



The Messenger

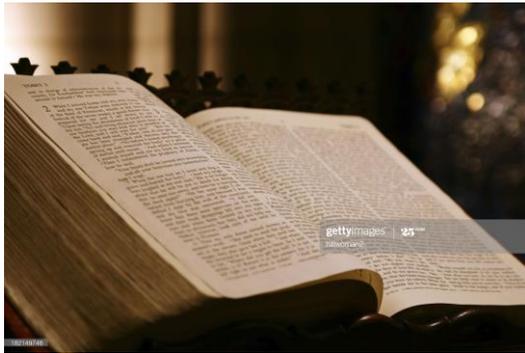


PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS

May 2020

Volume 42, No. 5

Shared messages from Pastor Stacey



If you watch our services online, you know that the last Sunday of April was a difficult one for me. Perhaps, the words I share with you from clergy friends will help to summarize where I am coming from, as words are failing me now!

From Brian Shivers

Personal rant ahead:

I am honored and humbled to be an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA. I do not take my ordination or my responsibilities as a pastor lightly. I do not do it perfectly and would never pretend like I do. My ordination vows and my calling are not my own. They only exist because of and within community. They have never led, do not lead, and will never lead me to putting anyone's life at risk within that community. In fact, my ordination and my calling lead me to act in the exact opposite way. I am called to protect those I have been called to serve with all of my might.

Here's the rant part:

I have grown weary of hearing stories about pastors across the nation and within my own area who are putting their egos and their personal needs to stand in front of a group of people above the safety, security, and health of the very people they are called to serve. And worse, I hear them claiming that the city and state's desire to keep citizens well and safe is a violation of religious liberty.

Let it be clearly stated. It is not that!

This false narrative and those behaviors mentioned above are not okay.

It is reckless.

It is dangerous.

It is self centered.

It is egotistical.

It is a violation of the call to serve the people.

Everyone still has the liberty to worship God (or not worship god) in whatever language they use and in whatever manner they choose as long as they are not putting people's lives at risk. You cannot and should not be doing it in person right now.

No comments needed. I just felt the need to add a different voice to the conversation.

From Shelly Wood

The rest we seek, is not sedentary. It is not afternoons of bingewatching Netflix, or lounging on the back porch, or scrolling through our phones. It is not even a day of avoiding the news or social media, although that is a welcome relief.

No, the rest we seek is deeper than that. It is finding rest for one's psyche and the unrelenting need to be on alert. It is finding rest in the constant reminder that something has gone wrong. It is finding rest in the slow motion crisis that does not let up. We seek rest for our souls.

Jesus said:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

We are weary and we are burdened and we can't just shut out the world and pretend that we aren't troubled by our personal lives, our community, our nation and the world. So we come to you and pile them all out at your feet and say, "These are heavy!"

You scan the burdens we have laid out, and you see them, and acknowledge them as real, and so very heavy. Then, one by one, you pick them up. They seem so much lighter in your hands. You have them all, and you will carry them for us.

"What do you want us to carry?" we ask.

You smile, and look upon us with love in your eyes, and say:

"My Peace. Carry, my Peace"

And you will find rest for your souls.

"My peace I give to you. My peace I leave to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid."

Amen

So How are We Doing?



Even though we have not seen each other, I feel the question lingering along with other anxieties of this time that we all are facing. To answer the question and quell your anxiety about at least one thing, we are doing ok!

I have prepared initial financial reports through the end of April. Income is slightly down in April, but I am estimating only by about \$400 to possibly \$800 at the most! However, when I compare from January through April of last year to the same time period this year, we are \$354.00 ahead of last year! What that means is that all of you are awesome and I am so proud to be a part of the St. Andrews family! Because most of you have faithfully kept current on your giving even during this time apart, I have been able to keep up with expenses. I have also written a check to the Presbytery of Northern Kansas for \$1058.00 for Per Capita funds donated by you through the end of April. This represents just shy of half that we owe for this year (\$2300.00 in total). Those that have not yet been able to donate toward per capita may do so at any time. I am also still planning to have a thrift sale when it is

safe, whether that is June or later in the year. If we have been able to pay Per Capita by then, well, it is just like home ... there are always places where the proceeds from our sale will be needed at church!

