



# Andy's News

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A publication of St Andrew Presbyterian Church of Sun City, FL

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## From the Pastor's Desk

As you may have noticed, this year we focused a great deal on the relationship of faith and art as we journeyed through our These Rocks Shall Speak (TRSS) grant program. Hundreds have walked the tour, attended our workshops and craft Sundays, and heard the sermon series. The impact has been a blessing, an awakening, and even the discovery of a new spiritual space or practices.

Some have discovered how God can use art to speak to them. How we can find the divine words in art and how we can share such insights with others. Art has become an ally in our relationship with God. In its many forms, art enlarges our human capacity for imagination and creativity. It's a Gift from God!

For most the TRSS has opened their eyes to go beyond the beauty of our glass art collection, it has opened us to a deeper appreciation, almost like a new reverence as we realize the stories and messages spoken by the art.

I would like to encourage each of you to become engaged with the many opportunities offered in our second half of TRSS. Come to a tour, or attend a workshop. We have many new offerings coming this fall into December, as we come to the closing of our TRSS year.

## Mark your Calendar

- 8-1** 8:30a; *Men's Breakfast*
- 8-13** 10:00a; *Women's Brunch Bunch*
- 8-15** 8:30a; *Men's Breakfast*
- 8-29** 8:30a; *Men's Breakfast*
- Every Sun** 10:30a; *Worship Service*
- Every Wed** 11:30a; *Andy's Kitchen*

Check out our website: <https://st-andrew-church.org> for the latest information about St Andrew and events happening there

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064871430844> for pictures and announcements of things happening in our church life

Go look at our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@andy.church> for videos and church service recordings

## Daily Devotions

### The Unmerited Favor of God

For by grace are ye saved . . .

—Ephesians 2:8

In all of God's creation, just one thing did not meet with His approval. He beheld Adam and said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). The Creator designed us for emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual closeness.

Jesus explained this to His disciples, saying they should love each other as He had loved them. In a God-honoring friendship, two people build each other up and spur one another on toward Christlikeness. Many people, however, fall far short of making and maintaining connections that sharpen their faith (Proverbs 27:17).

In fact, the walls we build to keep people at a distance are often defenses against God as well: Many don't want Him too close to their most personal business. But in learning to share freely with a brother or sister in Christ, believers will likely develop the capacity to be more honest with God as well. Then their own maturing faith can be a stimulus for the faith of others to grow.

Strong relationships begin with men and women who decide to risk their pride and comfort in order to love like Jesus. They recognize one reason we have friends is so we can motivate one another toward holiness. In a friendship of mutual trust and submission, two people will confess sin, offer gentle reproof, and share burdens. That kind of vulnerability brings rich rewards.

- Billy Graham

## Bible Insights

### Romans 7:1-13

In this daily Bible reading Paul compares serving God by the Law and serving God by the Spirit. Paul said that the Law was given to identify sin. Without the law, sin was undefined. People were not living in violation of any law even though they were committing acts that the Law later condemned.

The Law was given so that sin could be identified. It soon became evident that mankind could not keep from sinning and violating the Law.

Jesus was God's remedy to move people away from sinning and enable people to worship God in Spirit rather than the Law. Paul said, "We serve in newness of spirit, and not in oldness of the letter."

Jesus said a time is coming when 'true believers will worship God in Spirit and in Truth.' The Bible says that Jesus is the Truth. The Bible also says that Jesus is the Word of God. Therefore we worship God in Truth by living our lives according to the Word of God, the Bible.

I believe the Bible is essential to our salvation journey. The Bible is 'a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.' It reveals spiritual hazards to avoid. The Bible also helps us decide correctly which way to go. More importantly, living in accordance with the Word of God will lead us to Heaven.



## Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
Office Assistant	Steve Downie
Financial Administrator	Christine Johnston
Treasurer	Bob Meier
Sexton	Inez Lafleure
Organist	Ruth Downie
Director of Worship Arts	Steve Downie
Newsletter Editor	Paul Stratton

## Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Worship Assistant	Usher	Greeter
August 4	Al Calise Carole Strum	Roberta Tanner, Barbara Diana, Doug Campbell, Judy Stevens	
August 11	Steve Reisser Sandy Stratton		
August 18	Pam Cummings		
August 25	Sandy Stratton Bob Meier		

## Backpacks for the Homeless

An ongoing, exciting project at St. Andrew, under the direction of Dean Metcalf and the Evangelism Committee, is the collection and distribution of backpacks (Blessing Bags) for the homeless in the Sun City Center and Ruskin Area. Backpacks are being equipped with toiletries, ball caps, sunglasses, tee shirts, and many other items. Along with these packs an invitation will be given to each recipient to attend the free luncheons every Wednesday at 11:30am for a delicious meal prepared by the Metropolitan Ministries. The Evangelism Committee is accepting donations of items for the backpacks in the atrium or in the church office. No backpacks are needed; we have plenty. Thank you for your help.

"We do not segment our lives, giving some time to God, some to our business or schooling, while keeping parts to ourselves. The idea is to live all of our lives in the presence of God, under the authority of God, and for the honor and glory of God. That is what the Christian life is all about."

