

The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

1020 Maryland Avenue; Hagerstown, MD 21740

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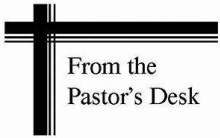
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

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

January 2024 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

It is time to Renew – 2024

¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ² *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* ³ *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.* ⁴ *God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.* ⁵ *God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.* Genesis 1:1-5

Recently I got an email reminding me to renew my driver's license. The notice said, "will accept your eye doctor's information for the purpose of renewing your license." How convenient this is, I thought.

Are there renewals that you must do in the new year, subscriptions, memberships?

It is always exciting to enter the new year keeping in mind the possibilities ahead of the new year. We need a fresh touch from God for our hopes, dreams, and expectations.

When God created the earth and heavens, he said it was good. God is in the business of recreating and renewing life. Hannah, who was barren, was renewed when she had baby Samuel. Saul, who persecuted the church, was renewed on the road to Damascus to become the great apostle of Christ's church.

May God renew your spiritual life, your business life, and your personal life. May God's grace bring new possibilities that you had not thought about. May you have fresh eyes, a renewed mind, and a renewed love for God. May God's power wash over you, recharge you and make you new again.

Blessings,

Pastor Serufusa



St. Andrews Music Notes

"Sing like no one's listening
Love like you've never been hurt
Dance like nobody's watching
Live like it's heaven on earth."

(Source unknown)

January always brings New Year's resolutions. Maybe you want to consider joining the bells or vocal choir in 2024. Many of the church committees could use more members on them with new fresh ideas. What a great resolution it would be to start 2024 with the promise to get more involved in our church for the glory of God.

Thanks to all those who participated in our "Bethlehem Speaks" program. Thank you also to our Bell Choir and Vocal Choir, along with our soloists who provided special music during Advent and Christmas.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday service at Emmanuel on February 14th. Easter will be on March 31. Watch for more information to come about special services during the Lenten Season. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy New Year.

Lisa Shives,
Music Director
Worship & Music Committee Chair



Important Dates in January

- Jan 01 - New Year's Day
- Jan 03 - 6:30 pm Meeting with DS at church
- Jan 04 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- Jan 07 - Epiphany Sunday and Baptism of Lord
- Jan 09 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee
- Jan 10 - 6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee
- Jan 14 - Human Relations Sunday
- Jan 15 - February Newsletter articles are due
- Jan 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 16 - 6:00 pm SPRC
- Jan 17 - 11:30 am Senior's Lunch at Western Sizzlin'
- Jan 23 - 7:00 pm Church Council

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.



Food Donations

In the last thirty days we have been able to donate food to three community groups. St. Mark's

Food Bank received 65 boxes of cereal and 22 other items. When our last donation arrived, they were completely out of cereal! They were very happy to see us! The Rescue Mission received 15 items to be used in their pantry or lunch program.

We donated 34 boxes of individual snack packs to Bester Elementary School for students' afternoon "brain" food break! Thank you for supporting community food programs.

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings

Thank you for filling a dozen stockings again this year! The staff at the Salvation Army are always so appreciative when they see the beautiful stockings you stuff with so many lovely items for local boys and girls. What a gift you have given to children this year! Thank you so much!

Red Bird Mitten Tree

The tree is full and overflowing with pretty winter items. Lots of hands have been busy making, shopping, and donating hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for the Red Bird Mission in Appalachian Kentucky. Thank you for caring about others! If we have extra small children's items, we will donate them to our local Head Start.

Salvation Army New Year's Prayer

"Dear Heavenly Father,
 I thank You for the year that has passed.
 I am grateful for the blessings You have offered me in that time.
 Remind me to trust in You when life feels uncertain, and please forgive me when I fail.
 Let me be generous with love and compassion toward others. For I know the infinite possibilities that are born from faith in You.
 In Your glorious name I pray.
 Amen"



Notes on Finances...

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).

FUND RAISER COMMITTEE

Peanut Butter Egg Making 2024!

Peanut Egg Making will begin the end of January and continue into March.

Join the Committee – If you are interested in helping to make eggs,



please sign up on the table in the Narthex or contact Phyllis Ernde and let her know if you want to work morning or evening.

Watch for more information and updates in the bulletin and upcoming newsletters.