



A Publication of
Saint Andrews
United Methodist Church
December 2014

Heart to Heart

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ
Jesus;

It was about to begin. God's plan for humanity. Crafted in the halls of heaven and carried out on the plains of earth. Only Holiness could have imagined it. Only deity could have enacted it. Only righteousness could have endured it. And once the plan began, there would be no turning back. The Creator knew it. The Son knew it. And soon earth itself would witness Heaven's majesty alighting on the planet.

God became a man. Deity arrived. The omnipotent, in an instant, became flesh and blood. The One Who was larger than the universe became a microscopic embryo. And He Who sustain the world with a word, chose to be dependent upon the care of a young peasant couple.

God came near. Majesty in the midst of the mundane. This Baby, before as the Second Person of the Trinity, had overseen the universe. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favor of a dirty sheep pen. These rags keeping Him warm had replaced the robes of eternity. And worshipping angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds.

All because He loved you, and he wants a relationship with you. How do you respond to a God like this?

Some people. Too many people, have spent a lifetime on the wrong bus, headed in the wrong direction, and they'll end up in the wrong place. Away from God, today; and away from God, for eternity. Not because God wants you in hell. He'll do anything to get you to heaven, with one exception. He won't force you to love Him. He won't force you to obey Him and to follow Him. The decision is yours. He came because He loves you. He died because He loves you. He rose again because He loves you. What is your response to a God like this? The choice is yours. The decision is yours. As for me and my house we choose Jesus Christ. See you in church during the holidays and see you in the mission field during the week.

Pastor Wayne



**"And The Word Became Flesh And Lived Among Us,
And We Have Seen His Glory, The Glory As Of A
Father's Only Son, Full Of Grace And Truth"
JOHN 1:14**



Let's Collect 2,000 Books!

As you may know Saint Andrews has volunteers reading once a week with second graders at Smith Elementary. Another way to enhance students' love for reading is for them to have their own personal library. New and used children's books appropriate for ages 4-12 are needed for students to excel in reading. You are encouraged to drop off your books and place them in a receptacle that will be located in the Lobby. Our goal is to collect 2,000 children's books by May 2015 and then give them to the teachers at Smith Elementary School. In June 2015, the teachers will then distribute five books to each student to help them retain their reading skills over the summer holidays.

If you would be willing to serve as a volunteer by assisting in sorting and helping with the delivery of these books, please contact Kathy Revels vreveles@bellsouth.net or 919-828-0273. With everyone donating books we will be able to reach the 2,000 goal. Please spread the word to other family members and friends who can help in this venture. Thank you in advance for doing what you can to assist with this worthwhile endeavor.

THE EMPTY BOWL



VANDORA SPRINGS ELEMENTARY EMPTY BOWL PROJECT

Vandora Springs Elementary's annual Empty Bowl Project to benefit Garner Area Ministries will be held on the evening of Thursday, December 11 at the school from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Over 100 ceramic bowls, glazed in bright colours, will be bartered off with a donation of 20 non-perishable food items per bowl. All food donations will go to support the food pantry at Garner Area Ministries.

Thank you again for your support in this "Season of Giving!" -God Bless, -Jim Hunt

Altar Flowers



December 7	Verne Futrell
December 14	Brian & Linda Wiggs
December 21	Brenda Kirkland
December 28	Don & Marie Stranad



Dear St. Andrews family,
Don and I have had a roller coaster year! There have been some low points, but you, our church family, have been there with us. The love and prayers of God's people have buoyed us and helped us climb upward again every time. We are so grateful for your sustenance in prayers, in thoughts, and in words. As one way of thanking you, I would like to offer to play some requests during worship services next year. If you have a special occasion or favorite music you would like to hear, please let me know, and I will try to work it into the service music. Thank you for all you do for us and for so many others.
Don & Marilyn Aldridge



01 Jennifer Neighbors, Verne Futrell
 02 Kenny Janik
 03 Ryan Bader, Susan Holland
 05 Emerson Denning
 06 Ralph Denning, Allyson Lyon
 08 Wanda Baker
 09 Carol Shaw
 12 Connor Hare, Ken Sumner,
 Lucy Merical, Ed Spence,
 Kyle Turner
 13 Annabel Holland
 15 Nancy Woodward, Chad Wurr
 17 Randy Creech, Gary Kieft
 19 Rachel Sheffield, Chris Green,
 Hannah Canavin
 20 Zach Woody
 21 Abby Cope, Brenda Eason,
 Brenda Honeycutt
 23 Paylen Lyon
 24 Ashley Janik, Dee Keene
 27 Zachary Bone
 29 Logan Pearce
 31 Sally Young



