

# 2018 CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT

## From the Church Council

### WORSHIP MINISTRIES

The Worship Committee coordinated the many facets of worship experiences throughout 2018 by integrating music, children's sermons, and lay readers. Supporting the worship services are the altar guild, ushers, greeters, acolytes, flower coordinator, audio controllers, and communion servers. The many hands who prepare each service work together to continue to provide meaningful experiences at both the Hilton Head and Bluffton campuses. As attendance at the Bluffton church continues to grow, we are exploring opportunities for additional services.

### MUSIC MINISTRIES

The Chancel Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, Women's Ensemble and Men's Ensemble continue to bring seasonally appropriate anthems to the worship services here at St. Andrew By-The-Sea, Pope Avenue Campus. In addition, we have our own handbell duo of Gloria LaCoe and Christie Leininger who happily contribute to our weekly worship services on occasion. Debby Graves continues to provide musical leadership at the organ bench each Sunday as well as directing the Men's Ensemble. In February, Debby offered an annual organ concert to the community in conjunction with the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). In October the AGO presented a program in our sanctuary celebrating the seasons of the liturgical year with guest organists, readers and choirs participating, St. Andrew among them.

At the Bluffton Campus the praise band continues to serve as an integral part of worship. Jason Snyder continued his leadership of our Bluffton music/worship program until June. Upon Jason's leaving, Praise Band member Wayne Altman stepped in as the interim leader and is providing a wide variety of contemporary and traditional Christian musical offerings each Sunday. On April 29 the music ministry of St. Andrew did a "music swap" with the Praise Band providing the music for the Pope Avenue services and the Chancel Choir, bells, and string quartet providing music for the Bluffton worship service. Everyone survived!

At Pope Avenue we have been joined on multiple occasions by various instrumentalists, typically two Sundays a month from September to May, including: string quartet, solo violinist, brass quartet and percussion. On April 22 we had a special musical treat by the Gonzalez sisters; Kearston on violin and Kendall on cello. It has been a pleasure to watch these two young musicians grow through the years when they play at St. Andrew. We are also fortunate to have Lucy Scandrett as a member of St. Andrew who is willing to share her skills as a professional harpist on a regular basis.

On May 8, I presented a program about the history of hymns found in the Methodist hymnal to the women's Fellowship Friends group.

On June 17, the Pittsburg Girls Choir presented music in both of our worship services on Pope Ave. and presented a concert in our sanctuary that evening which was open to the public. The young ladies were housed and hosted by members of St. Andrew with homestays over the weekend.

Throughout the year the music ministry worked in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee in celebrating in worship and in preparing for our combined 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary worship service on July 1, 2018. The Chancel Choir, organ, brass and percussion added a festive and meaningful element to the service, particularly with the use of the hymn *God Is Here* #660 in a festival setting.

Following the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service the Chancel Choir took a four-Sunday hiatus. During these weeks we featured various soloists in our Pope Avenue worship services which met with very positive comments and a grateful Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir took on the duties of coffee hour between services for the month of July giving coffee hour coordinators Carol Smith and Tania Owen a welcome break from weekly duties.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

It has been another active and challenging year at St. Andrew as we have strived to nurture the spiritual life of our congregation through some staffing changes. During these transitions, we have continued our ministries with our children and their families. This year our Hilton Head sanctuary was integrated into our Vacation Bible School, allowing the children of our congregation and the families of our community to come into the sacred space in a casual, inviting way. DiscipleShip (Sunday School) and Lighthouse Kids (Children's Church) continue to nurture the faith of our children on Sunday mornings.

Discipleship with our adults continues through Sunday School classes, short-term, and seasonal studies. We also have several small groups that meet on a regular basis – many of these groups have been together for several years. These groups study a variety of relevant topics that nurture, and sometimes challenge, their faith. These groups continue to invite new members, helping to grow relationships both within our congregation and out in the community. We are excited to have started two women's small groups earlier this year – Kindred Spirits and Low Country Lydias.

