

The AGAPE Newsletter

August 2009

Vol. 4, No. 8



Jim Rigby will be back on Aug. 2.

The Lesson in Living will be based on the love passage, Corinthians 13. St. Andrew's sermons are available in print form in a brochure display in the church foyer. You might want to consider selecting a homebound member or a family member or friend from out of town, and then send them a printed sermon from St. Andrew's. At present, we have the Monty Python series and are working to make available the offerings from those who have substituted for Jim in July.

Communion in August will be on the 3rd Sunday. **Introducing our new Youth Programs Leader, Deanna Duplechain:** Deanna has a lot of experience working with youth of all ages - has taught school, and has conducted drama workshops for youth, and taken theater presentations into the public schools. She is currently in training for her second career to become a physical therapist. Please introduce yourselves, get to know her, and most importantly, offer her support in this endeavor at St. Andrews.



Food & Shower Ministry

The Food Pantry has been quite busy this summer, and it doesn't look like things will slow down until school starts. For June and July combined, the total number of people who have walked through our doors for food and showers was 112. Groceries were distributed for 276 people, about half of whom were under 16 years old. It seems incredible that our medium-sized church was able to feed that many people in two months' time. Bravo to you all!

Our cupboards are pretty bare right now. We are completely out of all canned meats (tuna, Spam, Vienna sausage), chili, stew, canned corn and green beans, oatmeal, dish soap, lotion, and deodorant. We are low on canned pinto and black beans, soup, peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta (ravioli), canned fruit, pasta sauce, spaghetti, cereal, detergent and toilet paper.

The people who come to us for fellowship and assistance are so very grateful for the contributions St. Andrew's makes in order to help them out. On their behalf, we thank you.



Godly Play is an innovative way to allow the children of St. Andrew's to create their own interpretations of the Bible through a Storytelling and

Volunteer Training. Wondering process given in a warm and loving environment by a trusted adult. It is not only a time to revel in the thoughts of the children, but also a time to revel in your own questions and thoughts surrounding theology. Godly Play is still relatively new to St. Andrew's and we are in great need of volunteers to assist us in Storytelling as well as Doorkeeper. In order to volunteer you are encouraged to attend a training, which will be given by Tonya Hiland on Aug. 1, at 10 am to 1 pm in the Godly Play classroom, which can be found at the end of the hallway in the Children's Wing. Lunch will be provided. Please either email Tonya at mthiland@sbcglobal.net, call her at 512-422-2823.



The Fourth Annual St. Andrew's Variety Show and Silent Auction is set for Aug. 22 at 6 pm. It's time to wow your friends with your performing abilities; or to be wowed by your friends' performing abilities; or to wow your friends with your ability to prepare delicious snacks; or to be wowed by your friends' abilities to prepare delicious snacks; or – well, you get the idea. We are looking for performers, a MC, people to bring snacks, volunteers to help clean up, and lots of audience members. And remember that performing is not limited to music. Drama, comedy, poetry reading, magic, juggling, stupid pet tricks, and just about anything else you can dream up are welcome. Remember: The key word is 'variety' not 'talent!' Spread the word! Come one, come all, the tall and the small. You are sure to have a ball, y'all.

This year at the Variety Show will feature a silent auction to benefit improvements to our sound system. These upgrades will enable us to better handle future concerts without outside assistance, and will enable us to record special music along with the sermons. We also need help contacting potential donors of silent auction items. **Instructions for how to help are on the web site (www.staopen.com/open_ears).**



Dear Church Family & Friends,
During the month of Aug., Health Ministry and our Pastoral Care Team will be offering opportunities for you to learn more about end of life care and planning. On the first Sunday in Aug. we will have a panel of experts who will discuss a variety of

topics on the subject. On Sunday, Aug. 9 and 23, at 9:30 am, we will have open Sunday School classrooms for you to visit and receive personal attention. We are blessed at St. Andrew's to have skilled professionals who will share their expertise to help provide loving guidance on these issues and answer your questions.

Even though family life is so much about talking....good, bad, loving, kind, not so kind, not always loving.....some topics are easier to discuss than others. Families who have lively discussions about most any other topic sometimes fail when it comes to talking about end of life.

