

The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

1020 Maryland Avenue; Hagerstown, MD 21740

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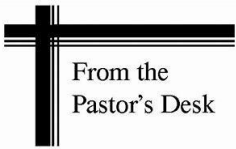
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

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

September 2023 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

Peace! Thanks for your prayers and support for my family.

We recently returned from a successful Uganda visit. We celebrated Mukisa's birthday and graduation in Uganda with his grandparents and relatives. We also celebrated my parents 60th Wedding Anniversary. Elizabeth's father turned 90 years old on August 8th.

Our season of planting, watering, weeding, pruning, and harvesting is over. I hope you all had a great harvest.

Remember the words of Jesus, "**the harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few.**" Throw out the seeds of love, forgiveness, mercy, and compassion generously this Fall season. Do not worry about the soil, dry, thorns, sunbaked, rocky, or good soil. God, the great harvester, will take care of the details.

Have a great Fall season.

Blessings,
Pastor Serufusa



St. Andrews Music Notes

Summer was a busy time at St. Andrews this year. We had our first "Christmas In July" service that was enjoyed by all. I know the young children who were there loved playing Christmas Bingo and painting a snow globe on their tee shirts. The Christmas program was well received by those in attendance.

We had a special Patriotic service on July 2nd. You were to take a toy soldier home with you and place it in a prominent place in your home to remind you to pray for our men and women who serve in the armed services.

Twelve members/friends of St. Andrews traveled to Lancaster and enjoyed the Sight and Sound production of Moses. We hope to plan another trip as everyone was awed by the special effects, music, and acting from the cast.

Our special service of Music and Praise in August was very meaningful. Many members of St. Andrews shared in the readings and providing special music that Sunday.

The outdoor service in the park, followed by a wonderful luncheon was a great way to praise God and fellowship with our church family.

Look for ways you can become involved in the church services at St. Andrews. We are already making plans for special services in the fall and winter which will include a Christmas cantata in December. We can always use extra voices on the choir.

Please consider joining the Worship and Music Committee as we plan for special services. All ideas are welcomed.

Thank you to all of the members of St. Andrews for your participation in activities and your positive comments of support. The special music this summer was enjoyed by all and we thank you for sharing your talents. Let me close with my new favorite line in the just released song,

"What Are We Waiting For"; by King and Country. The lyrics ask, "What if we could be the light that no one could ignore; what are we waiting for?"

Lisa Shives, Music Director



in September

09/01 - 5:00-7:30 Monitor

Parking Lot
09/04 - Labor Day

- 09/05 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee meets
- 09/06 - 6:00 pm Worship Committee meets
- 09/06-09/07 – Nancy on vacation
- 09/07 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- 09/08 - 5:00 – 7:30 Monitor Parking Lot
- 09/14 - 10:00 am Bible Study begins
- 09/14 - 5:00 – 7:30 Monitor Parking Lot
- 09/15 - October newsletter articles are due
- 09/20 - 11:30 am Emmanuel Senior's Lunch at Bob Evans on Dual Highway
- 09/21 - 10:00 am Bible Study
- 09/23 - 9:00 am UMM meet at church
- 09/23 - 11:00am-1:30pm Monitor Parking Lot
- 09/26 - 7:00 pm Church Council
- 09/28 - 10:00 am Bible Study



In an updated chart of our giving and expenses for the last 3 months, we notice that our balance in the checking account continues to go down. Please continue to pray about our finances.

We are in the process of planning a late October/early November fundraiser. It will be a Soup, Sandwich and Bake Sale. Look for more information to come in the October newsletter. We will need soup makers and lots of bakers to help make this a fundraising success to support our budget giving.

Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, "Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson." That's certainly true, and based on many of life's experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula "e equals mc²" is familiar to many college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, "e" might stand for every, "m" for member, "c" for commitment, and the "2" for the effort multiplied by itself. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22 — "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyes stated, "Responsible giving or stewardship is not man's way of raising money, but God's way of raising people. . . .The church's budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved."

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust Him to provide the resources. That's a test — a test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It's a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and ability to bless our obedience "far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God's tests regarding money in your life? If God's provision in your life in the days ahead depends on how you



Notes on Finances...

obey His leading now concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?



Food Collections

The donations this summer from the end of June until August 1st have been greatly appreciated! We delivered 89 boxes of cereal and 14 other items to St. Mark's Food Bank. Bester Elementary received 23 boxes of snack packs and 12 pantry items. We also shared several food items with the Rescue Mission. Thank you so much for helping our neighbors! We will continue these collections in September and October and celebrate Food Month in November.

Community Book Drive

In case you still have a gently used or new book, I will not be delivering them until the week of September 11th, so you may put them on the hall table Sunday the 3rd or 10th. Thank you for sharing books with the children and families of Washington County!

St. Andrew's Potato Project

We have enjoyed some very nice fresh vegetables so far this summer. Please continue to share, take, and make a small donation to support transporting gleaned foods to food pantries, food banks, soup kitchens...by the Society of St. Andrews. Feeding others is sharing our love wherever it is needed! Our donation will be reported in the October newsletter. Thank you!



Sight and Sound – Moses

On July 12th, twelve members and friends departed the parking lot of St. Andrews at 10 o'clock and traveled to Ronks, PA which is near Lancaster. We arrived for lunch at Diener's Country Restaurant and enjoyed Pennsylvania Dutch home cooking. After our meal, we drove to the Sight and Sound Theater to see the show Moses. All thought the show was fantastic. We hope to see more shows in the future and we encourage you to attend.



Fundraiser for Champions Orphanage in Uganda

St. Andrews UMC is going to sell sub-sandwiches to benefit the Champions Orphanage in Uganda which takes care of 1,000 children. This orphanage is operated by Pastor Joel Bukenya, Pastor Chris' brother-in-law.

The 14 inch subs are \$10.00 each and will come with condiments shrink-wrapped inside.

We need volunteers to take orders and sell the subs. See Kathy Snyder or Lisa Shives to receive an order form to complete for the subs you sell.

Order forms must be completed for the orders you take and returned to Kathy or Lisa before Sunday, September 10th. You can also call Kathy at 301-842-2302 to place an order.

Payment is due on September 21st from 1:30 – 4:00 at the church when you pick up your subs to distribute to the folks who ordered from you.

Thank you for supporting the children in this orphanage.