THE FISHERMAN

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

From the Pastor... by Rev. Jonathan Tompkins

February brings an extra Leap Day with it this year, so let's leap from the green of Kingdom-tide into the purple of Lent!

After finishing our series on the B-I-B-L-E on the first Sunday of February, we'll devote Sunday, February 11 to two important things: The Souper Bowl of Caring and Stephen Ministry. We'll ask you to bring in canned goods and non-perishables for our Soup Kitchen as part of the nationwide effort to tackle hunger, and we'll hear from several of our Stephen Ministers about their experiences in offering Christian caregiving by coming alongside folks experiencing challenges in their lives.

Wednesday, February 14—yes, it is Valentine's Day, but this year happens to also be Ash Wednesday. We invite you to begin the season of Lent with us. We'll have a 12:00 pm worship service in the sanctuary, but will also offer 'Ashes to Go' in the morning and the afternoon—look for us in the circle outside the sanctuary to receive your ashes on your way to work, way home from school, or after you grab your coffee in the Starbucks drive-thru.

We'll begin our Lenten series on Sunday, February 18 with 'Pray This Way: Learning and Living the Lord's Prayer,' letting Jesus not only teach us how to pray the words, but to live the words we pray. We'll have a Lenten Study on Wednesdays that will complement the series so we can practice what I preach, and also offer weekly online content that will allow you to 'pray this way' each day. Look for an additional Lenten study offered by our Director of Christian Ed, Connie Borgianini, that involves talking and walking.

We're excited to offer Confirmation Classes for our young people (grades 5-12) beginning in February, as they learn what it means to claim our United Methodist faith as their own. Please mark your calendars for Confirmation Sunday, April 7—this will be a special combined service at 10:00 am followed by a church-wide celebration lunch.

Read on for more ways to connect with Christ and with each other this month as part of the St. Andrew By-The-Sea family!

Grace and peace, Jonathan



Random Acts of Kindness

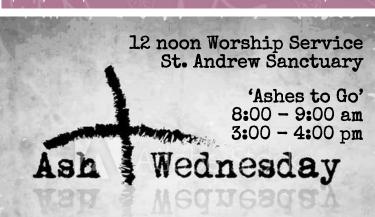
Throw Kindness Around Like confetti for "Random Acts of Kindness Week"

The week of Valentine's Day is **Random Acts of Kindness Week**. Because our culture associates Valentine's Day with love, it affords us a perfect time to show kindness to our neighbors.

As Christians, we believe followers of Christ should *lead the way* in showing kindness. Scripture tells us to put on kindness (Colossians 3:12) because one of the chief marks of Christian love is kindness (1 Corinthians 13:4). Better yet, our random acts of kindness can serve as *an arrow to the gospel*. God's kindness is meant to lead people to repentance (Romans 2:4). Showing kindness allows us to talk about the One who has shown us all great kindness by giving us seasons of joy and abundance (Matthew 5:44-45; Acts 14:17).

Such random acts of kindness are *not a replacement* for sharing the Gospel message, but they can be a powerful tool used by the God to inspire conviction of sin (Romans 12:20-21) and lead people to glorify God (Matthew 5:16). These acts of kindness also provide creative opportunities to start spiritual conversations.

Google "random acts of kindness "or "kindness week" and find plenty of inspiration for how to share love this February.



Our Condolences

- ⊙ Mary Greenwell and family at the passing of her mother, our Christian sister Claire Weber. Claire was a member of St. Andrew since 2003. Service information is not available at this time.
- ○3 To Darrin Shoemaker at the passing of his mother, Betty Shoemaker on December 20, 2023. Services are planned at a later date in Maryland.

Confirmation 2024

Confirmation in the United Methodist Church marks the first time a person publicly "confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of their local congregation and the United Methodist Church.

Through confirmation, we "renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*).

In being confirmed, a person claims the Christian faith as part of their belief and identity. They also confirm that they want to continue learning and growing into a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. (from *Connections, a Theotokos Confirmation Resource*)

Core Principles of Confirmation

Confirmation is the continuation of one's faith journey and the *beginning* of one's covenant relationship with the church—not an end unto itself.

