



THE LIGHTHOUSE

MAY/JUNE 2020

Dear St. Andrew's Community,



If I stop to think about how dramatically the world and our community have changed in the last 90 days, it's hard to fathom. We haven't met for worship since mid-March. We went through Easter and Mother's Day largely isolated. No one really knows how long it will be until we are able to do some of the things we used to do and took for granted. In the midst of all this, so many communities and congregations around the world have adapted in order to survive and serve. I thank all of you for staying connected, volunteering, and looking for opportunities to contribute in new ways.

In this newsletter, you'll find an overview of the remarkable "Feeding Our Neighbors" program that St. Andrew's has brought into being. On Fridays, our parking lot used to be largely empty....now it's full with a procession of families in cars, all receiving healthy food to sustain them.

You will also see news about what our session has been working on and other initiatives of our congregation.

In worship, my focus has been creating messages that are hopefully relevant to what we're going through, and, through music and art, experiences that are also inspiring. I'm not sure what my focus will be in the weeks ahead, as I keep trying to assess how our reality is evolving.

Once again, I am grateful to our staff that has adapted and "stepped up" during this time -- our secretary, Nancy, our musicians, Chris and Erin, and Scott (who has added to his duties as the Business Manager the role of "Film and Video Editor"). I'm also grateful for our deacons who continue to stay in touch with their flocks, and all the ways in which you are reaching out to support each other.

May the strength and peace of the Risen Christ be ever present within us and amongst us.

Steve

SESSION NEWS

News from Session Meetings in March and April:

March 17

- The meeting was conducted online (via Zoom) from members' homes due to COVID-19 precautions.
- Heard a report from Interim Pastor Steve Jacobsen about his ministry tasks over the last month, including participation in community and Presbytery activities. He expressed gratitude for St. Andrew's support of the Neighborhood Clinics, especially during this health crisis.
- Received and accepted the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 29, 2020.
- Heard a recap of the Crossan Lecture series from Adult Education Committee co-chair Tom Weisenburger. He felt attendees learned a lot from Dr. Crossan and the presentations raised the profile of St. Andrew's in the community.
- Received an update from Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) co-chair Kirk Grier.
- Discussed St. Andrew's response to the COVID-19 precautions, including suspending in-person worship services, communion and coffee hour for a minimum of 60 days; offering online worship opportunities; forgoing rent collection from groups that are not able to meet during the health crisis; and continuing regular church office hours and employee compensation during this special period.

News from Session Meeting on April 21, 2020:

April 21

- The meeting was conducted online (via Zoom) from members' homes due to COVID-19 precautions.
- Heard a report from Interim Pastor Steve Jacobsen about his ministry tasks over the last month. He expressed appreciation to Kirk Grier and Scott Eschbach for their technical innovations in preparing the online worship services, and to Chris Davis and Erin McKibben for their music contributions.
- Received and accepted the Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2020.
- Approved receiving the Pentecost Offering on May 31, 2020.
- Approved a request from the Building & Grounds Team for purchase of a rolling door enclosure for the audio-visual booth.
- Heard a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) co-chair Kirk Grier about recent PNC activities.
- Received a report from Deacons co-moderators Barbara Eschbach and Edie Wells on ways the Deacons have been keeping in touch with their Flocks during this time of isolation, which include making calls, sending email messages and cards, and distributing Easter lilies to several members.
- Heard about a plan for a food distribution project initiated by Ann Padden-Rubin to be sponsored by the SAIL Team.
- Continued discussion of St. Andrew's response to COVID-19 precautions, including indefinite suspension of in-person worship services and approval of offering communion during online worship services.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Arnold, Clerk of Session

Our Mission Statement

We worship Jesus Christ together consistent with Reformed/Presbyterian tradition, while:

- ❖ Learning God’s Word and spreading the Gospel
- ❖ Supporting each member of our Church family
- ❖ Caring for others through mission and service throughout our community and the world
- ❖ Openly affirming all forms of diversity in leadership, worship, and ministry

Our Vision Statement

As God calls us and equips us by the Holy Spirit, we strive to:

- ❖ Be a loving, connected family-in-faith of all ages
- ❖ Affirm Christ’s teaching as the source of spiritual nourishment
- ❖ Grow in discipleship, leadership, and service
- ❖ Share the joy of God’s love with all

2020 Presbytery Meetings:

Saturday, May 16 – 9:30AM, Oxnard

Saturday, September 19 – 9:30AM (TBA)

Tuesday, November 10 – 2:00PM (TBA)



NOVEL BOOK GROUP FOR MAY/JUNE

The next Book Club is Saturday, June 13, at 10am either via Zoom or in the Vos room. We will keep everyone posted about the location.

