

The AGAPE Newsletter

July 2009

Vol. 4, No. 7



Super Summer ExtraVaganza!

Okay, we're using a little hyperbole here, but Jim will be on writing leave in July so we want to make sure everyone realizes that we will have some very interesting and diverse speakers bringing us great sermons while Jim is gone.

On July 5, Barbara McCarty will share her thoughts on the importance of spiritual community. Barbara is the current moderator of Mission Presbytery. She also serves as lay minister at Poima Community.

On July 12, Tom Spenser will speak. Tom is director of Austin Area Inter-religious Ministries. Before that, you probably saw him on our local PBS station. He produced a documentary on emerging church leaders like Bishop Spong and Marcus Borg.

On July 19, we will get to hear Chuck Freeman who ministers at Live Oak Unitarian Church. Chuck also has a weekly radio show and is founder of the "Free Souls Project."

Then on July 26, Rabbi Neil Blumofe will round out the month. Neil is both a cantor and a rabbi. He has several Jazz CD's out and often mixes biblical, mystical and musical insights.



Print versions of St. Andrew's sermons continue to be available in the church foyer and on the website as well. Very soon, copies of Jim Rigby's current series, "The Gospel According to Monty Python" will be available.



On the first Sunday of July, Barbara McCarty, lay minister, will lead a discussion of "community."

For the last three weeks in July, Robert Jensen will lead a 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Class exploring themes from his book All My Bones Shake: A Progressive Path to the Prophetic Voice. The discussion will be flexible, and one need not read the book to be part of the class. But to provide some structure to the classes, we'll follow this rough schedule:

July 12: Introduction, My Story, and Parts I and II

July 19: Parts III and IV

July 26: Our Challenge and Conclusion

Jensen teaches in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and is active in a variety of progressive political movements. He was confirmed at the First Presbyterian Church of Fargo, ND, in April 1973, and he stopped attending church in May 1973. He joined St. Andrew's in 2005. During his unchurched years, he fell into the company of journalists, academics, and other sinners.



Youth Volleyball

Youth Volleyball is on again this summer! Teri Rivas is the coach. All youth from incoming 6th graders through graduating seniors are invited to play. The first game is June 18, at 7 pm here at St. Andrew's. The group practices on Tuesday nights at 7 pm beginning June 16. For away games, we will meet at the church at 6:30 to carpool. For more information, please call Paula Rigling at 791-4701. Tell your friends!



Dear Church Family & Friends,

The skin is our body's largest organ. It is often under appreciated and unrecognized as a great defender, protector and communicator. It helps us when we are challenged with disease and emotions and connects our mind and body to the external world. It is one of our first defense systems. When we are threatened with disease, the skin can sense changes in our body and can be critical in activating an immune response.

We can all remember times when emotional stress might cause us to blush, or feel goose bumps when we sense danger or temperature change. Our skin might start to crawl when we feel scared or start to itch when we hear just the suggestion of lice, scabies or poison ivy. It is our job to be vigilant in protecting this all important mind body connection that serves to keep us healthy.

With summer sunshine being ever present in the coming months, it is important to take the time to stay well hydrated, wear clothing that protects the skin, sunglasses with UV/UVB to protect the eyes and to wear sunscreen daily. Gone are the days when baby oil was used to encourage that tan. SPF 30 sunscreen is recommended. Be sure to use at least one ounce when applying. Zinc and titanium oxide products are effective. That white paste that life guards once used on their nose and ears is now a clear gel. Zinc and titanium oxides can be less irritating than chemical sunscreens and still provide broad spectrum coverage. If you do get burned, a cool washcloth and aloe vera gel work well to help with the discomfort.

See your health care provider if you notice skin changes. Take the time this season to protect your skin. We all hope to be in it a long time.

Love and Blessings,
Donna

*Lift every gift and bless God,
Who gives life and health,
Healing and presence, comfort and grace.*

Blood pressure screening schedule change for the summer....

