

Hilltalk

March 2010

News & Inspiration
for Members & Friends

St. Andrew's
by-the-Sea

A United Methodist Community of Faith ~ www.sabts.org



Lenten Prayer Series

Throughout the season of Lent, each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary, a community “prayer hour” led by our staff will be offered. Each week, this hour will focus on the specific themes noted below. Participants will be able to lift up specific concerns especially related to these themes, and will be given time to pray individually, in small groups, and in the larger community- just as Jesus did. Join us in prayer.

Wed., March 3 - Theme: Service/Compassion as Prayer

Wed., March 10 - Theme: Faithfulness/Commitment as Prayer

Wed., March 17 - Theme: Heartbreak/Right Suffering as Prayer

Wed., March 24 - Theme: Movement as Prayer

Wed., March 31 - Theme: Surrender as Prayer

For Everything there is a Season...

...and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

There is a bittersweet nature to this scripture, recognizing that every new season of life brings a closing as well. While I am very excited about the new ministry I will be undertaking as the Program Director for Gilchrist House, I am equally as sad to have to say good-bye to the people of St. Andrew’s. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work as your associate pastor here...in family ministries, congregational care, leading worship, welcoming new members, sharing in mission and service, and even working with the youth on occasion! But more than that, you have shared your lives with me, and I am honored to have been included in so many significant moments of births and baptisms, confirmations and confidences, marriages and meetings, highs, lows, passages and passings. I feel privileged and blessed to have been both a part of this community of faith, and to have worked with so

many fine and talented staff members for over 10 years.

I also want to thank you, on behalf of my whole family, for ministering to us, as well. Our children have quite literally grown up in your midst, and I thank you for being a very real extended family to them. You have cared for us in times of sorrow, celebrated with us in times of joy, and been true friends in Christ. I cannot thank you enough for the opportunities you have given us to live, work, and grow in faith with you. This is a wonderful congregation, and I pray that God will continue to bless and guide you always.

In Christ,

Lucy

Join us on March 14 at our Sunday morning services as we celebrate Rev. Lucy Stafford-Lewis and her 10 years in ministry among us. See page 6 for more details.

Pastor Paula's Peace

I just got off the phone with a young man from the United Methodist General Board of Pensions. I was completing some information to auto-give to a pension program for clergy who are serving in Methodism's "Central Conferences."

In the US, the United Methodist church is organized into "Annual Conferences" which are geographic areas that work together, each one under the leadership of a bishop. Ours is the California-Pacific Annual Conference and covers southern California as far north as Paso Robles and out into the Pacific as far as (wait for it) Guam!

However, the UMC is a global church and we have Conferences in many parts of the world. These are called "Central Conferences." Most of the time they are served by missionaries.

Here in the United States, we UMC clergy have a pension program. However, in more challenged areas, the clergy who serve as missionaries rarely have pensions. So, a few months ago our Board of Pensions began an initiative to raise \$25 million dollars to support those clergy when they retire. I was proud to commit to a modest monthly amount for the next five years. As I did so, it reminded me to be grateful that I have a pension.

In these times, it seems that every day brings a story of one of our members, friends or family who are being devastated financially. The sense of helplessness, the despair, the sheer sadness is almost overwhelming. Those who have not had great loss are sitting on the edges of their chairs, waiting to see who is next--maybe them.

For me, this small gesture of gratitude was a tangible way for me to remind myself that God cares for us so deeply, that God will always care for us.

It's so easy to live in fear. It's so hard to trust God when things are difficult.

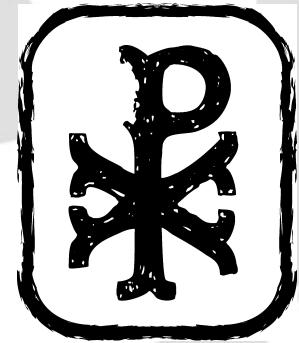
I am inspired and moved by the stories of our members and friends whose losses have not dimmed their faith, who are moving into their future with joy and gratitude for those things God has given them.

Just recently I heard from one of our members, whose job loss a number of months ago has now become the loss of their house. He is certainly in a place of great hardship, but spoke so eloquently his wife and how her unconditional love was the most valuable thing in his life. I was moved to tears by his faith in God's faithfulness.