Our Bridge Builders anti-racism group (now part of our Missions Committee) continues to evolve and find its way forward. We are in the process of finding ways to connect with other churches and non-profits to explore partnering opportunities that promote inclusion and understanding. This spring St. Andrew hosted the Smithsonian National Museum's event, *A Visual History of African-American Religion*. The feasibility of an after school arts program in Jasper County is currently being explored. A Gullah Tour is also planned to help us better understand the story and struggles of our local African American brothers and sisters.

Much energy has also been dedicated over the past 12 months to planning, preparing, and celebrating St. Andrew's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We gathered for a traditional Oyster Roast hosted by our Bluffton congregation in January, a Luncheon and Hymn Sing in February, a Spring Tea and Fashion Show in April, culminating with our Barbeque Picnic and Celebration at Honey Horn in June. Former pastors were also present with us monthly during worship. During our 50th Anniversary Worship Celebration, a professionally-made video documenting St. Andrew's half-century story was shared with our church family and friends at both campuses. It has been a great time of counting our many blessings throughout the years.

In the year ahead, we will be looking forward to welcoming new staff persons – along with the gifts they bring, resulting in their contributions to the life of St. Andrew By-The-Sea as they help us to continue to minister to our dynamic church family and to reach out into the community so that we can continue share God's love and make disciples for Christ.

## **CHILDREN/YOUTH AND BLUFFTON FAMILIES**

It has been a busy year with transition for our Youth Program. But through change comes opportunity, and that is exactly what we hold tight to. We had a successful beginning of the year by participating in Revolution, doing multiple overnight sleepovers for our girls' small group and taking part in the FCA Heritage Breakfast. Our youth finished up a positive Confirmation class in May and took a team to Dillon, SC, for a week of service through Salkehatchie. As the new school year began, we adjusted our weekly meeting time to reach the most youth as possible, while making it effective and convenient to those involved. We are excited to see where God continues to lead us.

Our children's program is not only a blessing to those it serves, but also to those serving as leaders. We have a fantastic team of volunteers and paid workers who care for our children weekly. Things are ever-moving in Children Church, in order to meet the needs of the varying ages of children. This summer we had approximately 50 Vacation Bible Schoolers who interacted with scripture lessons, learning how God wants us on His team and calls us to be great teammates. Doing an evening VBS has been so well received by the community and continues to be a great way of outreach!

We continue to make a presence in Bluffton by reaching out to families. Some of the ways we have made a statement are:

- After our Easter Sunday worship we had a big Easter Egg Hunt right in front of our building. Because of our location and convenience after church, it naturally turned into a community event.
- Setting up at our local high school football game to hand out free cotton candy! With hundreds of families that passed by, we served up some sweet sugar and Jesus!
- Our Bluffton campus hosted a Spring Yard Sale where church members could sell their own items. The youth sold hamburgers and hotdogs, and it was a great way to interact with the neighbors.
- This summer we took a group of families to the Savannah Banana's Baseball Game.
- We designed and purchased new "Bluffton Worship" t-shirts for every size! It was awesome handing them out to our congregation with plenty to spare! We plan on using them to wear in the community and continue handing out to people.

## **RELATIONAL MINISTRIES**

Relational Ministries includes numerous committees that are designed to serve our congregation and are consistent with our Mission Statement. We are actively involved in Guest Services, Coffee Hour, Prayer Chain, Special Meals, Name Tags, New Members and connecting to small groups.

Recruiting new members is crucial to fulfilling God's purpose for our church. We realize that personal communication is essential to attracting new members. However, by using InFellowship, our website, Facebook and email, we are also able to inform potential members of church activities, programs,

mission projects and the opportunity for service. We attempt to contact all of our visitors and make them aware of the membership opportunities at SABTS.

The majority of our new members become active participants in the life of our church. We love our new members and try to set an example for them by being excited about serving the Lord.

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH**

The Mission and Outreach Committee has been successful this past year because of the tremendous support of the congregation and volunteers of St. Andrew By-The-Sea. Missions of the church span a broad range of 16 committees. The Bridge Builders Committee was added under the Mission and Outreach umbrella in March 2018. Here is a condensed summary of what has been accomplished with the time, talents, and treasure of the congregation at both campuses.

