

PRAYER LIST

Who are the people in your life who need to hear about Jesus?

Pray for each of these people often. God will provide you with opportunities to talk with them about spiritual things.

From *The Discipleship Journey* by Terry Tieman. Transforming Churches Network 2019.

FISHHOOK

September 2022

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.

Romans 10:15b



More than a few years ago I went on a short-term service/mission trip to northern India for a month. I remember being awfully nervous the first few times I was asked to present or speak, wishing I'd had a little more training. I learned the experience itself was far better training than any number of workshops or seminars could have been. I came home far more able to share my faith, explain the love of Jesus, and witness to those around me.

Several years ago I took David to Cambodia with a team trained through The Sending Place. After a few months of Saturday morning trainings and some preparation in how to give his presentation, he got up before a group of pastors and church leaders and shared one section of our training with them. He did well for a young teenager. As he turned to get off the stage I said, "Before you sit down make sure to tell them why you love and follow Jesus." Brianna Solis (née Kleinert), also on the trip and sitting next to me, gasped in fright for him.

David got wide-eyed for a moment, then turned around and proceeded to share with this group why he loved and followed Jesus. **(continued next page)**

I believe we'll see God do things only He can do.

(continued from first page) A bit of training, a bit of opportunity, and the courage to open his mouth...David did well. I was proud.

I've had many conversations over the years with Christians who want to share their faith, yet feel inadequate to do so. St. Andrews has conducted seminars, trainings, and classes on this topic, some well attended, some not so much. I think we all realize God is calling us to be His witnesses and make disciples of those around us, but we are easily distracted and intimidated by the prospect.

This fall we invite you to experience how to help others on their own journey of discipleship with Jesus. In order to clarify a simple word with depths of meaning, let's define "disciple" as someone who can share what they know with someone in such a way that they could share the same with someone they know (and so on). To be a little more technical—and related specifically to following Jesus—we could say *a disciple is a follower of Jesus: one who trusts in Jesus as Savior, takes up His teachings and lifestyle and, out of joyful obedience, teaches others to do the same.*

What are we going to learn this fall?

- How to pray for those who don't know Jesus yet. How to ask God to prepare workers for his harvest (Luke 10:2).
- How to share God's story in simple yet powerful ways.
- How to relate your own story, or stories, of what God has done for you throughout your life.
- What it looks like and means to be in the Church and to grow with and love others.
- How to read the Bible in such a way that you experience life transformation, not just accumulate information.
- How to guide someone else through the same process you just went through.

I think we'll all be blessed through our time. I think those who begin sharing what they learn with others will grow in leaps and bounds. I believe we'll see God do things only He can do as His Gospel, the story of His saving work, is shared with others.

Join us in praying that St. Andrews is a place that helps new and old continue on the incredible journey of life with Jesus. Pray on these words of Jesus as we move forward in faith: *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

Journeying with Jesus,

Pastor Dan



We'll begin *The Discipleship Journey* the first Sunday of October. Here's what you can be doing between now and then!

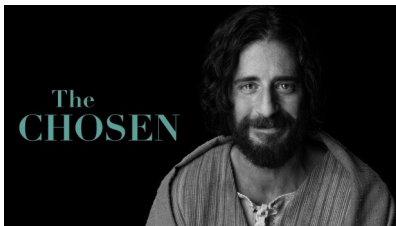
Start praying. Make a list of several people you might want to have spiritual conversations with, and list them on the card you can print from the first page of this PDF. Place it somewhere you'll see it throughout the day.

Get your booklet. We'll have workbooks available at church starting *September 11*.

Consider leading or joining a small group. Walking through this with others is the fastest way to grow! Pastors Dan and Brian will host a small group leader training at 9:45 on *September 18*.

Gathering in Groups

Sunday Discussion Time



The Chosen

Charlie and Deb Johnson are facilitating viewing and discussion of this highly-acclaimed video series. Join them in the library at 9:40 each Sunday morning to watch Season Two and dig into the Biblical story of Jesus and His disciples.

Women's Bible Study

Ladies, join us on Mondays at 9am starting September 12 for a fascinating study in the book of Genesis. We'd love to know in advance if you'll be coming so we can order you a book. Please contact Jamie Eisenbeisz at (916) 230-4280.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The theme for this year's LWML is "Leaving a Legacy of Faith." Our September meeting is **Tuesday the 13th at 1:00pm**.

Each meeting will begin with dessert, coffee, and journaling for 20 minutes on a chosen Scripture. In September we'll look at Deuteronomy 32:7: *"Remember the days of old. Consider the days of many generations, ask your father (mother) and he (she) will show you."*

Bring your journal if you have one, or we'll have one for you. Ideas for journaling might be 1) reflecting on how God is leading you through a difficult time; 2) a Bible verse or sermon that has had particular impact on you recently; 3) a special way God is blessing you at this time. Ponder these thoughts and see where God would lead you to leave a legacy of faith for future generations.

