

Andy's News

A PUBLICATION OF ST ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

**“He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”
Matthew 8:17b**

Each of us is created as precious and holy vessel of embodied love. In one way or another, have been through harrowing times in our lives and since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body,

mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” we will pray for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health. We will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with

human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Jars and stained-glass jars offer us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process. Be also on the look out for our “These Rocks Shall Speak” activities for the month of March.



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*Don't forget
to
Spring forward!
March 10*



Live Streaming - www.st-andrew-church.org/live



Bible Insights

March 10

Mark 9:1 - 29

In this daily Bible reading is the account of Jesus being transformed before Peter, James, and John. Jesus' garments became dazzlingly white and radiant. He appeared as a godly figure before them. Moses and Elijah also appeared before them and conversed with Jesus.

This transformation further solidified Jesus' Godly character in the minds of Peter, James, and John. These disciples would have a pivotal role in establishing Jesus' Church on Earth after Jesus' death on the cross. It was essential that they be convinced of Jesus' true identity, especially Peter. The disciples would have to endure much opposition in creating the church. Therefore, their Faith and belief would have to be unwavering.

Today there is much opposition to the true Christian belief. It is becoming increasingly difficult to proclaim God's Truths in public. The Bible says that a time is coming when true believers will be persecuted even unto death. The Bible also says that a new world religion will be formed that will outlaw true Christianity. It may well outlaw the Word of God, the Bible. Believers must therefore prepare for this time and be ready to endure or persevere in their Faith, even if it means death.



Upcoming Events

- 3/2 - First Art and Faith Workshop with Dr. Marcia McPhee 9:30 to 12noon, lunch included.
- 3/7, 3/21 - Men's Breakfast; 8:30 AM, Bob Evans
- 3/10 - Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 3/19 - Women's Brunch Bunch; 10:30 AM, Bob Evans
- 3/21 - Pizza & a Movie; 5:00 PM

Sermon Messages

3/3	Stories	Holy Communion	Matthew 9:27-33	3/28	Maundy Thursday	6:30pm	
3/10	Different Picture	TRSS Arts & Craft Sunday	Matthew 9:18-26	3/29	Good Friday	6:30pm	
3/17	Restoration		Matthew 8:18-27	3/31	Easter Sunday	7:00am	Sunrise Service
3/24	Holy, Wholly, Holy Week	Palm Sunday,	Matthew 9:1-8			7:45am	Easter Breakfast
						8:45 to 9:45am	Discussion Group
						10:30am	Resurrection Celebration Sunday

Mission Yearbook for Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis entreats Presbyterians to organize to end poverty

'Poor has become a four-letter word,' opening speaker at Matthew 25 Summit tells capacity crowd

A powerful sermon by the Rev. Hodari Williams, team leader of New Life Presbyterian Church in South Fulton, Georgia, deftly set the stage for the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, who brought conference-goers to their feet with her opening plenary on the first day of the historic Matthew 25 Summit.

Theoharis, executive director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and teaches at Union Theological Seminary.

After Williams poignantly compelled worshipers to see and to value those who are invisible in society, Theoharis rendered the invisible — the poor — manifestly visible through her use of video, her skillful exegesis of Matthew 25 and her bold call to organize to fight and end poverty.

Opening her address by invoking the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "in one of his hometowns just a day after his birthday," Theoharis cited King's final work, "Where Do We Go from Here?"

"The prescription for the cure rests with the accurate diagnosis of the disease," she said, quoting King. "A people who began a national life inspired by a vision of a society of brotherhood can redeem itself. But redemption can come only through a humble acknowledgment of guilt and an honest knowledge of self. We owe it to [King] and to ourselves to take these words seriously."

After painting a bleak but realistic portrait of the 45 million people currently experiencing hunger and food insecurity in America Theoharis asserted that policymakers in Washington and so many states

continue to legislate as if inequality weren't an emergency.

"When it comes to accurately diagnosing what ails America, let alone prescribing a cure," she said, "our nation falls short ... 'Poor' has become a four-letter word."

Then, turning to the Bible, which she called "the only [media source] that has something good to say about the poor," and addressing her particular audience of Matthew 25 Presbyterians, she said, "As a people, too often we believe we can claim to be Christian just by going to church on Sunday rather than committing ourselves to the issues to which Jesus committed himself."

The Rev. Denise Anderson, director of Compassion, Peace & Justice in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, introduces the Matthew 25 Summit's first plenary speaker, the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. (Photo by Rich Copley)

As Theoharis began to unpack the Scripture that served as the inspiration for the Summit, she corrected a common misperception.

"The first thing we get wrong about Matthew 25 is that it's a message for individuals," she said. "Matthew 25 tells us that Jesus is speaking to the nation, perhaps to those with the political and economic power to meet the needs of the people. ... The message of Matthew 25 is when a nation acts, the whole society flourishes."