So we gather, week after week, to let the love of God sink into us once again, stirring the hope in our souls, lifting us up as the people of God together. Don't miss a minute.

Shalom,

Pastor Paula



The ChiRho is an ancient monogram of Christ.

VBS: July 26-30

Avast!! Hoist the mainsail and head for the high seas! Mark 'yer calendars for July 26-30, 2010 for a week of *High Seas*



Expedition for our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year! The compass is set for God's Word to discover how it is true, comforting, surprising, life-changing and available for everyone! It'll be great week of expedition together that you don't want to miss!

This week is always a highlight of the summer and it would not happen without amazing servants like you! Contact Emily (emily@sabts.org) and let her know where you would like to serve in this summer's VBS.

POLO & KPG

Chocolate as a Health Food! Parents of Little Ones (POLO) and Kids, Parents & God (KPG) will gather together for dinner on March 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a talk from our guest, Dr. Pam Gefke who will tell us how chocolate is actually a health food! Dr. Gefke will have samples for each person.

Contact Emily emily@sabts.org to RSVP and let her know what you can bring to our "make your own taco" dinner.

Ministry Opportunity

VBS Co-Director

Do you enjoy seeing and hearing children sing their praises to God in catchy VBS tunes? Are you a detail-oriented person who gets a charge out of helping keep things in order? Maybe you just secretly enjoy working with our Children's Director, Emily Bredthauer, on projects? Emily is looking for a Co-Director to help with our growing VBS in Summer 2010! She will provide all the training you need for this volunteer position, be with you every step of the way and as an added benefit, you can add "Expedition Expert Explorer" to your resume!

Youth News

Refuge has enjoyed a nice upswing in attendance the last month! I am happy to report that we now have 4 new middle school students attending both or one of the services! Please continue to encourage the youth to invite friends.

Also, Refuge has started its study of Jesus. We have begun to look at the Old Testament in order to understand "Why the cross?" Why did so many miss Jesus? What were they looking for?

Please continue to pray for our youth and their desire for God. Remember, they are not the future but the present.

For more information about Refuge/Youth happenings, please contact Andrew Haslett (youth@sabts.org).

Seekers Sunday School for Adults

Join The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class on March 7th as we begin our Spring study, "Teachings on Community."

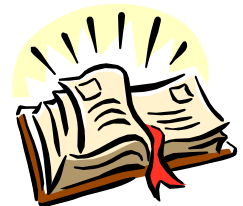
The writers guide us through the Old Testament books of Jonah and Ruth and through the teachings of Jesus and the early church to discover how, in response to God's call, faithful people came together and related to one another.

We meet in the RIO Senior Center Sundays from 08:45 (there's coffee) to 10:00am, so

you can still fellowship with friends on the patio before the 10:30 am worship service. Come join us!

Call co-leaders Kitty Carretti (#949-366-3687) or Maureen Smith (#949-498-1713) for more information or to get a book.

All are welcome!



Lenten Mission Opportunities & Mission News

As an alternative to “giving up” something for Lent, you are invited to “take on” a mission or service to others. We have two opportunities available through the church this year.

School Supplies

San Clemente Military Family Outreach is adopting Camp Pendleton’s San Onofre K-8 school, and is trying to re-stock and supply them with much needed school supplies, along with a number of special “wish list” items identified by the teachers. Outside the Sanctuary is a board with the items they are collecting. If you are interested in helping, please take a “sticky

note” with the needed item as a reminder for yourself, and return the item(s) to the church office before Palm Sunday.

Pennies for Poland

Outside the sanctuary you will also find a World-shaped bank. You are invited to take one home and fill it with change during Lent... perhaps using the money from something you “gave up” this season! The money will be going to our “Pennies for Poland” project, which allows children in orphanages there to attend a week long Christian camp. We will be collecting these on Palm Sunday.

And, as always, you are invited to be in prayer throughout Lent for both the mission work and those whom they serve.



From Music Mission Kiev Choir & Orchestra in Ukraine

A third box of nice clothing and shoes shipped by St. Andrew’s was received on January 6, 2010 and the conductors emailed a “Thank You”. With the difficult economic times in Ukraine, a nice shirt and pair of pants or a dress for performance from our box, equates to a month’s pay.