Some questions frequently asked are: "How do I start this conversation with my family...I don't want to upset my children...No one in my family wants to talk about this, especially my children...I can't talk to Mom or Dad about this subject...they don't want to talk about it and I have no idea how to begin."

A few suggestions that might help to trigger the conversation might be:

- Death of a friend, relative or celebrity
- Sermons, Sunday School class, Bible Study class
- Readings, movies, TV shows about illness, death, funerals
- Annual checkups...my doctor says...."We should all have advanced directives and a medical power of attorney"
- Relay observations about end of life that you might have from a friend or the experience of someone who has recently died
- Financial and legal planning issues

Making time for these conversations about end of life before a crisis is easier and much more valuable. Knowing that you are honoring your loved ones decisions is a huge source of relief and comfort when the time comes to make the hard choices. We can never assume that we know what someone else wants. The real conversation with those we love is not about the papers. It *is* about honoring them and their wishes. It *is* about caring for them with love, comfort and respect and knowing that we are all blessed with life for a short time.

Love and Blessings, Donna

*"Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms
you would never see the true beauty of their carvings."
Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*



Congratulations to the Moxley family at the birth of Gwenyth Delilah Moxley on June 30. She weighed in at 7 lb., 8 oz. Parents are Garrett and Jackie Moxley, grandparents are George and Linda Moxley and Ann Moxley is great-grandmother.

The AGAPE News
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Artist Team



On Tuesday, July 14, the Bible study class had the treat of walking a labyrinth in our sanctuary. Don and Barbara McCarty labored the day before to place chairs and string in an arrangement of a 7-circuit labyrinth.

A labyrinth is a meditation/prayer tool that has been used by the Christian church for hundreds of years and otherwise for perhaps thousands of years. The first Christian labyrinths were used by those who wanted to take a pilgrimage to Jerusalem but were unable. The labyrinth walk represented that journey.

Though there is not a prescribed way to use a labyrinth, walkers were encouraged to enter the labyrinth hoping to lighten their load or leave unnecessary concerns as they journeyed to the center, be in the presence of God as they rested in the center, and receive direction/encouragement as they returned out of the labyrinth. There was soft music for the journey that morning. Many began the walk as skeptics and finished with surprise and awe. Heartfelt feelings found a safe place to bubble to the surface. It was found to be a powerful process when entered into with intent. Others visited the labyrinth until it was disassembled on Friday afternoon.

There are many labyrinths in the Austin area. If you wish to learn more about or to experience them, information can be found at:

http://www.goodhealth.com/articles/2006/10/25/public_labyrinths_of_central_texas



Open Ears Concerts

At the next Open Ears Concerts on Sept. 19, we will host Telegraph Canyon, a seven piece Folk/Americana band from Fort Worth. They have recently been nominated for music awards by the Fort Worth Weekly and the Dallas Observer, and they just completed a packed in-store performance at Waterloo Records as one of Waterloo's "Bands on the Brink" series. Between now and Sept. 19, Telegraph Canyon will release a new CD and will be playing some larger venues around the country such as Bass Hall in Fort Worth, The Jewel Box Theater in Seattle, and The Knitting Factory in Los Angeles. This may be your last opportunity to see this band in a small intimate setting like ours. You can link to more information about the band, listen to their music online, view the flyer for the show, and get information about other upcoming shows at www.staopen.com/open_ears.

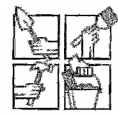
Guardian Team



RENOVATION PROJECT

We are seeking donations for improvements being made to the Children's Church Wing. Anyone who has seen the first two classrooms and the restrooms in the Children's Church Wing may have noticed the remodeling of the rooms is well underway. In fact, the next and final stage, which is painting all the rooms, is about to begin. If you have looked at these rooms lately, you will see the transformation has been amazing, and if you haven't seen them recently, please go by and see what is being done.

The donation drive is well underway, and so far has raised approximately \$1,100. There is still a need to raise \$6,700 to fully fund the improvements through donations. To donate, just note on your check the funds are for "Children's Church". We will make sure your contribution is properly recorded. Thank you for your contribution to the development of our children and their programs at St. Andrews.



What Needs "Fixin"?

In preparation for a work day the Guardian Team is 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.

Ambassador Team



The Fall 2009 Film Series will be “The Corporation” All screenings are on Sundays at 12:15 pm., after the 10:45 church service.

