
St. Andrew's Chronicle

September, 2011

Who are We and Why are We Here?

I have just finished performing a wedding and have several scheduled for this Fall. What a wonderful privilege to share with couples the precious and significant moment of becoming one in the bond of marriage. A real celebration of love for both the groom and the bride!

Even though throughout my years in the ministry I have done many weddings they have never become for me routine. Each one is special since it involves a new couple with all that they bring to the altar of marriage.

Marriage is referred to as an "institution." However, we must not lose sight of the fact that it is a lot more than an "institution." It is a relationship of love and care into which two people enter with a very deep commitment to one another. The marriage vows express a level of commitment which is for the very best and the very worst of times--until death comes.

Every groom that comes to the altar assumes that his bride is as deeply committed to the relationship as he is and every bride the same. How beautiful it is to sense and see such devotion!

The powerful imagery of this relationship is used to describe Christ's relationship to the Church, His bride. As the husband, Jesus comes to the altar with a deep level of sacrificial love. Jesus said "*Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*" (John 15:13). He gave His life for the Church—you and me.

His love is for everyone. "*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*" (John 15:9). Being a part of the Church is about being in a body in which we love one another even as we love Christ and He loves us deeply!

When we invite someone to church we are not just inviting them to the organization we call "St. Andrew's United Church of Christ" but to a relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This is our purpose for being!

In his book, Igniting Passion in Your Church, Steve Ayers writes the following:

As the bride, we're also unique because we're a people of purpose. Our lives are about the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We're called to love Jesus with all that we are—heart, soul, and mind—and then dare to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). And we're called to take this love to the ends of the earth in Jesus' name (Matthew 28:19-20).

The purpose of the church is to reveal the nature of the relationship that Jesus has given us. Being in Christ allows us to share Jesus with the world. Our purpose is not about doing; our purpose is to love Jesus in worship, live out His teachings, and illustrate His love to the world.

This year I want to encourage us, as the Bride of Christ, to love Jesus in worship, live out His teachings, and illustrate His love to the world. He has given us His Holy Spirit to make this all possible.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry*

Special Worship Service on September 11th

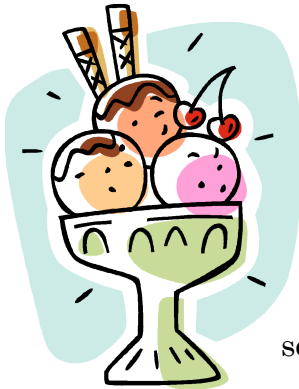


On Sunday, September 11th, St. Andrew's Church is planning a special service at 10 a.m. to honor our local first responders in the Sheriff's and Fire Departments and HVA. Invitations have been sent to the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office and Huron Valley Ambulance requesting their presence. Mr. Herm Steinman, who has participated in prior worship services here, has agreed to play the bagpipes for the service. Please share this information with friends and relatives who may want to attend this special service. Following the service, we will have a pancake

breakfast. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this moving service as we honor those individuals who protect and serve the public. These are the bravest of us all...the ones who run into the face of danger and not away from it.

If you would like to make a donation to help defray the cost of the pancake breakfast, please place your donation in the offering plate or send it directly to the Church. Please mark in the memo section "9-11 Breakfast Donation".

Ice Cream Social Update



so.

Thank you to all who donated food and time to the Annual Ice Cream Social. The revenue for the event and food sales was \$1636.78 with expenses at \$770.09. One of the largest expense items is advertising and the planning committee will be looking at ways of lowering that cost. Also thank you to Busch's, A&W Root Beer and Loreen's Village Café for their donations. If you took one of the Ice Cream Social signs and haven't returned it yet, please do

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

Christian Education News and Updates

Sunday School will resume on September 18th.

Grades K – 5 will meet in the last Sunday School room. We are excited about this year's lessons called "Rock Solid Faith." Each week will include a Bible story, a memory verse, and a variety of activities.

Grades 6-8 will be meeting in the middle Sunday School room. This group will be learning how to "Glue Themselves to Godly Friends" with a book called "Stick." It contains 20 Bible studies that teach, piece by piece with Scripture, what kinds of friends to look for, how you can be a friend, and how to help a friend when they are hurting. This should lead to some helpful discussions!

The High School Class (9-12) will meet in the Youth Room.

Adult classes will begin on September 14th and will meet as follows:

Wednesdays:

Ladies: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Ladies and Gentlemen: 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays:

Ladies' small group: 2:00 p.m.

May this be a year blessed by God as we continue on our journeys of faith.

*In Christ,
Joanne Arft & Denise Marshall*

Notes of Thanks and Appreciation

We received a telephone call from Nannette Kwiatek and she and Pastor Gary would like to thank everyone for the caring letter and their kind expressions of sympathy for the loss of Gary's father. The thoughts and prayers were very much appreciated. We need to keep Gary's and Nannette's mothers in our prayers as well, as neither are doing well at this time.

