



JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

If I had to guess one thing many of us have in common, it would be that many of these new-fangled cell phones confuse most of us. A few years ago, I started to have problems with my cell phone. The problem was if I would text someone, the text would actually be sent to someone else and not the person I intended to receive it. It was confusing to say the least. I have to admit, there were times it was funny as well. Someone who received a text that wasn't meant for them, would text a question mark back to me and I had to send about 3 texts back to explain why they received it and inform them the issues I was having with my cell phone. I could imagine people's eyes rolling and heads shaking as they read the explanation. I can also imagine people wishing their Pastor didn't own a cell phone right then. As you might have guessed, I had to get a new cell phone. And I have to tell you, my old cell phone was confusing enough but I really was lost with the new one. I guess I was just used to the old phone. It's hard to change, isn't it? It's hard to have to learn something new.

However, something happened with the new cell phone that caused me to really think. It caused me think about God and how I communicate with Him. It was something I already knew, but it caused me to stop and think for a moment. Let me explain. When my phone is not in use, when it is just lying on the table or somewhere, all I have to say is, "ok Siri" and it responds and waits for me to ask a question or a command. How amazing is that? I know many of you use this feature every day and it is not new to you. I know you that own an android phone can do the same by asking Google questions. But in my small tech world, I thought this was so amazing. Amazing that my phone would do this. I sat for next 15 minutes asking it questions and giving it commands. Just so you will know, the earth is 54.6 million kilometers from Mars. There is some information you may never use again. However, it's cool I can ask my phone these questions and get an answer.

Then it hit me. God can and will answer our questions we have. If we would spend half the time, a quarter of the time, and eighth of the time with God as we do with our phones, we would experience more of God then we could ever imagine. The Blessings we miss by not sharing our ups and downs with God. The Blessings we would inherit could not be counted. The Blessing of knowing God is always near

would be so comforting in difficult times. The Blessing of knowing God's power would be so mighty. The Blessings of knowing God has things in control would be so hopeful. The Blessings of knowing that God truly has a plan for our lives would be so comforting. And all this information is closer than our phones we carry. Psalm 34: 15 says, "The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help." In 1 Chronicles 5:20, we are told that God answered the prayers of the people because they trusted in Him. Believing that God will answer our prayers, trusting in His ability to hear and answer is important. In John 15:16, Jesus tells us, "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name". Jesus also tells in John 16:23-25-- " On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. "

It's that amazing!! I knew it all the time. I knew Jesus was always with me. I knew He heard and answered my prayers. And I knew He would never leave for forsake me. However, this thought from God as I use my phone overwhelmed me. It reassured me for my day. It brought me a peace that I needed. It brought me comfort that I desired, and it brought me hope and strength to carry on. How about you? When have you asked? When have you received? I know you know these things. Have you placed them so far back in your heart and thoughts that you rarely find the comfort you need? Let me share one more thing about my phone I just found out. The cool thing my new phone does when I ask it questions; my old phone had it also and I didn't know it was there. It was there the whole time. Let me share this: God is with you right now. You are not alone, never have been, never will be. God is doing a work in you. EXPECT A MIRACLE ANY SECOND!!! Don't believe me? Just ask him!!!

And by the way, the cell phone I carry today, I purchased in 2018! As I shared, I'm not good at figuring out new gadgets. So, keep me in your prayers, because I'm not good with new cell phones!! And I know there is a new phone sometime soon in my future. Lord Help me!!!

Pastor Brian

Children's Corner

We have a video game tournament scheduled on Sunday, January 14 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM for children up through middle school and will be held in Friendship Hall.

Games for the tournament are Mario Cart and Smash Brothers Brawl. Pizza and drinks will be served

Church Email Issues

As most of you know we have had issues with the Church Email since we lost the hard drive on the office computer. With Suddenlink selling out to Optimum, we have encountered numerous issues trying to re-establish our email. As a result sometime during the month of January we hope to have a new email address available for the congregation to use. **STAY TUNED AND WATCH THE MIDWEEK UPDATES** for more information.

Serving in the Name of Jesus

Here are some ways that you, as part of the family of St. Andrew, are invited to help be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. All items may be placed in the

Basket located in the overflow area behind the Sanctuary. It is labeled for the Food Pantry and Christ's Kitchen.

