

Dear Church Family,

We all know that our world can change fast and when we least expect it. This has come true in the past few weeks where we have gone from life as normal to life as not normal. Who would have thought that all groups would be asked to be less than 10 to even meet? And we have all learned about “social distancing” more than we want to know. We are part of a very loving church where we hug and shake hands with each other. When we are advised to stay home it goes against what we are used to doing. I take solace in the fact that our inconvenience might make the difference between life and death to someone. I am encouraged that we have a history of doing what it takes to be a faithful witness in this world. That does not make life easy but it makes it possible. I am requesting a few things of you during this time.

First of all pray for those around the world who are infected with COVID-19 and their families. Pray for our country and for all who have lost income during these times. Pray for the medical community as they treat the needs of the sick. Pray for our children, teachers and parents as they navigate the closing of schools and making ways to continue to meet the educational and basic care needs of our children through college students. Pray for our church that even though we may not meet face to face, we are still salt and light to the world around us, and are an important part of the Church. Continue to pray for your prayer partners during our Forty Days of Lent Prayer Journey.

Secondly, do all you can to protect yourself from the virus and prevent sharing it with anyone else. Of course, to do that we can't expose or be exposed to large groups and to keep our distance from those outside our households, and wash our hands often with soap and water or use antibacterial cleanser.

Thirdly, I appreciate your generosity and concerns for the needs of your church community. Most all of our expenses continue whether we are able to meet or not. Thank you for your sensitivity to those needs by your tithes and gifts. We have a website portal for electronic giving at the church website, www.standrews.me. Or you can mail your contributions to the church at POST OFFICE BOX 6, OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI 38655.

I have several volunteers who can deliver things you may need at home. Please feel free to call me on my cell, 662-507-0513 if you have a need that we can help with. On behalf of the entire staff at the church, we appreciate each of you.

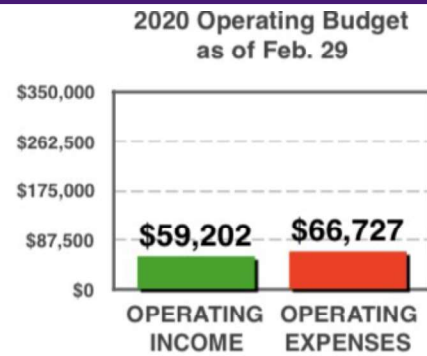
Lastly, worship with us on our Facebook page for a live stream of music and the sermon. You can make comments during the service and let your friends know you are there. Services will also be available for viewing on our church website by the afternoon. Invite your friends to join us online as well. God bless you through these days. We will make it through this with the grace of God and the great folks of St. Andrew's working together.

Yours in Christ,

Billy

Financial News:

Did you know that you can make monetary gifts to St. Andrews from the St. Andrew's Website? Go to standrews.me and in the first section under the header look for the picture shown below. We are blessed to be able to give back to God a portion of what the Lord has given us. For your convenience, you may give to the general budget or to designated purposes. Credit Cards or ACH gifts are welcome.



The Finance Committee approved two fund raisers at its February meeting:

*Soups and Sweets on Sunday, April 19, to help defray the costs of Vacation Bible School. In 2019, St. Andrew's spent \$2500 for VBS. These costs covered teaching materials and meals for over 100 people on five days.

*E-Z Park on Sat., April 25 during the annual Double Decker Festival to benefit youth activities, including summer camp at the Christian Lake Junaluska Center in North Carolina.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor, The committee voted to forward \$5,000 designated for the UMCOR Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program.

At its meeting of March 10, the committee voted to recommend to the Church Council the creation of two designated funds: The Food Pantry Fund and The Moving Expense Fund for Pastors.



Join us for soups and sweets

When: Sunday, April 19

Where: St. Andrew's Fellowship Hall

What: Fundraiser for VBS 2020

Cost: Freewill offering

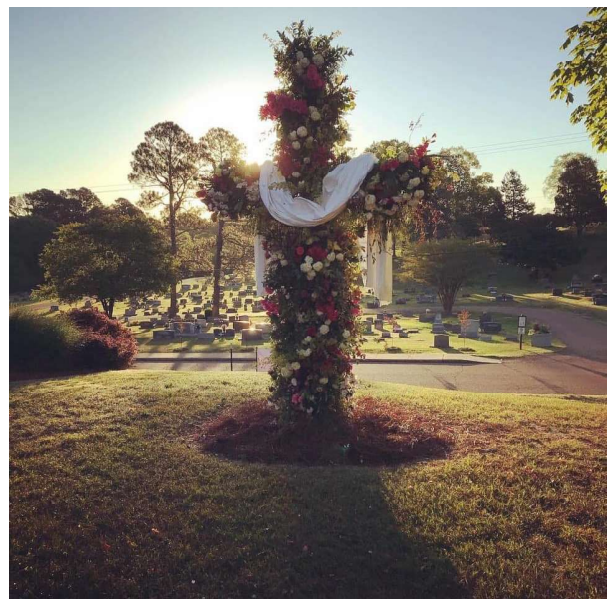
A variety of soups and delicious sweets to eat, dine-in or carry-out. We will start serving at 10.

Please contact Carlee McAnally at carleem.mcanally@gmail.com.

Easter Sunrise Service

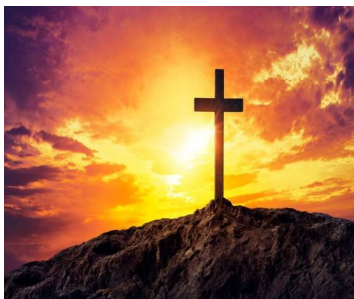
We will have the blooming cross again this year at our Easter Sunrise Service, which will take place at 7 a.m. on Sunday, April 12th.

If you have flowers you would like to contribute from your yard or the florist, please have them at the church **Saturday evening the 11th**. If you would like to help with decorating, we welcome your creativity.



Evangelism News

We still have a few auto bumper/window St. Andrew's decals. Contact Bobby Daniel if you would like to have one. A survey we did last year showed many visitors came because of personal contacts with existing members so please promote St. Andrew's among your friends, club memberships, coworkers and neighbors. Most of those that joined did so because of the friendliness of the membership, so keep up that part of YOUR evangelism ministry.



Youth News

The youth went to Jackson, MS for The Gathering conference February 28-March 1st. It was for 6th-12th graders from all over the state of Mississippi. We enjoyed music by The Young Escape and Big Al. The speaker was awesome! They had free time to play GaGa Ball and 4 square. We also want to thank everyone who bought a shirt from us.

