



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

**JULY/AUGUST 2020**

Dear St. Andrew's Community,



## Gratitude for the Power of Scripture

After thirty years in active parish ministry, I shifted to ten years of nonprofit work. Friends would ask, "Is there anything you miss about being a pastor?" I would say many things, but what I missed the most was the practice of turning to Scripture every week to look for fresh meaning. I was never disappointed. It may have been a relatively obscure text or a familiar one, but I consistently was surprised how fresh insights into contemporary life arose from patiently digging into a story, a passage, a verse or even a single word. Over time, I was reminded of a statement by the French philosopher Paul Ricouer about the fecundity of great spiritual texts. Like enduring works of art, they contain a "surplus of meaning." I can come back again and again to stories in the Bible and find again and again there is a fresh insight awaiting discovery. The great passages are not reducible to one, fixed meaning, but a seemingly endless outpouring of truth and wisdom.

I've thought about this as I reflect on the texts I've been focusing on in recent months. For Lent, I had chosen to work through the Lord's Prayer over seven weeks. When we began, I had no idea the Corona pandemic would be upon us midway through the series. But then, taking each verse and looking at it in light of what was happening, I found the words charged with meaning. "Give us this day our daily bread" found vivid relevance as millions of people lost their jobs and efforts like St. Andrew's "Feeding Our Neighbors" program sprang up. As personal and economic stress spread along with the virus, "Forgive us our debts..." became a directive to address the impact of sudden interpersonal and economic tension and loss that was arising many places. "Lead us not into temptation" became a wake-up call to make strong and virtuous decisions about our individual and communal challenges. When we prayed, "Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory," we were reminded that many social structures come and go, but the enduring reality of Jesus' vision for the human family endures.

As we have moved past Easter into a time of racial unrest, I've been fascinated by how more familiar texts open us to fresh light: that Pentecost itself is the first great multicultural event, that "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess" from Philippians would have new meaning as millions kneeled in the street, and how the "Feeding of the 5,000" story could become incarnated in the St. Andrew's parking lot as 8,000 people were given food to get through the week.

I have not yet set a course for preaching in July and August, but I am confident whatever passages we focus on will create surprising and grace-filled perspectives for us as we continue this journey. I'm grateful to be on the journey with all of you.

Steve

# SESSION NEWS

News from Session Meeting on May 19, 2020:

## May 19

- 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.
- Received and accepted the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2020.
- Heard a report from Ann Padden-Rubin and Dana Monk on the May 16 Presbytery meeting, which was conducted via Zoom.
- Received an update from Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members Kirk Grier and Tom Weisenburger, including a list of questions they had received from several candidates.
- Continued discussion of St. Andrew's response to the COVID-19 precautions, including ways Session could help the Deacons stay in touch with members. It was estimated that approximately 80-100 people are watching the virtual worship services each week, but there are some members who don't have computer access and are not able to watch or participate in the Zoom coffee hour or adult education sessions.
- Heard an update from Ann Padden-Rubin about the "Feeding Our Neighbors" food distribution program. Youth from the Living Faith Center and volunteers from the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist church have been helping and want to discuss possible future joint projects.

News from Session Meeting on June 16, 2020:

## June 16

- The meeting was conducted online (via Zoom) from members' homes due to COVID-19 precautions.
- Rev. Steve Jacobsen provided a few highlights of his activities as Interim Pastor over the past month. He expressed gratitude to Rev. Peter Buehler for serving as guest pastor for the June 14 virtual worship service.
- Received and accepted the Treasurer's Report for the period ending May 31, 2020. It was also noted that a Synod grant had been received to be used for COVID-19 related issues.
- Participated in a discussion with Deacons' Co-Moderator Barbara Eschbach to brainstorm ideas and coordinate plans for staying in touch with members during this time of isolation.
- Heard a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) member Tom Weisenburger. PNC is resuming activities after a setback with renewed appreciation for new possibilities.
- Approved a request to hold a baby shower via Zoom for choir director Erin McKibben on July 5 at 4pm.
- Received a summary of the successful "Feeding Our Neighbors" food distribution program, which ended on June 12. Session expressed gratitude to Ann Padden-Rubin, Dana Monk and Linda Sorensen for their leadership and hard work in conducting this legendary event.
- Continued discussion of St. Andrew's response to COVID-19 precautions, including a report from the Health Advisory Group about the detailed list of requirements that need to be fulfilled before re-opening can be considered. An update from the Advisory Group is expected in mid-to-late July.

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, September 19 – Goleta Presbyterian

Tuesday, November 10 – First Presbyterian



## NOVEL BOOK GROUP FOR JULY

The next Book Club is Saturday, July 11, at 10:00AM in the Vos room.  
The book will be: The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.

The August book is still to be determined.



## VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH AUDIO & VISUALS

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

# BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE



Thanks to Linda Gunther for directing the resurfacing of the parking lot during the week of June 15. It's now a neat, black parking lot. There were huge cracks in the far end of the lot that took special efforts to fill. Some cracks still need more work. Challenge Asphalt plans to fill those cracks in the near future, likely on a Saturday. It is expected that the new paving will be the last major project for CBT and that the remaining funds will transfer into a Maintenance Reserve account for continued support of our facilities.

Some of the major projects that were managed by CBT were: painting the exterior of all three buildings, constructing the Memorial Garden, painting the kitchen cabinets, replacing roofing over the choir room, installing new dual pane windows in the Christian Education building to replace failing louvered windows, planting beautiful flower gardens in the inner campus and new landscaping in the front of Morgan Hall and offices, installing roll up doors for the audio visual room, adding LED lights to illuminate the inner campus, installing a sidewalk to the street from its former end located near the youth room, new chairs for the library, replacement of broken blinds in Morgan Hall, and repairing the crest of the sanctuary roof.

Merlyn Cummings for the Buildings and Grounds team

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 06 – John Gonzalez
- 08 – Nancy McKenzie
- 08 – Jeff Wootton
- 10 – Enid England
- 15 – Chris Davis
- 17 – Jim Gilmour
- 17 – Dana Monk
- 18 – Katie Lefley
- 20 – Ariel Bowers
- 21 – Louise Carey
- 23 – Laura Lee Henderson
- 26 – Shelby Malengo



- 27 – Lindy Moore
- 28 – Marie Sue Parsons
- 29 – Scott Eschbach
- 31 – Bob Parsons

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – James Padden-Rubin
- 03 – Brandon Gonzalez
- 04 – Barbara Hughes
- 08 – William Hughes
- 14 – Kayla Malengo
- 16 – Cheri Hoeckley
- 18 – Bill Wise
- 21 – Martha Hitchens
- 22 - Bob Allbright
- 25 – Beau Henderson
- 25 – Andrew Lefley



- 26 – Helen Cummings
- 28 – Bill Oakley

## Meditation for **JULY & AUGUST**

### A PRAYER OF BLESSING

LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born, you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,

that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us –  
yes, establish the work of our hands.

From: Psalm 90

## PNC NEWS

The PNC is making progress! We have four candidates who we have identified as interesting and exciting possibilities for St. Andrew's. Each applicant comes with their own history and skills which would steer our future in different ways. It is exciting to imagine our congregation being led by each of these wonderful people. We continue with interviews by Zoom. It is an amazing time for us. Please continue to pray for us as we try to find the best fit for St. Andrew's now and into the future.

**DEADLINE FOR 2020 *September/October* NEWSLETTER**

**Please submit articles and photos by Tuesday, Aug. 25**

# ADULT EDUCATION

# SUMMER RETURNS

STAY TUNED  
FOR THE SCHEDULE



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