04 Paul & Corothy Sims
 04 Tom & Polly O'Quinn
 08 Josh & Maggie Smale
 13 Vic & Carolyn Byrd
 14 Brian & Linda Wiggs
 16 John & Heather Majernik
 18 Shay & Leigh Anne Creech
 19 Jerry & Glenda Norris
 20 George & Pam Brewer
 27 Michael & Rhonda Gillespy
 28 Jake & Patsy Bryant
 30 Jeff & Julie Canavin



VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE

Acolyte

December 7	Sally Perez
December 14	Mallory Lyon
December 21	Palmer Martin
December 28	Keegan Neighbors

Greeters

December 7	Vince & Kathy Revels
December 14	Carol Shaw, Pat Smith
December 21	Dock & Sara Rogers
December 28	Ed & Linda Garrison

Ushers

Vince Revels, Brady Moore, Don Stranad,
 Paul Holbrook, Dock Rogers, Ed Garrison

Nursery Workers

December 7

8:30 a.m.	TBD
Nursery	TBD
2-3 yr olds	TBD

December 14

8:30 a.m.	TBD
Nursery	TBD
2-3 yr olds	TBD

December 21

8:30 a.m.	TBD
Nursery	TBD
2-3 yr olds	TBD

December 28

8:30 a.m.	TBD
Nursery	TBD
2-3 yr olds	TBD

Greeters for 8:30 a.m. Worship Service

December 7	Joseph & Amanda McLeod
December 14	Ken & Lisa Jones
December 21	Robin Pleasant/Cathy Olson
December 28	Cathy Olson/Bert Stainback



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE...The FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m. on the library. All are asked to bring a Christmas goodie for our party; I will have the sparkling grape juice!!

Pastor Wayne will read the Christmas story to us from Luke (King James version, of course!) and we will go to the sanctuary to enjoy the Christmas program from our SAUMC Preschool children! This is always a treat for us!! We will then return to the library and partake of our goodies!

We will resume our study of BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE at our January meeting.

If you are free on the third Wednesday of the month, please give us a try!

Let me know if you would like more information.

Gloria English

ggenglish@nc.rr.com

919/772-4285

LOADS OF LOVE... Loads of love will meet on Monday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. to prepare meals and cards and deliver them to our shut-ins and some of our brothers and sisters in Christ who need some special attention. If you would like to get involved in this wonderful mission, please come join us on the first Monday when you are available. If you know of someone who should receive a meal and/or a card, please contact Gloria English at ggenglish@nc.rr.com or 919/772-4285.

A VERY SPECIAL thank you to Nancy Cope and Brenda Price who made sure everything got done for Loads of Love in November after my fall in the parking lot on November 2nd! They have already made plans for December, so this mission is in wonderful hands while I am not able to work with Loads of



CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA

Please come and enjoy our Chancel Choir Cantata on Sunday, December 21st at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



LIVE NATIVITY

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th for our Annual Live Nativity. If you haven't filled out a form to help with the Live Nativity, please contact the church office.

We still need many volunteers.

Thank you in advance for making this an annual event that our community looks forward to.



TEACHERS CORNER-By Paul Sims

I have previously discussed our use of %trespasses+ instead of %debts+ in the Lord's Prayer. There, I stated the case for the Methodist practice. Now I will state the other case.

Anthony C. Deane, former Canon of Worcester Cathedral, has said, %when Jesus bade us pray "forgive us our debts", his choice of this word shows him to have meant particularly what are termed "faults of omission." These, in the strict sense, are debts to God which we have failed to pay. For it was upon these that he laid most stress in His doctrine. He seemed to be grieved by what humans abstained from doing rather than by what they did... the omissions, the failures to use opportunities of doing good were the faults he condemned unsparingly.+

Deane goes on, %therefore it is strictly consonant with the rest of his teaching that his prayer bids us ask that we may be forgiven not for the wrong things we have done, but for the right things we have failed to do; not "forgive us our trespasses," but "forgive us our debts." Our trespasses also need forgiveness, beyond doubt. Yet he might suppose that, without prompting, we should seek God's pardon for these, while we are apt to think of less account, or to ignore entirely, those faults of omission which in fact are far more serious.