The book will be: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

The July 11th book will be The Great Alone by Kristin Hanna. All are welcome!



POSTPONED: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH OFFICERS



SAIL TEAM NEWS: Feeding Our Neighbors



“Feeding Our Neighbors” is St. Andrew’s exciting, new outreach program that is having a dramatic effect on our local Santa Barbara community during this critical pandemic time.

This idea, originally called “The River of Giving”, came from Maili Halme, a chef and restaurateur who was born and raised in Santa Barbara County. As the mandatory closure of dine-in restaurants continued due to Covid-19, Maili learned that many of the friends she had made through working in restaurants had lost their jobs and were struggling to make ends meet.

Maili immediately went to the store and bought groceries that she delivered to homes throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. As she spoke with the families, she learned that so many more people were suffering unemployment, financial difficulties, and the subsequent inability to obtain nutritious meals. So, the following week Maili organized a larger distribution of groceries, joined by friends, family, and volunteers.

Ann Padden-Rubin read about Maili’s efforts on Facebook and asked her how she could help. Maili replied, “How about starting a food distribution in Santa Barbara?” Ann thought she could make a small donation but found herself agreeing to take on this project. She secured a donation from a local foundation, then enlisted Dana Monk and Josefa Rios who works with the Promotores Network of Santa Barbara County as the lead Promotora, helping to identify families in SB County who are food insecure.

On Friday, April 17, under Maili’s direction, Dana, Josefa, and Ann packed 20 boxes of nutritious groceries including chicken, eggs, fruit, vegetables, beans, rice, tortillas, and milk. They delivered groceries to each house, following social distancing procedures. They spoke with family members, who expressed their thanks and let them know that many people in the community have been affected by the Covid-19 economy.

Ann, Dana, and Josefa approached the SAIL (Serve All in Love) Team at St. Andrew’s with the idea of partnering. The SAIL Team enthusiastically requested Session approval to 1) establish a new SAIL outreach program called “Feeding Our Neighbors” and 2) to distribute SAIL funds not to exceed the amount of \$20,000 to cover the cost of food for this new project. Session approved, and the project continues to grow.

Morgan Hall, for the last 2 weeks, has turned into a food-packing and distribution site with volunteers from both former and current St. Andrew’s families and the Promotores Network. They measure, divide, and wrap beans, rice, onions, potatoes, eggs, and chicken.

The word has spread through the community, from Josefa and the Promotores, about our food distribution. Every family has been so grateful for having such nutritious food to feed themselves and their children. This is truly an example of Jesus teaching “Serve All in Love”. In John 21: 17 Jesus said, “feed my sheep”. We are following Jesus and feeding the people nutritious food.

In each of the last two weeks, we have fed over 300 families, loading groceries into cars, and delivering food to families without cars. One woman even came on the bus, she was that determined to secure food for her family.

Currently, our goal is to offer food distribution through the month of May. If you would like to donate to help cover food costs, you can make out a check to St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. Write SAIL/Feeding Our Neighbors in the memo line. All donations go directly to purchasing food at a lower, wholesale price.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact: Ann Padden-Rubin (805) 682-7891, Dana Monk (805) 705-6929, Suzanne Malloy (805) 967-7773 OR Linda Sorensen (805) 886-3470. Thank you.



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS





BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE

What a relief! David, Michael, Sandy, Gloria, Mary, John, and Charlie! No more lugging those heavy wood doors back and forth from the furnace room to the audio/visual room every Sunday. Now just turn the handles and roll up the doors to enjoy the beautiful view of the sanctuary and happy congregation. Each Sunday, we are dependably blessed by these folks in keeping the services working smoothly. A big thanks to Charlie, Gloria, John, Mary, Sandy, David, and Michael for suggesting the new roll-up doors. Do you have a use of those doors for a project? Get the project moving, give a call.

