

# 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



My wife, Rebecca, has become quite the gardener this past summer. The parsonage yard has blossomed with beauty: morning glories, vincas, moon vines, sunflowers, petunias, zinnias, cosmos. We're now at the middle-age stage in life where a

morning and an evening walk in our yard is high entertainment! I marvel at Rebecca's gardening abilities, and her generosity with what she has worked so hard to grow: she gives away most of these flowers to our neighbors, and many of you have benefited from her green-thumb-giveaways on Sunday mornings as well.

Watching her, I've learned a lot about what goes into gardening: in order for a seed to grow, you have to prepare, plant, nurture, and harvest. And once you harvest, one of the best feelings is to give generously out of the growth.

This month, we focus on Stewardship: what does it mean to care for the seeds of generosity that God gifts us with? We will explore what it means to prepare the soil, plant the seeds, nurture the vine, and harvest God's growth. Consider some of these Scriptures that we will be reading together:

<sup>11</sup> God said, "Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth." And that's what happened...

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth..." <sup>28</sup> "God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply (Genesis 1:11, 26, 28)

<sup>5</sup> (Jesus said) 'I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit' (John 15:1)

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." (Mark 4:30-32)

<sup>9</sup> For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field (1 Corinthians 3:9)



## RACISM AND THE CHURCH How Do We Respond?

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18  
10:00 AM**

### THE CHURCH'S HISTORY WITH RACISM AND ITS EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE IT

The vestiges of America's original sin—racism—are still with us. While progress has been made, the work of justice and healing remains unfinished. Racism continues to divide and harm individuals, communities and churches across generations. Let's journey together toward justice, understanding, and change.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Bishop Ken Carter**  
Resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church



**Bishop Robin Dease**  
Resident bishop of the Georgia Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church, including the North Georgia and South Georgia Conferences

#### Why This Conversation Matters

Racism is not just a political or social issue, it's a matter of faith. This event invites people from all backgrounds and perspectives to join in honest, hopeful dialogue about:

- The roots and realities of racism today
- Why justice and reconciliation matter to us all
- Biblical and ethical foundations for action
- How faith communities and allies can lead the way

Saturday, October 18

10:00-11:30 am  
at St. Andrew By-The-Sea  
United Methodist Church

20 Pope Avenue, Hilton Head, SC 29928  
standrewbytheseaumc.org • 843.785.4711  
Reception to follow presentation  
Hosted by the Bridge Builders Committee

A  
Dr. Julius Scott  
Lecture Series  
Presentation

<sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

Looking forward to working  
in the garden along with you this month!

Grace and peace,

*Jonathan*

prepare  
plant  
nurture  
harvest



# FAITH FORMATION

## Classes + Small Groups for Adults Fall 2025

Class/Group	Study Focus	Location	Leader(s)
<b>September Study</b> Sundays @ 10:15 or Wednesdays @ 10:00	<b>Unrelenting Grace</b> by Bishop Kenneth Carter 4-week church-wide study based on this book and following Rev. Tompkins' August sermon series based on our UMC understanding of Grace	Celebration Center	Wes Warren Kerry Tilden Jim Gresham Kim Likins
<b>Seekers Class</b> Sundays @ 10:15 beginning October 5	<b>Wrestling With Doubt</b> by Adam Hamilton - some of our most significant sources of doubt can show us how a steady trust in God can emerge	Celebration Center C106/107	Various members of class
<b>Joy Class</b> Sundays @ 10:15 beginning October 5	<b>The Acts of John</b> – The Acts of John describing actions of this apostle following the ascension of the risen Christ. (In-person and virtual)	Admin. Bldg. Conf. Room B109	Wes Warren
<b>Book Discussion</b> Mondays @ 4:30 beginning October 6	<b>The Widening of God's Mercy</b> by Christopher & Richard Hays Conversations based on sexuality within the biblical story (6 sessions)	Celebration Center C111	Merryl Dietz Kerry Tilden
<b>Fellowship Friends</b> Tuesdays @ 10:00	This women's connection group discusses <b>various topics each week</b> . Prayer concerns are also shared	Virtual	Jay Graves
<b>Men's Devotional Group</b> Thursdays @ 8:00	<b>The Lord's Prayer</b> by Adam Hamilton – more deeply understanding the meaning and power of the prayer Jesus taught, and helping us use it as a pattern for our own prayer life	Virtual	Bill Putnam Joe Kerr Dave Peterson
<b>Lowcountry Lydias</b> women, once/month	<b>Called By God</b> by Jessica Brodie – inspiring call stories from SC United Methodists that can help us all to grow and serve	Locations vary	Julie Chalpan
<b>Soul Tending</b> women, once/month	<b>12 Women of the Bible</b> by Lysa Terkeurst & others. New insights to God's gracious love through these life-changing stories	Locations vary	Various members of group
<b>Kindred Spirits</b> women, once/month	<b>12 Women of the Bible</b> by Lysa Terkeurst & others. New insights to God's gracious love through these life-changing stories	Admin. Bldg. Conf. Room B109	Various members of group
<b>Devotions + Laughter</b> Tuesdays @ 1:00	<b>Pond River Ocean Rain</b> by Charles Lattimore Howard. Reflections that help us find peace in the storms of life	Admin. Bldg. Library B107	Kerry Tilden
<b>Women's Bible Study</b> Wednesdays @ 10:30 beginning October 15	<b>Unafraid</b> by Adam Hamilton – living with courage and hope in uncertain times. Using facts and faith to help us counter our fears	Admin. Bldg. Conf. Room B109	Karen Kirby
<b>Creating for Good</b> Thursdays @ 10:00	Crafters, painters, knitters, beading, or any other creative endeavor – we all gather to share, laugh, and learn from one another	Admin. Bldg. B108	Connie Smith
<b>The Upper Roomers</b> Once/week	Residents of Indigo Pine Independent Living facility meet to discuss readings from the <b>Upper Room</b> devotional booklets	110 Gardner Road	Roma Holmes



