

# THE FISHERMAN

A publication of St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church

*And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'* MATTHEW 4:19

## Knocking Holes in the Darkness

by Rev. Jonathan Tompkins

Well, Merry Christmas, Merry Epiphany, and Merry Kingdomtide! Our Advent journeys have ended but now our Christmas journeys 'knocking holes in the darkness' by reflecting the light and HOPE of Christ have just begun, and we will be traveling through these seasons of the church year in January and February.

We begin the new year with a new Sunday morning schedule: 9:00 am Traditional Worship, 10:15 am Sunday morning classes for all ages, and 11:09 am Modern Worship. While we'll be worshipping at different times, we'll still be worshipping together as we begin a new sermon series 'The B-I-B-L-E: Making Sense of our Sacred Scripture.' We'll be looking at the Bible from beginning to end, exploring what it is (and what it isn't), delving into God's story and finding our stories in its pages as well.

Sunday, January 7 is Epiphany Sunday, when we welcome the Wise Men to the manger scene after their long journey, and we, along with them, offer our gifts to the Christ child and offer ourselves to his service. We will end the service with our annual Wesley Covenant Prayer (see below).

Sunday, January 14, is Baptism of the Lord Sunday, when we remember Jesus' baptism and our own (or look forward to our

own!). We will come to the baptismal font to touch the water, and you will be offered a shower tag with a prayer so you can remember your baptism daily.

What a great way to begin 2024, offering ourselves: our prayers, presence, gifts, and service as a faithful witness to the hope, love, peace, and joy we have in following Christ!

Be sure to read on for more opportunities to do so in this new year. I'll leave you to ponder the prayer from John Wesley that we will all pray together on the first Sunday of 2024:

### The Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but Thine.

Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by Thee or laid aside for Thee,  
exalted for Thee or brought low by Thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am Thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Grace and Peace, Jonathan



New Sermon Series 'begins January 7, 2024

from 'All Glory Be to Christ'

by Kings Kaleidoscope

{sung to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne'}

His will be done

His kingdom come

On earth as is above

Who is Himself our daily bread

Praise Him the Lord of love

Let living water satisfy

The thirsty without price

We'll take a cup of kindness yet

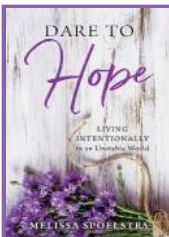
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!

All glory be to Christ!

His rule and reign will ever sing

All glory be to Christ!



## New Women's Bible Study *Dare to Hope - Living Intentionally in an Unsettled World*

by Melissa Spoelstra

Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to Feb. 21

10:30-11:30 am, Conf. Room (BI09)

Leaders: Karen Kirby + Christine Eagle

When we look around at today's world, hope usually isn't the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down. In the Book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope—a message that intentional living is possible even in an unstable world.

Through this study we will consider this hope-filled message, highlighting six guidelines for intentional living that enable us to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as we surrender to God and put our hope in Him alone.

Participants are asked to obtain their own copy of the book and to read the first chapter prior to the January 17 session. Email Connie Borgianini at [conniebhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:conniebhhiumc@gmail.com) to sign up.

## Creating for Good

Join us Thursday mornings at 10:00 am  
starting on January 4 in Rm. BI04



Come to knit, crochet, paint, and other craft options. Learn a new skill or share your favorite hobby with others. Feel free to bring your current project along and just be part of the fun and fellowship.

Our hope is to use many the items that we create to bless others through our outreach efforts or within our church family. Supplies and guidance are provided as needed. Watch email blasts or ask for your name to be added to our group list to be notified of various projects that are offered. For info, email Connie Borgianini at [conniebhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:conniebhhiumc@gmail.com).



## COFFEE (MUGS) & DONUTS



Micah 6:8  
January 7



Matthew 7:12  
January 14



Mark 12:31  
January 21



Psalms 78:6  
January 28

*A Sunday Morning Discussion for Grades 6 – 12*

Youth Fellowship Room



## Sunday Morning Classes Re-launch in January

Discipleship for all ages begins on January 7  
between worship services, 10:15 to 11:00 am

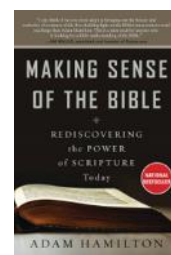
- ★ **Children in PreK to Grade 5** - meet in the Gathering Room (Admin/Education bldg.)
- ★ **Youth (Grades 6-12)** - get together in the Youth Loft (Upstairs of Admin/Education Building)

## ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

10:15-11:00am // Celebration Center

### Seekers Class (C106/107) - *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton

Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing.



In *Making Sense of the Bible* addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike.



### Joy Class (C111) - The Development and History of Early Christianity

The class study continues to explore early Christian writings that were not included in the Bible. Resources are provided by class leaders. This class meets in-person and online.