One other piece of good news! Using information and guidance from the Presbytery and with approval from the Session, we applied for a Payroll Protection Program loan for the church which was part of the Federal stimulus package passed by Congress. Presbytery encouraged all churches in Northern Kansas to apply for these funds as soon as possible in the first week of April as normally non-profits are not included in such benefits. We submitted our application on Friday, April 3rd (the first day they were accepted) and it was approved on Saturday, April 4th. Our bank received the funds on April 14th. 75% will be used to cover the eight weeks of payroll from April 14th through June 14th with the remaining 25% used to help with utilities. After the eight-week time period is up, I will submit documentation showing how the funds were spent and the loan will be forgiven. So, while you are watching the news, know that St. Andrews is one of the actual “small companies” to receive funds from the program! What all of this means is this, please do not stop doing your wonderful job keeping current on your contributions! The PPP loan allows us to breathe and be sure that we are covered until we can meet again. We also will have some building repair expenses coming up related to the water problem in the church and Pastor’s office. (Matthew and the Building and Grounds Committee are working on a solution to this problem and will let you know exact information when it is available). If our contributions remain steady throughout the next few months and our PPP loan covers payroll for the same period, it allows the Session to decide how best to appropriate the small “windfall” this program will have provided the church.

One last thing, a very wise member suggested that those of you who receive a stimulus check and do not need to use it for current expenses might consider saving part of it for the church to help with the upcoming water repair expenses!

So, how are we doing? We are doing ok! God is good, all the time!

Stephanie Reynolds

Thank you!



For many church members, unless you personally serve on committees of the Presbytery or a Pastor Search Committee at your local church, it seems that Presbytery works in the background and it is hard to tell exactly how their contribution is helpful to your local church. April was a shining example of how we are supported by our Presbytery and why it is important to have those denominational ties!

Our General Presbyter, Melanie Hancock, along with help from others on the Presbytery Council and Finance Committee, spent countless hours the last week of March and first week of April trying to gather all the information they could in a very short period of time about the Payroll Protection Program and associated grants passed that week by Congress. They researched during a time when the program was new with a lot of press, putting together information from the best sources possible to help churches know where to go to find accurate information on the program and how to apply, and last, to encourage churches to apply and to do it fast! The “Presbyterian way,” while effective, is not always known for its expediency of process! 😊 Melanie conveyed the need to apply quickly, urging Sessions to get it done by April 3rd or as soon thereafter as possible. With help from Presbytery for a place to find accurate information and the best way to apply, not having to wade through it by ourselves, we were able to apply and be approved by April 4th. It is obvious by watching the news that speed in applying was perhaps the largest determining factor separating those who were approved and had their loan funded from others. Another large factor appears to be the ability of your bank to quickly implement the brand-new program (in less than a week) and process the applications on through to the Small Business Association. I have heard reports of churches still waiting due to processes at their bank taking valuable time and am happy to report that our bank did a fabulous job!

Thank you to the Presbytery for their timely information and encouragement. It helped St. Andrews and hopefully many others in the Presbytery!

Stephanie Reynolds

Lower Level Repairs



Hello St. Andrews Family!

I just wanted to give you all a quick update on the situation regarding the downstairs offices. After having the environmental tester out, her report indicated that there was elevated moisture in the outside wall along with some mold.

Following this, ServPro came out, opened the wall, and cleaned out the mold as well as some rodent

nestings/droppings that were not helping the situation at all.

They removed the carpet in the pastor's office, shampooed the carpet in Bill's office, and aired out the entire area. In doing

this, they revealed that along that South facing wall, not only is there no insulation on the bottom two feet, but there are also significant gaps between the metal siding and the foundation which has been what is allowing the presence of water and rodents. Since discovering these things, we are working on solutions for how to move forward with closing the gaps and controlling water flow around that part of the building. We have asked for help, and when the recommendations are ready, they will be shared with Building and Grounds so we can work on what solution will be the most effective for us. This means at the moment I don't have any specific information to offer you other than to rest assured that we are working towards a solution. Thank you for your patience, and I will update you when I have more to share!

Matthew Reynolds
Building and Grounds Chair

Doorstep



This Spring has been crazy! With the corona virus everything has changed! At this point, we aren't sure

when the 'stay at home' orders will be lifted, and when they are, what life will look like at that point.