%How innumerable are the debts to God and our neighbor . and to God through our neighbor . we have failed to pay! And it is these . these lost opportunities, it seems . which Jesus thought the most serious of all failings. Does not that truth drive home to us our need of forgiveness?+

%Perhaps a word should be added about the second part of the sentence. When we pray "Forgive us ... as we forgive," clearly that does not mean a request that the Divine forgiveness shall be merely proportionate to ours. Ill would it be for us were there, so to speak, an exact scale of reciprocity, if the pardon we may hope to receive could not exceed the pardon we were able to bestow. We know that our unpaid debts to God are vastly greater than any owed to us by our fellows. St. Luke's version of the Prayer safeguards us against such misunderstanding. It replaces "as" by "for," so that unmistakably the petition is not "forgive us *in proportion* as we forgive," but "forgive us *because* we forgive.+

%Therefore it is no mere matter of speculation whether or not God remits our debts. Two conditions must be fulfilled. There must be real "*repentance*" for our failures. And there must be the spirit of forgiveness towards *our* debtors. Let these two things be present, and we can ask forgiveness in full certainty that the prayer will be answered.+

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

Heavenly Father,

The psalmist tells us to %pray for the peace of Jerusalem.+

So I pray for peace for Your chosen people, Israel, and their beloved city today.

You have planned for Israel, provided for Israel, and protected Israel for thousands of years.

But as in days of old, there are those today who seek to harm, even destroy, Your people.

So I ask You to keep Israel in Your loving care.

Put a spiritual hedge of protection around Your people and their land.

Watch over this nation as a Good Shepherd watches over His flock, and may Your chosen people find their ultimate safety and security in You.

While You watch over Your people, may Your Spirit awaken in them a hunger to embrace their Messiah· the One who died for them· until they see Him face to face.

We pray this in His name.

Amen.

Psalm 122:6

Turning Point Ministries 2014

Dr. David Jeremiah



A Winter's Tale - Methodist Home for Children 2015 Gala

The Methodist Home for Children will be hosting their annual fund raising gala on January 31, 2015. This event is not only one of the largest charity events in the Triangle each year, but also the single largest fund raiser for this ministry. The MHFC supports thousands of children through foster care, adoption services, and family intervention services each year. If you would like to attend the gala or be a sponsor for the event, please visit www.mhfc.org for the event specifics or contact Becky McNeill for more information.

The UMW Evening Circle

UMW for Methodist Home

As we all scramble to finish our Christmas shopping list, the ladies of the Evening Circle of UMW ask you to add just one more item to your list. Help us support the Methodist Home for Children by contributing to our gift basket which will be entered in the silent auction at MHFC's winter gala on January 31, 2015. This year's basket theme is HIKING NC! Suggested contributions are listed below. Please bring your contribution to our Evening Circle Christmas party on 12/10/14 at Tracey Green's house or give it to Becky McNeill before 12/13/14. You may also make a monetary donation and be sure to earmark the donation UMW Gift Basket. Thank you so much for helping us support the work of this amazing ministry!

Suggested contributions:

Trail mix
Beef/turkey jerky
Granola bars
Reusable water bottles
Compass
Walkie talkies
Handheld GPS or geocaching device
NC trail maps
NC hiking guides
Gift card to REI
Gift card to Great Outdoor Provision Co.
Camelbak personal hydration backpack
Hiking socks (men's and/or women's)
Small first aid kit
Paracord bracelets
Carabiners
Hiking daypack

Moravian Love Feast

On December 7th at 7:00 p.m. St. Andrews will celebrate our Moravian Love Feast. It is an informal, yet contemplative service of worship that includes music and song, and the sharing of sweetened coffee and bread. During this time of physical nourishment, congregants are invited to share spiritual nourishment in the form of prayer, praise and witness. We conclude our time with traditional candle lighting.

The Love Feast began in the days of the apostles when Christians shared a common meal called the ~~%~~agape meal. (Agape is a Greek word meaning love). The love feast was an important part of worship for centuries, but eventually almost faded away. In 1727 a little band of Moravians re-introduced it and Moravian missionaries carried the custom to America. It was here on August 8, 1737 that John Wesley shared the love feast with a group of Moravians and was greatly touched. The following year, after he experienced his ~~%~~heart- warming+ awakening at Aldersgate, Wesley introduced the Love Feast to the people called Methodist. For over 200 years it has been an important part of the Methodist heritage. This year will mark the 20th Love Feast shared by the people of Saint Andrews.

We encourage you to come and join in this worship ADVENTure. It is a wonderful way to express our love for one another and to continue this seasonal journey as we await the coming of our Lord and Savior.