- Financial support to Bluffton Campus Mission and Outreach Activities
- Bishop Holston's Initiative – monetary support
  - Money for 100 UMCOR Health Kits prepared at the Annual Conference in June
- 2017 Fall Festival - great success after a second hurricane (Irma) in 2 years; proceeds support missions and outreach of the church
- Delivered 158 UMCOR Health Kits and some Cleaning Bucket supplies to the Conference Center in Columbia for recovery teams responding to hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Marie the fall of 2017.
- Total grants of \$ 66,084, including \$ 16,933 to Bluffton campus, \$ 7,500 to our 3 foreign missionaries, and almost \$ 25,000 to local non-profit agencies.
- UMC missionaries supported in Panama, Lithuania, and Ecuador
- Thanksgiving Community Dinner –a successful event bringing the whole community together and collecting donations to benefit Deep Well and Bluffton Self Help in spite of rain for the first time in the event's history
- Teddy Bear Sunday – 364 Teddy Bears distributed to local organizations, Christmas Grace, and the Soup Kitchen
- Christmas Grace - 69 families with 221 children, who are some of the neediest in Jasper County, were given a dignified Christmas shopping experience

## **RECREATION OUTREACH (ROC)**

Through the Recreational Outreach Committee, St. Andrew By-The-Sea hosted the Upward Basketball program in the Church's Celebration Center for the eighteenth consecutive year. Every Friday and Saturday the first two months of the year, the Center was brimming with local children and youth ranging in age from pre-K through grade 8, their families and volunteer coaches. The 52 coaches led more than 250 young players through coaching instruction and on-court competition in a faith-based environment. As in past years, a local Boy Scout troop ran the concession stand as a fundraising effort, donating a portion of their proceeds to the Upward program to help defer individual tuition costs.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES**

In March of this year, we revised the Living It Commitment Survey. We then gave a training session for all the Stewards and Committee Chairs from both campuses, going over the process for implementing the survey and the follow-up procedure. The goal was to contact each church member who expressed an interest in serving on any of the various committees, whether they were presently on the committees or were new contacts. We are continuing to investigate ways to use new technology to help the communications and sharing of services between the campuses. The current church policies will be updated and presented digitally in the near future as well. The Scholarship Committee granted \$1,500 each to six recipients for 2018 – 2019.

## **TRUSTEES**

Significant projects in 2018 include:

- Replaced and repaired HVAC systems in the Celebration Center and the Sandbox
- Cleaned carpet in the Sanctuary and Celebration Center
- Refinished front doors on the Sanctuary
- Removed hurricane damaged fencing and cleaned up area behind the Administration Building
- Replaced sod where needed around the grounds, added fresh pinestraw, and planted spring flowers
- Repaired driveway damaged by trenching for the waterline to the Sandbox
- Repaired uneven sidewalk areas around Sanctuary
- The ramp to the Celebration Center was repaired
- New pumps were installed in the front of the Admin Building
- Repaired several areas in Celebration Center damaged from water leaks during rainy season
- The garage in Suite 104 at our Bluffton location has been remodeled and is being equipped for multiple uses
- The Nursery Playground renovation is underway. New playground equipment is being installed and a mulch ground cover will be added.

## **BLUFFTON AND POPE AVE CAPITAL PROJECTS**

In the August 13, 2018, St. Andrew Church Council Meeting, we agreed to support our Bluffton Building Committee's recommended plan for Phase I construction of our Buckwalter Site (horizontal land development) and to investigate what it will take to complete a Phase I Building for Multi-Purpose use. Approximately \$756,255 of Capital Campaign Funds will be used, which was approved by our Church in October 2015. Bluffton started the land permitting process which should be complete in 3-6 months. They plan to use a Geopier Foundation System, which eliminates need for fill soil at a cost savings of \$600,000. The Bluffton Leadership Team will assist the Bluffton Building Committee with the development of "The Bluffton Vision" for the eventual Phase I Building.

Church Council approved the formation of a Pope Ave Vision group to assist the Pope Ave Building Com. evaluate and assess next steps at our Pope Ave campus. Under consideration is a covered/enclosed walkway connecting the Sanctuary, Building B and Celebration Center, with elevated Drop Off/Parking access into a Welcome Center. We saved \$165,000 with alternate storage, which is set aside for Pope Ave Capital work.