Fellowship Activities

The Fellowship Committee is planning ahead with events in September and October. As explained on page two of this issue of the *Chronicle*, a pancake breakfast will be hosted by the fellowship committee following our "Service of Remembrance" on September 11th.

October 9th is Homecoming Sunday, and a basic potluck meal will follow the 10 a.m. worship service. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass; table service and drinks will be provided. Please plan to join us for our "St. Andrew's Birthday Party!"

Worship Service Attendance Report

August, 2011

ATTENDANCE REPORT

August, 2011	August, 2010
88 (July 31)	81
107	60
87	81
102	68
118	81



Consistory Highlights from July, 2011

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: See attached reports.

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 the September meeting.

Christian Education: Betty Jo reported that Sunday School will begin on September 18 and are hoping for 1-2 additional teachers who are willing to help out. Adult classes will begin on September 14.

Outreach: Nancy Paul from Faith in Action was our guest for the meeting and gave the Consistory an overview of the program. Betty also reported on the back packs that we are donating this year. Discussion was held on expanding the Outreach and Stewardship to include Missions.

Memorial Board and Cemetery Board: Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, separate accounts have been set up for each board.

Finance Committee: Looking to finish the audit on other Church accounts in August and have a report soon.

Old Business: There is no new update on financial issues.

New Business: The Annual Conference meeting will be held in Saginaw. It would be nice to have 1-3 persons to attend. At the meeting, a vote will be taken on Camp Talahi. Also added an additional goal for the year to increase our understanding and participation in local and world missions.

Financial Report, July, 2011

FUNDS AND BALANCES	JULY 2011
GENERAL	
June 30, 2011 Actual Ending Balance	28,557.48
<u>July Income</u>	
Giving	8,281.04
Rental	1,000.00
Ice Cream Social - Donation	50.00
Misc.	35.00
Scholarship Transfer from Memorial	350.00
Interest	<u>15.74</u>
Total Income	9,731.78
<u>July Expenses</u>	
Payroll	4,423.18
Payroll Taxes & Processing	857.65
IRS Payment	500.00
Utilities	853.00
Repairs, Maintenance & Custodial	775.52
Office & Supplies	178.10
Rummage Sale-advertising	250.20
Ice Cream Social	47.50
Miscellaneous	<u>228.00</u>
	8,113.15
Revenue less Expenses	+1,618.63
Ending Cash Balance	29,826.11
Checks outstanding	+2,574.96
Ending Bank Balance-General Fund	32,751.07
OTHER FUNDS	
Roof Fund	4,638.75
Deposits +6322.75	
Transfers +2790.00	
Payment - 6500.00	
Rental Escrow	1,000.00
Building Fund	5,220.02
Memorial	12,498.27
Koch Memorial + 285.00	
Transfer to Roof - 2790.00	
Transfer to Scholarship - 400.00	
Cemetery	10,097.35
Lawn Mowing - 580.00	
Bank Account Balance 7/29/2011	66,205.46
Year-to-Date Totals	General Fund
Income	87,524.51
Expenses	82,412.57
Revenue less Expenses	+ 5, 111.94

The amount owed to the Memorial Fund has been corrected. The amount is \$46,254.68.

September Stewardship and Outreach / Mission Corner

Stewardship is not just raising funds to operate the Church, but it is also sharing what we have with others. Stewardship is a part of outreach; stewardship is a part of mission support; and outreach is a part of stewardship and missions support. It is all connected.

What can we do? In the next few months, we will be learning more about local mission opportunities such as Faith In Action and the Saline Evangelical Home as well as personal experiences from those who follow their commitments to serve others.

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	Kleenex	Tampons
Juice	Dish Soap	Toothbrushes
Canned Chili	Laundry Soap	Deodorant
Pasta Side Dishes	Cleaning Products	
Pancake Mix and Syrup	Shampoo and Conditioner	
Condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup)		Shaving Supplies

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.

Alternate Wedding Coordinator Needed

If you or a member of your family have celebrated a wedding at St. Andrew's over the last few years, you have noticed that Gale and Shirley Cobb have been here to help you each step of the way. They do a wonderful job and make the wedding celebration much easier by taking care of church related issues.

Gale and Shirley will be doing some traveling and we are looking for a couple, or two people, who would be willing to fill in for Gale and Shirley while they are away. Some of the duties include meeting with the couple prior to the wedding to review with them what items are available at the church and what the costs will be. The coordinator is also responsible to be at the rehearsal, and to assist on the day of the wedding with flowers, watching the clock, lining the wedding party up for the procession into the Sanctuary (this is discussed with the couple at the rehearsal), etc. The coordinators also clean up after the service and return the building to its original arrangement for Sunday services.