Following our opening on September 13, we will be potting succulents for our preschool staff and decorating Mite Boxes for the children in the congregation. (Don't forget to bring your own Mite Box, as well.) ***Come and join us for a post-pandemic LWML and see what we'll be doing this year!***



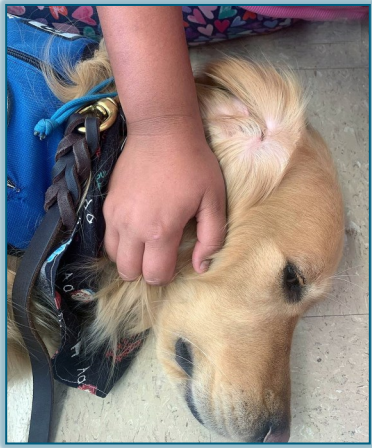
Looking for a Small Group?



We want everyone at St. Andrews to have a sense of belonging and to be able to meet regularly with a group of other people who can help strengthen and encourage in the faith. If you're looking to join a group or even start one of your own, please contact Pam in our office. She'd be happy to connect you with other people and any resources you may need!

Serving Stockton and Beyond

Rahab Comfort Dog



Rahab's Bible verse is Joshua 2:11: "When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord you God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."

Madison Elementary (a Stockton Unified K-8 school) has reached out and asked Team Rahab to visit two classrooms each week. Rahab has enjoyed the attention of these little ones and will continue to visit weekly. Rahab brought smiles to sad students just by being there and being petted and loved. *"Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." Psalm 34:11*

Team Rahab continues its ministry at University of the Pacific. Rahab will meet and greet students on the quad behind Faye Spanos Concert Hall during the entire first week of classes. She has really connected with these students, and they have connected with her as well. Many of the students are homesick and have dogs of their own, so Rahab helps calm their nervousness and is a great stand-in for the pets they miss at home. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer*

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

Rahab enjoys visiting her friends at Shepherd's Gate in Livermore. On one of her visits, handler Amy LaPointe read to the kids while they enjoyed petting Rahab. *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11*

On National Night Out, Rahab enjoyed hanging out with the neighborhood as they discussed ways to keep their part of Stockton safe. *"Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name." 3 John 1:15*

Rahab continues to train with her handlers on commands. This month she worked on a command that helps her get into tight spots so she can be closer to those who may not be able to move around as much. *"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9*

The Central Valley welcomes its newest Comfort Dog, Genesis, who belongs to Good Shepherd Turlock, and she will now be available to serve her community, church, and Northern California.

We want to thank the congregation for their generosity and support over the past two years and we look forward to the coming years as Team Rahab serves our church and community by sharing the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those in need.



Family Promise: 9/11-18



St. Andrews will be hosting our next rotation of families from September 11-18. Presentation Catholic Church will be contributing volunteers, meals, etc. tentatively that Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Jory Gwasdoff, Family Promise's main coordinator, will contact us closer to our dates to tell us about the number of families/people, their food preferences, etc.

A huge thanks and praise to God for Cyndi Lach and Lanny Young for stepping up and helping out in Pastor Brian's absence during our last rotation. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brian. Keep praying to see if God is calling you to help out with this amazing ministry!

Oktoberfest Is Coming

We are looking forward to the annual Good Shepherd Family Oktoberfest on Oct. 22 in the newly-refurbished fellowship hall. Stop by the courtyard for strudel, pretzel, or brat samples on the first three Sundays of October!

Read next month's Fishhook for details about donations and dinner tickets. Proceeds benefit the Good Shepherd Family Ministry.



Trunk or Treat!



Save the date for October 30! St. Andrews and Newday Preschool will be holding our first "trunk or treat," open to visitors from the community.

We'll need volunteers to decorate and host cars, donate candy, serve free food, man a photo booth, and welcome families who come through.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks, and please talk to Jamie Eisenbeisz about how you can participate!

(916) 230-4280; jmeisz@hotmail.com

Newday Preschool

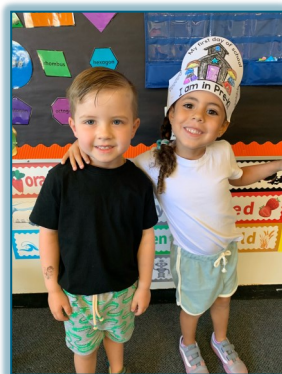
We had a wonderful beginning to our new school year. The parents and children enjoyed an ice cream social the day before school started. Families played, read the book *'Twas the Night Before Preschool*, met the teachers, and got to talk to Pastor Dan.

During our first couple weeks, we're happy to say there were more tears leaving school than coming to school! The children learned about creation and attended chapel. We not only started learning our letters and numbers but made yummy apple pies.

