



The Messenger

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



July 2018

Volume 40, No. 7



The 4th of July always leaves me ambivalent. I love my country and am so thankful for the freedoms we enjoy. I am also thankful for those who risk their lives to ensure we continue to have those freedoms. However, as a Christian, I recognize that my true freedom comes from Christ.

So, I'm often asking what does it mean to say I "love my country"? I love and feel called to the people in it? Yes. But then I ask, should I ever love the people of America more than the people of Canada or Mexico, of Haiti or Ghana? Probably not. Saying "I love America" is basically saying I love a political system, a set of laws and arbitrary boundary lines that history will eventually erase. I think it might be saying more than I ought to say as a follower of Jesus.

Tony Campolo puts it this way: "America may be the best Babylon the world has, but it is still Babylon nonetheless."

As Christians we are exiles living in Babylon. Our corner may be called "America," but it's still all a part of the same thing: a world system that transcends borders, is dominated by worldly consumerism and corruption, and is essentially opposed to the Kingdom of God. And while love and affection for the people living in that system is entirely necessary, and we should absolutely pray for the peace and well-being of the place where God has set us, we need to avoid the mistake we see over and over in Scripture: becoming so enamored with our temporary dwelling—whether that's called Egypt, Babylon, or even America—that we lose sight of what Hebrews calls "a better place."

Don't get me wrong, I will be shooting off fireworks and celebrating this day along with everyone else, but I also ask us all to remember that we are Christians first living in the world that God has provided for us.

God bless us all!

Pastor Stacey



In December, 2017, Doorstep assisted 259 households involving 824 individuals with Christmas gifts and food. Each year we celebrate “Christmas in July” to get a jump start on collecting new items for our annual Christmas adoption! Our goal is to help alleviate some of the strain during the holidays by collecting some items mid-year. Doorstep will again adopt 250 households with 750+ individuals this December through the

Christmas Bureau. By having items donated in July, our Christmas Store Chair, Judy Neher, has a better idea what items we are lacking in November and December. Judy is here every week sorting through donations, and organizing the basement where our Christmas donations are kept all year until the big week arrives!

We have started to focus donations for Christmas in July to only include items that are not seasonal. Therefore, we have requested no clothing at this time. Instead, we need sheets and blankets, health kit items, household items, gifts for adults, school supplies and toys. These items should be new. Last year we were short 100 blankets, and had to purchase them the week of the Store, so each household could receive a blanket or quilt.

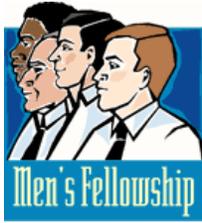
Each school aged child we adopt receives school supplies and a backpack, if needed. Typically, they have used up their back to school supplies, and they need replenished. Also, each of the 250 households receives a health kit filled with hygiene products, and wrapped with a new bath towel, hand towel and washcloth!

Each child receives one bigger toy as their gift and then other smaller items are available along with games, books, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers etc. Typically, we are lacking in the main gift area. If you can help with toys for children ages 2-12 and gifts for the teenagers (make up and nail kits) we would be grateful.

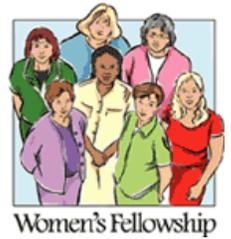
Please look over the Christmas in July flyer and see how you can help. See on the table in Fellowship Hall. Doorstep continues to be successful in helping people in need because of our member congregations who are working together to provide for their neighbors in need. If everyone pitches in just a little, big things will continue to happen!

Please bring your Christmas donations to worship in July or to Doorstep, Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm.

Men's Group Ladies' Groups



The Men's and Ladies' groups met at Banjos on June 15th. Next get together will be on July 20th at 11:30 at Banjos. Take this opportunity for a time with your church family and friends.



The annual church picnic will be in conjunction with the "fifth Sunday potluck" dinner on July 29th following worship. It will be held in the fellowship hall and will be a salad bar lunch.



All-Church Lunch



Our annual all-church lunch at a restaurant after worship was June 24th at Annie's. Approximately 25 members attended. All enjoyed a good



time of fellowship and sharing a meal with our church family.

