

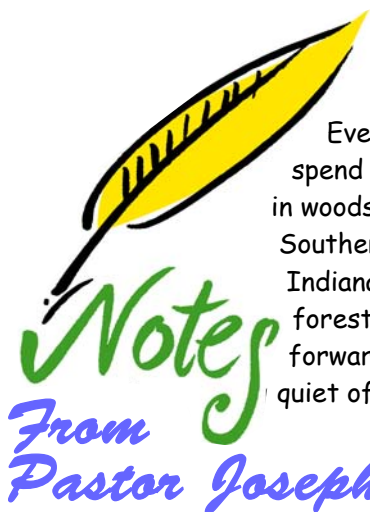


Connections

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

CONNECTING WITH GOD



Every fall I spend hours in woods alone in Southern Indiana's finest forests. I look forward to the quiet of the dark morning punctuated only

by the little feet of forest denizens rustling through the leaves. My thoughts rise with the tree trunks around me and move with the soft breezes through the limbs. Mesmerized by nature, I can look back on the past year's growths and disappointing losses while imagining what the coming days might bring.

Most of all, I find myself being in awe of the wonders from God that surround us. It's not long before I am holding conversation with God. I talk about my failures and He reminds me of his work in me. I speculate upon his nature and He answers with the mysteries of His creation. All in all, it is quite a humbling time, and much needed. I come out renewed and refreshed in so many ways.



Yet this past year, my time in the woods was marked with gusting winds, falling rain, and tiny little companions. I found myself distracted from my usual getaway. I still offered up my thoughts to God, but my ears and attention did not await a response in the chaos of it all. How true this is of life.

We know to the core of our beings that we need time to gather our thoughts, sort them, and be present to this moment. We need to stop the busy, rest, and seek Sabbath. Yet our frail attempts to carve out time are often

circumstance and the next best thing. A deadline gets pushed up, a loved one gets sick, our attention gets pulled elsewhere—and moment by moment that sacred time with God gets shaved and borrowed and shortened and...forgotten.

Yet our God is faithful. His blessings are new every morning. His hands are open to us if we only reach again for His embrace. I realized I needed to set down time regularly on my calendar to sit in the woods with God—not

just when it is convenient to my schedule—or I might miss His conversational wisdom altogether. I have to work at resting. I pray now my schedule holds up.

Yet, this is just one aspect of God's love and life reaching out to us. We can meet him every morning, day, and evening. We can meet him in fasting, singing, resting, praying, worshipping, mourning, working, and feasting. We can meet him alone or with others. Our God is always with us; it is up to us to seek this connection and the joy it brings. Richard Foster, in his timeless *Celebration of Discipline*, tells us, "the purpose of the (spiritual disciplines) is liberation from the stifling slavery to self-interest and fear."

This journey of spiritual growth can seem daunting, especially if we focus upon our past failures or future plans instead of our glorious God. But as Foster reminds us, "The grace of God is unearned and unearnable, but if we ever expect to grow in grace, we must pay the price of a consciously chosen course of action which involves both individual and group life."

We are offered a reflective time every year in in the liturgical calendar. Lent is the traditional

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Our Mission: God has called us together to become like Jesus in committed community for the sake of the world.

2017 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget:	\$819,000
Actual receipts (103% of budget):	844,821
Actual expenditures (99% of budget):	809,812
Operating balance at end of year:	\$35,009

The operating balance was moved to our accumulated surplus account.

The Operational Management Team will determine in the next few months how best to apply the 'extra' funds in the accumulated surplus account to support the ministries at St. Andrew. Some examples of how the extra funds in prior years have been used include support of a Habitat for Humanity project, Sr. High Mission trips, and payments on the building loan.

Thank you for your support in making 2017 another good year by supporting the ministries at St. Andrew. The detailed report is available at the Welcome Center. All are looking forward to the ministries to be accomplished during this year with your support of the 2018 program initiatives. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

News from Financial Secretary: The 2017 giving statements have been distributed or mailed out. Let the church office or Larry Biehl (418-0193) know if you did not receive one and wish to have one or if you have questions about your statement. A letter of acknowledgement and verification of your 2018 operating giving estimate was distributed near the end of last year.

The 2018 giving envelopes have been distributed. Those not picked up yet are in the slots below the mailbox for the Financial Secretary in the church office. Also let Larry know if you do not need envelope boxes in the future.