Confirmation is more than just a series of classes. Confirmands must be *fully engaged in* the life of the church through worship, service, small groups, and involvement in other ministries.

Confirmands should emerge from their confirmation experience prepared for a life of Christian discipleship, living into a greater connection with God, Church, Self, Neighbor, Creation, and Heritage.

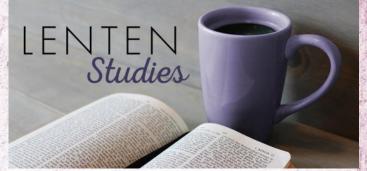
Our 2024 Confirmation Classes will be held **February 4 through March 23** (6 total classes)

Sundays: February 4 - March 3, 5:00 - 6:30 pm Saturday: March 23 (mid-morning to mid-afternoon, we'll 'field trip' to some places)

Confirmation Sunday will be **April 7**, a special combined service at 10:00 am, followed by church-wide celebration lunch. Please mark your calendars now!

If your student would like to be part of this class series, contact Pastor Jonathan at jethhiumc@gmail.com.





Pray This Way: The Lord's Prayer



February 21 - March 20 (Wednesdays, 5 weeks) Pastors Jonathan and Frank, leaders 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Wesley Room, Celebration Center

Join us as we go deeper into our sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. We'll practice what is

preached through Scripture reading, discussion, and praying the prayer Jesus taught us (featuring a beautiful sung version of the Lord's Prayer by A New Liturgy). No books required--just bring your Navigational Marker notes from the previous Sunday and a willingness to 'bend your life toward God' through the Lord's Prayer.

Can't make Wednesdays at 1:00? No problem. Pastors Jonathan and Frank will provide related online content each week through our Praying Together Online videos, accessible anytime on Facebook, Youtube, or our Podcast.

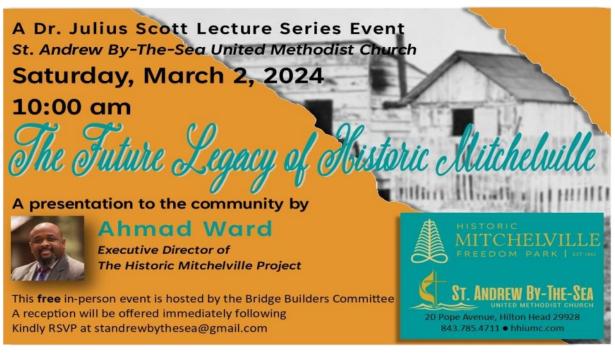
Lenten Study + Stroll at Jarvis Creek Park

February 20 - March 26 (Tuesdays) 8:30-9:30 am Jarvis Creek Park Connie Borgianini, leader

Do less. Connect more. This beautiful 40-day devotional offers brief biblical reflections to take you from burnout to burning a little brighter as you celebrate new life, fresh starts, and everyday redemptions. A Savior Is Risen is a 40-day journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning, a call for you to quiet your mind and soul as you focus on Jesus and His resurrection.

- Experience the Easter season with fresh eyes and an expectant heart
- Practice a modern-day fast from the things distracting you from God
- Reflect on Jesus' life and Resurrection
- Draw closer to God through silence and reflection
- Let go of stress and embrace grace

We'll gather weekly at Jarvis Creek Park (100 Jarvis Creek Park Road) to briefly reflect on the readings of the previous week, then we'll walk around the lake and look for signs of new life as we refresh our souls - and get a little exercise along the way!





The Way Forward at St. Andrew By-The-Sea

by Sarah Coffin, Church Council Chair

The United Methodist General Conference originally scheduled for 2020 will finally be held April 23 – May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. It is anticipated that a key topic of conversation will be issues of sexuality as the church continues to deal with the schism that has resulted in one fourth of U.S. Methodist congregations choosing to leave the UMC.

Members of our church have been asking me what our position on this topic is and how will we decide. Potential new members are well aware of the challenges the UMC is facing and have been engaging Pastor Jonathan with serious and thought-provoking questions. In light of this issue and in anticipation of the discussions and possible votes at the General Conference it is time for us to define who we are as a church family.