In Memoriam



Dan Hamer, long time member of St. Andrews, passed away on June 25th. A memorial service will be at Penwell-Gabel Midtown on Saturday, June 30th, at 10:00 am. Interment will be at Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of donor's choice.

July 2018 LECTONARY READINGS

July 1 (6th Sunday after Pentecost) - 2 Samuel 1:1,17-27;
Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

July 8 (7th Sunday after Pentecost) - 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10;
Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 15 (8th Sunday after Pentecost) - 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19;
Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 22 (9th Sunday after Pentecost) - 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians
2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29 (10th Sunday after Pentecost) - 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21;
John 6:1-21



Holy Communion will be observed on July 8th.

July Birthdays

Callie Beattie, July 1st

Lauren French, July 1st

Jo Ann Miller, July 1st

Misty Brown, July 7th

Francene Beall, July 10th

Carolyn Szafran-Ahrens, July 10th

Alex Jones, July 13th

Brian McPherson, July 14th

Richard O'Neill, July 24th





Jim and Kelly Carr, July 18, 2015
Larry and Susan William, July 24, 1993

Caring for our Members and Friends



Keep these folks in your prayers: Claudia Hamer, Marvin Parks, Betty DeShazer, Charles Franks, Virginia Bohn, Dick O'Neill, Karl Wilmers, Dolores Wilmers, John Lucero, Don and Olga Fluke, Mike Kelly, Rita Kelly, Patrick Deuser, Jerry Barton, Sally Shaffer, Kelly Lindenmeyer, Mary Hoy.

Keep Marine 2nd Lt. Randy Luedke in your prayers, and the other active duty and veteran personnel, firefighters, EMTs, and police officers, the victims of violence in our country and the volcanoes, fires and floods . Pray for peace for those countries suffering from war and conflict; the ongoing conflicts and violence in our own community, all our government officials, the hungry and the homeless.

SESSION

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS June 11, 2018



[P]'20 Kathy Fuller	[P] '19 Claudia Hamer	[P] '18 Jan McPherson
[P]'20 Betty DeShazer	[P] '19 Jan Rice	[A] '18 Jan Schiesser
[A] '20 Charles Franks	[P] '19 Matthew Reynolds	[A] '18 Bob Bodenheimer
[P] '20 Bill DeShazer	[P] '19 Stephanie Reynolds	[P] '18 Jo Ann Miller

[P] Session Moderator- Rev. Dr. Stacey Shaffer Jones

[P] Clerk of Session-Bill DeShazer

[P] Treasurer-Stephanie Reynolds

- Treasurer's report: General fund checking balance as of May 31, 2018 was \$1,554.48. Memorial fund checking balance-\$3,106.00. General fund income for May was \$5,042.00; general fund expenses were \$6,131.72.
- Pastor Stacey will be gone July 1st, 22nd and 29th.
- Session will not meet in July.
- Roll shutters in sanctuary fixed.
- July is St. Andrews month to work in the clothing room. Each Thursday from 8:45 to 2:00. Work whatever hours you can. Also need volunteers for Monday the 23rd.
- St. Andrews Trio will be singing during worship on July 22nd.
- Presbytery meeting will be in Lawrence on July 21st. Bill DeShazer will attend as elected commissioner.
- Communion will be on July 8th since Pastor Stacey is gone on the 1st.

July 2018						
◀ June						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Callie Beattie B'day Lauren French B'day Jo Ann Miller B'day	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6	7 Misty Brown B'day
8 Communion	9	10 Francene Beall B'day Carolyn Szafran (Martin) B'day	11	12	13 Alex Jones B'day	14 Brian McPherson b'day
15	16	17	18 Jim & Kelly Carr Anniv.	19	20 11:30 Men's and Ladies' Groups	21 Presbytery Lawrence
22	23	24 Larry & Susan William - anniv. Dick O'Neill B'day	25	26	27	28
29 Picnic/Pot Luck	30	31				

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July, 2018



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**WELCOME TO
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Worship 11:00 AM
Church picnic/potluck dinner, July 29TH following worship