The next screenings will be Sunday, July 26 and Sunday August 30th. There will not be a screenings on Sunday July 5. If you need your pressure checked at any other time, just stop by the Pastoral Care office when Donna is here and she will be happy to take your blood pressure.



Congratulations to Molly and Bill Hornbuckle, the proud and grateful grandparents of Blaine Jennings Kimble, born June 11. Molly's oldest son, Logan, and wife Hayley, are the parents. They live in Ft. Worth.

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June Session Summary

Submitted by Wayne Rogers, Clerk of Session

Randy Cook reported to session that our finances continue to look good, with \$111,709 in our cash account at the end of May. Income through May was over 99% of budget and expenses were about 87% of budget (with some insurance bills coming due soon). Jim reported on his participation in Peace Camp, Presbytery meeting and speaking at a rally at the T. Don Hutto detention center. David reported that Peace Camp was a success and that three more people are willing to be trained for Godly Play. For July, Jim will be on writing leave and the choir will be off; but we will have excellent speakers to fill the pulpit, special music, and Godly Play and Children's Church will continue.

There will be a called congregational meeting on August 3 for the purpose of electing three persons from the congregation for the nominating committee to join Alice Ortiz (chair) and Peggy Rackley from Session on that committee. The nominating committee will then meet to provide nominees for Session to begin serving in 2010. That election will be held at a subsequent congregational meeting.

Session voted to proceed on major repairs to two of the bathrooms in the center of the education wing. They also voted to purchase programmable thermostats throughout the building. Session gave the Guardian Team discretion for raising funds to offset these expenses.

St. Andrew's will sponsor a Service of Atonement a week or so before Thanksgiving to acknowledge the injustices done to native Americans at the founding of this country. Our hope is that by remembering the whole story of Thanksgiving, our celebration on Thursday will be more faithful to the God who loves us all. We also plan to publicize this to the entire Austin metropolitan community.

Guardian Team



Finance Report

St. Andrew's continues to enjoy a positive cash flow and is increasing cash on hand. The balance of the end of May was \$111,709.33. Income is almost exactly on track while expenses are running about \$19,000 below targeted levels. Again, we expect expenses to approach budgeted levels as we move into the second half of the fiscal year.



What Needs "Fixin"? What needs "fixin"? In preparation for a work day, the Guardians are collecting a "to-do" list. As you notice dripping faucets, loose hinges, grimy woodwork, dust bunnies, or lightbulbs needing replacement, etc. please contact Nan King (837-5513 or nanking@juno.com), keeper of the "to-do" list.



"Real Plates" Ministry

"Real Plates Ministry" needs help—especially for 1st Sunday Fellowship cleanup. Are you willing to help St. Andrew's in its environmental stewardship commitment to limit the use of disposables?

In order to continue using "real plates", a little more Sunday Fellowship cleanup help is needed. We have fun in the kitchen and can chat while working. Recent 1st Sunday Potlucks have been so well-attended that we need to increase the cleanup team on those days from two persons to four. With a few more volunteers in this ministry, the rotation could be only once in ten weeks. Contact Martha Rogers (345-3969 or rogers33@swbell.net) to volunteer or make suggestions

Artist Team



Are you looking for a way to get connected and to serve at St. Andrew's? You could start by taking a look at the listing of ministry opportunities that is on the credenza by the office window. Especially needed right now is someone to put away the Communion supplies after our 2nd Sunday Communion service. Time involved is about 30 minutes following the second service once a month. If you would like to discuss this or any other ministry, contact Martha Rogers (345-3969 or rogers33@swbell.net).



Poiema, A Presbyterian Community, about 5 miles southeast of Manor was pleased to host its very first retreat for our friends at St. Andrew's on May 2, 2009. Folks at Poiema have long desired to be able to share the beauty and simplicity of their land with others. Eleven guests and six Poiema members enjoyed a day of walking, visiting, eating, relaxing, meditating, learning about and appreciating the wildlife around them. Our guests took time to fill out an extensive evaluation that has been very helpful for improving and expanding on the possibilities of the retreat experience.