Master craftsman Lee Thompson and grandson John are demonstrating their skills by building an attractive wood canopy adjacent to the parking lot. The canopy protects the bench that honors the First Responders installed by SAIL, Serving All in Love. The bench sits under a tall eucalyptus which has been showering the bench with resin, making the bench not a pleasant place to sit. The attractive canopy is completed except for the roofing which will be installed when the winds abate. Good work and thanks to Lee and John.

What wonderful rains! We have been blessed. Want to see marvelous results of the rains? Drive 101 to Santa Maria and look into the greens of the hills. St. Andrew's has not been left out. As a result of the rains, the church campus is a beautiful dark green, too. To keep the grounds looking neat Vincente mows as needed with his commercial mower. Evan Boger has been doing an excellent job trimming areas that cannot be reached by the large mower. It is good to see a young man work so hard and so dependably to help keep St. Andrew's beautiful.

The gophers in the front lawn became discouraged and did not like those traps in their doorways, so they applied and received sabbaticals. Well, the month's long sabbatical is over, the gophers are back home. No more vacation for the Pest Control. Back come the traps! Bye, Bye you rascals!

A new mower, a new hedge trimmer, a new line trimmer, a new chain saw, all battery-operated Stihl tools, are being used by Evan and Freddie. The Santa Barbara Pollution Control District provided 60% of the cost of these tools and 100-% of the cost of the batteries. The battery powered equipment is lighter, and they start every time with a flick of the wrist. And we are doing a bit to help the environment improve.

The sidewalk cleaners Bill Oakley, Jeff Nelson, Bob Parsons, and Bob Shapiro are getting a sabbatical, too, until church services return. We appreciate those clean sidewalks, Bob, Bob, Jeff, and Bill. Thank you!

Telephone service to the Preschool was returned thanks to over six hours of work by Scott and Charlie Mitchell. Fortunately, Scott knew where to find the problem and provided the needed assistance to electrician Charlie. We often have to rely on Scott when we find a problem that has us baffled.

You probably have not noticed the new exterior lights from Morgan Hall unless you come to practice in the choir. Daylight at night!

If you see something that the Buildings and Grounds should know about, contact members Jeff Davis, Linda Gunther, or Merlyn Cummings.

Thank you,

Merlyn Cummings

MAY BIRTHDAYS

04 – Rita Hardin
 08 – Mackenzie Hoeckley
 09 – Robbie Knauss
 10 – Barbara Spencer
 19 – Suzanne Grimmesey
 20 – Porter Spencer
 24 – Jordan Sommers
 28 – Jean McNeil
 29 – Karen Carroll
 30 – Marilyn Scott
 31 – Suzanne Malloy



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

02 – Estrella Villanueva-Hoeckley
 02 – Jackie Parker
 05 - John Doner
 07 – John Bowers
 09 – Karen Hayes
 12 – Jared Hertig
 13 – Christine Malengo
 18 – Mary Gilmour
 21 – Megan Malengo
 22 -- Linda Gunther
 23 – Kirk Grier
 25 – Linda Sizer



25 – Eric Bowers
 30 – Kelly Thoits
 30 – Bev Walters

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING Children at Risk – Youth – Young Adults

Pentecost Sunday is the day when we celebrate receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Birthday of the Church. This year that day is May 31. The Pentecost Offering is dedicated to nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come. - - - our children, our youth, and young adults.

Programs of the PC(USA) receive 60% of the offering, while the remaining 40% is disbursed to a local program determined by our church. This year we will be supporting our own preschool. Our two teachers are still receiving their salaries although no fees are being charged. They are continuing to interact with their students through internet and mail.

Please participate in the Pentecost Offering by mail or online giving. Thank you.

