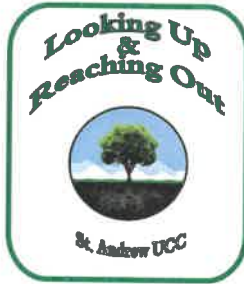


## St. Andrew United Church of Christ



# The EPISTLE AUGUST 2016

### FROM GREG'S DESK . . .

Villagers in the Solomon Islands of the South Pacific practice an interesting form of logging. If a tree is too large to be cut down by the axe they are carrying, they cut it down by yelling at it. *(I know I read this somewhere, but can't lay my hands on the article at the moment.)*

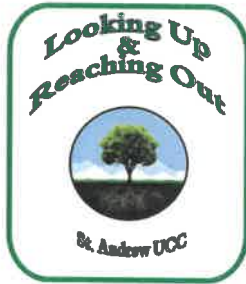
Woodsmen with special powers sneak up on the tree just at sunrise and scream at it at the top of their lungs. They do this for thirty days in a row. The tree dies and falls over. Their theory is that the hollering kills the spirit in the tree. According to the villagers, it always works.

*(If this theory is true, having just watched two political conventions . . . I think I'll go sit down for a moment; I'm feeling a little unwell.)*

Ah, those poor, naïve innocents, screaming at trees, indeed! Such quaint and charming habits of the jungle. How primitive. Too bad they don't have the advantages of modern technology and a scientific mind.

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*(continued from first page)*

Me? I yell at my telephone when it refuses to work . . . and at my computer. And I yell at my television, particularly during the news. (Margaret would tell you that I have even been known to shake my fist at the television.)

The fellow next door yells at his car . . . a lot. Last summer I heard him yell at his roof for most of a week. We modern, urban, educated folks yell at traffic and umpires and bills and banks and machines - especially at machines. I'm not sure what good it does. Machines and things just sit there.

As for yelling at people . . . well, the Solomon Islanders have a point. Yelling at living things does tend to kill their spirit.

*Sticks and stones may break our bones . . .*

*. . . but words will break our hearts.*

*Pax et gratia,  
Greg*

## FROM YOUR BOARD OF MISSIONS & OUTREACH

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.  
Micah 6:8

### ***August Dedicated Offering***

The dedicated offering will be collected for Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, SURE. We have invited executive director Rev. Ryan McBride to present our Moment for Missions. Make your check payable to St. Andrew, and write "SURE" in the memo space.

### ***June Giving***

\$1,377 Teddy Bears  
\$1,097 Church Fire (Phil Garrison's daughter's church)  
\$ 830 Our Church's Wider Mission

### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

The following organizations are in need of help for the summer:

All Faiths' Food Bank 941-549-8156  
Meals on Wheels 941-366-6693  
Resurrection House (data entry) 941-365-3759

*Nancy Hale Goethe*

## A NOTE FROM YOUR MODERATOR: OCTOBER 23 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Please take a look at our calendar at the center of this issue of *The Epistle*. As you can see, it can be challenging for Linda Lee and Nancy to schedule groups and spaces to get everything to fit. St. Andrew has indeed become a very busy place!

All this activity simply reflects our intentional decision to live into the UCC national model of “*extravagant welcome*” to people outside our own walls. It’s also a stewardship issue. We have chosen to invest our facilities in our community as an example of good stewardship. It makes sense to share the facilities with which we have been entrusted with the community at large, rather than having them sit empty Sunday to Sunday. This is a significant part of our core identity at St. Andrew. Over the past year, we have offered shelter to groups as small as ten and as large as 350! In the last fiscal year, we received about \$14,000 from folks using our space.

Like any decision, this one has ramifications. As a result, there have been times when competition for space has called our relationship with some of these groups into question. For these reasons, the members of council felt it was time to have a conversation with the congregation about the various groups who use our buildings on a regular basis. That meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, October 23**, with a lunch and meeting right after worship. This will also be an opportunity for our members and friends to ask questions and share their thoughts regarding how we have made St. Andrew and its facilities available to the community.

*(continued next page...)*

A NOTE FROM YOUR MODERATOR *(continued)*

To help us get ready for the meeting, we will hear about a different group on three Sundays in September: Nancy Goethe with an overview of **12-Step** groups; Jon Arterton from **Diversity**; and Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan, from **Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community** will be our presenters.

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 23** for this important meeting. Your attendance and participation will be greatly valued. We will have a sign-up sheet and there will be additional reminders as the date gets nearer.

Blessings to all of you,  
*Bob Langlais, Moderator*



## UPDATE FROM OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has completed the profile for St. Andrew United Church of Christ as the first major task of the committee. The profile is available to all members and friends of St. Andrew. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office.

You may receive the document electronically or request a hard copy.

The next task for the search committee is to review profiles of potential candidates. This is the confidential portion of the process so you won't hear much of what we are doing. Please be assured we are continuing to work hard to find our new pastor.

