

The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

1020 Maryland Avenue; Hagerstown, MD 21740

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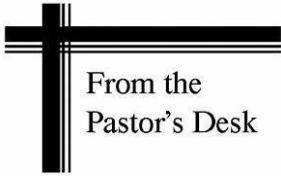
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

Our Vision: "Believe in God, Follow Jesus, and Serve Others."

January 2023 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

"God Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn Lyrics: *O God, our Help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be Thou our guide while life shall last, our eternal home.*

The year 2022 is now behind us. God of all ages has been good to us. This God, the Father of our Lord Jesus leads us on into 2023.

Some of our memories of 2022 were not good. But as we evaluate the past, we praise God for his goodness to us.

So, I encourage you to face the future with faith in this awesome God. This God is dependable, gracious, personal, and merciful.

Let us stand on God's wonderful promises, for there is the inexhaustible power for living our spiritual and personal lives.

Let us be loving and faithful to God keeping his Word in our lives.

Resist temptation. Do not be weary in doing good. Face the New Year with faith in the Lord. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Serufusa



St. Andrews Music Notes

Happy New Year to my church family! Let's make a New Year's resolution to become more involved in the work at St. Andrews Church. The Worship & Music Committee has many opportunities for you to assist: planning special services, decorating the sanctuary for special occasions, brainstorming ideas to include our on-line viewers, finding ways to include our shut-ins, etc.

We will meet just six times during the year on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00pm. Meetings will promptly end at 7:00pm so as not to interfere with Bell Practice. Please consider joining us! The 2023 meeting dates of the Worship & Music Committee are:

January 11,
March 8,
May 10,
July 12,
September 13,
November 8.

The Chancel/Praise Choir is in need of more voices. We have a wonderful fellowship time at rehearsals which are held right after church for one hour. We would love to have additional voices in our group. All are welcome.

Lisa Shives,
Music Director
Worship & Music Committee Chair

Important Dates in January

Jan 01 - New Year's Day

- Jan 01 - Epiphany Sunday
- Jan 05 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- Jan 08 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday
- Jan 10 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee
- Jan 11 - 6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee
- Jan 15 - Human Relations Sunday
- Jan 15 - February Newsletter articles are due
- Jan 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 17 - 6:00 pm SPRC
- Jan 18 - 11:30 am Emmanuel Senior's Lunch at Western Sizzlin'
- Jan 24 - 7:00 pm Church Council
- Jan 28 - 9:00 am UMM Breakfast meeting

WEATHER WATCH!



If the weather outside is blowing and you wonder if church services will be held, look for an email from the pastor or listen to WJEJ, 1240 AM on your radio

dial for a report of canceled worship services.

If Washington County schools are closed due to the weather, any meetings scheduled at the church for that day or evening will be cancelled unless you are advised otherwise by the meeting chairperson.



Red Bird Mitten Tree

The Red Bird Mitten tree is covered in lovely winter items! Everyone has been busy shopping and making mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves for cold hands and heads in the Kentucky area this winter. The Red Bird Mission Conference reaches out to families in communities where food, clothing, housing, and education are greatly needed. Thank you for caring! All items will be sent in January.

REACH Cold Weather Shelter

On Thanksgiving Eve three churches joined together at St. Andrews for a special service. An offering was taken for REACH Cold Weather Shelter. We were able to send a check for \$234.00 to REACH! Thank you for caring about the homeless in Washington County.

In February we will have "Souper" Bowl Sunday and a donation box for REACH.

Food Mission Projects

November was a very busy month! Donations provided about 300 items! Thanks to everyone, including a local business, we were able to help feed our community. We donated food to St. Mark's Food Bank, the Rescue Mission, Bester Elementary School, and the Salvation Army!

Church World Service (CWS)

We received a postcard and poster from CWS recognizing St. Andrews as a Sponsoring Congregation. "As you gather around your Thanksgiving table, know that your compassion has created safe homes with food on the table for countless families in need. Thanks for all you do!"

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER YEAR
OF CARING ABOUT OTHERS
NEAR AND FAR!

A special Thank You to Joyce McClanathan and her committee for their tireless and cheerful efforts to organize our mission services by collecting and delivering food items, communicating with organizations and schools, and administering special projects throughout the year.

Thanks also to Joyce for communicating with and updating us on the activities of the missionaries the church was able to support for many years.

Unfortunately, that mission will no longer be in the budget beginning this year.



Notes on Finances...

As your Finance Chair, I sleep better at night knowing that we have more than \$10,000 in our checking account. That means to me that our expenses for the week can easily be paid. When our account balance drops below \$10,000 and our quarterly payments are due, I know that the Sunday's giving will be needed to secure our expenses for the next week.

All our remaining emergency funds are invested in mutual funds. If giving does not meet our needed amounts to pay expenses, then we will need to liquify these funds and transfer money into our General Fund.

We are meeting with our District Superintendent to seek guidance on securing our financial future. He will review financial reports and assets and advise us based on his knowledge of conference policies and financial procedures. We look forward to sharing with you, his recommendations.

Please don't forget about St. Andrews if in-person services should be canceled due to inclement weather. Your weekly giving is critical to us paying our bills on time and in full. We have paid all our Conference Mission Share, pension, and medical payments in full for the past 8 years. We hope to continue this in 2023 with your help.

We continue to look for ways to restart our Fundraisers initiatives and other events to raise money to support our budget. If you have suggestions or are willing to volunteer, please see Pastor Chris to add your name to the list. With many people sharing small tasks, we can make great things happen.

Thoughts on Generosity...

We've all heard the expression, "Money talks." That's true. Money does talk. Oh, not in words or phrases that constitute a language, but money talks. Because it is valuable to us, how we use it communicates volumes to those about us. People tend to spend their money on things that are important to them. With the exception perhaps of taxes, all of us vote with the contents of our purses, wallets and checkbooks concerning what means the most to us.

In fact, we could even go so far as to say that a person who does not spend money on something which is supposedly very important in his or her life really does not place much value on that item or activity. Suppose for a moment that you think "little league" baseball for kids is very important. You attend the games. You enroll your own children in the program. But when someone calls you to ask you to be a sponsor of a team, or when someone "passes the hat" at a game to pay for equipment, you refuse to participate.

Would you not agree that an impartial observer of such behavior would conclude correctly that little league baseball really does not mean much to you? Your lack of financial support would outweigh the other positive aspects of your attendance, enthusiasm and participation.

The same thing is true in the spiritual realm. It is one thing to talk about Christianity. It is yet another to demonstrate our faith by how we use the money God has entrusted to us. And that is especially true in our support of the ministry of St. Andrew's. As someone said recently in one church just before the offering was received, "Lord, in spite of all we say and do, this is what we think of you."

Or as the Lord Jesus put it, "... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Money is a means to the greater end of glorifying God as we demonstrate practical Christianity

in our lives.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,

do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).