The Church Council will be taking up this topic at a retreat on February 17. As a student of science I have a hypothesis that:

St. Andrew By-the-Sea will choose to remain United Methodist AND be true to our purpose "to grow a welcoming community where people of all ages and stages on their faith journey can come to experience the love, grace and compassion of Jesus Christ."

In that hypothesis there is no criteria for welcoming — or not welcoming — individuals to St. Andrew By-the-Sea...we embrace "all ages and stages." Over the history of the United Methodist Church **topics such as** the ordination of women, cross-racial appointment of pastors as well as disagreements on the Social Principles of abortion and immigration, have not caused us to leave. As the broader United Methodist Church, we have not always agreed on these topics, but we have still remained largely intact. Rev. James Ellis Griffeth in a January 2024 Advocate editorial suggests that recent disaffiliations use the LGBTQ issue as an excuse but not the real reason for leaving the UMC.

Scientists propose hypotheses and then seek data to prove or

disprove them. In preparation for our retreat Church Council will be reviewing some writings and videos by Reverend Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. We will undertake a discussion and determine where our heads and our hearts lead us on this issue. It is time to embrace the elephant in the room. I encourage you to ask questions and make your feelings known before February 17. You may reach out to Pastors Jonathan and Frank or to me with an email or a call (srrlcoffin@gmail.com, jethhiumc@gmail.com, franklhhiumc@gmail.com)



Join us for a Lowcountry Poverty Simulation to better understand the real-life challenges that some of our neighbors face every day.



SAVE THE DATE!

You're invited to attend a FREE Poverty Simulation

When: Noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024

Where: St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church (20 Pope Avenue, Hilton Head Island, 29928)

RSVP: Please RSVP by Monday, February 12 by scanning the QR Code.

What is a Poverty Simulation?

The Poverty Simulation is a learning tool created as a way to help people understand the realities of poverty. During the two-hour simulation, participants role-play a month in the life of low income families. The ultimate mission of each of these families is to provide food, shelter and other basic needs with a limited income.







St. Andrew Scholarships

In order to recognize outstanding United Methodist students, the Scholarship Committee of St. Andrew awards yearly scholarships with amounts determined by the committee, usually \$500-\$1500.

The Scholarship Committee welcomes contributions from individuals, memorials, and other private donations, as well as free will offerings from the annual Scholarship Sunday, and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

We believe that outstanding academic performance should be rewarded. Our scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic/ personal achievement and financial need.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13 | 6:00 pm | Celebration Center Fun for everyone...kids' activities, Mardi Gras beads and masks, King Cakes, and of course, lots of yummy pancakes and all that goes with them! >> NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED << The cost is your generous donation to the St. Andrew Scholarship Fund This event is hosted by the **Scholarship Committee Family Ministries** and the Soup Kitchen Team

To apply for scholarships from St. Andrew and/or the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, please visit the

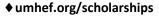
following websites:

♦ hhiumc.com/scholarship -St. Andrew By-The-Sea Scholarship fund (now known as the Neil and Imogene Yongue Scholarship Fund). The application deadline is May 31, 2024.

St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC **SCHOLARSHIP** SUNDAY February 18, 2024

A special offering will be taken at both services





United Methodist Higher Education Foundation.



'SOUPER' BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 11 (Superbowl Sunday) we will turn a day of Football into one of Feeding hungry people.

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those

who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The first year, they invited 22 area churches to join the team

and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities.

That was 1990. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grassroots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$193 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

This year St. Andrew will participate again and gather non-perishable food on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday for our very own Soup Kitchen. Find the list of most needed items at our website (hhiumc.com/soupkitchen) or grab a list from in the Narthex. Then on February 11 bring your donations and help us fill the Soup Kitchen grocery cart to overflowing.



Jeff Herriman, Treasurer Robert Dietz, Finance Chair



Our Music Ministry is looking forward to a new year full of a variety of music. Our choirs are beginning to

plan for Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter! Please consider joining one of our choirs to enhance our worship services and praise the Lord.

The Seaside Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. There is no audition and you don't need to be able to read music. Everyone is welcome! We sing at the 9:00 am services on Sunday.

Our Seaside Bell Choir has grown in numbers, however we still need more members. You don't need to be able to read music or have any musical background. All you need to do is be able to count to four! We rehearse on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. We play once a month at a 9:00 am service.