For questions or more information, contact  
Connie Borgianini, Director of Christian Education  
[conniebhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:conniebhiumc@gmail.com) or 843.785.4711

## Children + Youth Fall Event Highlights and Upcoming Activities

### FALL RETREAT REPORT

In September, 19 youth and 4 adults from St. Andrew went on the Youth Fall Retreat to Epworth-By-The-Sea at St. Simons Island, Georgia! They had a challenging weekend worshipping, learning, and playing together, thanks to our guest speaker Matthew Price and guest worship leader Sarah Mount. Stay tuned for our next retreat in the new year.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is off to a great start this school year! Kids, 5th grade and below, are invited to join Anna in the Children's Room for a lesson, crafts, and games following the Young People's Discipleship Moment at the 11:09 worship service on Sundays.

### UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship)

Students grades 6-12 meet up at UMYF twice a month on Sunday nights to eat, play, and talk about things that help us grow deeper in our Faith. Check the calendar on the St. Andrew website (link below) to see when we meet next.

### GIRLS SMALL GROUP

We are super excited to announce the start of our girls small group, which kicks off on Sunday, October 5, 12:30-2:00 pm, in the Youth Lounge, light lunch provided. The group will meet for a five-week study, using the book *Made Worthy* by Mary Margaret West. All girls grades 6 through 12 are invited to participate. The group will gather on the Sundays UMYF is not scheduled, either in the Youth Lounge or at Starbucks.

### FAMILY MINISTRY HALLOWEEN PARTY

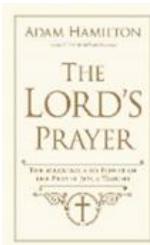
Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 26, and join us for a special Family Ministry Halloween Party! This fun-filled event is open to all youth and children. Everyone is encouraged to come dressed in their favorite costume and participate in an evening packed with excitement, Halloween treats, games, and a themed devotional. Meet us at 5:30 pm in the Celebration Center.

### COMING UP

- Sunday, November 16 - Friendsgiving
- Sunday, December 14 - Christmas Party
- January 30-February 1, 2026 - UMC Revolution Youth Conf.

Contact Anna Musselwhite, Director of Family Ministries, with any questions about children's or youth activities, or if you'd like more info on how you can serve in this exciting area of our church.

[annamhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:annamhhiumc@gmail.com) or text 843.642.2747  
[standrewbytheseaumc.org](http://standrewbytheseaumc.org)



**The Lord's Prayer** By Adam Hamilton

**Thursdays at 8:00 am**

**Men's Devotional Group**

**Begins on October 23 (online only)**

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.

In *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, we will be guided us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. We will explore each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words.

Interested in joining this online group? Contact Bill Putnam at [williamlputnam1@gmail.com](mailto:williamlputnam1@gmail.com) for details and Zoom Link.