### Environmental Justice Class (C108/109) – Current Environmental Concerns

Various environmental issues are considered through the lens of our faith and our continuing challenge to be part of, and to be stewards of, God's creation – locally and globally. Videos and other resources curated by class leaders will serve as the basis for discussions.



2024 IS MY YEAR TO...





## A Soup Kitchen Christmas

Our St. Andrew Soupers have completed a very busy and wonderful year with two major events – the Annual Elf Delivery of food donations and our Annual Christmas Party for our guests and families.

The annual ELF RIDE brings food donations from Dunes Marketing Real Estate agents and is delivered by “elf dressed” members of our island’s Kickin’ Asphalt Bike club. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> annual delivery and as the photos show a huge amount of food was donated for our South Island families. We are grateful to Linda Warnock, CFO Dunes Marketing ( Photo), for her sincere efforts to organize this meaningful event each year.

And as a corollary action, Kimm Strasbaugh of Island Outfitters, witnessed our work on a normal Tuesday Soup Kitchen and donated 25 bicycles and beach carts for our Christmas party gift giveaway. Bikes and carts will now be an annual donation by Island Outfitters – Thank you Kimm.

This year’s Christmas Party was our biggest event ever – we had over 50 guests and 25 or more soup kitchen volunteers. We started with the bike give-away at 10:00 am, followed by a spectacular lunch blessed by Pastor Jonathan at 10:30, then our normal Harvest Table food distribution at 11:30 and finally that awesome visit by Santa at noon.

Our delightful Christmas lunch was prepared by Bob Dietz, Tricia Rawls, and Dee Grubb. We served over 120 lunches including take home and Family Promise. A spectacular job by our kitchen team. And meanwhile, George Barry coordinated the Harvest Table food panty distribution with his typical personal touch. Our guests’ holiday feast table will be representative of the full range of groceries and produce we have available twice a week from Deep Well, Second Helpings, Panera, and Starbucks.



## 2023 Community Thanksgiving Dinner Report

St. Andrew and its founding co-sponsor, Hudson’s Seafood House on the Docks, hosted another successful Community Thanksgiving Event! Nearly 350 volunteers welcomed, served, and fed almost 1,300 people on Thanksgiving Day. Approximately \$13,000 in donations for Bluffton Self Help, Second Helpings, and The Deep Well Project were collected and distributed. Thank you to the many St. Andrew volunteers who helped before, during, and after this year’s event!

Next year will be a true celebration as Community Thanksgiving of Hilton Head Island marks its 25th anniversary! Planning is already underway for an even more special and memorable event on November 28, 2024.

### trustees



### Trustee Tidbits

#### December updates on current projects

- Positive activity is continuing on the sale of the Buckwalter property. Bluffton and Beaufort County are working together to finish the zoning changes needed for the sale to proceed. The first quarter of 2024 continues to be the target to finalize the sale.
- The new A/C unit for the left side of the sanctuary has been installed and is working well.
- Tony Sotelo, our handyman, disassembled and removed the four obsolete A/C units on the admin building. At the same time, he has been working on repairing roof leaks in these areas. The long-term solution is having a synthetic membrane applied to the roof. Tony obtained a quote from a roofing company for \$36,000. We need to repair the current leaks but also investigate this long-term solution as funds are available.
- One of the new A/C units on the roof has been leaking due to a drain being clogged with leaves. Howell Chase has been contacted to come out and repair.
- Howell Chase installed a new drain pan to replace the cracked drain pan on the A/C unit in the Celebration Center.
- Howell Chase installed 3 remote sensors in the Celebration Center. There are two more required including new thermostats. The ones that have been installed are functioning well. The remaining work will be completed when funds are available.
- Michael Tucker is working hard on implementing the Safety and Security Team. A consultant has been hired and will be on site in January to conduct training sessions for the team. If you are interested, please contact Michael.
- Bob Gentzler is finalizing the Trustee Long-range Financial Spreadsheet for 2024 and should be published within the next week.





stephen  
MINISTRY.

Discouragement, depression fear can come for many reasons—losing someone to death, facing a

problem that overwhelms us, illness, even chemical imbalance. When facing life's trials, we may wonder if God knows or even cares, and if God does know or care, where is the help we are promised in Scripture? Why are my prayers unanswered?

The answer is...YES! God does know and care; God does answer our prayers. But sometimes (many times) we don't recognize the answer; it may not come at the time, place and the way we ask. God's Grace so often becomes evident to us only in retrospect, sometimes months or even years later. In those moments of clarity, we can see that the doctor, nurse, relative or friend who appeared at the time was, in fact, the very blessing that gave us the comfort and hope that we needed. We realize that most often God doesn't answer our prayers in exactly the way we want or hope for, but God will send someone to be with us during stressful times...just Being Present.

