

St. Andrew UMC Newsletter, June 2023

Dear Church,

It has been my honor to serve you over the last years. I am thankful for our time together and forward to hearing about the great things that St is doing in the Kanawha Valley in the days I want to use this time to share an overview of you can expect during the month of June since it most critical time of the transition.



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Sunday, June 4, will be a time to celebrate. In our morning worship service, we will hear two of our college students, Nolan Duncan and John Boggess, share about their experience on a recent mission trip with their campus ministry at Marshall University. The campus minister, Rev. Benjamin Wells, also plans to be in attendance and share a few words. Additionally, Megan Bailey, our music director, will be baptized and join the church, and we will celebrate our elementary students who are moving up to youth group. In addition to the special service, Roger Rasmussen will be in the overflow before and after the service with his historic family Bible. Please look for his article in the following pages of this month's newsletter.

Because much of this cannot be pre-recorded, *The Vine* will not go out on Saturday, June 3rd, as usual. Instead, the worship service will be recorded in the sanctuary on Sunday morning and sent out via email later in the week.

Then, at 4:44pm, Sunday, June 4, we will have *The Table* gathering at the "Loop" (Friendship Hall in case of rain). As usual, this will include a meal, music, and...well, let's just say that I have a plan 😊. This will also be a time for me to celebrate my ministry with you as it will be my last time in attendance at The Table, a ministry that has become dear to my heart.

The following week I will be at Annual Conference at West Virginia Wesleyan College with our lay delegate, Susan Danford. Beginning Thursday, June 8, we will worship, have several business sessions, and conclude with a service of commissioning and ordination on Sunday morning.

As an ordained elder, my membership does not lie in a local congregation; rather, my membership is with the WV Annual Conference. Therefore, us pastors often jokingly say that "our church" only has one Sunday worship service a year. During the service on Sunday morning, I renew my ordination vows along with all other ordained clergy, and appointments are fixed for the following year.

Sunday, June 18 will be my last Sunday with you in worship. Pastor Brian and Zondra Plum will be moving to St Albans that week, and the WV Annual Conference designates the last Sunday of the month as a time of transition to help pastors get settled before their new appointments begin. I will attend worship at Elizabeth Memorial that Sunday, and Pastor Brian has indicated that he will attend St Andrew. Neither of us will preach that day as we will use it as an opportunity to observe the worship services before we begin as well as an opportunity to meet members of the congregation. I truly appreciate Sheila Radochio's ministry and her willingness to share the word again on June 25.

The last week of June, often called “move week,” is a little fluid. Although I will be available for pastoral care, as well as tying up any loose ends at St Andrew, I will also be moving my office to Elizabeth Memorial in Charleston. Pastor Brian may be moving into the office here as well.

Although July 1st is the official start date for new appointments, sometimes it is difficult to know where one appointment ends and another begins, practically speaking. I have met with Pastor Brian via ZOOM on multiple occasions, and together we will do our best to make sure that nothing slips through the cracks during the final week of transition.

Between now and the end of June, I will be spending much of my time checking items off my “to-do” list, in an effort to make sure that Rev. Plum’s transition as your pastor is as seamless as possible. Until the end of June, I am still your pastor, and it would be my honor to serve you in any way that I can. As always, I invite you to contact me at: 304-444-3874 or jonathan.wvumc@gmail.com if you need prayer or spiritual guidance.

Although it is difficult, it is also necessary to maintain clear boundaries beginning July 1. I will always treasure my time at St Andrew and keep you in my prayers as a congregation, but I will not be available to meet, maintain private communication, provide pastoral care, or return to do weddings, funerals, or any other pastoral duties. It is important to allow Pastor Brian to be your pastor, and my continued presence will only hinder the possible connections you will want to make with him. In the event that a question might arise for me after June 30, I am asking all communication go through Pastor Brian or Kathy Stalnaker, the chairperson for Staff Parish Relations Committee to maintain healthy boundaries.

I have great joy and peace in knowing that Rev. Brian Plum will serve as your next pastor. In all my encounters with him, he has shared his excitement to serve among you and his pastor’s heart is obvious. I’m sure that his ministry will be a blessing to you in many ways.

Finally, on a more functional note, you may be wondering about the status of the parsonage on Baier St. In recent weeks the trustees have signed a contract with WV Rentals and Property Management to oversee a one-year rental agreement. This has required the trustees to do various forms of maintenance to meet the company’s standards, for a total expense of \$1,465.02.