Theoharis practices what she preaches. As co-chair

- Continued on Page 4

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

Mission Yearbook for Prayer (Continued)

of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, she and Barber have helped to build a movement that seeks to revive the message of the original campaign, which declared that racism, militarism and poverty are interconnected evils and must be fought together — and that the poor and dispossessed must lead that fight.

"When we build a movement of those considered expendable, we can end poverty," she said. "If we refuse to organize our society, our nation, around the needs of the poor, poverty and want will never be banished and we will have abandoned Jesus."

As she continued to ground her thesis in both Scripture and the actions of the early Church, Theoharis said that organizing a movement today very much looks like the agency of those early Christians and their acts of civil disobedience.

"Both back then and today, we have to figure out how to meet each other's needs and keep on fighting," she said. "If we are to follow God's economy, there is no poverty, there is no hunger, there is no homelessness. The absence of poverty isn't just an absence of poverty, but the presence of justice."

Theoharis also invited attendees to visit the website of the Poor People's Campaign to learn more about and take part in nationwide rallies on March 2 and a June 15 event in Washington, D.C.

Emily Enders Odom, Associate Director of Mission Communications, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Worship Volunteer Schedule			
Date	Worship Assistant	Usher	Greeter
Mar 3	Pam Cummings, Christine Johnson	Bill Stevens, Judy Stevens, Carol Strum, Grant Strum	
Mar 10	Robert Tanner, Elsbeth Day		
Mar 17	Bob Mills, Carol Strum		
Mar 24	Bob Meier, Carol Slagle		
Mar 31	Pam Cummings, Hugh Howarth		

Pizza and a Movie Night

Thursday, March 21, 2024 will be Pizza & a Movie Night at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church with all the pizza you can eat, an assortment of soft drinks, and delicious, homemade cakes for \$8.00 a ticket plus a great, popular, recent movie. Serving starts at 5:00pm with the movie at 6:00pm. For tickets and more information come to the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Phone number is (813)634-1252

2024 Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Greetings and Peace in the Lord Jesus! This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! This truly is a time for rejoicing as we come together in unity and love to revive our Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage which will take place April 11th-14th, 2024 at Silver Springs Retreat Camp. We have a new council and a fantastic, dedicated staff ready to serve and be a vibrant part of this amazing time of revival. Some of you are on staff but there are many more of you who are not able to serve for various reasons. Are you wondering how you can help and be a part of this weekend? Let me share some ideas with you.

- You can pray for the weekend and pilgrims and staff
- You can sign up on the Prayer Banner
- You can write Palanca notes
- You can offer to be a Shepherd (formerly called sponsor)
- You can make announcements in your church and have sign-ups afterwards
- You can personally invite others to come to the weekend
- You can bring some baked goods
- You can be a part of the Serenade which will begin at Ocala Presbyterian Church presided by Reverend Walk Jones
- You can be part of a group preparing the Party on

Saturday Night and helping with clean up! We really need some people to help with this event. Let me know if you are interested.

- You can contribute a gift card to Walmart for us to purchase items for the Palanca table and other needed things. This would be very helpful because our supplies have dwindled significantly. Please send your cards to: Christine Johnson 237 Mystic Falls Dr. Apollo Beach, FL 33572.

We appreciate all your time and energy and service in the past and now in this present time! We are all excited and ready to begin this time of Pilgrimage revival.

God Loves You and So Do I

Blessings,

Mary Kay Wagner

Moderator of Pilgrimage #15

If you would like to contact me, here is my info:

Cell phone: 330-206-4344

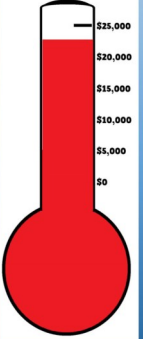
Email: Marykaywagner13@gmail.com

Address: 1180 Athlone Way
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Backpacks for the Homeless

A new ongoing, exciting project at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Dean Metcalf and the Evangelism Committee, is the collection and distribution of backpacks for the homeless in the Sun City Center and Ruskin area. Backpacks are being equipped with toiletries, knitted hats by members of the church, new blankets, and other new items. So far about 50 backpacks have been filled. Along with these packs an invitation will be given to each person to attend the free luncheons every Wednesday at 11:00am for a delicious meal prepared by the Metropolitan Ministries.

The group is accepting donations of new items for the backpacks at the church office. The phone number is (813) 634-1252.



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

- two new A/C units,
- Atrium entrance upgrade,
- Fellowship Hall flooring & refreshing,
- a new computer for Sanctuary projection,
- a fancy part to create a virtual camera for live streaming,
- updating the Sanctuary cove lighting

...Lots going on!

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




Volunteers Needed

- The Nearly New Shop
- The Inter-Faith Social Action Council – *2 spots to be filled*
- Beth-El Food Distribution Ministry


If you can help contact:
Doug Campbell
dscampbell2015@gmail.com

MEMBER PHOTOGRAPHS

If you haven't had your picture taken yet...