Lisa A. Anthony
Love Feast Director



THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We appreciate your donations. Thank you, Lisa Gorman, for books, Carolyn Hare for goldfish crackers, Joe and Eli Schoonover for construction paper, and Kathy Revels for several bulletin board and learning items.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE MUSIC

What fun we had singing for the Joy Club! We were able to show off our skills of listening, following directions, timing, motor skills, and just plain enjoying the music we all have inside ourselves. We had the opportunity to give the gift of song to others. Thank you for inviting us and supporting our program. We look forward to practicing our Christmas program for the morning UMW in December.

GIVING TO OTHERS

In November we had a %Giving to Others+outreach project. Our Preschool families collected over 100 food items that were taken to the Garner Area Ministries. We talked with the children about buying and bringing in food for families who cannot afford the food they need. We are proud of our little angels!

FUNDRAISER

We have just completed a small fundraiser with our families through Art By Me. The parents bought products made from their child's artwork. We will receive 35% of the total sold. Thank you families!

Thank you for your continuing support!

Pat Sheffield, Director



I was talking to my granddaughter the other night after Guppies and Tweens. They had worked on a small mission project Ms. Alicia had for them (they usually do one each meeting). She showed me what they had done and asked me if I knew why they were doing it. Her explanation was that we are supposed to love people we don't know and always help people, even if we won't ever meet them. In the upcoming holiday season this is a very good "answer" to remember because there are so many who have feelings of loneliness, despair and need. But through your compassion, we will be giving food to those who know hunger, clothes to those who have few options, coats to those in need of warmth, children in need of a few gifts under the tree, and most of all, the feeling that they are not alone and someone cares. God has blessed us to be a blessing unto others. Thank you for all you have done, are doing and continue to do for our unknown brothers and sisters.

Patti Hendrickson



The Following Memorial Gifts Have Been Received In Memory Of:

Angela Blalock by:

Ann Messler

Walt & Mary Penn Sherlin

Barbara Wilson

John & Dawn Bennett/Blair Houtz

Don & Faith Watkins

Wilbur & Hope Sigora

Barbara Campbell



December 2014

Building Committee Update

Thanks to everyone who completed their stewardship pledge for 2015. The Administrative Council agreed to include a line item in the budget for the building mortgage payment if the pledges increased by 15%. As of November 16, the pledges received did not increase by 15%. We have our site ready, plans are drawn, there is excitement among members, and we have a quote to build the building. However, we cannot proceed until our financing is in place. Those who have not completed their pledge are encouraged to do so promptly. As of November 1, the balance in the Building Fund was \$1,027,885. Minutes of the Building Committee meetings are on file in the church office and are available for review by church members. Thank you for your support, patience, understanding and encouragement in working through the Building Plan Process. Please share your thoughts and concerns about the work of the Building Committee with Vince Revels, Chair of the Building Committee.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your support of Children's Ministry. We had an excellent Fall Festival thanks to those of you were willing to brave the cold and share the warmth of Christ. There were over 100 people in attendance.

Families are encouraged to participate in the Live Nativity (Dec. 13 & 14). Please sign up with Kim in the church office to participate. Also, the children will be singing two songs at the 11 a.m. worship service on December 14th. If your child does not have a CD to practice with, please let me know.

Our Happy Birthday Jesus Party will be Wednesday, December 10th beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Missions Committee, as thanks to the church for their year round support, is sponsoring a meal of chicken and dumplings. Yummy! We will have craft activities, a story, and carols to help us remember the real reason for this special season.

I am so proud of the Guppies & Tweens who recently participated in hosting the WIHN guests by baking cookies and playing with the children. Guppies & Tweens continue to be involved in missions by praying for missions, learning about missions, and doing missions.

Also, a huge thank you to ALL the volunteers who make children's ministry a success. Thanks be to God for the Sunday School teachers, nursery volunteers, nursery workers, WOW volunteers, Guppies & Tweens helpers, and all those who pray for us!

Because He Lives,
Alicia



The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will begin its new study on January 6, 2015 at 10 am. We have 20 weeks in which to meet - so I have picked two Max Lucado books. The first one is Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine. Here is a summary of the book: "We talk as though we know what *grace* means. Lucado reminds readers that there's more to grace than we've ever imagined. Lucado challenges readers to not only receive grace but also to be changed by grace. Shaped by grace. Strengthened by grace. Emboldened by grace. Softened by grace. Snatched by the nape of their neck and shaken to their senses by grace."