Poiema is preparing for future retreat experiences. Groups of 20 or less can be accommodated for day retreats. Overnight accommodations are available for a small group. Since Poiema is about 30-40 minutes from most of Austin visitors are welcome nearly anytime for an individual retreat of a few hours to a few days. We hope that committees or other small groups would benefit from a setting away from the city with a contemplative atmosphere. Poiema offers a space for reflection with examples of alternative approaches to housing and nature as a backdrop.

Poiema, A Presbyterian Community, describes itself as reawakening connections to the earth, finding fellowship in seeking justice and renewing roots of faith and silence in a progressive, intentional community. More information is at www.poiemacommunity.org.



The Fourth Annual St. Andrew's Variety Show will be held Saturday, August 22. Start dusting off those instruments and warming up those vocal chords! This is a time for one and all to experience the joy of performing, to support our friends, and to enjoy each others' company. As usual, we are looking for performers, someone to serve as MC, people to bring snacks, volunteers to help clean up and lots of audience members. Spread the word to your family and friends. All are welcome!

This year, we will also hold a silent auction to benefit improvements to the sound system. These upgrades will allow us to include music in our worship service recordings, move the sound booth to a more functional location, and better support future Open Ears Concerts and other activities.

This Open Ears Concert Season has been a lot of fun and we have been treated to some amazing performances by brilliant artists. Here is what we have planned (so far) for next season. Please help spread the word and spread the love of live music.

- Telegraph Canyon
(www.telegraphcanyon.net):
September 19, 2009
- Beaver Nelson (www.beavernelson.com):
October 17, 2009
- Danny Schmidt (www.dannyschmidt.com):
November 21, 2009
- Corrine West (www.corrinnewest.com):
December 12, 2009
- Carrie Elkin (www.carriekelkin.com):
January 23, 2010.

Ambassador Team



Video Series continues on Sunday, July 5, 12:15. In this powerful new video, Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need, Juliet Schor

scrutinizes what she calls "the new consumerism"--a national phenomenon of upscale spending that is shaped and reinforced by a commercially-driven media system. She argues that "keeping up with the Joneses" is no longer enough for middle and upper-middle class Americans, many of whom become burdened with debilitating debt as they seek to emulate materialistic TV lifestyles.

Drawing on her academic research, Schor explains the cultural forces that cause Americans to work longer hours and spend more than they can afford in order to participate in a consumption competition with others. The video illustrates with numerous examples how more and more products are being used as social communicators to demonstrate material success.

The Overspent American challenges the inevitability of the consumer lifestyle by proposing alternatives to the work and spend cycle that has so many Americans feeling trapped and unfulfilled. The video draws attention to--and ultimately raises serious questions about--the costs (both financial and societal) of relentlessly searching for happiness and identity through consumption.

The video is 37 minutes long and Professor Robert Jensen will lead a discussion time after the showing.



Food & Shower Ministry

Summertime is proving to be a busy time for the Food Pantry! Children are out of school, and many of their parents are out of work. That makes for difficult times, but fortunately some of these people are finding their way to our doors. We have all kinds of canned goods and household items, and for those who have refrigerators, we can supply milk, eggs, and bread as well. We offer bus passes, showers, nutritious snacks, juice and coffee to clients while they wait for their orders to be processed.

We have 5-8 volunteers (some young people) actively working while the Food Pantry is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, not to mention the people who donate the many perishables, the people who bring the snacks, juice, etc., and the behind-the-scenes folks that organize the whole process. It's quite a large ministry that could not happen without the tangible support that we get from our generous congregation. You bring food, you donate money and time, and you are clearly committed to this outreach work. If you would like to participate in the nuts and bolts of this amazing ministry, please sign up on the white board by the greeters table or talk to Martha Rogers, our church volunteer coordinator or Lyn Whitcomb about volunteering in this area. Many thanks!