*Nancy Speed for The Search Committee*

**Happy Anniversary to . . .**

**Happy Birthday to . . .**

8/05 Fred Rung  
8/08 Jeanne McCue  
8/09 Shirley Jonas  
8/09 Susie Rabold  
8/10 Bob Stewart  
8/11 Sue Erickson  
8/11 Maria Salling  
8/12 Marjorie Dunn  
8/13 Susann Henderson  
8/16 Cliff Woodward  
8/17 JoAnn Redding  
8/20 Marcy Katen  
8/22 Timothy Redman  
8/23 Jim Patterson  
8/23 Lili Wells  
8/27 Lydia Jacobs  
8/28 Ben Staples  
8/31 David Speed

8/03 Fred & Carolyn Fung  
8/03 Marshall & Sue Gillespie  
8/20 Michael & Betsy Tweed  
8/21 Bob & Joan Jarrett  
8/22 Ron & Susie Ritchie  
8/23 Charles & Pauline Fehnel



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS . . .

**Marjorie Dunn** has moved to be close to her daughter, Marsha, who reports that Marjorie is doing well and has a great place to live just a few miles down the road from her. Marsha reports that Marjorie still feels a part of this church and wants very much to stay connected. If anyone would like to get in touch with her, please call her cell phone 941-705-6368 or write her in care of Marsha at 481 Mystic Lane, Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

### NEW ADDRESSES FOR OUR DIRECTORY:

**Dan Meisner**  
1040 Marlin Lakes Circle  
Apartment 1615  
Sarasota Florida 34232

**John Maddox**  
530 St. Andrew Street  
Apartment C  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

We print new directories every month, so please stop by the office if you would like to pick one up.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**if my  
PEOPLE...**  
2 CHRON. 7:14

If you would like prayer for any reason, please call the church office and that request will be passed on to the Pastor and listed in our Sunday bulletin and monthly *Epistle* for corporate prayer.

**For Healing and comfort:** Rev. Paul Binder and family; Elaine Chirtel; Warren Eastman, David Speed (pictured here pre-knee surgery with his trusty St. Andrew Bear, on Monday 11 July).







## MUSIC COMMITTEE NOTEBOOK

Our Director of Music Ministries, Jimmy Cox, will be on leave for the next few months, per his doctor's recommendation, returning to his post at St. Andrew the last weekend of September.

In the meantime, we are grateful for the talents of Edward Hupton, pianist and organist, who is filling in for Jim during this time.

Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, 7th of September, at 7pm in the sanctuary. The Music Committee welcomes anyone to come by and join us in one of these rehearsals and see if this is something you'd be interested in offering up as part of our music ministry. who is interested in lifting their voices in song. The Chancel Choir will be back to sing during the service on Sunday, 11 September. The following Sunday, the 18th, the Choir will host special guest vocalists from Diversity, Jon and James.

Anyone wishing to perform in August, either as a vocalist or instrumentalist, should contact Veronica Schoenewolf.

*Musical blessings from the St. Andrew Music Committee,*

*Edward Hupton, Ted Leed, Calva Leonard, Alan Meadows,  
Joe LaDu, Kathryn LaDu, and Veronica Schoenewolf,  
with Pastor Greg and Jimmy Cox as ex-officio members.*

## **IT IS WITH GREAT SORROW....**

. . . that we announce the death of Peg Binder, wife of Rev. Dr. Paul Binder, on Tuesday evening, July 26. She was a patient at Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur, Missouri, following complications after a fall.

The Binder's daughter, Carol, and her husband are with Paul in St. Louis. They will be returning to Sarasota soon.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Binder was pastor at St. Andrew UCC from December 1982 through April 1996.

Arrangements for a memorial service at St. Andrew UCC are pending.

You may send messages of support to Dr. Paul Binder at:

8400 Vamo Road, Unit 705  
Sarasota, Florida 34231

**ST. ANDREW  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday Worship 10:30am  
Wednesday Contemplative Communion 6pm  
*We are an open and affirming church*  
6908 Beneva Rd, Sarasota FL 34238  
Tel: 941-922-7595 Fax: 941-924-6779  
Web site: [www.uccstandrew.org](http://www.uccstandrew.org)

Nancy Speed, Bookkeeper  
Jimmy Cox, Director of Music Ministries  
Rev. Greg Russell, Interim Minister  
Linda Lee Miska, Secretary  
Bob Stewart, Sexton

**AUGUST'S QUOTE:  
*The Gift of Sacred Idleness***

"Work is not always required . . . there is such a thing as sacred idleness, the cultivation of which is now fearfully neglected."

~ George MacDonald,  
19th C. Scottish author, poet and  
Christian minister; mentor of fellow  
writer Lewis Carroll.

***Have you remembered  
St. Andrew in your will?***