— R.C. Sproul

## Church Leadership Class

**Saturday August 24 - 9:00a - 12:00p in the Fellowship Hall**

Pastor Edwin will be conducting a class in Church Leadership for all interested in taking an active role in the St Andrew ministry.

# Mission Yearbook for Prayer

## Young Adult Volunteer learning how SDOP lifts up minority voices

### Mission work can be vital when we shift power back into the hands of people

As a Young Adult Volunteer serving in New York City with a placement in the Self-Development of People ministry, my work is composed of program outreach, grant application workshops and site visits for grassroots organizations seeking funding.

My YAV year is providing me with an experience I would not have had anywhere else. I had viewed mission work as something Christians do as an extension of neocolonialism. Rightfully so, I was uncomfortable with the word “missions” because it reminded me of exploitation and the silencing of marginalized voices.

Because of my placement, I now know that mission work does not always impose and can be vital in our communities when we shift power back into the hands of the people. Working with SDOP has opened my eyes to a missing sector in philanthropy: financial support for minority-led projects. The reality is most grants cater to established businesses or nonprofit organizations while overlooking the needs of minority-led grassroots efforts. This means that even though marginalized groups have ideas that can save their community, oftentimes they are forced to accept help from temporary resources.

By helping grassroots organizations file for SDOP grants, I have been able to see firsthand just how important it is that applicants use their own voices. My favorite experience so far is a Connecticut trip I recently took with the SDOP Northeast task force. On the third day, we were invited to visit the Afro-Caribbean Culture Center in Waterbury. This cultural center provides the only visible safe space for the intersection of Black and Caribbean people in the community. They created a system for themselves that truly understands the needs of their own people. This solidified the true purpose of the Self-Development of People.

I am blessed to have been chosen to learn from the great individuals at my placement. I cannot wait to see what the rest of my YAV year brings.



*Juliet Owuor, Young Adult Volunteer serving in New York City, Mission Crossroads*

## Summary of Actions Taken at the 226th General Assembly

### A top 10 list of accomplishments between June 29 and July 4

Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly discerned God's will in numerous ways during the past six days. What follows are 10 of the most significant things they did at the Salt Palace Convention Center and in neighboring churches between June 29 and July 4.

#### **The Rev. Jihyun Oh is elected, then installed, as Stated Clerk**

With family members laying on their hands and more than 500 commissioners and advisory delegates in full-throated support, the Rev. Jihyun Oh, director of Mid Council Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly, was elected and then installed Monday as the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "I love this church for who we have been, warts and all, and for who we are now, and who we will become as we faithfully discern God's call for us," Oh told the Assembly.

#### **The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson are selected as Co-Moderators**

Hailing from adjacent presbyteries in South Carolina, the Rev. Tony Larson and the Rev. CeCe Armstrong were elected on the first ballot on Sunday by a 249-171 count over the Rev. Danny Morales and the Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor. Prior to their election, Larson and Armstrong sported stoles that formed the PC(USA) logo — but only when they stood next to one another. They called that a symbol of working together for the good of the Church and those it serves.

#### **Both portions of the 'Olympia Overture' are approved**

POL-01, which had been divided into two parts, will amend the Book of Order to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories against which this Church does not discriminate. Lengthy discussions took place on this item. The item will be sent to presbyteries for ratification.

#### **General Assembly backtracks on complete divestment from the fossil fuel industry**

In a surprise reversal on Tuesday, the Assembly made an about-face by deciding against complete divestment from the fossil fuel industry after having voted in favor of it that morning. After tough and lengthy discussion, commissioners voted to disapprove ENV-02 and instead go with an amended version of ENV-06.

#### **'Our ancestors' wildest dreams'**

In a tribute brimming over with affection, admiration, gratitude, tears, laughter and the occasional touch of irreverence, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, the former Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), was joyfully celebrated for changing the denomination that shaped and changed him. Throughout the evening, Nelson — who retired in 2023 — was lauded for cultivating young adult leadership and for his never-ending commitment to addressing social justice challenges including poverty, discrimination and gun violence.

- Continued on page 6

## Summary of Actions Taken at the 226th General Assembly (Continued)

### Next stop: Milwaukee

On Wednesday, the Assembly voted to accept the Presbytery of Milwaukee's invitation to host the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2026. Commissioners resisted a motion to hold both committee and plenary sessions in person. Instead, they'll occur just how they did in Salt Lake City: committees meeting online, and plenary sessions occurring in person.

### The 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is one for the ages

Commissioners agreed to per capita levels for 2025 and 2026 and approved the unifying budgets for both years. They also paid tribute to the tireless work of the Acting Stated Clerk, the Rev. Bronwen Boswell, and the newly elected Stated Clerk, the Rev. Jihyun Oh.

### Technology, committee support pass the test at General Assembly

Headed into plenary sessions following three days of online committee work, Acting Stated Clerk the Rev. Bronwen Boswell and the Director of GA Planning, Kate Trigger Duffert, lauded preparations by commissioners and advisory delegates to learn how to use MyGA, where the work of plenaries and committees was conducted. "We've used these tools before, but learning something new when you're isolated is a challenge," Trigger Duffert said.