### New Book Discussion Group This Fall

#### The Widening of God's Mercy

*Sexuality within the Biblical Story*

by Christopher B. Hays and Richard B. Hays

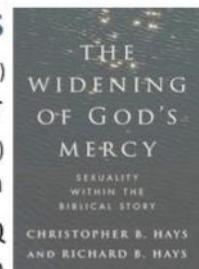
**MONDAYS**

**October 6 - November 17** (skipping Nov 3)

4:30-5:30 pm / Celebration Center

Zoom option available (see below)

Facilitators: Merryl Dietz and Kerry Tilden



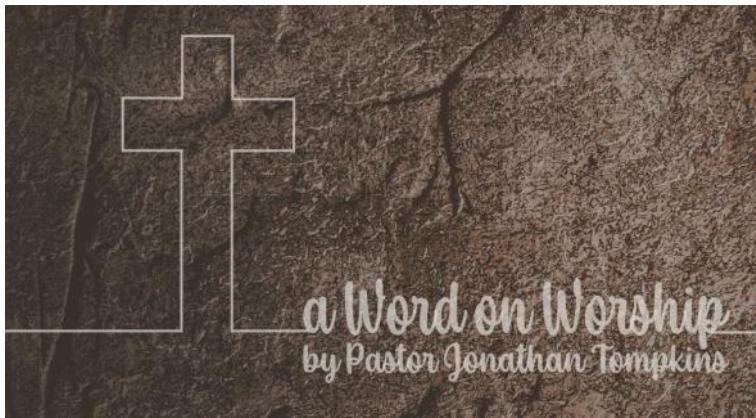
For decades, the question of whether LGBTQ persons should be included in Christian communities has been debated by those of almost every denomination. The authors, a father (a New Testament scholar) and son (an Old Testament scholar), explore a more expansive way of listening to the overarching story told in Scripture. They remind us of a dynamic and gracious God who is consistently broadening His grace to include more and more people.

We will be discussing the entire book over six weeks this Fall. We invite all to come, no matter your opinions. Please join us for what we hope will be lively and informative conversations!

To sign-up, contact Connie Borgianini at 843.785.4711 or at [conniebhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:conniebhhiumc@gmail.com)

To attend the study virtually, email [standrewbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:standrewbythesea@gmail.com) for the Zoom link





## Creeds and Affirmations

Depending on your faith tradition, you may have grown up learning and reciting a particular creed every Sunday in worship: the Apostles Creed or, perhaps, the longer and more theologically wordy Nicene Creed. Or, you may have grown up in a tradition that didn't do creeds at all: I became a United Methodist at age 25 and had to look at #881 in the Hymnal for about a year so I could recite the Apostles Creed along with the congregation.

*Creed* comes from the Latin word 'credo,' which means 'I believe.' Creeds provide a concise summary of the basic affirmations that we as Christians believe: the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), the Church, forgiveness of sin, resurrection, et. al. Creeds are a way to affirm our faith together.

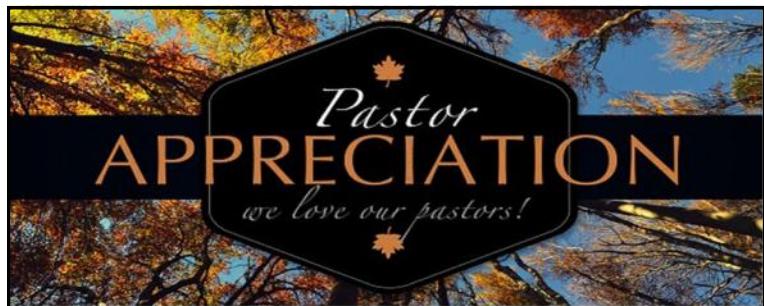
In addition to the Apostles and Nicene Creeds, which are the oldest, United Methodists use a variety of affirmations of faith because our tradition is rooted in both unity and diversity. An affirmation of faith is not meant to be a single "creed" that every Methodist must say the same way every week. Instead, it's a way for us to join our voices together in declaring the heart of our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you take a look in our Hymnal, you will find, in addition to #880 The Nicene Creed and #881 & #882 The Apostles Creed (two different versions), there are several more Affirmations of Faith (#883-#889). In the past year, we have affirmed our faith in a variety of ways through all of these found in the Hymnal and some from other United Methodist and Christian resources. For example, in September, we used #s 887, 888, and 889 since they are all taken from the writings of the Apostle Paul, which went nicely with our sermon series *In the Footsteps of Paul*.

We have multiple affirmations because there are multiple ways we can speak our faith, and each one emphasizes a different aspect of the Christian story. Some highlight the ancient, universal faith we share with Christians of every tradition. Others lift up Methodist distinctives, like God's grace and our calling to live out faith through love and justice.