If we commit the situation in God's hands through prayer, by faith we can become increasingly aware of Jesus' Holy Presence and Love. Knowing He is with us gives us hope—and from that hope, joy. If you are experiencing a difficult time in your life, please know that there is a Stephen Minister waiting to be your companion, present for you for as long as needed, to comfort, console, to be a Christian friend in a confidential, one-to-one, same gender relationship. Contact David Peterson at 843.816.1762.

Likewise, if you have passed through a trying time and have witnessed God's compassionate care in your life, perhaps, as Paul says in the Scripture quoted above, you are ready to share that gift with others who are in need of a Christian friend, and quite possibly be the answer to a prayer. Please consider becoming a Stephen Minister and contact Bill Putnam at 843.683.7800.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)*

## Suds Sunday

Sunday, January 28

Each week the Soup Kitchen provides a useful, valuable personal hygiene or cleaning item to our guests. Please consider donating some of these items on Suds Sunday, January 28. A great budget-friendly resource is Dollar Tree or, for another convenient suggestion, order items on Amazon and have them shipped directly to the church.

All sizes of items accepted as long as they are *new and unopened*. Please bring them to the shopping cart in the Narthex at church along with your normal weekly grocery donations.

### Items needed

Shampoo / Conditioner, individual or combination  
Bar Soap, regular sized bars  
Toothpaste  
Dish soap  
Laundry detergent, all types / dryer sheets

Thank you!



www.hiltonheadmlk.com ★ hiltonheadmlk@gmail.com



MARTIN  
LUTHER KING

JANUARY 2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS

★ Save the Dates ★

1/6

Sat.

Gullah  
Kinfolks  
Musical

1/11

Thu.

Ecumenical  
Worship  
Service

1/12

Fri.

Shabbat  
Service

1/13

Sat.

Gullah  
Cemetery  
Cleanup

1/15

Mon.

MLK Day  
Celebration  
and March

1/20

Sat.

Children's  
Day

1/27

Sat.

Dine and  
Dance



## Fellowship Friends

Tuesdays at 10:00 am via Zoom

*Fun and engaging topics of discussion along with spiritual encouragement and support*

Email [jaygraves@hotmail.com](mailto:jaygraves@hotmail.com) for a Zoom invitation.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate via telephone.

Call Jay at 843-342-6322 for directions on how to do this.

*Everyone is invited to join in!*



oneblood   
Share your power.

St. Andrew By-The-Sea is sponsoring a Blood Drive on

Friday, January 12, 2024

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Make your reservation by contacting the blood bank at [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org)



# Meet the STAFF

The Meet the Staff column will help familiarize you with the people who serve as staff at St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC. This month, please get to know Lois Chandler.



Lois Chandler serves as the Director of Administration and joined St. Andrew's staff in October 2018. Prior to coming to the area, Lois worked with Calvary Church of Santa Ana, California for more than 30 years.

Lois is originally from Canada, where her Mennonite ancestors immigrated from Holland and Ukraine in the early 1800s, fleeing religious persecution, and settled in Manitoba to farm. Her grandfather owned a heavy construction company that built roads and dams and the Corp of Engineers contracted them to build in Nebraska in the early 1960s. She and her family came to the U.S. when the company moved, and eventually made their way to Southern California, where she attended Point Loma University in San Diego and Irvine Valley College in Irvine, California. According to Lois, "Like most things we do, our family moved in a pack and my sister and her husband, and my parents moved here to retire at the same time, joining our eldest son who has lived in Bluffton for about 20 years. We left our younger son and his family behind in San Francisco."

Lois has been a devoted reader since childhood, a trait two of her granddaughters, her mother, and her sister share, "we love to talk books!" With the daily drive to work from Bluffton she has the chance to listen to many audible books. Until recently, when her husband's health required a big dietary change, she loved to cook and bake. She continues this "hobby," but now has the challenge to do so with a healthier spin.

She has wanderlust running through her veins from generations back. Her family often travels and vacations together, and for many years they enjoyed a family villa in Kauai. Her husband of 48 years, Alvin, and she have 5 grandchildren: 2 boys and 3 girls, ranging in age from 21 to 8 years old.

When asked what she likes best about her work at St. Andrew, she says, "It's very diverse. I get the chance to be creative, administrative, and relational, sometimes all at once! It is never dull and is very fulfilling. It's satisfying knowing that the supportive work I am a part of furthers the gospel: the ultimate goal for all of us as believers."



## From the Chair

Sarah Coffin, Church Council Chair

Starting a new year brings a new set of objectives developed during our strategic planning process. Some of these have already been launched, others require more planning and engaged leadership to be successful. If any of these strike your fancy, please email to [standrewbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:standrewbythesea@gmail.com) to register your interest.

