



GOOD NEWS – July/August 2017

"Jesus undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: 'God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the three-fold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.'"

Matthew 28: 18-20 from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*

The resurrected Jesus spoke this final word to the disciples before he finally left this earth. The word on his lips was a promise to walk with us as we continued to try to walk the way, having compassion for our neighbor. Here walking as Jesus walked healing minds and bodies, restoring relationships and communities, feeding and including, we find our best lives together in God.

Eugene Peterson translates Jesus saying to "train everyone... in this way of life." What does it mean to live a Christian life? How do we invite others to participate? How do we share our faith with our kids and youth, train them in the way? How do we worship in ways that are meaningful across generations?

The church (in general, across denominations) is trying to faithfully answer those questions. We, at St. Andrew, God's people in this time and space and place, are trying to figure that out together. There's no right answer, no one size fits all answer. There's no sure fire win. We are figuring it together.

The council invited you through a simple survey to begin thinking about these questions together, to make suggestions and comments about how we can improve our "training,: our opportunities to encounter God and participate in the life God calls us to live here and now in this 21st century. Thank you to those who thought about it and took the time to respond.

We had 24 responses representing 30 individuals, some a single line, some required extra pages. What became obvious in tallying our surveys is that living in community (much like living in a family) takes compromise. Different parts of our worship are meaningful for everyone. While many felt most connected during communion or hearing scripture/preaching, some loved sharing the peace and for others it was a distraction. Some loved singing "traditional hymns." Some wrote strongly about singing more contemporary hymn with guitar/band.

This week Council gathered with additional leaders from the congregation and talked about these questions (how live a life of faith together, how do we train others up, how do we worship in meaningful ways), and looked at what the surveys showed. Our top priorities are worshiping in diverse ways, especially musically; changing our format for Sunday School; helping members in need in our congregation; and looking into possibilities of merging with other Lutheran churches or sharing ministry.

We don't know what this means yet, what this looks like, when and how it will happen, but we know that these are the conversation we need to have, the work we need to be doing. If you would like to take part in thinking about, planning, participating in any of these areas, please let me know.

We are blessed here at St. Andrew in so many ways. We are blessed in the diversity of the people of God that gather here. We are blessed in the variety of gifts and skills possessed by the people of God that gather here. We are blessed with the good news that Jesus walks with us as we figure it out and there will be joys even in the midst of the mess of figuring it out.

As Fred Pratt Green writes in the hymn **God Is Here!**
*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*
(ELW 526)

Walk with us. Pray with us. Worship with us. Serve with us.

Peace+
Pr. Stephanie

WORSHIP
the heart of our life together!

Join us this summer, as we lean into Sabbath. The ways we rest, renew and God makes us whole.

Holy Communion.

Saturdays at 4 p.m., Sundays at 9 a.m., we gather for worship weekly to greet God in our midst. Here we center ourselves and our week in the gifts of God given to us in word and in sacrament. The readings from Matthew are rich with images that speak to summers spent hosting and visiting, resting and renewing, planting and weeding, seashores and mountain sides.

Jesus around the Campfire (holy communion)

Wednesdays in July at 7:30 p.m. Bring your own lounge and join us on the front lawn around the campfire to share stories, songs, and holy conversation in a simple (experimental) service of communion. Celebrate summer and relax into this informal outdoor Sabbath. We will have extra folding chairs available. If it rains, we'll be in the chapel.

The 21st: "For Such a Time As This" Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, our presiding bishop, has issued an invitation to join an ecumenical call to fast on the 21st of every month (see the bishop's invitation on our facebook page). We want to offer spiritual support for those choosing to do this. The night before we will send out prayers for the morning. Email Pastor Stephanie at Pastorstephanie@standrewct.org if you wish to be on this list. Then we will gather at the close of day (8 p.m.) for a service of Compline. Join us July 21 at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and August 21 at 8 p.m. in the Chapel.

Farewell and Godspeed. As our college students finish up their summer internships and employment and prepare to head back to school, we want to send them with our prayers and support. Sunday, August 13th at the 9 am worship, we will bless them as they go. If you are a beginning or returning college student and can join us this day, please let Pastor Stephanie know your name and the school you attend (text 860 378-7577, or email PastorStephanie@StAndrewCT.org).

