

## May / June 2020 Newsletter

Over the past several weeks, we have been adjusting to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and many of you have encouraged us as we have tried to do our best. The most notable thing we have done is move our services to Facebook Live. We began by using my cell phone. When we realized the sound was

low (and that our screen was sideways!), we started using Ben Aydlett's (our Assistant Media Technician) camera and speakers he plugs into his laptop. That has worked well, but Ben is the only one that knows how to set it up; and

sometimes he cannot make it every Sunday. So a couple of weeks ago, we got a technician from Quality Sound & Video to download some software on our computer system in the back of the sanctuary so that the camera already there could be used, and that the sound board would directly connect into the system. That worked and the sounds was quite good—when the lapel mics were on! We are working to make sure all the microphones work next time, along with upgrading our internet speed in the sanctuary so that the video quality will be much sharper and smoother. That appears

to be more challenging that we initially thought. But we will make an effort to get it worked out eventually so that we can stream on Facebook and YouTube in the future; and reach those who don't have social media again. In the meantime, we will continue using Ben Aydlett's equipment.



Along with you, these last 6 weeks have been a challenge I have never encountered before. I feel lonely sometimes, since the church office is so much quieter. The

days seem more repetitive—since I'm not going out as much, nor traveling outside of the county. I miss interacting with you at the church, seeing my friends at the gym, going out with my wife and daughter on the weekends, and being a part of the commotion before and after worship services on Sunday morning. I even miss in-person meetings! (Virtual meetings are okay. They're just different—you know.) It feels odd that the best way I can keep up with y'all is over the phone. I see many of you on my Facebook News Feed, but I know that just scratches the surface. So I'm struggling

like all pastors—like all humans—in trying to make the best of a difficult situation.

Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers every day. Please know that I'm praying for the strength of our church every day too. And please know that I want you to pray for me, our church, the global Body of Christ, our nation, and world that we would find more treatment and a

vaccine for this virus in the near future, and that we never give up on finding creative ways to love God and our neighbor during this time of social distance.

In the Name of the One who never distances Himself from us,

Scott



### **Quarantine Book Studies with the Pastors**

**"A Resurrection Shaped Life"** - Starting Sunday, May 17th, at 4 PM, Pastor Scott will begin an online book study of Jake Owensby's engaging Easter book. The book explains how we can experience resurrection in Christian practices like repentance and forgiveness, and how new life can emerge from suffering; shame; regret; and loss. If this interests you, please email Scott at [sfoster@standrewsfayetteville.org](mailto:sfoster@standrewsfayetteville.org)



**"Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times"** - On Tuesdays at 7 PM, Pastor Steve Brotherton is hosting an online book study of Adam Hamilton's recent book "Unafraid". The study touches on the fears we often have about loneliness, meaninglessness, illness, other people, and death, and talk about how the scriptures call us to respond to such fears with faith. If this interests you, please email Steve at [sbrotherton@standrewsfayetteville.org](mailto:sbrotherton@standrewsfayetteville.org)



The past few months have certainly been eventful and unexpected. But in the midst of uncertainty in our ever-changing lives, our children are still growing and thriving. We miss seeing all of their smiling faces at church! We want to make sure they still have opportunities to learn and grow in their faith, no matter where they are.

**Online Sunday School:** On Sunday mornings at 9 AM, we are hosting a children's Sunday School class for children age 4-12. This class will last 20-30 minutes and introduces the children to the scripture that will be shared at the 10:00 service. We know many families are doing a lot of online meetings for school and work, so we want to keep this class fun and accessible to everyone. Children will hear the bible story, pray together, sing praise and worship songs, and

complete fun games and activities. No worksheets here! After Sunday school, we share a link to a coloring or activity sheet that can be printed at home for children to work on while they join their family watching the service at 10:00. This program will continue as long as we are offering our sermons online.

**Looking forward:** While we are anxious to see everyone again, the health and safety of our families is a top priority. As the state re-opens, we will work on ways to offer children's activities while keeping our little ones as safe as possible. Keep an eye on the Facebook page, or E-updates for more information.

**VBS:** Vacation Bible School is a favorite activity for many families here at St. Andrews, and an amazing chance for outreach to our community. At

this time, **we have postponed our VBS to the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.** Because of the changing guidelines for what size groups can gather, we can't share exact plans for this event yet, but we are committed to offering some form of VBS for the children in our church and community. We will need volunteers for this event, and will have roles for those comfortable being out and about, as well as those who would rather help from home. If you are interested in volunteering please email Nicole Edson at [ccm@standrewsfayetteville.org](mailto:ccm@standrewsfayetteville.org)

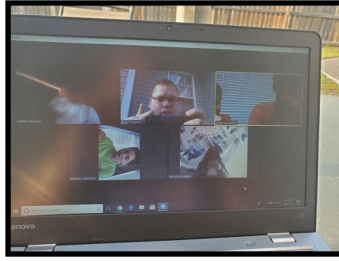
We pray that you and your families are safe, healthy and able to enjoy some of this extra time together!

In Christian Love,  
Nicole Edson  
Children's Ministry  
Coordinator

**As stated above, Vacation Bible School has been rescheduled to July 27 - 31<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendars!**

## St. Andrews Youth!

As we have all adjusted to this new normal of social distancing and staying at home, the youth have kept busy in building their faith and staying strong in their relationship with God and each other. We have met weekly online through the Zoom platform. Although, we have less participants than we would in our normal setting, we are having great discussions and a good time of fellowship laughing and talking with each other.



Our topics have been focused on how we as Christians can respond to this pandemic for ourselves and others. We even had a week of Bible Trivia fun. We miss being together with each other, but are glad we are still able to see and grow spiritually with one another in this odd time.

In His Service:  
Bryan Kingsmill



## Food Vouchers for Operation Blessing

We have an opportunity to feed the hungry in our community. Operation Blessing, which normally houses a food pantry, has shifted that ministry to food vouchers due to concerns for the virus. You can donate by sending a check to: Operation Blessing, 1337 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301, or online at <http://operationblessingfayetteville.com/ways-to-give/>



## St. Andrews Academy

Parents - Please make sure to check in at the Academy's Facebook Page for updates!



### Spring Yard Sale Rescheduled:

- ▶ Presale to Congregation: **Friday, September 11th**, 5 - 8 PM
- ▶ Open to Everyone: **Saturday, September 12th**, 7 - 11:30 AM

Mark Your Calendars!!

**POC: Cathryn Spencer 910-391-1431; or Alexa Key 828-593-7413 after 6 PM**