- Successful launch of a 2<sup>nd</sup> service in January – well underway.
- Recruit a Family Ministry leader – we're still searching but remain optimistic.
- Form, train and launch the Safety and Security Team – *thank you* to the 18 who have signed up!
- Host a spring community yard sale – volunteers needed.
- Hold a "Day of Service" to celebrate Martin Luther King Day – still in early stages. Also plan to join others from St. Andrew to march together that day.
- Create new mission/program to educate and provide support groups for grandparents on the topic of drug addiction.

Looking back on 2023 the goals we accomplished included actively promoting SABTS as the founder of the community Thanksgiving Meal, conducting a more active stewardship campaign, refreshing our logo, developing an investment policy, engaging with other church youth groups and hosting an indoor Olympics for south end church youth. We began work to update our website and that will continue in 2024.

I couldn't be more proud of the Church Council and strategic planning teams for diligently undertaking their responsibilities and thoughtfully investing their time and talent to continue to make St. Andrew a healthy, exciting, and welcoming place to worship and minister to others. I think 2024 is going to be another year of spiritual growth and ministry!

### GIVING AT A GLANCE (January - November 2023)

	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Giving	\$777,334	\$908,000	(\$130,666)

### Operating Revenue and Expenses (January - November 2023)

	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Revenue	\$825,979	\$915,125	(\$89,146)
Expenses	\$916,558	\$924,417	\$7,859
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$90,579)	(\$9,292)	(\$81,287)

## Thank you for all the Teddy Bears!

This lucky bear found his forever home with a 5-year-old boy. He and his mother moved into their new home from the domestic violence shelter just before Christmas. Just one of many moments of comfort and happiness the stuffies you gave brought to over 135 kids this Christmas season.







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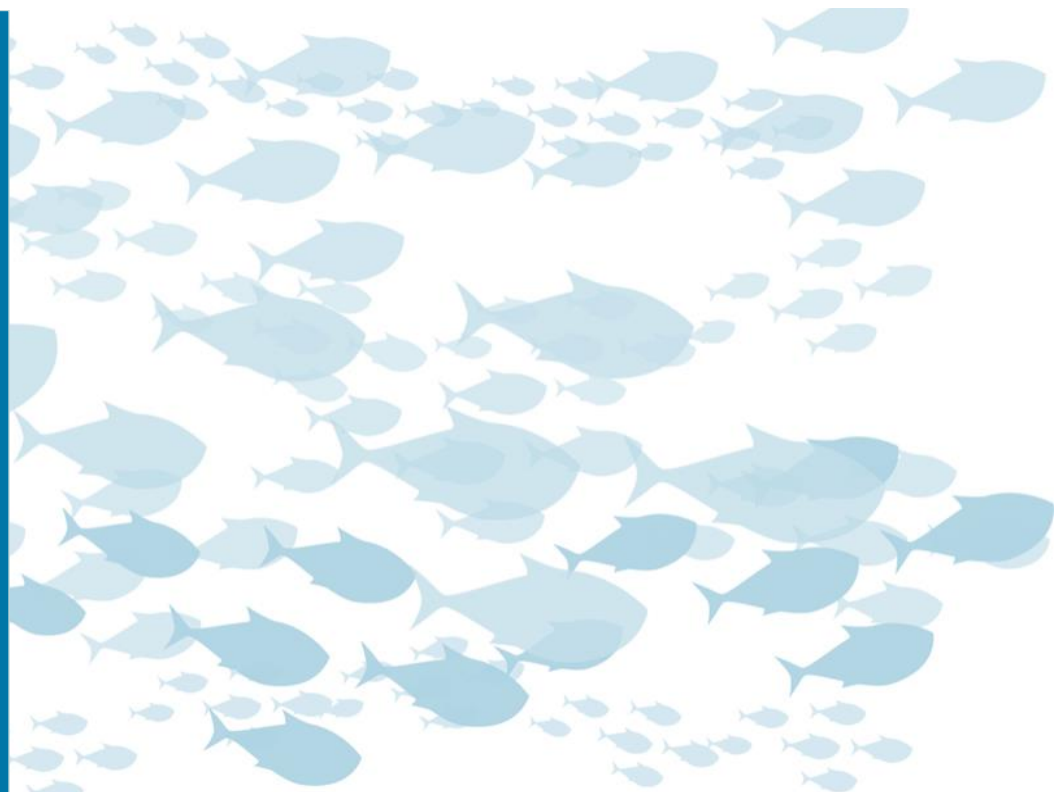
Church Office Hours  
M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
In-person + Livestream  
9:00 am Traditional Worship  
10:15 am Classes for all ages  
11:09 am Modern Worship

Rev. Jonathan Tompkins  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Frank E. Lybrand  
Associate Pastor

**Find us on all your  
favorite platforms**



*St. Andrew By-The-Sea is an open, nurturing body of Christian believers seeking God's guidance as we minister to others.*