Building Fund Summary

Building fund income for 2017:	\$41,871
Payments from operating budget:	\$63,500
Payments from 2016 operating surplus:	\$5,000
Giving towards land purchase:	\$8,118
Building loan balance as of 12/31/2017:	\$443,197
Principal paid during 2017:	\$90,935
Interest/property tax paid during 2017:	\$21,069
Building fund account balance:	\$13,786

A more detailed building report for 2017 is available at the Welcome Center.

NOTE: The original building loan would have been paid off in 2031 if only the minimum payments were made. However, the additional building fund gifts that are being made have shortened the payoff date considerably. We will pay the loan off in 2022 if we continue to receive additional yearly gifts of \$50,000 to \$60,000 to the building fund as we have the last several years. Many thanks for all of your support.

THANK YOU!

The staff at St. Andrew wishes to thank you for your generosity in donating to the staff love gift. One of the joys of being on staff is being recognized for the many hours of effort that go into helping the church and its worship services run smoothly. Thank you for remembering us at this special time of year. May 2018 bring many blessings.



I just wanted to say thank you for your thoughtfulness. I very much appreciated the beautiful care package I received at Christmas from the caring ministries at St. Andrew. I was especially moved by the beautiful wooden cross included in the box.

Your friend in Christ,
Angie Wilkins



Would you like to read the newsletter online? You can sign up on our webpage, andrew-umc.org. On the left-hand side of the homepage, near the bottom of the page, click on "Subscribe" under the mailing lists heading. Fill in the information requested and check or uncheck the items you would like to receive electronically. If you currently receive the newsletter by regular mail, you will continue to receive it. To stop receiving the paper copy by regular mail, contact Laurie in the church office at laurie@andrew-umc.org.

(Continued from page 1)

40- day period of fasting, discipline, and self-restraint (minus the Sundays as we celebrate the Lord's resurrection) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. St. Andrew will be using this time to dwell on the disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission and service.

Do you want a deeper connection with your God who loves you? I would like to invite you to our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7 p.m., or join us every Sunday for a renewing conversation on connecting with God.

Have you buried yourself under the accumulation of things and piling up of stuff? I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider what you can let go of over this 40-day period to simplify your life.

Has the busyness of your life kept your schedule full, ears full of noise, and thoughts always moving? I would like to invite you to time away, perhaps at an upcoming silent retreat March 9-10 at Pine Creek.

Have you been addicted to control? I invite you to submit to Jesus and become a lead follower, to perhaps even find a way to serve over this Lenten season in new ways.

John Wesley wrote, "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." I will be praying for you, for us, and for the new connections we are making with God in this upcoming season.

I look forward to rejoicing with you over the new works God is doing in us come Easter morning.

In Christ,

LET'S GO CAMPING

Just this morning over breakfast the kids and I were talking about how there are 80ish days to go before summer—which leads me to one thought—I have to sign them up for camp!

Our United Methodist Conference has a great camping system with something for the whole family—from Mini-Camp for K-2, Elementary Camp for 3-5, Middle School Camp for 6-8 or *That Thing* for High Schoolers.

Parents can also get in on the camping action during Family Camp weekends and Parent-Child Retreats!

Go to getkidstocamp.com for more information on all kids camping opportunities. Want to talk about which camp is right for your kids?

Jenni Seger is a member of the Conference Camping Board and she would love to talk about camp with you—email her at segerfamily6@gmail.com. Need help with a scholarship? Call Pastor Joseph and he will hook you up!



MULTIMEDIA COORDINATOR

St. Andrew is looking for an AV/ Multimedia Coordinator to supervise the audio visual team. For the complete job description, look under About Us/Employment on the St. Andrew website, andrew-umc.org.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is February 11. All Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform to church that day. St. Andrew's own Troop 335 will be celebrating their Eagle Scouts at the 8:30 service. The Troop will also help with the other services.



DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA ROOM?

William Elliott (26) is in need of housing in the form of a bedroom in someone's home.

There will be no indoor smoking or overnight guests. It would be helpful if the room was located in West Lafayette and on a bus route so that William can get to work at the Payless grocery store. He needs to relocate from his current housing by the end of February or before. If you have a space available, please contact his mother, Carol Clark-Elliott at 463-5628.





Small Group Ministries

Connect + Grow + Serve



ECHOES OF THE GOSPEL BOOK GROUP

Looking ahead:

On February 18, we will discuss *Small Great Things*.

In March, we will be discussing *On the Road to Character*.



CARE AND SHARE

Care and Share is a new missions-oriented group of active, hands-on folks who gather monthly to work on projects that will be given to those who will benefit from them. Please join us at our next gathering on Tuesday, February 13, at 1 p.m. in the Intersection. Bring a project to work on and share in conversation. No project? No problem. Come and watch and learn the possibilities.