1. Bring a box of cereal or a box of packets of oatmeal to The Table on the first Sunday of each month.
2. Check the lists of most pressing needs for the St. Albans Food Pantry and Christ's Kitchen
3. Bring empty 12 count (not 18 count) egg cartons for use at the Food Pantry.
4. Bring personal care items for the homeless and place them in the SNAP collection box in the overflow area.

While there is always a need for food items of all kinds, these are the ones most needed at this time.

St. Albans Food Pantry

Pancake mix, instant oatmeal variety box, cereal, beef stew, Ramen noodles

Christ's Kitchen

Hot dog chili, canned tuna, plastic forks, small Styrofoam bowls (for cereal)

Did you know that you can also donate ground beef to Christ's Kitchen at Butcher's Black Angus by asking them to add a pound to your bill?

It will then be picked up and taken to Christ's Kitchen as needed. It takes 20-30 pounds of ground beef to prepare one day's lunch.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Gary and Barbara Asbury, Emma Gandee, Unspoken, Allison Jones, Leora McCoy, Alice Baldwin, Jillian Taylor, Sue Holstein, Bruce Frame, Sheila Radochio, Ann Landers, Melissa and Matt, Peg Henrich, Ann and David Estep, The Family of Darrell Brightwell, David and Colleen Workman, Rich Vorhees, Tina Gillespie and Friends, Denise, David Zoisvert, Colette Baire, Brad and Anaka Kagen, Elijah Wilson, Don and Anna Nichols

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 1 New Year's Day church office closed

January 2 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 Trustees

January 3 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy and Bob's Small Groups on ZOOM

January 4 11:00 Diana and Tim's Small Group on ZOOM

6:30 to 7:30 PM Cub Scouts in Cottrell Hall

January 7 9:30 Choir in Room 210

10:30 All children age 3 through elementary school are invited to the nursery for a lesson and activities / infant nursery is available as well

10:30 Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

**4:44 The Table in Friendship Hall, music, a meal and a message
(Please bring a box of cereal for the food pantry.)**

January 8 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 to 7:30 Karate

6:30 to 8:00 Boy Scouts in Cottrell Hall

January 9 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

January 10 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy and Bob's small groups on ZOOM

January 11 11:00 Fishermen Small Group meets in Wesley Classroom

11:00 Diana and Tim's small group on ZOOM

6:30 to 7:30 Cub Scouts in Cottrell Hall

January 14 9:30 Choir in Room 210

10:30 All children ages 3 through elementary school are invited to the nursery for a lesson and activities / infant nursery is available as well

10:30 Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

2:00 Finance Committee in Parlor

2:00 to 4:30 CHILDREN'S VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT IN FRIENDSHIP HALL FOR CHILDREN UP THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Refreshments will be served. (pizza and drinks)

January 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:00 to 7:30 Karate in Friendship Hall

6:30 to 8:00 Boy Scouts in Cottrell Hall

MLK Day Celebration at St. Paul's Baptist Church

January 16 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

January 17 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy and Bob's small groups on ZOOM

January 18 11:00 Diana and Tim's Small group on ZOOM

January 21 9:30 Choir in Room 210

10:30 All children ages 3 through middle school are invited to the nursery for a lesson and activities / infant nursery is available as well

10:30 Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

January 22 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:00 to 7:30 Karate In Friendship Hall

6:30 to 8:00 Scouts in Cottrell Hall

January 23 9:30 to 2:30 – SNAP

*****Information for February Newsletter Due in the Office by Noon****

January 24 6:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy's and Bob's Small Groups on ZOOM

January 25 11:00 Diana and Tim's Small Group on ZOOM

11:15 – Fishermen Small Group to Christ Kitchen for lunch

6:30 to 7:30 Cub Scouts in Cottrell Hall

January 28 9:30 – Choir in Room 210

**10:30 - All children through elementary age are invited to the
Preschool Room with lesson and activity available for age 3
and above**

10:30 - Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

January 29 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 to 7:30 Karate in Friendship Hall

6:30 to 8:00 Boy Scouts in Cottrell Hall

January 30 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

January 31 9:30 to 2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy's and Bob's Small Groups on Zoom