By using different affirmations, we remember that our faith is bigger than any single set of words. We also remind ourselves that the church is a living, global body of believers, united in Christ yet expressed in many voices and traditions.

The variety isn't about confusion—it's about richness. Each affirmation is another window into the same truth: that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that we belong to God. This we believe!



October is pastor appreciation month. The Staff Pastor Parish Committee along with the congregation want to thank our special pastors Reverend Tompkins and Reverend Lybrand for being our loving shepherds.

Jonathan and Frank, God has chosen you, gifted you and blessed you. We are grateful for the sermons you preach, for the prayers you uplift, for your wise council, for your words of encouragement, for your sacrifice and for your service.

**Thank you**  
From the SPPRC on behalf of the St. Andrew church family



## Fellowship Friends

Fellowship Friends continue to meet Tuesdays via Zoom with new focused sharing topics each week

***Everyone is invited to join in!***

Email [jaygraves@hotmail.com](mailto:jaygraves@hotmail.com) for an invitation link. If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate via telephone. Leader Jay Graves will send you directions. Contact Jay at [jaygraves@hotmail.com](mailto:jaygraves@hotmail.com) or 315.882.6847 for the zoom link or to join by phone



### GIVING AT A GLANCE (January - August 2024)

	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Contributions	\$656,815	\$694,400	(\$37,585)

### Operating Revenue and Expenses (January - August 2025)

	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Revenue	\$670,046	\$706,565	(\$36,519)
Expenses	\$680,073	\$706,565	\$26,492
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$10,027)	\$0	(\$10,027)





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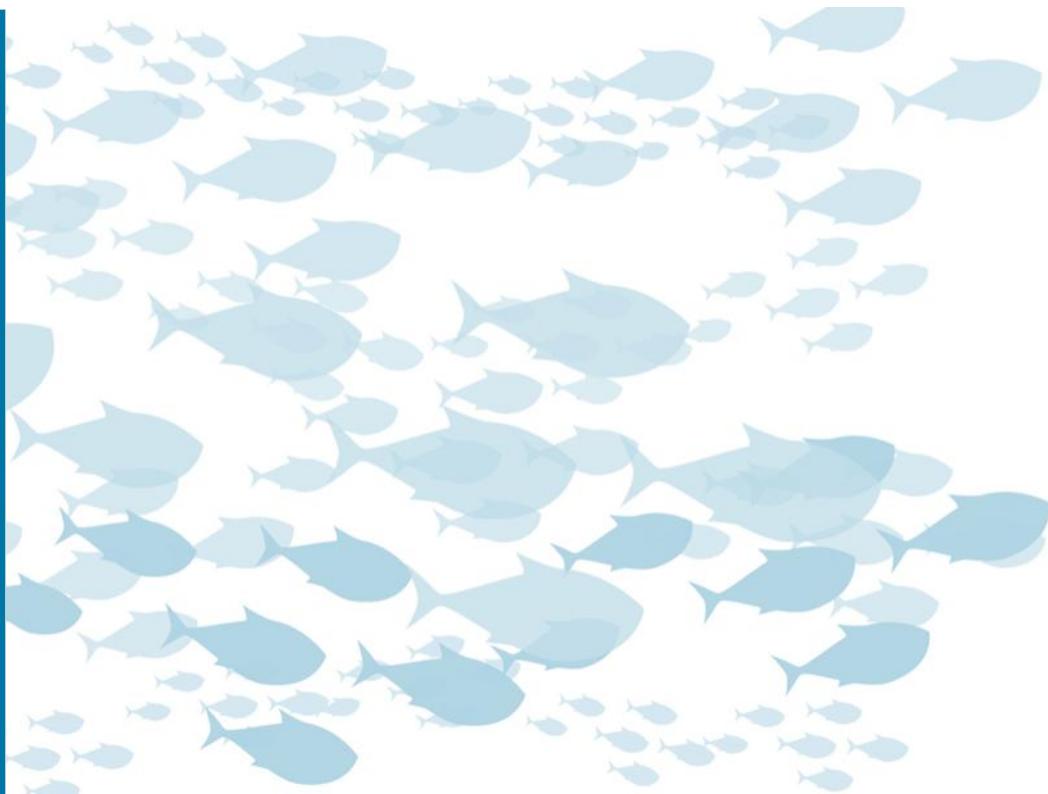
Church Office Hours  
M-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
In-person + Online  
9:00 am Traditional Worship  
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.*