Missions Ministries

Here I Am Lord...Send Me



NEW WAYS TO FOLLOW JESUS

Are you a person who would like to rehab houses, one who would like to help children in day care learn social skills, who dreams of providing legal services or an individual who just wants to make a difference for God? Mission Indy works with churches who do all those things and much more. One of the ways Mission Indy does this is to provide training that helps individuals and churches see outside the traditional mission box.

The leaders of Mission Indy, Ron Greiner and Matt Cutler, will provide training at St. Andrew on Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Prior to the Mission Indy training, a small group of St. Andrew people will visit Mission Indy in Indianapolis to see first-hand some of the outreach and mission models that they have found most effective. After the training there will be a tour for those interested in the opportunities here in Lafayette and West Lafayette. Please contact Nancy Gibson at gibsonn@frontier.com or (765) 448-2771 if you are interested in being a part of this experience.



The Pack Away Hunger planning team is looking for a volunteer from St. Andrew to help us plan for 2019. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laurie Klenosky at laurie@andrew-umc.org for more details.



BACK TO RED BIRD IN 2018

August 5-11 are the dates that St. Andrew hopes to send a team to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY for a week of service.



More information will be appearing in some upcoming bulletins. Craig and Sue

Anderson, newcomers to St. Andrew, will be the trip leaders. Having been on many trips to Red Bird, as well as serving at the mission full-time recently, they will be explaining more during a ministry joy soon. Signup sheets to express interest in going are at the Welcome Center in the Commons. The cost of the trip is \$375.

2107 FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Thank you for your support of the Tippecanoe County United Food Pantry. This past year, you donated 757 pounds of food. In addition to this amount, our BreakAway kids also collected food this summer and volunteered one afternoon at Food Finders. The total dollars collected were \$2,443.80. There are many families in our community that depend on the Food Pantry. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



children's ministries

We Are Part of God's Good Creation

On Wednesday evenings this winter during Kids' Path, we are grounded in the knowledge that God loves us, we are safe with God, and God gives us the ability to make good choices and right our wrongs. We have a full house, with 30 kids enrolled in Kids' Path and seven little ones here for childcare. Wow!



Joni Sanders is with us to help get the wiggles out and to teach us some calming and centering techniques.



A group researches what makes the chinstrap penguin special and unique.



Marilyn drew an adelle penguin.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

Take That, Hunger!

On MLK Day, several kids and their families were able to join other members of St. Andrew at the annual Pack Away Hunger meal-packing event at Christ UMC. Between the morning and afternoon packing groups, volunteers packed over 53,000 meals to feed folks in our community and in Guatemala. What a joy that our kids have a heart for service!



St. Andrew kids and youth participated in Pack Away Hunger. Here we are at the afternoon event.

Ash Wednesday for Kids



Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year, Wednesday, February 14. St. Andrew will have an evening Ash Wednesday service, and during the service, kids kindergarten age and older will be invited out for a special Ash Wednesday lesson. They'll return to the service to receive the ashes. Childcare will be provided.

Save the Dates! "Shipwrecked" VBS is July 8-12



Children's Offering Makes a Difference

In 2017, the kids collected a total Sunday School offering of \$338, and much of this money was given beyond our church to make a difference in others' lives. We supported the Flint, MI Bishop's fund, our local Women's Shelter, Lafayette Transitional Housing, and Zonda's Children's Forest. Children have an opportunity to give every Sunday, and giving envelopes are available if families would like to take some home.

St. Andrew Youth Ministries



2018 Summer Camp



THAT THING

SR HIGH JULY 1-6

TRIBAL CAMP

JR HIGH JULY 1-5

This year the Senior High crew is returning to Epworth Forest and has again booked our favorite lodge, Sandy Kay! We can't wait to spend the week laughing, eating great food and worshipping with you July 1-6. Contact Jenni Seger for more info and to sign up!

Jr. High students have the opportunity to head to camp this year also! We are looking at a week at *Camp Adventure* which is just around the lake from Epworth Forest where *That Thing* is held! *Camp Adventure* is an awesome camp with lots of outdoor recreation as well as excellent worship! Contact Pamela White for more info and to sign up!

Winter Jam
February 10 ~~\$36~~ \$15
 Leaving at 3:30 p.m...returning before the cows come home.
 Contact Wes White
 benchchemist7@yahoo.com
 Winter Jam is the nation's largest Christian music tour. This year we will worship with Skillet, Kari Jobe, Building 429 & more.

Mission Indy
April 28-29
 An excellent mini-mission trip.



