80
Rental	1,200.00
Ice Cream Social – Income	1,586.78
Donation – Pancake Breakfast	40.00
Misc.	<u>160.20</u>
Total Income	13,231.78

July Expenses

Payroll	4,521.77
Payroll Taxes & Processing	843.56
IRS Payment	1,325.00
Utilities	1,194.16
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	427.24
Office & Supplies	124.93
Ice Cream Social	722.59
Monthly Dinner – March & April	389.40
Miscellaneous	<u>165.00</u>
	9,713.65

Revenue less Expenses + 3,518.13

Ending Cash Balance 33,694.24

Checks outstanding +1,850.65

Ending Bank Balance-General Fund 35,544.89

OTHER FUNDS

Roof Fund 0

Deposits +2276.25

Payment - 6915.00

Rental Escrow 1,000.00

Building Fund 5,220.02

Memorial 0

Dancer Memorial + 10.00

Open Memorial Account – 12,498.27

Transfer to Memorial Account – 10.00

Cemetery 0

Open Cemetery Account - 10,097.35

Bank Account Balance 8/31/2011 \$ 41,764.91

Year-to-Date Totals General Fund

Income \$ 100,756.29

Expenses 92,126.22

Revenue less Expenses + 8,630.07

Our Mission – Reach Out to Others

It is a blessing and joy to reach out to others as instruments of God's love and care. This year at St. Andrew's we are emphasizing the importance of fulfilling God's leading in this area of our life and ministry. Our donations to Faith-in-Action is one way of ministering to others. Volunteering to help in some way is another whether through Faith-in-Action or another faith-based organization.

At our last Elders and Consistory meetings we heard from Becky Pazkowski and Rev. Roger Miller of the Evangelical Home in Saline. They shared with us various ways we could be involved in ministering to those who are residents of the Saline Home and/or Brecon Village.

There is a Church Ambassador Program which, through committed volunteer leadership, works to build relationships with the churches that will help their members understand and know their options on the issues related to senior housing and health care and the mission of Evangelical Homes of Michigan. At present St. Andrew's is not part of this program but it would be of benefit both to us as well as the Home to have a volunteer identified as our Church Ambassador. If you are interested please contact Pastor Larry or Carol Jones.

Volunteers are needed in many areas of the Home. Some spend time with residents, being the compassionate friend or providing entertainment, but in every setting offering comfort and love. The following statement describes the position of the Home on volunteers: Whether you can volunteer for one hour or 20 hours, we welcome you. Some of our volunteers have worked with us for decades. Others are brand new to our organization. Everyone is welcome to offer their time and love. Each volunteer is personally interviewed and screened, and is provided opportunities based on their interests and skills to ensure the volunteer experience is a positive one. If you have interest in volunteering please call 734-429-9401 ext.4180 or contact Pastor Larry.

October Birthdays

3 - Cheryl Oberholtzer	12 - Andrew Weber
5 - Lillie Burby	16 - Pati Wheeler
6 - Earl Affholter	18 - Kristi Kuhn
10 - Nicole Swisher	20 - Jennie Breuninger
11 - Barbara Burns	25 - Gerri Van Doren
Alyssa Lowery	
Laura Oberholtzer	27 - Gerald Smith Kevin Wheeler

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

October, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 and 10 am: Worship Services 11:30am: Confir- mation Class <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Received</i> <i>NIN Offering</i> <i>Received</i>	3	4 10 am: Gentle Pilates	5 10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30: Church Staff Meeting 1 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6:30: Adult Study Group 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal	6 9-11 am: Piece- makers Quilting Group 3 pm: Ladies Bible Study 5 pm: Monthly Dinner Serving Begins	7 6 pm: Wedding Rehearsal of Mike Sweet and Robert Cobb	8 4 pm: Wedding Ceremony of Mike Sweet and Roberta Cobb
9 <i>Homecoming</i> <i>Sunday</i> 8:30 and 10 am: Worship Services 11:30 am: Con- firmation Class Reception for Mike and Roberta	10	11 10 am: Gentle Pilates	12 10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30: Church Staff Meeting 1 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6:30: Adult Study Group 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal	13 9-11 am: Piece- makers Quilting 3 pm: Ladies Bible Study 7 pm: SKS Planning Mtg.	14	15 2 pm: Wedding Ceremony of Sarah Scherdt and Rafael Baron at Concordia University
16 8:30 and 10 am: Worship Services 11:30 am: Con- firmation Class 11:30 am: Christian Education Comm.	17 6 p.m. Elders Meet 7 p.m. Consis- tory Comm. Meets	18 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	19 11:30: Church Staff Meeting 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal	20 4:30 pm: Serving Begins for 90 th Annual Sauerkraut Supper <i>November, 2011</i> <i>Chronicle Items</i> <i>Due</i>	21	22 4:30 pm: Wedding Ceremony of Katie Marshall and Bill Dehn at Cobblestone Farms
23 8:30 and 10 am: Worship Services 11:30 am: Con- firmation Class	24	25 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	26 10 am: Ladies Bible Study 11:30: Church Staff Meeting 1 pm: Ladies Bible Study 6:30: Adult Study Group 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal	27 9-11 am: Piece- makers Quilting 3 pm: Ladies Bible Study 7 pm: Finance Comm. Meeting	28	29
30 <i>Reformation</i> <i>Sunday</i> 8:30 and 10 am Worship Services 11:30m: Confirmation Class	31					

Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Robert Anderson	Barb Affholter	Joanne Arft
Lil Burby	Roberta Cobb	Carol Jones
Marie Pleuss	Pastor Larry Van Slambrook	
Pati Wheeler		

Upcoming November Events:

Thursday, November 3 rd	November Monthly Dinner – Turkey and all the Fixins
Sunday, November 6 th	All Saints/Memorial Sunday
	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 13 th	Special Veterans' Day Service
Sunday, November 20 th	Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday, November 27 th	First Sunday of Advent!

Also Watch for Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive for Local Families

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

7610 Ann Arbor Street
Dexter, Michigan 48130

Phone (734) 426-8610 Fax (734) 426-8620

email: standrews@provide.net

website: www.standrewsdexter.org

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.