Recently, a family has moved into the residence after signing a contract with WV Rentals. The total income will be \$1,650 each month, and WV Rentals will take a 10% cut to manage the property. A separate account has been set up at the bank exclusively for income from the rental, and it will be used specifically for future parsonage expenses. If you have further questions, please contact Oscar Hutchison, chair of trustees.

I want to thank you for the ways you have enriched my life and supported me and my family. I ask forgiveness in the ways that I may have fallen short, and I pray that some of the seeds that I have planted will continue to bless you in the days to come.

God’s richest blessings,

Pastor Jonathan

Melanie's Page



Thank You from Melanie

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for the meaningful worship service and joyous retirement luncheon! Celebrating the love of my church family with my own family present made it a wonderful day! Thank you to all for your kind words and generous gifts given! I have been blessed in abundance! God's grace has been witnessed through you all!

Pastor Jonathan's Farewell

We are honoring our Pastor Jonathan with a farewell celebration during The Table this Sunday, June 4, at 4:44 p.m. at The Loop. There will be a special box for a love offering. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the church.

Food Donations for the St. Albans Food Pantry

On the first Sunday of each month, items are collected for the St. Albans Food Pantry. For June, any non-perishable food items are always welcome! However, the most needed items at this time are: Beef Ramen Noodles, Pasta Sides, Hamburger Helper, Brownie Mix, Muffin Mix, and Corn Bread Mix. Your support for this ministry in our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Children and Youth Ministry Updates from Melanie

As I prepare to retire as Director of Christian Education at St. Andrew in a few short weeks, I have been meeting with various folks to plan for ministry in the transition.

In the area of *Children's Ministry*, I have met with two of the most active, dedicated families to discern their wishes for the coming months. The results of our conversation follow:

Weekly Children's Church for all children with no age limit (during the 10:30 a.m. worship service) will take a break for the months of June, July and August. This can be revisited for the fall.

Families are encouraged to worship together either in the sanctuary, in their car listening on the radio or at home watching "The Vine" online service. Worship bags may be available in the sanctuary, if needed.

Monthly Compassion Camp for children in Gr. K-5 will continue at Roadside Park with Karen Bradley's Small Group providing leadership at least for the summer months. Shelter B at Roadside Park has been reserved the 3rd Sun. of each month from 4:00-5:30 p.m. through October, except for June. That date is June 11. Compassion Camp is held at St. Andrew during the darker, colder months.

In the area of *Youth Ministry* for those in Gr. 6-12, I met with our current volunteer youth leaders, Roy & Kathy Smith. The results of our conversation follow:

Monthly youth gatherings will continue the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30 p.m. except in June. That date will be June 11. We have been meeting with the youth of St. Peter's UMC for the last several months alternating back and forth between churches as schedules permit.

Roy and Kathy would like to host an Open House at St. Andrew on Sun. July 16 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. to welcome all incoming 6th graders. This event will include pizza, ice cream and water balloons.

The visioning and dreaming has begun for a gathering of youth leaders from all 4 United Methodist churches in St. Albans (St. Andrew, St. Peter's, Lakeview and Humphrey's) about possibilities for a joint youth ministry.

~ Melanie

Compassion Camp – All children in Gr. K-5 are invited to Roadside Park on Sun. June 11 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. with Karen Bradley's Small Group providing leadership.



Youth Ministry

Sun. June 11 – 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Rm. 308 or at St. Peter's UMC

All youth in Gr. 6-12 are invited! Friends are always welcome! Contact Roy & Kathy Smith for further info.

Summer Church Camp Opportunities

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center is excited to offer the following opportunities for campers this summer:

- DaySpring Mobile Camp
St. John UMC, Scott Depot, WV June 19-22 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Memorial UMC, Charleston, WV Date: July 24-27, 9am-2:30p.m.

Both camps are for ages 5-12 and there is no cost
- Spring Heights Camps
July 9-14, July 16-21, July 23-25, July 26-28 – all in Spencer, WV
For various ages (5-18) with varying costs (\$190-\$400)

Click on the following link for further details about DaySpring and Spring Heights camps:

[Home - Spring Heights](#)

Thank you

Many thanks to all those who have given donations for the "Youth 2023" trip to Orlando, FL this summer and for kids to go to camp at Spring Heights. Your support of these ministries helps children and youth to grow in their faith and is much appreciated!