Sunday School
 Sundays 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Youth Praise Band
 Sundays 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Tutoring
 Tuesdays



SUNDAY NIGHTS @ 6-8 P.M.

Date	Jr. High	Sr. High
Jan 28	Card Ministry	Hosea
Feb 4	Super Bowl @ Pinto's	Super Bowl @ Clemenz's
Feb 11	No Youth...	No Youth...
Feb 18	Ice Skating	Ice Skating
Feb 25	Lion King Jr.	Bible and Sex

30 Hour Famine:
 30 hours with friends, without food, to raise funds and awareness for the fight against world hunger
April 6-7

Please continue to pray for new Youth Pastor position. Our interim contacts are Jr. High—Pamela White (suza24white@mymetronet.net) & Sr. High-Jenni Seger (segerfamily6@gmail.com).

Keeping in Touch with InTouch Ministries

Loving our neighbors through caring acts that bring healing and health to those in need.

February 2018

Thank you, Thank you!

Finding St. Andrew shortly after moving here in the fall of 2014 was a huge blessing; being hired as the Director of InTouch ministries in May of 2015 added to that blessing. Having the opportunity to empower, encourage and help our members focus their skills and talents in ways to glorify God and act as the hands and feet of Christ feels less like a job most days and more like a child let loose in a candy store! You, the folks of St. Andrew, provide prayers, food, encouraging words, beautiful cards, baby blankets and layer upon layer of comfort to those who are hurting. I am thankful every day for the extravagant generosity of this congregation.



One of the most amazing demonstrations of this is the Blessing Boxes we distribute two Saturdays before Christmas. Let's be honest...who has time to bake cookies, make homemade marshmallows, peanut brittle,

vats of lotion, bread and spiced nuts in the bustling, never-enough-time season of Advent? Well, obviously quite a few of you carve out that time!

What began as a dozen folks delivering cookies to about 30 households in 2009 has grown to include a gable box full of goodies prepared and delivered by upwards of 70 people to more than 80 households in 2017! There are Christmas elves at St. Andrew; homemade goodies appear miraculously in the kitchen in the days leading up to the Blessing Box assembly, so that we never worry about whether there will be enough to fill the boxes and hearts of the recipients.

A precious member of our congregation, Norma Dirlam, passed away just days before the Blessing Boxes were to be assembled and delivered this year and her Celebration of Life service was scheduled for that morning. The folks doing the assembly and deliv-



ery immediately modified their schedules, coming to the church an hour earlier so we could honor the Dirlam/Pennell family as they grieved their loss, and many of us could then attend the celebration of Norma's life.

The recipients of these Blessing Boxes are equally as generous as the people involved in this loving ministry. Many beautiful notes arrived in the office from recipients. Here are some of the comments:

- *"When the Blessing Box was delivered, that was the right time! I was very depressed for a couple of days...It really meant such a lot to me how much the church family cares!"*
- *"...I felt so loved by my church family! In what has been the most challenging year of my life, I have felt God's presence in so many ways. I want you to know how important your ministry is to those who are facing obstacles."*
- *"A thank you to all who made the beautiful card and helped to make and fill the Blessing Box I received."*
- *"Thank you for the Blessing Box with many handmade treats and the cross...How comforting to have a church family."*
- *"Thank you so much for the wonderful Blessing Box...we also thank you for the beautiful wooden cross which will bring comfort and God's Love for years to come! May God bless you and all those that had a hand involved."*



St. Andrew Connections

St. Andrew United Methodist Church
4703 N. 50 W.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Thursday, January 25, 2018

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lafayette, Indiana
PERMIT NO. 54

MOM2MOM A.M OR P.M.

Mom2Mom-A.M. February 5 from 9:30-11 a.m.

Mom2Mom-P.M. February 5 from
6:30-8 p.m.



If you will need childcare, please
contact **Suzanne Clemenz**
by **January 29** at 765-497-7755 or
suzanne@andrew-umc.org.

Location: Carolyn Danielson's home; 260-417-3316;
5935 Battlevue Drive, West Lafayette

Contacts for A.M. Group:

Emily Easley at: 309.573.1685/
Jenni Seger at 812.630.5213 (call or text)

Contact for P.M. Group:

Beth Hess at: beth.j.hess@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY:



For Pastor Chris as he
finishes his trip to Myanmar
and for safe travels as he
returns to us,

and

for safe passage for Pastor
Joseph as he leaves on a trip
to the Holy Land with Bishop
Trimble on
January 29.



St. Andrew UMC www.andrew-umc.org Phone: 497-7755
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Monday-Friday)