### Young Adult Advisory Delegates participate in GA orientation

Eighty-two YAADs from across the country received orientation on Saturday led by the Rev. Katrina Pekich-Bundy and Ekama Eni. In part, a YAAD's role is to make commissioners aware of issues and ideas they might not otherwise had known about. The leaders offered the YAADs Zoom debriefs following committee meetings and plenaries.





**St. Andrew**  
Presbyterian Church

Website: [www.St-Andrew-Church.org](http://www.St-Andrew-Church.org)

You Tube @andy.church

Find us on Facebook



**ONLINE GIVING**  
now available



Use the QR code on your mobile phone or follow the Online Giving instructions @ St-Andrew-Church.org

Powered by Vanco



**FUNDRAISER - Contribute and watch the Atrium thermometer rise to the top!**

- THREE new A/C units,
- Atrium entrance upgrade (COMPLETED)
- Fellowship Hall flooring & refreshing (COMPLETED)
- a new computer for Sanctuary projection (COMPLETED)
- a fancy part for live streaming (COMPLETED)
- updating the Sanctuary cove lighting
- ...Lots going on!

Please mark your donations 'Fundraiser' and Thank you for your generosity!

Want to be an Event Coordinator for SAPC?

We are looking for a dynamic **EVENT COORDINATOR** to expand the St Andrew venue!

- Weddings
- Conferences
- Group Meetings
- Community Events etc



For further details contact **Bob Meier or Grant Strum**

**Beth-El**  
*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

Volunteers needed  
Wednesday mornings @ 8:30



**METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES**  
HOPE IS HERE

Andy's Kitchen provides a **free** lunch on Wednesdays at 11:30 – bring a friend!  
**Donate a Cake for Dessert!**



**Lifeline**  
in partnership with St Andrew

**Men's Club Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System**  
Providing Sun City Center Residents with America's Best Alert System

Offices now located at St Andrew Presbyterian Church (Room 5)  
1239 W Del Webb Blvd, Sun City Center

**813-633-7091**



**Happy Stitchers**

Under New Management ☺

Knit, Crochet, Pray Group

*If you are interested in getting involved in this group*

Contact Lou Putnam  
(574) 276-4693

**A Course in MIRACLES**

- Study Group - Understanding Jesus' Messages

Weekly meetings **Tuesdays @ 4pm** in Room 1



**JOIN US! WOMEN'S BRUNCH**

Third Tuesday @ 10am  
Venue: **Bob Evans**  
Next Meeting: Aug 20

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:30am  
Venue: **Bob Evans**  
Meetings: Aug 1, 15 & 29



**'These Rocks Shall Speak'**

**FREE 'TRSS Walking Tours'**  
**Next Dates Aug 9 & Sep 13 @ 10am**  
 guided tour + cookie & punch reception  
 sign up or call the Church Office



**RAW SPOON**  
 CHOOSE A BETTER DISTRACTION

**'These Rocks Shall Speak'**

**4th TRSS Faith & Art Workshop**  
 with 'Raw Spoon' (Ross Boon)  
 Lunch included  
**Saturday Aug 10, 9:30am – 12:00**

**WHAT IS**

**c h u r c h**

**LEADERSHIP?**

A Class in Church Leadership for all interested  
 Sat, Aug 24 from 9am-12 in Fellowship Hall



**'These Rocks Shall Speak'**

**TRSS Stamping Workshop**  
 with Judy Lawhon  
**Thursday Sep 26**  
**9:30am – 12:00**

**arts & faith**

**'These Rocks Shall Speak'**

**FREE 'TRSS Faith & Art' Workshop + Lunch**  
**Saturday, Sep 28 @ 9:30am**  
 Guest Speakers Rev. Susan Hill and Elizabeth Tsang



**'These Rocks Shall Speak'**

**'Praying in Color'**  
 TRSS Faith & Art Workshop with Sybil MacBeth  
 (Lunch included)  
**Sat, Oct 11 @ 9:30am – 12:00**  
 call the Church Office 813-634-1252 to sign up

**THE GREAT GATSBY PARTY**

**OCTOBER 11**

Tickets  
 To Be Announced



**Backpacks for the Homeless**

**We Need:-**  
 Ball Caps  
 Socks  
 Mugs  
 T-Shirts (Adult)  
 T-Shirts (Kids)  
 Backpacks  
 Sunscreen  
 Toiletries  
 Mosquito Spray  
 Sanitizer  
 Combs  
 Wipes



**Our Mission:**  
**St Andrew Church is called to -**

**"Welcome all to connect with God and one another, through creative worship, innovation in ministry, and embracing hospitality, by renewing and restoring the joy of a spiritual home."**



**St. Pauly Textile, Inc. Clothing Collection**

**Bring your clothes for recycling and earn funds for St Andrew**

Collection Shed located in the south parking lot

We accept: All Clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Belts, Purses, Blankets, Towels, Sheets, Pillowcases, Curtains and Stuffed Toys

Recycling for a Good Cause! ~ 'trash into treasure'

# Bulletin Board