Is the current crisis of capitalism a temporary problem or do we face more fundamental flaws in our economic system? The documentary film “The Corporation” investigates that question through a detailed examination of that institution that structures contemporary economic life.

Provoking, witty, stylish and sweepingly informative, “The Corporation” explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Taking the corporation’s status as a legal “person” to the logical conclusion, the film puts the institution on the psychiatrist’s couch to ask, “What kind of person is it?”

“The Corporation” includes interviews with 40 corporate insiders and critics -- including Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Milton Friedman, Howard Zinn, Vandana Shiva and Michael Moore -- plus true confessions, case studies and strategies for change.

The film is based on the book The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power by Joel Bakan. For more information about the film, go to <http://www.thecorporation.com>

. Dates are: Sept. 13, Part I: Corporate Basics: History, Law and Harms
Oct. 11, Part II: Corporate Control: The Land and Our Minds
Nov. 8, Part III: Corporate Dreams and Nightmares: Citizen Resistance

Educator Team



Learn About
St. Andrew's

Are there things you want to know about St. Andrew’s but you just don’t know who to ask. Thinking about joining St. Andrew’s? Or

just curious about the church and want to learn more? If either of these questions fits your situation, then come join us for some classes that may just answer all your questions. We have scheduled some classes on Sundays, Aug. 9 and 23, during the Sunday School hour and will try to give you the information you are seeking. These classes will meet in the first classroom on the left in the Sunday School wing. This class is open to anyone interested in attending, even if you have come to previous classes. We will try to answer questions you may have about the Presbyterian Church in general and St. Andrew’s in particular. We can review the history of St. Andrew’s, our Inclusive Language Policy, what it means to be Presbyterian, and how one can join if interested. You can contact Babs Miller if you have questions about the class. Her e-mail is babs-miller@sbcglobal.net and her home phone number is 990-3844.



Theology in
Everyday Life

Theology in Everyday Life will meet on Aug. 3 and Aug. 17. These meetings are discussions with insights drawn from the participants. There are no lecturers or teachers. There is plenty of participation

and we learn from each other. The subjects are provided by individuals and turns are rotated throughout the group. The goal is to instill theological understandings into our ordinary lives.

On Monday, Aug. 3, at 7:15 pm, the discussion topic will be The Gospel of Evolution and the Revival of the Human Spirit by Michael Dowd. What we often call “bad” things seem to set in motion events that eventually offer up “good” things in the long run. Life takes what seems like bad news and transforms that into good news and further evolutionary growth. Handouts are available in a basket in the church foyer. Please take one and join the discussion. Everyone is invited.



The Poiema Book Study continues the study of Falling in Love with Mystery: We Don’t Have to Pretend Anymore by Richard F. Elliott, Jr. The next meeting will be Sunday, Aug. 16 beginning at 5:30 pm. at Linda Rowold’s home in Pflugerville. The McCarty’s will be out of town. We will discuss Chapter Three, “Our Religion . . . separated from Reality. The evening meal will be potluck. Contact Linda for directions at 990-2058 or LLRowold@aol.com.

Pastoral Care Team

From your Congregational Nurse, Donna Rutherford, RN

On Our Own Terms: Open Conversations about the End of Life Panel Discussion Sunday August 2 at 12:15 pm

Please join Health Ministry and the Pastoral Care Team after the pot-luck fellowship time on Sunday August 2 for a panel discussion on end of life issues. Thanks to a grant from the Shivers Cancer Foundation, Hospice Austin has created On Our Own Terms, an outreach program to help educate church communities and civic groups about end-of-life issues. This program was developed for Hospice Austin by David Zuniga, chaplain and educator at Hospice Austin. David will be part of our panel discussion along with Suze Miller LMSW and Babs Miller, chaplain. Both Babs and Suze have extensive experience with educating and caring for those with terminal illnesses. Alice Ortiz, attorney, will also participate in the panel as a legal expert. Pam Wagner will serve as moderator.

A host of topics will be covered including: How and when to begin conversation's about end of life, palliative and hospice care, potential benefits and burdens of artificial life-sustaining treatment, advanced directives, medical power of attorney, how to talk to children about death, burial options and other topics. Frequently families do not know all of their options when a loved one is seriously ill. The most common complaint from those who have experienced hospice care is that their loved one did not get connected sooner.