Doorstep has continued to provide services to our neighbors in need through phone intakes. We have been assisting with food, rent, utilities, prescriptions, dental and gas vouchers. We know we will continue to see more people in need as this continues, and we try to get back to 'normal'. We appreciate those who have donated food and/or money during this time to help Doorstep. The staff and food room volunteers have continued working to help our neighbors.

The **Doorstep Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing** has been postponed for now. We hope to have this event later in the year as it is a celebration of our volunteers!

We will still have our **2nd Annual Summer Cash Bash**, but maybe in July this year to correspond with our Christmas in July collection. Once we figure some things out, we will set the dates and get the word out!

Other dates to remember are:

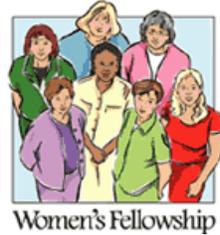
We will have one food sale fundraiser this year! We plan to take orders for **Cinnamon Rolls and Tamales September 11th – 27th**, with delivery the weekend of October 16th. Mark your calendars to stock your freezers!

Doorstep's 3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run is Sunday, October 4th at 2pm at Lake Shawnee. Plan to join us in getting some exercise around the lake, and raise funds for Doorstep this October. The walk/run has been moved to a Sunday afternoon this year in the hopes of competing less with other events during that time of year! Mark your calendars!!

Men's and Ladies Groups



The Men's and Ladies' Groups scheduled luncheon would be May 15th. Depending on KDHE and state guidelines, will have to determine if we should meet.



MAY 2020 LECTIONARY READINGS

May 3- Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 10-Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 17-Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 21-Ascension of the Lord: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 24-Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17 1-11

May 31`-Day of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39



Communion to be determined when we're able to be together.



May Birthdays



Virginia Starr, May 4th
Rev. Paul Mitchell, M13th
Mark Camacho, May 16th
Ainsley Jones, May 26th

Richmond & Sharon McDaniels May 1, 1976

Alan & Stephanie Reynolds May 11, 1985



Thank You



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To My St. Andrews Family,

Thank you for all the cards, visits, and support you have given us in the past 2 ½ years.

It has been a long journey for our family – but we know Richard is in a better place and he has no pain.

Love,

Aggie O'Neill and family

Caring for our Members and Friends



Keep these folks in your prayers: Francene Beall, Kathy Fuller, Aggie and all the O'Neill family, Mary Jane and Junior Elder, Rita Kelly, Cheryl Kelly, Karl Wilmers, Dolores Wilmers, Myron Wilson, Mary Ottiwell, Millie Blodgett, Family of Steven Cornelius, Tammy

Calkins, Maggie Putnam, Gwen Jones,, Ron Farrell, Richmond McDaniels, Duane Custer, Debra Goddard, Ezra Krumalis, Doug Ottiwell, Carol Paxton.

Remember our active duty and veteran personnel, firefighters, EMTs, police officers, and those on the front lines of service during this pandemic, our nation as we struggle with the effects of the coronavirus. Prayers for those suffering from effects of the coronavirus and for those who have lost jobs. Pray for peace for those countries suffering from war and conflict; the ongoing conflicts and violence in our own community, all our government officials and political conflicts, the hungry and the homeless.

SESSION



For obvious reasons, session did not have meet face-to-face in April, but did take action on two issues by email that came after our March 15th meeting:

- 1) Approved cancelling church services on March 22nd and 29th, and determine having church services after that time
- 2) Session authorized Stephanie Reynolds to proceed with applying for the funds available through the Federal Stimulus Program in relation to the COVID-19 issue for churches, and to follow through with signing and submitting all documents necessary.

May 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Richmond & Sharon McDaniels Anniv	2
3	4 Virginia Starr-B'day	5 Presbytery Mtg. by Zoom	6	7 6:30 -Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11 Alan & Stephanie Reynolds Anniv. Krystal Duer B'day	12	13 Pastor Paul Mitchell-B'day	14 6:30 -Choir Rehearsal	15 11:30 – Men's and Ladies Lunch	16 Mark Camacho B'day
17 12:15 Session	18	19	20	21 6:30 -Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28 6:30 -Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 Pentecost						

ANY SCHEDULED EVENTS WILL BE CONDITIONED ON THE KDHE AND STATE GUIDELINES REGARDING THE COVID-19 AT THE TIME.

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May, 2020



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**WELCOME TO
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Worship-Sundays 11:00 AM