Outdoor Worship/Back to School Blessings! Sunday, August 27th at our usual 9 a.m. time, we celebrate the end of summer, and rejoice with everyone beginning of a new school year. Come and bring a friend. Come and bring your blanket or lawn chair as we worship casually outside (extra seats will be available). Join us in praying for and blessing the students, teachers and educational staff among us. Commission our Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group teachers and leaders.

Prayer Tapestry. Over the summer we invite you to add your prayers to our ongoing work of art. Woven together are the hopes and prayers of us all, and others who stop in or gather in this space. We are connected through God to one another. You will find a table with strips of cloth and fabric markers in the Social Hall. Peggy Hoyt coordinates the project if you have questions.

Mulberry Garden is an assisted living facility in Plantsville (Southington). On the fourth Wednesday of the month a team from St. Andrew leads worship at 10 a.m. for about 50 residents, who are deeply grateful for our presence, and the gifts of God we bring. You can just come and worship with us and greet residents. You can read a lesson, lead song, assist with communion, lead prayers, share the peace. Speak with Pr. Stephanie if you are interested in being a part of this ministry. Our next services are Wednesdays July 26 and August 23 at 10 a.m.

EDUCATION

First Communion Camp This summer young people entering Grade 2 and older have the opportunity to learn about communion. Come learn about this gift God gives us to know God's love in ways we can taste, smell, touch, see. Each session is highly interactive, lasting 1-1 ½ hours. Kids usually love it. We tell stories, draw, act things out, watch video clips, cook, and sing. Because of this, each session is important and cannot be made up. A parent or a godparent or grandparent participates with their child. We meet July 24-27 at 7 p.m. with first communion on July 30. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Stephanie.

Fall Youth (Grades 8-12) Gathering at Calumet. You're late! If you have not yet RSVP'ed for this next youth (away trip September 8-9-10, 2017, do it now. Don't miss out on this chance to get away to the shores of Lake Ossipee for some boating, swimming, beachtime fun. Leaders Roger, Dawn and Donna are ready for this crazy road trip – ready to drive, sing, play silly games, and spend some time with you. To sign up, turn in the pink Fall Retreat RSVP found on pastor's door with a \$55 deposit. Remember deposits are only refundable until July 23rd if you cancel.

Youth (Grades 7-12) Tenting in Town. Grab your sleeping bag sunscreen and bug spray and take a night away. Winding Trails awaits. Meet at St. Andrew Friday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m. and return by 12:30 p.m. You need overnight gear plus a sleeping bag, flashlight, flip flops, swim suit, beach towel, permission form, a picnic side (Leslie is grilling for us) and \$\$ (\$5 for camping, plus money for concession stand lunch). Help us check for the best of our tent supply Sunday, July 16 after church.

Youth (Grades 7-12) Providence Trip. Meet the monkeys and more at the Roger Williams Park Zoo Saturday, August 5. Our adventure begins at church at 9:30 a.m. We'll go to the zoo first, and then head downtown for Providence's summer Waterfire festival. Wear good walking shoes, and bring a permission form, bag lunch, \$15 for zoo admittance and \$\$ for dinner at a food court.

Youth Car Wash: There will be a car wash on **Saturday, August 26** from 9am-noon. Come, have your car washed for \$7 or truck for \$10, and enjoy a cup of coffee while you wait. Any youth or adult who would like to volunteer with set-up or clean-up, please see Roger Narvesen. Youth & adult volunteers need to set-up at 8:30 am and stay for clean-up until 12:30 pm.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Mosaic Home: Did you know that we have partnered with the Bristol Mosaic home, a residence for disabled young ladies? Do you have an idea for an outreach project? Want to weed the flowerbeds? See team leader Noreen Simmons or the church office for more info.

Zion Lutheran's Meals for the Needy: Every 5th Thursday of the month St Andrew prepares and serves 75-100 meals to Bristol residents. If you'd like more information, chat with Team Leader Ursula Kaminsky or the church office. Our next day to serve is August 31.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS Sunday, September 10 - each ELCA congregation is invited to roll up their sleeves, put on their gloves and pick up a rake or a sponge or a paint brush or serve in some other capacity to do God's work with our hands. St. Vincent DePaul shelter in Bristol needs our help with some on-site projects. Sign ups begin soon, to volunteer or for more information, contact Team Leader Kathy Cutter or the church office.