Shoes for Gorodnya Orphanage

Forty pair of sports shoes, half of them brand new (!) were shipped by M&O to Ukraine on February 1st. Thank you to everyone who has donated! The gifts of new shoes and the cleaning up of the gently used is truly appreciated. M&O will ship a second box of shoes at the end of March.

The Constant Christian Presence (CCP) Room at Gorodnya orphanage is drawing interest from kids of all ages. The staff builds rapport with sports, craft and tutoring programs. They are running short of craft ideas to keep the teens occupied. We would like to send items that were popular at Krasni Hutor orphanage (and light weight to ship): Model

Magic clay, beads and necklace crafting items, rug hooking kits. If you would like to donate a craft item, we will send these with the next box of shoes.

St. Andrew’s supports the Constant Christian Presence program at the orphanage, sending \$500 each month to help with supplies and salary for staffing. This is the first chance for most of these kids to hear about the Bible and Jesus. Our monthly support is presently being covered by 4 families. Please consider contributing to the Kiev Fund via St. Andrew’s Foundation. The M&O display area in the library has a photo book with lots of information about our mission with Gorodnya.

Thank You

Mike and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns during Mike’s recent health crisis.

Knowing that our St. Andrew’s family was there for us really was an enormous comfort.

Mike is doing a lot better and we’re both looking forward to being back at church.

With love,

Lynda & Mike Heath



Contemplation & Recommitment

by Ann Small,

Director of Spiritual Formation

Lent is a time for contemplation and re-commitment, a time to revisit the practice of Spiritual Disciplines noted in St. Andrew's statement of Core Principles. Interestingly, the process of confession and reconciliation, although a profoundly important discipline, is not one stressed in the Protestant tradition. I recently came

across a thought-provoking article, "Confession Is Good for the Soul," (below) related to this practice, and I hope you take some time to ponder its implications: During Lent, **what** is it I need to confess, **how**, and **to whom**? How does this process "reconcile" (or bring into harmony) my relationship with anyone I have sinned against,

e.g., neighbor, friend, loved one?

How does this process deepen my relationship with God?
How does this process honor my relationship with Jesus Christ?

Confession is Good for the Soul

(The following article is slightly edited and found on the website of Reconciliation UMC in Durham, NC)

"The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. – James 5: 15-16

"Confession is good for the soul." I am not sure who coined the phrase first, but few Christians avail themselves of its wisdom. Actually, it is best to qualify that statement – few Protestants avail themselves of its wisdom. The Roman Catholic Church maintains the sacrament of confession, though modern Catholics are just as likely to be seen going into confessional rooms rather than the older individual booths made famous by the big screen. For Protestants, however, we have a history of "protest" against ecclesial acts like confession. For many, this rite smacks of a disordered clerical hierarchy at best and a distorted understanding of Christ's true role as High Priest at worst.

I am aware that many Protestant services of worship contain corporate prayers of confession, even ones

accompanied with words of assurance and pardon. In our own way, perhaps, we do take heed to this clear imperative from the book of James – to "confess your sins."

Unfortunately, we consistently leave out the part about confessing sins "to one another." At the very best, we may actually pause after a corporate prayer to allow time for silent confession, though even this is often hurried and awkward (are we too time conscious? too uncomfortable? too holy and sinless?).

No doubt many people think confession is best kept a private, individual affair between a believer and God alone. Others denigrate regular confession altogether, assuming that grace abounds and this whole idea of confession is depressing anyway. Whatever the objections, I am convinced that we non-Catholics "doth protest too much."

James makes clear that confession, like Eucharist and Baptism, is an "embodied" act – it calls for our bodies to be present with other bodies, gathered in the

name of Jesus. Our Christian faith is personal, but never private. I am not suggesting that we should air all our "dirty laundry" in worship, as if we were on one of today's many obnoxious TV talk shows. I am suggesting that there are good reasons to "confess our sins to one another and pray for one another" in specific ways that bring love and accountability to bear.

Sometimes it helps to get specific about sin, not just in the privacy of our own devotional time, but with a trusted pastor, a Christian companion, or a spiritual director who can pray with us, for us, and who can be bold enough to articulate out loud what our faith affirms: "if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

It is a well known truth that Martin Luther, the original "Protest"ant and Reformer, continued to go to confession throughout his adult life. Perhaps he was aware of something we have forgotten: confession is good for the soul.