Meditation for MAY & JUNE

YOUR CLEAR LIGHT OF TRUTH

Send out your light and your truth (PSALM 43:3 (TLB))

"During those times when I want to celebrate your nearness, Lord, why do you sometimes seem so distant?
 When I try so hard to create happiness, why do I lose so much joy?
 In this world in which you are the light, why is there so much darkness?
 And when I want so much to experience your goodness, why does evil show up at my doorstep?
 May I learn anew that I cannot buy my way into your presence. Help me understand that I cannot reach you by taking shortcuts through darkness. And teach me again that I cannot build walls high enough to protect myself from evil.
 I want to follow your clear light of truth, reach your holy mountain, and praise you for being King of kings and Lord of lords."

From: 100 Prayers Inspired by the Psalms - by Julie Ackerman Link

“GRADUATE SUNDAY”



If any of you have family members or friends who are graduating soon, please submit a photo and a brief description to Nancy Russo at nrussosb@cox.net by May 25 for use in our newsletter or, hopefully, our June 7 worship service.

PER CAPITA

As Presbyterians we are a “connected” denomination...connected through our affiliation with Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Each of these councils approves its budgets and sets a per capita apportionment rate to cover its operational expenses. The per capita apportionments are forwarded from each congregation by paying the appropriate amounts to our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

For the past several years, the Presbytery has asked its congregations to pay a “Ministry Share” rather than a “Per Capita” assessment for the Presbytery portion. St. Andrew’s Session decided during those years to contribute to Presbytery in an amount considerably less than Presbytery had requested. St. Andrew’s did, however, contribute to Synod and General Assembly the total amounts assessed based on our membership. Because of the reduced amount contributed to Presbytery, St. Andrew’s simply included that portion as a budget item and did not promote the Presbytery assessment as part of the “per capita” request to the congregation.

Beginning in 2020, Presbytery has decided to return to the conventional “Per Capita” approach. Therefore, in order to support the connected, organizational structure of the Presbyterian Church (USA), St. Andrew’s is now assessed directly for each level of church government. Our Session has agreed to comply with the total assessment. Therefore, for each member of our congregation, St. Andrew’s will be paying as follows:

\$8.95 – General Assembly portion (same as last year)
 \$2.85 – Synod portion (same as last year)
 \$57.00 – Presbytery portion (reduced from \$70 requested last year)
 =====
 \$68.80 – TOTAL PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT TO ST. ANDREW’S (per member)

Many of our members choose to make a special “Per Capita” offering to St. Andrew’s to support these assessments. These assessments work to our benefit as members of the Presbyterian Church (USA), but they do not directly impact the local and mission operations here at St. Andrew’s. If you wish to make a special donation to St. Andrew’s in support of these assessments, please use the special envelope provided with your envelope set or simply mark your donation “Per Capita.” You may make your Per Capita donation in any amount you feel appropriate.

I remain available to discuss this topic with you individually. Just give me a call.
 Blessings & Stay Well,
 Scott Eschbach

Adult Education

Classes will be held on Zoom on Sundays at 11:00 AM. The programming is in process and will be announced as it is finalized in the weekly bulletin. On Sunday May 17, we will show the second half of Walter Brueggemann's lecture from March of 2018 on [GOD. MONEY. NEIGHBOR. The Economics of Compassion](#). Brueggemann calls for a fundamental change in how we read the Bible in light of the importance of the concept of Neighbor in how possible economies function. He is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary and is the world's leading interpreter of the Old Testament. Please join us at 11 AM in the Zoom Window Room!

GOD. MONEY. NEIGHBOR.
The Economics of Compassion.
 May 10 and 17
 11 AM in the Zoom Window Room
 Walter
BRUEGGEMANN

DEADLINE FOR 2020

JULY/AUGUST

NEWSLETTER

Please submit articles and photos by Tuesday, June 23

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH AUDIO & VISUALS

We need volunteers to run the audio and visuals at the 9:30am Sunday service at St. Andrew's. Training will be provided. If you can help (for audio), please contact Dave Sommers at sommers@silcom.com or 805-708-7108 or Michael Padden-Rubin at michaelpadden@hotmail.com or 805-682-7891, or (for visuals): Sandy Thoits at sthoits@gmail.com

Thank you!

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