Team: "A Taste of St. Andrew"

When: Saturday, September 23 with 1 meeting prior

What: help with set-up, tickets at the door, greeter etc.

Contact: Roy Ouellette at rouellette@mottcorp.com

Team: "God's Work Our Hands"

When: Sunday, Sept. 10 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

What: Community service project - painting, yard work, or making lunch for volunteers. details to follow

Contact: Kathy Cutter at kcutter45@comcast.net

WOMEN'S GUILD

Many members and friends took time out on June 13th to meet for our annual picnic/pot-luck supper. We were especially happy that Brian Tessman could be with us and present his timely and interesting program on "Therapeutic Touch."

Thanks go to our committee for that evening – Robin Landrette, Dawn Stitham, Renee Werner, Arlene Creswell and Vicki Trudel.

There are no meetings during the summer. Our next meeting will be **on Tuesday, September 12th**. Plans are in place to meet at **Pagliari's in Plainville @ 6:00 PM** for dinner. Menus were available at the June meeting. As September draws nearer, more info will be available in newsletters, bulletins and on the Women's Guild bulletin board. This is open to all ladies. A sign-up sheet will also be available later. Check your calendar, mark the date - 9/12 – and plan on an evening out.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We thank all who helped make our recent bake sale a great success! Thanks go to all the bakers, those who purchased and donated, those who set up and sold and helped in any way. Many hands help. We couldn't do it without you! The purpose was to raise additional funds to buy clothing for local children for the first day of school. Thrivent also supports this project.

HAVE A SAFE AND PLEASANT SUMMER!

Joan Strecker

Officers for 2017 are:

President: Joan Strecker

Vice President: Sue Provenzano

Treasurer: Joan Lagasse

STEWARDSHIP

It's Hip to be Square

"Hip to be Square" is the name of our Sponsor-a-floor-tile campaign. We will be replacing the floor in the fellowship hall and side entrance, and you're invited to support this much needed effort.

It is estimated that we will need approximately 1600 tiles, and the project will cost an estimated \$25 per tile. If you would like to sponsor a tile(s), your donation of \$25 per tile will help with the cost. There will be a graph in the fellowship hall to see how we're doing. Are you "Hip to be Square"? (It's okay to be square!)

Make your checks payable to St. Andrew and note "floor tiles" in the memo. Donations can be mailed to the office or dropped in the offering plate. Thank you for helping with the much-needed floor replacement.

Sponsored by the Stewardship Committee

SUMMER GROCERY CART CHALLENGE Our grocery cart is hungry and looking to be filled. For July & August let's think picnic.....donations of picnic items like boxed pasta salad mixes, condiments, Pringles, tuna for pasta salads, pickles, paper plates and napkins, Kool-aid, iced tea mixes.....all the stuff to enjoy summer dining for folks through Meals for the Needy.

TASTE OF ST. ANDREW CALLING ALL COOKS! Now is the time to sign up for our 2nd annual cook-off on **September 23**, Main dishes, appetizers/sides and desserts are up for grabs, be sure to take your spot on the list. Sample-sized portions of deliciousness will compete for bragging rights, all the while raising money for both our capital campaign and World Hunger.

If you're not a cook, you can help by buying a ticket to the event on September 23rd. Tickets go on sale at the end of summer. For more details see Roy Ouellette.

We're looking for a few people to help at the event, taking tickets, kitchen help etc. We need you!

HOMELESS SHELTER: St. Andrew supports **St. Vincent DePaul** shelter in Bristol. Due to significant cuts in funding, the shelter is in need of basic supplies for operation. Items in short supply include cleaning products, body wash, toilet tissue, bottled water, women's pajamas and other personal care items.

Thank you for caring for our local people in need. A labelled collection box is in the fellowship hall through the summer. For more info, speak with Ray or Laurie Ellsworth.

THANKS KIDS for you recent Noisy Offering.....keep donating to your bank over the summer, we'll get "Noisy" again when school starts!

Prudence Crandall Center is in need of the following for their women's shelter:

- women's pajamas
- body wash
- paper towels/toilet paper
- cleaning supplies
- bottled water
- afghans
- women's socks

There is a basket in the fellowship hall for donations. For more info, see Ray & Laurie Ellsworth or contact the church office.

Able to help with a loan to the church? Interest-free loans to the church are a way to fund the project and have been used for several of our capital improvement projects.