Lenten Observations

During our Ash Wednesday worship, attendees had an opportunity to share their plans for preparing their hearts for the cross and Easter. Some are fasting in some way, while others are taking on something extra.

Here are some of the ways that we are observing the Lenten season in our congregation:

- Prayer Partners in daily prayer for each other.
- Daily Scripture reading.
- "Have a more generous heart toward those who have disappointed me."
- "Mend the broken relationships, swallow my

pride and reach out."

- Help with missions.
- Fasting in the evening.
- "Fast from speeding"
- Attend Weds. Prayer series
- "Return to daily scripture and devotion"
- "Giving up animal flesh"
- "Attend all Lenten services"
- "Give up 1 hour of TV a day"
- "Daily thanksgiving journal."
- "Participate in Pennies for Poland."

We encourage everyone to prepare their hearts and souls for the gift of the resurrection in some way.

Financial Update

A message from St. Andrew's Finance Committee

Effective year-to-date through January 31, 2010:

YTD Income: \$38,729.50

YTD Expense: \$37,404.45

Surplus/(Deficit): \$1324.04



Don't forget to change your clocks forward one hour! Daylight Saving Time begins on March 14, 2010.

Vision Sunday

Mark your calendars now for Vision Sunday on June 6, 2010. We'll share in an afternoon of fun, food, fellowship and celebrate the "Yea God!" moments from the past year.

Watch your email for more when our annual pledge drive gets going in May.

Meanwhile, we need *many hands* to help get this big party off the ground!

We need people to arrange entertainment for the kids, games for families, organize the food, set up, take down.

Call Karen Muscariello *now* (# to be a part of something big at St. Andrew's!

Come Celebrate

Rev. Lucy Stafford-Lewis

&

her 10 years of ministry at St. Andrew's

March 14, 2010

Luncheon at noon

in Fellowship Hall

You are welcome to write a specific remembrance of a time with Lucy in a card and leave it in the basket for cards at the luncheon. There will be a modest charge for lunch. Call the church office for more details or to RSVP.

Ministry Opportunities

Where is the Lord calling you to be in ministry at St. Andrew's?

Sound and Light Technician

Do you enjoy a great worship service? Think the quality of our sound and lighting makes a big difference in making an OK worship service a great one? Interested in learning how our sound and light systems work? Willing to give one Sunday a month (or one month a year) to serving Christ by serving His people in this way? If this sounds like the ministry for you, email Dave Petty, Tech Supervisor at davidmpetty@gmail.com. All training will be provided for this volunteer position.

Video Technician

Do you enjoy the way media can enhance worship and really connect to our hearts? Do you find yourself thinking about beautiful, moving images that would enhance our worship service? Like to get creative with Powerpoint? Interested in learning how our media technology helps our worship? Willing to give one Sunday a month (or one month a year) to serving Christ's people by helping our worship service be the best it can be? If this sounds like the ministry for you, email Dave Petty at davidmpetty@gmail.com. All training will be provided for this volunteer position.

Sunday School Superintendent

Do you have a heart for the spiritual education of children? Do you enjoy the sound of the children laughing and talking their way to Sunday school? Maybe you like helping people find the resources they need to be creative? Maybe you secretly love behind-the-scenes administration that makes all go smoothly? If this ministry interests you, email Emily Bredthauer at emily@sabts.org. All training will be provided by Emily Bredthauer for this volunteer position and as a bonus, you'll get to work closely with her in this position!

Super Seniors News

It was a gorgeous day for the Super Seniors meeting in February. The clouds and rain were gone, the sky was filled with bright sunshine, and everyone arrived with a smile. As always, the emphasis is on Christian fellowship, good food, and interesting programs.

For February, Becky Mays our new and most welcome Seniors Coordinator, hosted the program, bringing 'state of the art' Bingo cards. Everyone had fun! Thanks, Becky! And of course, as always, the food and visiting spoke for itself.

Don't miss the March 10 meeting when Mike Chamberlain, known as the singing TV GUY will join us. Mike recently retired from broadcasting with a CBS affiliate in Arizona, and has returned to his home town. He is a San Clemente High graduate. He was a winner of the Golden Globe award and has also received several Emmys. Don't miss this one. Mark your calendars for March 10th at 10:30 a.m.!