Our Seaside Youth Choir has a few enthusiastic members. We welcome all youth ages Kindergarten and up.

We always welcome instrumentalists to share their talent with us. If you play an instrument please consider being part of our Music Ministry!

trustees

TRUSTEE PROJECT UPDATE

1. 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 contractor is applying for tax credits. The first quarter of 2024 continues to be the target to finalize the sale.

- 2. Work is continuing on implementation of the Safety and Security Team. The initial training for all team members took place January 19 and 20.
- 3. Bob Gentzler has finalized the Trustee Long-range Financial Spreadsheet for 2024 and beyond. It should be published within the next week.
- 4. Three candidates for the financial advisor position were interviewed by the finance committee. They all had very good credentials in helping Not for Profit organizations. The committee has reached consensus on the final candidate. We will begin setting up the necessary structure for use once the Bluffton funds are available.
- 5. A pothole was repaired in the parking lot.
- 6. The trustees approved an expenditure for upgrading the sound system in the sanctuary from analog to digital. It is intended to improve and simplify the control of the system both for those in attendance and streaming.
- 7. A quote was received from Jones Brothers on some minor tree work on the property with some good observations and recommendations for the future.

Meet the STAFF

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



Diane Bollerman has served as the Nursery Coordinator at St. Andrew By-The Sea since

2000. She enjoys the children and has made life-long relationships with many of the children and their families. She's been here long enough to have gone to graduation ceremonies and weddings of children she cared for in the nursery. She has also babysat some of the children and continues to babysit and provide elder care when she's not working at the church.

Diane grew up in New Jersey and moved to Hilton Head Island in 1997 on St. Patrick's Day with her late husband, who had been a policeman for 30 years. In the early years on Hilton Head Island, Diane also worked for 10 years at a jewelry store in Coligny and part-time at Brooks Brothers.

When she's not working, she is active at the gym, playing tennis, biking, participating in Bible studies and book clubs, and reading. She also is a volunteer with the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina and Sandlewood Food Pantry.

Her family is an important part of her life and she is so proud of her three children. Tom is a graduate of Furman University and retired from the Army after 20 years; Jennifer, received her Master's from Columbia University and teaches; and Jeffrey, Jennifer's twin is a lawyer and graduate of Furman. Diane is also proud of her eight grandchildren.

When asked what she likes most about what she does at St. Andrew, Diane says, "I am a people person and I love the children, they are simply magnetizing. The children and their parents are like my family, and I'm so honored to be able to spend time with them."

Fellowship Friends

Continues to meet Tuesdays at 10:00 am via Zoom

Different Focused-Sharing Topics Each Week

Everyone is invited to join in!

Email jaygraves@hotmail.com for a Zoom invitation. If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate via telephone. Jay Graves will be glad to send you directions for how to do this.



It's hard to believe, but the St. Andrew Soup Kitchen is beginning its 14th year of serving our south island families, neighbors, and community. What does "serving" actually mean to our over 40 servant volunteers and quests?

- Providing 100 lunches each Tuesday and Friday, equal to 10,400 per year
- Welcoming 40 families (4 people each) plus 20 individuals or 180 guests routinely
- Providing \$1,500 of groceries every week equal to \$80,000 groceries each year
- ♦ Blessing Box provides groceries 24/7
- Weekly Friday English classes with 12 attendees
- ♦ Operating Mary's Closet shoes and clothing items

Sunday January 28 was Suds Sunday, a quarterly event of the Soup Kitchen. The St. Andrew congregation donated bring laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, and other hygiene products including toothpaste, and diapers. The ongoing challenge is for all of us to consider bringing ONE such item each week. These hygiene items are then distributed to our guest families weekly on Tuesdays, with the goal being to provide costly items which allows are families and neighbors to allocate their limited financial resources to housing and transportation. Along this line, we are looking for a volunteer servant to oversee our new Diaper Program which is an effort to collect diapers islandwide, contacting organizations for donations. If you and your friends would like to help to organize or participate in the Soup Kitchen Diaper Program, please contact Tom Sharp at 317.250.9626.