Right now we are in need of: small bars of soap, laundry soap, razors, canned chili w/ meat, canned fruit and bottled water.



The Manos de Cristo Back-to-School Supply drive is upon us! Two Sundays - July 5th and 12th only! St. Andrew's has been asked to provide new underwear and socks for boys and girls - Kindergarten through 5th grade along with spiral notebooks - wide-ruled paper. Checks and cash donations are always welcome. A box will be located in the lobby of the church from July 5th through the 12th. Sales should begin in stores the weekend of July 4th, so please take advantage of these and participate in this terrific ministry of El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church.

Educator Team



Theology in
Everyday Life

Theology in Everyday Life meets at 7:15 pm on the first and third Monday's of the month. The meeting starts on time and ends at 8:30 pm. Groups average about eight people which gives all participants ample time to express their views. Our intention is to grow in understanding of how faith is lived out in ordinary life. Thoughtful articles, sermons, films, poetry and current events are some of the topics chosen. Everyone is invited to join in. Handouts of the upcoming subject are available in a basket in the church foyer.

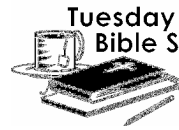
July 6, at 7:15 pm the topic is "The Dance of the Dolphin: Navigating Two Worlds - Rational and Spiritual." We live in two seemingly incompatible worlds. Like the dolphin that exists in both water and air we must learn to live and thrive in two different worlds. The author, Karyn Kedar, offers spiritual insights into this dilemma by showing how integrating the two leads to abundant life. Handouts are available in the basket in the church foyer. Take one and join the discussion. Everyone is invited.



The Year through the Bible Study Group will not meet until the first Sunday in July when they will begin again by looking at the book of Exodus



The Poiema Book Study will begin a study of Falling in Love with Mystery: We Don't Have to Pretend Anymore by Richard F. Elliott, Jr. The next gathering will be Sunday, July 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Poiema, A Presbyterian Community southeast of Manor. The evening begins with a meal together hosted by Poiema and concludes about 8:15. Contact Barbara McCarty at 512-468-4012 or barbaramc@pvco.net for more information. Directions can be found on Poiema's website, www.poiemacommunity.org.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study Jim Rigby will be on leave for July. On July 7, Barbara McCarty will offer a time to experience a passage of scripture as a group with the discipline of Lectio Divina. This is a method of reading in a meditative manner that invites an intimate approach to Scripture. All are welcome from 10 to 11 a.m. Other Tuesday experiences will be announced as they are planned.



The library has been given several new children's titles by the St. Andrew's Bookstore. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to share the marvelous works selected by the Bookstore committee. These books are consistent with St. Andrew's theology and offer beautiful words and illustrations for our children. Please drop by the library and check them out soon! For reviews of these books, go to the website staopen.com and then to the Library link and click on New Children's Selections.

The Coconut Monk by Thich Nhat Hanh

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners by Laurie Keller

The Gift of Nothing by Patrick McDonnell

Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses and Crescents by Mark Podwal

Brother Juniper by Diane Gibfried

The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq by Jeanette Winter

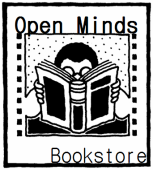
The Boy of Color by Sherrie Nelson

Pastoral Care Team



"Fill Up Your Bucket," a time for self-care of the spirit, will return on Saturday, July 4, at 8:30 am. This is a time to help you discover spiritual pathways find renewal and sustenance in your daily life. It is an occasion for quiet, breathing and meditation. We share conversation if the spirit moves us. The hope is that this time will help you restore a sense of well-being. All are welcome.