The second book is ~ Before Amen-The Power of a Simple Prayer. "We all pray . . . some. We aren't the first to struggle with prayer. The first followers of Jesus needed prayer guidance too. In fact, prayer is the only tutorial they ever requested. And Jesus gave them a prayer. Not a lecture on prayer. Not the doctrine of prayer. He gave them a quotable, repeatable, portable prayer. Couldn't we use the same?"

In *Before Amen*, Lucado joins readers on a journey to the very heart of biblical prayer, offering hope for doubts and confidence even for prayer wimps. Distilling prayers in the Bible down to one pocket-sized prayer, Max reminds readers that prayer is not a privilege for the pious nor the art of a chosen few. Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child."

The cost for each book will be around \$10-11. Please let me know by 12/15/14 if you would like to be a part of our group - so that I might order enough books for everyone!

Thank you! Betsy Youngblood 919-889-2177 cell phone or byquiltn1@gmail.com.

St. Andrews Youth News



Counselor's blahba ...

Greetings Easter people!

This month we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. We rejoice in God's promise of a Savior to save us from ourselves and our iniquities. What a great moment in history that forever changed mankind. It's sad how such a monumental moment has become over shadowed by our need for greed. Take a moment this year and STOP.

Say "Thank you" to God for what you have, not what you want.

Tell your family that you love them and mean it.

Open your heart to others. Forgive them their trespasses as they forgive you.

Pray for strength. Strength to listen and follow God's path and not the one you want to be on.

Have a Merry Christmas!

December	Sunday 7 th	TBA	Youth Meeting/Love Feast
	Saturday 13 th	6:30-8:30	Live Nativity
	Sunday 14 th	6:30-8:30	Live Nativity/No Youth Meeting
	Friday 19 th	TBD	Christmas Party
	Sunday 21 st		No Youth Meeting
	Sunday 28 th		No Youth Meeting

SAUMC Apparell

We have several St. Andrews UMC Shirts, Hoodies, sweatshirts etc. available for Christmas! Please contact Greg or Lisa if you are interested in getting one.

Happy Birthday!!!



12th Connor Hare

21st – Abby Cope






29th – Logan Pearce



Youth Basketball Season is starting in December. Watch for game schedules and come out and support our teams!!!



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Prayer Ministry 9:00 am 6:00 pm Loads of Love 10:00 am	Sonrise Practice 7:00 pm	STP Service 6:00 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	UMM Bible Study 6:00 am	Crazy 8s Square Dance Club	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
 Moravian Love Feast 7:00 pm	Prayer Ministry 9:00 am 6:00 pm	Sonrise Practice 7:00 pm UMW Evening Circle Christmas Celebration	Happy Birthday Jesus Party 5:30 pm STP Service 6:00 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	UMM Bible Study 6:00 am Empty Bowl Project at Vandora Springs 6:00 pm	Set-Up for Live Nativity	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Prayer Ministry 9:00 am 6:00 pm	Sonrise Practice 7:00 pm	UMW Friendship Circle 10:00 am STP Service 6:00 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	UMM Bible Study 6:00 am Preschool Christmas Celebration 9:30-11:30 am UMM Monthly Meeting 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party and Lock- In	Choir Practice 9:00 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 Christmas Cantata	Prayer Ministry 9:00 am 6:00 pm Bless This Child Sewing Ministry 4:00-6:00 pm	Sonrise Practice 7:00 pm	Marilyn Playing at 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service 6:00 pm	Merry Christmas 		
28	29	30	31			
	Prayer Ministry 9:00 am 6:00 pm	Sonrise Practice 7:00 pm				

SAINT ANDREWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website: www.saintandrewsumc.org

Wayne Hicks, Pastor

Marilyn Aldridge, Pianist

Emily Turner, Director of Music Ministries

Greg & Lisa Reinhard, Co-Youth Directors

Alicia Beard, Director of Children\$ Ministries

Pat Sheffield, Preschool Director

Kim Tingler, Administrative Assistant

Worship:

8:30 a.m. Sunday . Contemporary

11:00 a.m. Sunday . Traditional

Sunday School:

9:45 a.m. Sunday

Saint Andrews United Methodist Church
1201 Maxwell Dr
Raleigh, NC 27603

☆

**To
know
Him as
He is
today, not
as a manger-
babe, but as the
One who lived and
died and lives
again, enthroned and
reigning in our hearts,
to sense the need of those
who only know the tinsel and
the rushing of the crowds,
who celebrate a day and nothing
more — because to them, He slumbers
yet at Bethlehem! To love Him and His
Word above all else, and loving,
wish to tell others everywhere
the tiding of redemption!
this to
us
is
CHRISTMAS!**