Congratulations Graduates

Nick Loftis graduated from WV State University on May 13 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Studies. He will continue in the fall working on his Masters degree.

Jack Swiney graduated Friday May 12th from West Virginia Law School with honors.

Gwyneth Cartwright graduated from NC State University with a degree in Environmental Engineering and will begin a job in Raleigh, NC.

Outreach Opportunities

Opportunities are available to meet and connect with our neighbors. Is God calling you to participate in any of the following? All are welcome. You may call the church office at 304-727-7114 for further information.

Sharing a Meal – Thurs. June 22 at 11:15 a.m. at Christ's Kitchen

Fishermen Small Group

Villager Apartments – Date: TBA

Tim Priddy's Small Group

Art for All – June Date: TBA

Amy Loftis' Small Group

Compassion Camp – Sun. June 11 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Roadside Park for children in Gr. K-5

Karen Bradley's Small Group

SNAP Update

Happy Spring from SNAP, and what a busy one it has been!

We've gone bowling, celebrated Cinco de Mayo at Rio Grande, made clay pots for Mother's Day gifts with Renee Ellis, celebrated a special birthday, and honored Pastor Jonathan and Melanie with a wish-you-well luncheon. We got to take a tour of Yeager Airport and meet Hercules, the amazing border collie who protects our planes from birds and the damage they can do.

And we delivered care packages for the homeless at St. Marks. This is an ongoing project where we recycle small boxes, decorate them, then fill them with items for the homeless. And we would love your help. We could always use small personal care items such as combs, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouth wash, and socks; as well as small, individually wrapped foods. There is a box marked **S.N.A.P. DONATIONS** in the overflow area for contributions. As always, SNAP appreciates your love and support.

Take good care, Feel the blessings, Love Always,

Ms. Ruth, Ms. Wanda, Ms. Linda and our SNAP family

Library Update

Books are being changed out in the overflow area to provide more selection. In addition, some books are also being placed in the Little Free Library.

– Susan Danford

We are extending our community outreach!

Care Bags

At the March 2, 2023 meeting of Church Council, a motion was made to extend the missional outreach of St. Andrew by increasing the way we can help students who previously received Snack Bags in the St. Albans area schools. That program was on hiatus during the pandemic and has since been revived and funded by another church. Karen Bradley's small group contacted local school nurses and learned that a pressing need for many students in each of our area schools is that of personal care products, including soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products. The motion to change the name of the current project from Snack Bags to **CARE BAGS** was unanimously approved. This will allow the funds previously designated for Snack Bags to have an even greater impact on the children and youth of our community and to provide for some of their most basic needs. Moving forward, those of us who are part of the St. Andrew community may participate in this project by either designating contributions for **CARE BAGS** or by donating items to be included in the bags. The small group began collecting items for distribution this spring and will continue to do so when school starts back in August. This name change will make it possible for the group to make bulk purchases of items and then turn the bills in to the church treasurer for reimbursement.

Thank you for continuing to care for the kids in our community and for helping St. Andrew be the visible hands and feet of Christ.

July 4th Breakfast

We invite you to join us for our annual Independence Day breakfast at the church, Tuesday, July 4, from 8am-11am. We will be serving our traditional menu.

Any help in the following areas would be appreciated: set up, servers, and clean up. Set up will begin the previous Saturday and Sunday if you are able to help. Please contact Oscar Hutchison for more information: 304-541-8361.



A

Short History of a Family Bible

In 1983, following the death of our mother, my five brothers and I were settling the estate. We came across a lot of family memorabilia that had been haphazardly stored in boxes. There were hundreds of pictures of unknown relatives, newspaper clippings, and a couple of bibles. As we sorted through this material, I received a unanimous election to be the family “historian”. I have dutifully stored the material to this date. Recently I had a short discussion of bibles with the SNAP class, recalling bibles that I had inherited. One of the bibles was of particular interest and I share the story of it.