Your offering never needs to take a vacation with **Simply Giving**, our online automated giving program. Whether you're away or left your checkbook at home, it's easy to continue sharing the gifts God has given you. Signing up is super easy by visiting our website at standrewwct.org and clicking the "Donate" button. It's easy to set up, a confirmation of each offering is provided, monthly statements are issued, and the comfort of knowing your Church is being supported are great reasons to consider Simply Giving. Need help signing up? See Bob Herold or Arlene Creswell or contact the church office.

July Birthdays

1 st	Wendy Cunningham
2 nd	Dot Forrest Scott Nadeau
3 rd	Weller Simmons
4 th	Pam Murphy
5 th	Chuck Simmons
6 th	Dylan McMahon
7 th	Hannah Avolt
8 th	Donna McCarthy
9 th	Bill Mackey Sue Phaneuf
11 th	Jon Burkhardt
12 th	Noah Rios
14 th	Matt Keane
15 th	Pastor Stephanie
18 th	Thea Griffin
21 st	Gary Dubnansky
22 nd	Eleanore Brandt Lisa Cunningham Chadd Vontell
23 rd	Brian Biernat David Nelson
24 th	Brenda Dubnansky
26 th	Nicholas Ropp
27 th	Victoria Beaudoin
30 th	Bob Avolt
31 st	Christine Mitchell Norman Schauss

August Birthdays

1 st	Bob Lagasse George Matulis
2 nd	Matthew Sykes
4 th	Dixie Losey Arlene Schissler David Soden
6 th	Joe Boisvert Daniel Ropp
7 th	Cathy Doty
8 th	Martha Burkhard
9 th	Astrid Bekstrom Lynn Pelow
13 th	Philip Labbe
14 th	Kris Culin Kaysie Procko
16 th	Tyler Ropp
17 th	Gene Phaneuf
18 th	Jean Wentland
22 nd	Edie Narveson Roy Ouellette
23 rd	Emily Pratt
26 th	June Beaulieu Dan Golden Wyatt Rios
27 th	Kathryn Simpson
28 th	Carol Brunelle
30 th	Laurie Straceski Arnold Tonn
31 st	Jordyn Procko

Please Remember in Your Prayers... Those in need of healing:

Bill, Pr. Nancy Beckwith, Keith duBay,
John Gacek, Wade Hibbard,
Cullen Murphy, Bill Murtha, Patti Pare,
Jim Prior, Paul Rescsanski, Kathleen Roth,
Perk Talmadge, Marcia Theer,
Sal Vaccaro.

Those in nursing homes and the homebound:

Astrid Bekstrom,
Lydia Dallmann, Dorothy Forrest,
Adeline Nevulis, Marie Ouellette.

We re-set the prayer list monthly. If you wish to add someone to the list, please fill out a prayer request or contact the office at (860) 583-5809 or via email churchoffice@standrewct.org

Purpose Statement

We are committed to seeking out people for membership in Christ's family, studying God's Word together that we may grow in his grace, strengthening our lives with regular worship and fellowship and sharing our time, talents, and treasure that Jesus will be known to all people through our words and deeds.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Pope is frequently in the office Monday through Thursday. Please call (860) 583-5809 for an appointment. Help us to provide good pastoral care by keeping the church up-to-date with what's going on in our lives as part of God's family. Please call the church office and let Pastor know if:

You are in need of prayer;
You are ill or hospitalized;
You wish to be anointed for healing;
A baby is born in your family;
A family member dies;
You wish to be married;
You wish to be baptized or have a child baptized;
You wish to receive communion;
You are moving, or have changed your contact information, or;
You would like to join St. Andrew

Pastoral Acts:

Baptism: Holden Eric Karp, son of Kari and Steven Karp

Funeral: Barbara Davis

Confirmed: Grace Elizabeth Alling, Erin Elizabeth Avolt, Levi Padric Avolt, Sierra Nicole Narvesen, Daniel Joseph Ropp, Kathryn Elizabeth Simpson

About St. Andrew

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Robert Herold

Vice President: (vacant)

Secretary: Ellie Miller

Treasurer: Stephen Adam

Faith Formation Liaison: Karen Biernat

Mission and Outreach Liaison: Arlene Creswell

Parish Life Liaison: (open)

Stewardship Liaison: Don Zurell

Youth Council-at-large: Kelly Simpson

Young Adult Council-at-large: (open)