OPEN MINDS BOOKSTORE



The bookstore is open the **second and fourth Sundays**, following the 10:45 service. On the second Sunday, the bookstore will be open as usual. On the fourth Sunday, a table in the foyer will have samples of the books listed below with information on two ways to purchase these books – on-line through the church website at www.staopen.com using the Open Minds Books link or by the usual order form. When you use the link on the website, a small percentage of the sale's price will come back to St. Andrews.

If you are one of those who have requested the out-of-print book, Falling in Love with Mystery: You Don't Have to Pretend Anymore, you can order this on the St. Andrews website This is the new selection for study with Poema.

All My Bones Shake: Seeking a Progressive Path to the Prophetic Voice, Robert Jensen. (Dr. Jensen is making this book available to us for a reduced price - \$10) "Drawing from religious tradition, contemporary philosophy, and progressive politics, (Dr. Jensen) stitches together a new theology, offering a progressive approach to key theological questions. Searching for answers that make sense of anyone trying to exist sanely, spiritually and conscientiously in the modern scientific world, Jensen shows the way to work toward a sustainable society and meet the uncertainty of our lives with greater confidence." (book cover) "An invaluable resource for all who struggle to reconcile faith to reason, or justice to judgment." –Rev. Roger McClellan, Progressive Christian Alliance

Awareness, The Perils and Opportunities of Reality, Anthony de Mello, \$13 Anthony de Mello was a Jesuit priest known throughout the world for his writings and spiritual conferences. In *Awareness*, de Mello mixes Christian spirituality, Buddhist parables, Hindu breathing exercises, and psychological insight in words of hope that come together in a grand synthesis. In short chapters, perfect for reading in quiet moments, de Mello encourages us to become aware of our submerged feelings and not let them rule us but instead allow this new awareness to change us. This is the key to courage, to taking risks, and to becoming alive to the needs and potential of others.

Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives by Wayne Muller, \$14

How to Believe, Jon Spayde. \$20. (Included are chapters about our own Jim Rigby and Gerald Gafford.) There are a few copies of this in the bookstore.

The Gnostic Gospels, Elaine Pagel, \$11.50.

Inclusive Language Bible, \$28 This translation is by The Priests for Equality.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Living and Sharing Progressive Christianity

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July 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages 10:45 am Worship Service Church Office Hours Monday - Friday: 9 am – 1 pm			1 7p NA James Bush	2	3	4 8:30a “Fill Up Your Bucket” Britnee Kimey
5 Potluck Luncheon Gaye Kopas	6 7:15p Theology in Everyday Life Jamie Johnson	7 10a Bible Study Donna Greenlee-Klass Steve Landsman	8 7p NA	9 Tod Adamson	10 Linda Cook Margaret Hughes Allyson Martin Lynnsey Martin	11 10a Food Pantry Tonya Hiland Melanie Henny Connor Jackson Seth Massery
12 Bookstore Open Kate FitzPatrick	13	14 10a Bible Study (tba) Mikisha Hooper Mattie & Bob Bartlett	15 7p NA Sara Marks	16 Julia Blackmon Mary Graf Charlie Jackson Timmi Kuykendall	17	18 Annika Thompson
19 William Wilson Danette & Dennis Rogers	20 7:15p Theology in Everyday Life Santi Rocha Zach Speranza	21 10a Bible Study (tba)	22 7p NA Frank Sloan Lynn Thomas	23 Sandy Olphie	24 Julianne Collins Justin Collins Tiffany James	25 10a Food Pantry Chaille & Tom Fuquay Frank & Diane Toussaint
26 Bookstore Open Zack Bolden Brett Wilson	27 Amy Blackmon Eric Bouquet Allen Lawshae	28 10a Bible Study (tba) Anne Mele	29 7p NA Tracy Beeber Sergio Sanchez	30 Chelsea Roff	July Schedule No Choir in July – Rehearsals resume Aug. 5 AGAPE Teams will not meet. No regularly scheduled Session Meeting	

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