Paperwork for advanced directives, medical power of attorney, organ donation and other info on end of life care will be available on August 2 and throughout the month of August.

Join us on **Sunday, Aug. 9**, and **Sunday, Aug. 23**, during the Sunday School hour when a team of four professionals will be available for one-on-one, 15 minute consultation in our Sunday school classrooms to answer questions, provide guidance and assist you in documenting your wishes. It is *never* too soon to communicate and document your health care decisions.

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within."

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross



"Fill Up Your Bucket, Self Care for the Spirit" on Saturday August 1, 8:30 – 9:30 am. You are invited to partake in an hour of reflection that is designed to help to bring peace and joy into your life. This time of renewal, discovery of spiritual pathways and sustenance begins with quiet gentle breathing, meditation, readings and music. We share conversation if the spirit moves us. We close with prayer and thanksgiving. Please join Barbara McCarty and Donna Rutherford for this time of community.



The next blood pressure screening day will be Aug. 30. If you need your pressure checked at any other time, just stop by the Pastoral Care office when Donna is at the church and she will be happy to take your blood pressure.

Putting the "Fun" in Fundraising

We need your help procuring items for the St. Andrew's Silent Auction!

This year, we will hold a silent auction to benefit improvements to the sound system. These upgrades will allow us to include music in our service recordings, move the sound booth to a more functional location, and allow us to better support future Open Ears Concerts. The Silent Auction will be held August 22 in conjunction with Variety Show.

Approaching the local businesses that you frequent about supporting one of St. Andrew's programs can be a fun and rewarding process for you and the Donor. Most people like to give what they can as they are able. Although Fundraising is a unique talent, most people don't even realize how good they are at it until they give it a try. A Silent Auction is a lovely place to get your feet wet; go out into your communities and request donations. What have you got to lose?

Always give the Donor the appropriate information. Donors receive advertising in the brochure, event signage, tax letters and thank-yous. So please be sure to fill out a Donation Form for each item that you bring in. We have email-able fill-in donation forms for your and the donor's convenience. The email able form will be available on the website under the Fourth Annual Variety Show and Silent Auction link.

Please contact Paula Ellis at mrs.paulapiano@gmail.com or if you have any questions about the Silent Auction or about procuring items from Donors for the Silent Auction.

You may be surprised what you can accomplish by simply asking for cool "stuff" from the people in your communities. Face-to-face requests are always best but other forms of requests work too. Consider the businesses that you already frequent first.

Below is a very incomplete list of items that you could consider great Silent Auction items. Think outside the box.

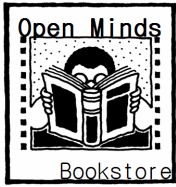
- Framed Art Signed by the Artist or other forms of framed art
- Mixed Media art signed by the author
- Framed Photography Signed by the Artist or other forms of framed photography
- Restaurants - gift certificates, dinner for two, etc..
- New clothing, store gift cards
- Services: Chiropractors, Holistic services, Massage therapists
- Airlines
- Bed and Breakfasts Nooks Weekends
- Hotel stays
- Travel agencies

Areas of need:

*We have received excellent storage locations donated by volunteers within the congregation. We may need more storage. Let us know if you have a space that we can store items until August 22. We may the use of some temporary storage areas in the classrooms at the church during the week when they are not needed for Sunday School.

**At this time, we are also looking for runners who may be required to pick up items in the church classrooms on Fridays and drop them off at their storage locations so that the classrooms may be used on Sundays for school activities.

Open Minds Bookstore



The bookstore is open following the 10:45 service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. On the second Sunday, the bookstore will be open as usual. On the 4th Sunday, a table is in the foyer with samples of books.. There is information available 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 order will come back to St. Andrew's.

A selection which is best purchased from the website is Love's Quiet Revolution: The End of the Spiritual Search by Scott Kiloby. Kiloby points to the spiritual transformation sometimes called “enlightenment,” where the personal self is seen to be an illusion, leaving an inexpressible unconditional love and peace in its place. This book is essentially about present moment awareness and spiritual liberation. Love's Quiet Revolution is a potent book that inexorably brings the “spiritual seeker” back in bite size steps to “That Which Never Changes.” We call “That” “Love”.