More information? Contact: Judy Ferguson (#949-498-0654) Judi Vote (#949-366-0151) or the church office.

Prayer Corner


Please continue to be in prayer for:

Arliss & Betty Berenger
Rosaline Campbell
Bob & Ruth Creighton
Carol Evans
Jeanette Hill
Fred Muster
Dorothy Osborne
Bruce & Patty Walden
Peyton Woll

St. Andrew's by-the-Sea United Methodist Church Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY	EVERY MONDAY	EVERY TUESDAY	EVERY WEDNESDAY	EVERY THURSDAY	EVERY FRIDAY	EVERY SATURDAY
8:45 am Seekers, RIO Center 9 am Band-led Worship 10:30 am Choir-led Worship 10:30 am Youth Sunday School, YC 6-8 pm Refuge-Youth, YC		9 am Andrew's Kids, CC 9:30 am Holy Rollers 1:30 pm Women's AA Mtg 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, YC 7:00 pm Light Reigns Band, Sanctuary	7:30 am Fishermen at Carrow's Restaurant 9:30 am Mom to Mom, CC	9:30 am Mommy & Me, CC 9:30 am Holy Rollers 5:45 pm Bell Choir, CR 7:00 p.m. Choir, S	Office Closed 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Lib.	9:30 am Holy Rollers

March 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00 pm Welcome, Lib. 7:00 pm Trustees, FL 7:30 pm SPRC, SS1	2	3 7:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Series, S 7:30 pm Basic Beliefs, SS1	4	5 6:30 pm POLO, FH	6
7 12:00 pm Focus Team, SPO	8 7:30 pm Worship Logistics, CR	9 7:00 pm Missions & Outreach, FL 7:30 pm Finance, Lib	10 10:30 am Super Seniors Luncheon, FH 12:30 pm Senior's Bd, SS1 7:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Series, S 7:30 pm Basic Beliefs, SS1 7:30 pm New Beginnings I	11 9:00 am Stewardship 9:30 am Sarah Circle, offsite 12:00 pm Welcome Inn, FL	12	13
14—Daylight Saving Time Begins 12:00 pm Meet the Pastors, SPO 	15 7:30 pm Invitation Ministry, SPO	16 12:00 pm Hilltalk Deadline 7:00 pm Joint Council, FL	17 10:00 am Hannah Circle 7:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Series, S 7:30 pm Basic Beliefs, SS1 7:30 pm New Beginnings II 	18 12:00 pm Welcome Inn, FL 7:00 pm Prayer Warriors, FL	19	20 8:00 am Men's Breakfast, FH
21	22 7:30 pm Beyond Words, offsite 7:30 pm Planning & Assessment, FL	23 6:00 pm SCMFO, SS1 7:30 pm Leadership Development, FL	24 7:00pm Lenten Prayer Series, S 7:30 pm Basic Beliefs, SS1	25 10:00 pm Visitation Group, L	26	27
28—Palm/Passion Sun.	29	30	31 9:00am Monthly Hilltalk Mailing, Lib 7:00 pm Lenten Prayer Series, S	<u>Key for Rooms</u> CC: Children's Ctr FL: Fireside Lounge SPO: Pastor's Ofc. CR: Choir Room Lib: Library SS1: Sun. School #1 FH: Fellowship Hall S: Sanctuary YC: Youth Center		



St. Andrew's by-the-Sea

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St. Andrew's by-the-Sea Core Principles

As fully-committed followers of Jesus Christ:

We have been **transformed** by our encounter with the living God in Jesus Christ.

We practice **spiritual disciplines**, such as prayer, meditation, scripture reading, attending worship, receiving the sacraments, and fasting, which cultivate our daily conscious contact with God.

We seek to **learn** more about God through continual study.

We practice **sacrifice** through tithing and selfless giving of ourselves.

We actively work for **justice and mercy** in the world.

We seek **unity** through working and living in harmony with our community of faith.

We walk our spiritual journey with **honesty and authenticity**.

We live our lives **humbly** knowing the gifts we have received come from God.

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A full listing of staff, including email addresses, may be found on our website at www.sabts.org

Deadline for next Hilltalk is **noon on March 17, 2010**. Please submit articles via email attachment whenever possible. All submissions subject to editing.