This is a paid position. Shirley and Gale would be grateful to anyone willing to fill in for them. If you are interested in assisting or would like additional information, please contact the church office at (734) 426-8610.

Camp Talahi Information Update

Camp Talahi has existed as a part of the Michigan United Church of Christ for over 60 years. It has functioned as a summer camp and retreat destination for countless church members. In 1986 Camp Talahi fell under the direction of Vision, Inc., an organization that operated many different ministry programs put forth by the Michigan UCC.

In 2009 Vision Inc. was dissolved due to a lack of funds and as a result Camp Talahi was closed. On May 21, 2011 a vote was held on a resolution to sell the camp and that resolution failed to pass. Camp Talahi remains an asset of the Michigan UCC. Following the May meeting, a consortium was formed to plan for the future of the camp as the Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center, a non-profit focused solely on the responsible operation of Camp Talahi as a summer camp and retreat destination for the Michigan United Church of Christ.

At the Annual Meeting to be held on October 7-9, 2011, the Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center will be proposing three resolutions for the Michigan United Church of Christ delegated to vote on for approval. They are as follows:

- Resolution 1 – To facilitate our church’s mission with youth, young adults, and families through a denominationally sponsored venue for outdoor ministry, be it resolved that a consortium of Michigan Conference churches known as Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center is authorized to direct the use of the Camp Talahi grounds and facilities.
- Resolution 2 – To underwrite the Michigan Conference commitment to our church’s mission with youth and young adults, be it resolved that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Bows Lake be allocated to finance the start-up costs and make essential improvements to the Camp Talahi property.
- Resolution 3 – Be it further resolved that in order to sustain the Michigan United Church of Christ’s commitment to youth the interest and dividends accrued annually from the remaining principle are allocated to support Michigan United Church of Christ Youth (MUCCY) programming and any associated liabilities yet outstanding.

Would You Consider Being a Delegate?

The Annual Meeting for the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ will be held on October 7-9, 2011, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Saginaw. “*Imagine*” is the theme and the Rev. Dr. Robert Voyle will be the keynote speaker and education leader.

A delegate is a church member willing to represent his or her congregation at the Annual Meeting. Each church is allowed 3 delegates in total – one of which is a youth delegate under the age of 22. The deadline to register is September 23, 2011. If you are interested, please contact Pati in the office for more details.

Annual Sauerkraut Supper Planning Underway!

It's hard to believe that we are starting to plan for our **90th Sauerkraut Supper** already! The event this year will be held on **Thursday, October 20th**. A planning meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 6 at 7 pm** in the fellowship hall. If you were a chairperson previously, please contact Judy Even (426-3796) or Pati Wheeler (761-8377) to let them know if you are willing to continue in 2011. If you have specific ideas about ways we might improve the event, you are encouraged to attend the September 6th meeting as well.

Information about ticket sales will be available after the September 6th meeting. Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance again this year and will not be available at the door.

September Birthdays

1 -	Mark Evans Don Shoop Steve Smith	17 -	Dee Tomshany
6 -	Barbara Affholter Marie Pleuss	18 -	Eric Jaeger Cora Van Slambrook
8 -	Mark Chalou	20 -	Susan Koch
10 -	Bob Stacey	21 -	Michelle Mesko
12 -	Emily Schaible	23 -	Bill Clark
13 -	Joylynn Fox Alyssa Knope	24 -	Jim Koch Barb Smith
14 -	Whitney Otto Veryl Steinaway	28 -	Betty Schulz
16 -	Susan Stoker	30 -	Terri Scherdt Phil Stendel

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

September, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting	2	3
4 8:30 and 10 a.m. Worship Serv.. <i>Holy Communion Received</i>	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 10 am: Gentle Pilates 7 pm: Sauer-Kraut Supper Planning Mtg.	7 1 pm: Church Staff Meeting 7:30: Senior Choir Rehearsal	8 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting Group 5 pm: Monthly Dinner Serving Begins	9	10
11 10:00 a.m. Patriotic Worship Svc. Pancake Breakfast to Follow	12	13 10 am: Gentle Pilates	14 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	15 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study	16	17
18 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10 a.m. Worship Service <i>Sunday School Classes Resume</i>	19 6 p.m. Elders Meet 7 p.m. Consistory Comm. Meets	20 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates <i>October, 2011 Chronicle Items Due</i>	21 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	22 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study 7 pm: Finance Committee Meeting	23	24
25 8:30 a.m. Worship Svc. 10 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 am: Parents and Confirmands to meet with Pastor.	26 11 am-1 pm: ARC Set Up 1-7 pm: Fall ARC Blood Drive	27 10 a.m. Gentle Pilates	28 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	29 9-11 am: Piece-makers Quilting 2 pm: Ladies Bible Study	30	

Thank You, Chronicle Contributors

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue:

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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 **Will Resume on September 18, 2011**

Nursery Available During both services

There is a Coffee Hour following both services.