From the website or bookstore

Awareness, The Perils and Opportunities of Reality, Anthony de Mello, \$13. de Mello mixes Christian spirituality, Buddhist parables, Hindu breathing exercises, and psychological insight in words of hope that come together in a grand synthesis.

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

The Gnostic Gospels, Elaine Pagel, \$11.50.

From the bookstore:

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)

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

Inclusive Language Bibles, \$28, hardcover, when available; \$20, soft cover. These are kept on hand, on an “as available” basis from the publisher. We now have soft cover copies available. This translation is by The Priests for Equality. (Not currently available on website.)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Living and Sharing Progressive Christianity

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August 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages 10:45 am Worship Service</p>						<p>1 8:30a "Fill Up Your Bucket" 10a Godly Play Training 3:15p 1st Saturday with Mike Manor</p>
<p>Church Office Hours Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm Jim Rigby's day off - Fridays</p>		<p><i>Names on the calendar denote birthdays and anniversaries If yours is incorrect or omitted, please notify the church office at 251-0698 or staopen@sbcglobal.net</i></p>				
<p>2 Potluck Luncheon 12:15p Hospice Panel Discussion JoAnn Lawshae</p>	<p>3 7:15p Theology in Everyday Life Simon Nichols Neal Wendt</p>	<p>4 10a Bible Study 9a Hatha Yoga Jackie & Bill Saul</p>	<p>5 7:15p Choir 7p NA Kris Iyer Jan Ziegler</p>	<p>6 11a Homeschoolers Doug Arnold Bernice Boswell Kaitlin Bradley</p>	<p>7 11a Hatha Yoga</p>	<p>8 10a Food Pantry Open</p>
<p>9 Emily Leake Madisson Mendez Amy & Will Blackmon Steve & Laura Landsman</p>	<p>10 Benjamin Adamson Sherry Arnold Scott Griffin Jan & Mike Ziegler</p>	<p>11 10a Bible Study 9a Hatha Yoga 7p AGAPE Teams Henrietta Clark Sam Klaas</p>	<p>12 7:15p Choir 7p NA Kris Iyer Jan Ziegler</p>	<p>13 11a Homeschoolers</p>	<p>14 11a Hatha Yoga Cheryl Wilson Sonya Lowrance & Patrick Bouquet</p>	<p>15 Noah Marks Sophia Periard Art Rutherford Chris & Rick Wallingford</p>
<p>16 Maia & Tres Churchill Cheryl & John Wilson</p>	<p>17 7:15p Theology in Everyday Life Bianca Ruta</p>	<p>18 10a Bible Study 9a Hatha Yoga Rhonda Atkinson Steve Ortiz</p>	<p>19 7:15p Choir 7p NA Mattie Bartlett</p>	<p>20 11a Homeschoolers Kevin Christensen Chris Lintz James Rice</p>	<p>21 11a Hatha Yoga</p>	<p>22 10a Food Pantry Open Kenyon Demler Pat & Bill Korbus</p>
<p>23 Azalea Chapman Mary Miller Linda Rowold</p>	<p>24 Joan Asseff Brendan Carlquist Kathy & Phil Greer Tiffany & Bobbie James</p>	<p>25 10a Bible Study 9a Hatha Yoga 7p Session Meeting Brent Farris Dale Herron Meredith Lancaster Don Vanderveer</p>	<p>26 7:15p Choir 7p NA Mattie Bartlett</p>	<p>27 11a Homeschoolers</p>	<p>28 11a Hatha Yoga</p>	<p>29 JoAnn Brown Peter Bush Linda & Roger Bilstein</p>
<p>30 BP Screening Ashley Moxley Anne & Dick Jackson</p>	<p>31 Laura Landsman Andrew Periard</p>	<p>Vinita Berry, certified Yoga instructor, will be conducting Hatha Yoga classes at St. Andrew's in August on Tuesdays: 9 to 10 am., and Fridays: 11 am. to 12 noon. More information about the Yoga class is available on the Pastoral Care Bulletin Board. Pre-registration is required. Call Mrs. Berry at (512) 695-2268 or email berryyv_99@yahoo.com. All ages invited. Donations are welcome.</p>				