The bible is a large one, measuring 10x14x5 inches, weighing about 20 pounds! The original owner was my great-grandfather, Frederick Wrench (1830-1903), who was a pastor in the Free United Methodist Church in England. After 40+ years in serving the Lincolnshire District, he, his wife, two sons and a married daughter immigrated to the US in about 1891. They settled in Holt County, Missouri, which is in the extreme northwest corner of the state. The county seat is Mound City; however, I believe they settled in the farmland nearby. Their oldest son had been a farmer in England and had provided the funds necessary for this trip. They moved to this location because a family they had known in England had immigrated a couple years earlier. My mother inherited the bible, probably because she had been the only grandchild that had shown an interest in her grandparents. She told me that it was his pulpit bible as well as the family bible.

The bible is an “Authorized Translation”, which I assume, is a King James Version. It is identified as a Cassell’s Illustrated Family Bible. Superior Edition. The Publisher was Cassell, Petter & Galpin, Ludgate Hill, London. circa 1868. This Bible contains the Old and New Testaments with references and a condensed concordance. It is illustrated with over 800 highly finished engravings. The engravings are of an outstanding quality. There are family registry pages that contain neat ink written entries as to

the Births, Marriages and Deaths in the family. These pages are quite moving to read. Frederick married Mary Twidale in 1854; they had eight children, four of whom lived to be adults. The eldest child was Mary Elizabeth, my mother's beloved aunt Polly. The youngest was John Henry, my mother's father.

The Cassell bible is printed in several versions. One version is of particular interest: a few pages could be purchased on a weekly basis, allowing for a complete bible to be purchased over a period of about a year. When the purchase was complete, the pages could be taken to the publisher to be bound. It was a sales technique ahead of its time, allowing a person to purchase an expensive edition over a period of time. I believe this bible was, indeed, of this printing. When it is convenient, I will bring the bible to the overflow area, some Sunday so the congregation can see it.

Roger Rasmussen

Monthly Newsletter
June 2023

- Sun. June 4 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
The Table – 4:44 p.m. at The Loop
- Mon. June 5 **Sheila’s Radochio’s Small Group** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Tues. June 6 **Tim Priddy’s Small Group** – 11:00 a.m. by Zoom
- Wed. June 7 **Amy Loftis’ Small Group** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
Bob Lilly’s Wesley Small Group – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Thurs. June 8 **Fishermen Small Group** – 11:00 a.m. in Rm. 100
- Sun. June 11 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
Compassion Camp – 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Roadside Park
Youth Ministry – 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Rm. 308 or at St. Peter’s UMC
- Tues. June 13 **Tim Priddy’s Small Group** – 11:00 a.m. by Zoom
- Wed. June 14 **Amy Loftis’ Small Group** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
Bob Lilly’s Wesley Small Group – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Sun. June 18 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
- Tues. June 20 **Prayer Pillow Group** – 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 300
Tim Priddy’s Small Group – 11:00 a.m. by Zoom
- Wed. June 21 **Amy Loftis’ Small Group** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
Bob Lilly’s Wesley Small Group – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Thurs. June 22 **Fishermen Small Group Outreach** – 11:15 a.m. at Christ’s Kitchen
- Sun. June 25 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
- Tues. June 27 **Tim Priddy’s Small Group** – 11:00 a.m. by Zoom
- Wed. June 28 **Amy Loftis’ Small Group** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
Bob Lilly’s Wesley Small Group – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

If any of these meetings pertain to you, a Zoom link will be sent in the Midweek Update.

June Birthday

- 1 Barbara Asbury
- 2 Ann McComas
- 3 Sue Ann Davis, Rich Ingram
- 4 Sue Pomykata
- 6 Bob Lilly
- 8 Jill Roy
- 11 Patricia Miller
- 12 Jeff Loftis
- 13 Michael Ross
- 21 Robert Stalnaker
- 22 Arabella Stalnaker
- 23 Alice Baldwin
- 27 John Hall, Jane Foster
- 28 Steve Perry
- 29 Margaret Theodos
- 30 Abigail Cox

June Anniversaries

- 1 Paul Jr. & Peggy Allison
- 20 William & Karen Bradley
- 24 Ernie & Lois Downey

Prayer Concerns

Our Church; Our Staff; Nursing Homes & Shut-ins; Healing for our nation and the world; Those suffering from anxiety/stress; Unspoken; Our Military; Rev. Jarrold & Debbie Lanham; Dinah Withrow; Melissa Henrich; Jill Roy; Emma Gandee; Rev. William "Bill" Davis; Rebecca Handley; Ed Crawford; Jillian Taylor; Tina Medley Shuck; Cindy Bays