Appointments are still available on Monday March 4

see Lou Putnam for details



Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Volunteers needed
Wednesday mornings @ 8:30



'These Rocks Shall Speak'

'These Rocks Shall Speak'

Craft Event in Fellowship Hall
"Create your own Holy Vessel"

Mar 10 after the Service



METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES

HOPE IS HERE

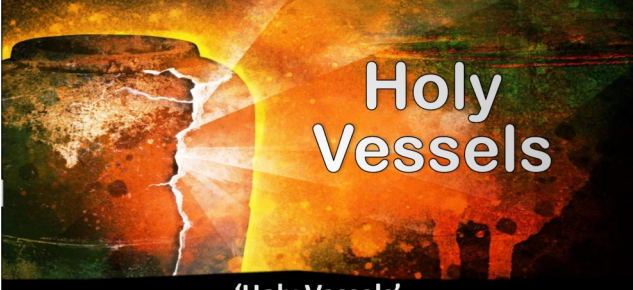
Andy's Kitchen opens with a *free* lunch on Wednesdays at 11:30 – bring a friend!
Now with weekly entertainment
Donate a Cake for Dessert!



'These Rocks Shall Speak'

FREE 'TRSS Walking Tours'

Mar 15 @ 10am & 1pm
guided tour + cookie & punch reception
Sign up or call the Church Office



Holy Vessels

'Holy Vessels'
A worship series for Lent

Prepare to embark on an unforgettable theatrical journey!

FOLLIES BYOB

A BLAST FROM THE PAST
MARCH 15 AND 16, 2024

Friday performance at 7:00 pm
Saturday Matinee at 1:30 pm
Saturday Evening Performance at 7:00 pm
in the KPCH Veterans Theater

Featuring music from the '40s to the '70s
Tickets \$14 from Carol Slagle
or the KPCH Box Office




Bulletin Board



POLLING DAY
Tuesday
March 19

Fellowship Hall & Meeting Rooms
Closed for elections



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28 @ 6:30pm



Next Movie
Mar 21

3rd Thursday of the Month
@ 5pm - Tickets now \$8

Easter Flowers

Please bring flowers on Easter Sunday to dress the Cross and create a vibrant, living display!




The South Shore Symphony Orchestra

Next concert of the season **March 24 @ 2:30pm**
Tickets \$20 available on the door
Season/Multiple Tickets available - 5 admissions for \$75

April 11~14
2024
Ocala, FL

Contact Christine Johnson for further details:
standrewfinacct@gmail.com



Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

"Be Transformed by the renewing of your mind."
- Romans 12:2

Easter SERVICES

In Person and Live Streamed at
St-Andrew-Church.org



present:



Cirque De La Morte
- A Dinner Theater Murder Mystery

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May, 5pm
In Fellowship Hall

Tickets available soon!!

PAI M
SUNDAY

March 24 @ 10:30am



BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us
'Holy Vessels'

Every Wed in March @ 1:30 pm in Room 2



MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:30p Rummikub	2
3 10:30a Worship Service 1:30p Aston Gardens Worship	4 9:30a AA Meeting	5 10:00a Christian Ed Mtg 4:00p Course in Miracles	6 11:30a Andy's Kitchen 1:30p Bible Study	7 8:30a Men's Breakfast 12:30p Democratic Club 3:30p Choir Rehearsal	8 12:30p Rummikub	9
10 Daylight Saving Starts 10:30a Worship Service 1:30p Aston Gardens Worship	11 9:30a AA Meeting 10:00a Evangelism Mtg	12 1:00p Stewardship Mtg 1:00p Property Mtg 4:00p Course in Miracles	13 11:30a Andy's Kitchen 1:30p Bible Study	14 10:00a Celebration Mtg 3:30p Choir Rehearsal	15 12:30p Rummikub	16
17 St. Patrick's Day 10:30a Worship Service 1:30p Aston Gardens Worship	18 9:30a AA Meeting 1:30p Eagle Audubon Society	19 10:00a Ladies Brunch Bunch 12:30p Hearing Loss Group 1:00p Session Mtg 4:00p Course in Miracles	20 11:30a Andy's Kitchen 1:30p Bible Study	21 8:30a Men's Breakfast 1:00p Interfaith Council Mtg 3:30p Choir Rehearsal 5:00p Pizza & a Movie	22 12:30p Rummikub	23
24 10:30a Palm Sunday Service 1:30p Aston Gardens Worship 2:30p SS Symphony Concert	25 9:30a AA Meeting	26 1:00p Republican Club 4:00p Course in Miracles	27 11:30a Andy's Kitchen 1:30p Bible Study	28 3:30p Choir Rehearsal	29 Good Friday 12:30p Rummikub	30
31 Easter 7:00a Sunrise Service 7:45a Easter Breakfast 8:45a Discussion Group 10:30a Easter Service 1:30p Aston Gardens Worship						
Notes						