In addition to placing hygiene products in the Soup Kitchen shopping cart, we welcome you to provide food products which we place in the Blessing Pantry Box located on the walkway the two parking lots. Or please feel free to drop them directly in the blue Blessing Box every Sunday on your way to the sanctuary. Canned goods and boxed items such as pasta, cookies, snacks, and cereal are taken daily by our guests. We fill the Blessing Box Sunday/Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This amounts to 150-200 pounds of food each week. There is a list of food items we normally use both in the Soup Kitchen shopping cart in the Narthex, online (hhiumc.com/soup-kitchen), and at the Blessing Box. A convenient way to give is to hop onto the Amazon, Sams Club, Walmart or Costco websites and order items to be delivered directly to the church. Please become a weekly "regular giver" at the Blessing Box or shopping cart.

And finally, there are two other principal ways to serve our St. Andrew Soup Kitchen. While the greater part of the food and produce we distribute comes from Second Helpings and Deep Well, there is a need to purchase cooking supplies, cleaning supplies, takeout food containers, water and condiments, etc. The Soup Kitchen is supported financially 100% by individual financial contributions either by our church members or more broadly by contributions to the Low Country Community Foundation – St. Andrew Soup Kitchen. Please consider becoming a regular financial supporter of the SABTS Soup Kitchen and thank you



LENTEN PRAYER

This year, Lent begins on February 14, marking the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert enduring Satan's temptations. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Prayer is an important part of this season as it is the main source of communication with God. As we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus, prayer helps us to verbalize our faith and be in closer communion with God.

Stephen Ministers at Saint Andrew By-The-Sea have a long tradition of offering to pray every day during the 40 days of Lent for those who are experiencing difficulties. If there is someone in your life who is in need of prayer, please complete the special Prayer Request form and include the name of prayer recipient, the prayer concern, mailing address of recipient (optional), email address of recipient (optional) and the name of requester (optional):

Prayer request forms are available on Sundays and in the church office. Place completed forms in the offering plates or drop them in the wooden box in the Narthex. You may also mail prayer request forms to the church address, or email your request with the information to our confidential email address: stephenministryhhiumc@gmail.com.

So that we may begin praying on the first day of Lent, please be sure your requests have been submitted by **Sunday, February 11, 2024.**

If requested, a special seasonal card will be sent to each person prayed for during Lent. These requests will be kept confidential and your name will not be listed on the card.

For more information or if you have questions, please email to standrewstephenministry@gmail.com.

graciously in advance for this action.

And in closing, the second way is to actually become a Soup Kitchen "server" and working in the kitchen preparing 100 lunches or setting up and distributing food at the Harvest Table. Additionally, help is always needed for clothing distribution, a reading program for the children, English Club assistants on Friday, and any other program which would be welcomed by our guests who are with us from 8 am to 11am every Tuesday and Friday.

The Soup Kitchen environment provides a lot of room for personal contribution and ingenuity. We "Soupers" are thankful for your outstanding support and continued participation as we assist our South Island families on their journey to a better day. Blessings to all.



20 Pope Avenue Hilton Head Island, SC 29928 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Hilton Head, SC Permit No. 46

Address Service Requested

Let your steadfast LOVE,
O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.



20 Pope Avenue Hilton Head, SC 29928 843.785.47II hhiumc.com standrewbythesea@gmail.com

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

In-person + Livestream

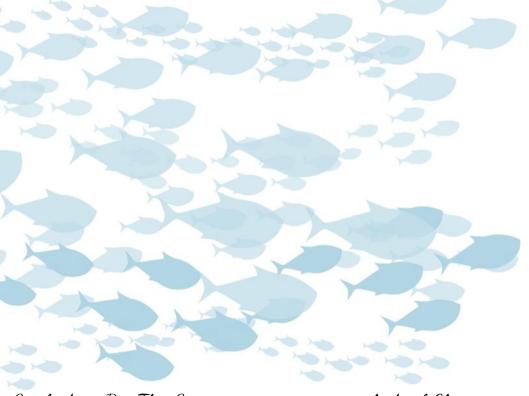
9:00 am Traditional Worship

10:15 am Classes for all ages11:09 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.