We plan regular *Fisherman* updates to share the progress of these two Capital Projects.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**

The St. Andrew Endowment Fund Vanguard balance as of August 31, 2018, is: \$770,966.76 and the current amount in the Endowment Fund account #201 is \$7,282.36 for a total of \$778,249.12. The fund has increased by \$54,207.49 so far this year. The Endowment fund has a current obligation to the Capital Campaign of \$100,000 in total based on the pledge of \$20,000 per year for 5 years. To date, no moneys have been paid on this pledge as there has been no call from the Capital Campaign for a need for these funds quite yet. The Capital Campaign would be due \$80,000 in 2018 as it's the fourth year in the 5-year pledge.

## **FINANCE**

A balanced budget for 2018 was presented to, and approved by Church Council on 12/11/17. A lot of work and effort went into having a budget in place prior to start of the calendar year. The budget approved is for total revenues and expenditures of \$1,490,700, with pledged and un-pledged offerings of \$1,332,000.

March 31, 2018, saw the official conclusion of our 3-year Capital Campaign *One Great Church with Two Front Doors*. The campaign was announced with pledges totaling \$2,145,596. At conclusion, pledges received were \$1,917,882 for a collection rate of 89.4%. Contributions continue to come in and post-campaign collections to-date are \$14,484.

At August 31, 2018, \$756,255 of Capital Campaign funds were on hand. This gave cause for the approval given to begin the engineering and site preparation work on the future worship site so as to have the land in a buildable ready state.

The Bluffton campus continues to be a major focus of our financial resources resulting in continued investment in personnel, facilities, and support expenses. For calendar year 2018 the expense component for the Bluffton campus is projected to approximate \$347,562.

## **STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) has had a busy year keeping up with staff changes and other personnel matters. In March, Paula Refice joined the staff as our new Financial Secretary/Administrative Assistant and she has established herself as a very capable, collaborative addition to our staff team. In May, Bluffton Band and Worship Leader Jason Snyder left that position to devote complete focus to his full-time job at May River High School. The Band Leader role is being capably filled on an interim basis until December by Wayne Altman. In June, Lauren Ricciardelli left in her capacity as Children's and Youth Ministries Coordinator following a successful Vacation Bible School program. A new person for this position has not yet been selected. In July, long-serving Associate Pastor Jim Morrison transitioned to a more leisurely pace in "semi-retirement." Jim and Janet Morrison were recognized as a part of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 30. His successor is currently unchosen, while others are offering temporary assistance in worship on Sunday mornings. Also, in July we began the process of finding a successor to Phyllis Brodie, our long-time Director of Administration. Phyllis will transition to a part-time role assisting Senior Pastor Neil Yongue this fall and her administrative responsibilities will be performed by newly-hired Lois Chandler. Mrs. Chandler comes to us with 33 years of administrative experiences in the same church in California and we feel fortunate that she has joined our staff team.

THE SPPRC is committed to maintaining the best possible staff to help us achieve our important mission of bringing followers to Christ and we appreciate the support of the congregation to that end.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

St. Andrew has worked this year to increase our social media presence with Rev. Daniel Burbage and Monica Barricks handling the lion's share of posting. In addition, a generous donor provided a substantial gift intended for live streaming of the worship services at both campuses to the community and world. The intention is to also eventually allow us to share between campuses. After a number of months of investigating platforms, discussions with internet providers, researching cameras, holding meetings with campus AV team members, and working out logistics with two contractors, we began streaming on Sept. 23 from our Bluffton Campus where the infrastructure already existed for the internet speeds needed. Fiber will need to be installed on Pope Avenue before we can begin the process at the Hilton Head Campus, but our work toward streaming at Bluffton will allow us to duplicate what was done there and we should be able to move forward relatively quickly on Hilton Head once we can get "up to speed." We have already had great comments from our home-bound members about this option. Other communications focused on the 50th anniversary, announcing the guest pastors who graced us with their presence, and the production of our anniversary video.