September is here and the children are in the full swing of school mode. We will continue learning our monthly Bible verses. We will also start practicing with Ms. Rachel this month for our performance in second service at church on October 23.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming information on our pie fundraiser starting next month.

We are still accepting enrollment for our fall program. Classes are filled on a first-come-first served basis. We offer Monday-Friday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, and Tuesday/Thursday schedules for 2- to 5-year olds. We have full-day (7:30am-5:30pm) and half-day (9:00am-11:45am) options. If you are looking for a school that helps children grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically, and physically, call our preschool director Marla Rivas at (209) 957-4089 or email newday@stalc.org.



Youth

Confirmation (H2H)

H2H will begin again starting on September 7! We will meet in the sanctuary beginning at 6:30pm, tackling the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and a few hot topics that our youth will deal with as they grow and mature. We're also looking ahead to service events and a possibly mission trip in the fall. Please continue in prayer for our confirmands as they learn God's Word and grow in their faith this year!

High School

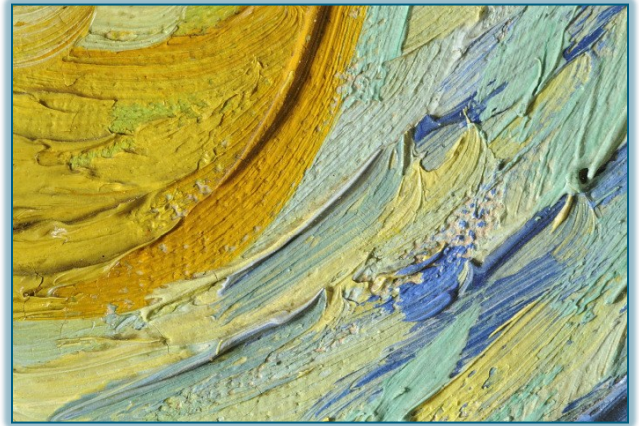
We're excited that the high school youth will continue being led by Bobby and Laura Moore and Bonnie Centers during 2022-2023! After having a blessed time at the National Youth Gathering, the highschoolers will be diving deeper into some of the NYG themes during the upcoming year. Some of these topics include the community of the Body of Christ, the humble confidence we have in Jesus, and how Sabbath and rest are connected to our identity in Christ.

If you're a highschooler or if you know one that wants to get to know Jesus more and be a part of a loving group of Christians your age, come to youth group on Wednesday nights **starting at 6:30 on September 7!**

Teaching the Angels

by Rachel McGehee

Have you ever had a chance to get up close (or zoom in) to a Monet or van Gogh painting? From a distance, the portrait creates a beautiful scene, but up close it's a mass of different-colored dots and dabs. We all know that a piece of music is made up of many parts—instruments, melodies, harmonies, rhythms—while having an overall theme. And picture a Turkish rug. There may be a repeating pattern, but it's made up of individual knots and threads.



I recently learned there's a Greek word to describe multi-colored cloth and paintings: it's *polypoikilos* and it occurs just once in the New Testament. A form of the word also appears in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) when describing Joseph's coat of many colors. I stumbled across this word while searching for how God calls His Church to demonstrate its calling in worship. And I discovered something huge.

In Ephesians 3:10 Paul says, "His intent was that now, through the church, the *polypoikilos* wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." Stop right there for a second. Before talking about what multi-colored wisdom is, can we take a moment to absorb what Paul just said? Let me paraphrase: **God's plan is that the Church reveals God's multicolored wisdom to angels.** WHAT??

I've read Ephesians before, but I must have glazed over that verse. I had to look up Bible commentaries to see what "rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms" really means. Based on similar usage in other passages, some commentators say angels, and some say angels and demons and Satan. Um, yeah. Who's supposed to be teaching those supernatural beings about God's grace? The Church. WE ARE.

But how on earth (so to speak) are we supposed to do that? Maybe Paul meant that pastors should represent the Church and reveal God's wisdom through their preaching. Or that theologians should publish books and expound God's greatness on behalf of the rest of us. Or that Christian recording artists should send the wisdom of God through their engineered music over the radio waves.

Well, that brings us back to *polypoikilos*. It's not "or," but rather "and"! The wisdom of God is varied, many-hued, multi-tinted—and He displays His eternal purpose through many ways, many eras, many people (see also Hebrews 1:1, 2). First Corinthians 12 makes it very clear that while the Church is one body, it's made up of many people with many different gifts. God calls EACH of us to demonstrate His eternal purpose in many and various ways.

God calls each of us to demonstrate His eternal purpose in many and various ways.

So what colors in God's glorious tapestry of grace do you bring? Are you a chef? A gardener? A student? A grandmother? Someone who loves to sing, dance, act, write music? A person with a knack for building, fixing, calculating, organizing? Whatever your gifts and skills, God is calling you to be part of His Church and to make known his multi-colored wisdom to the universe...and beyond.

If you're unsure how to take part in this incredible cosmic classroom, you might want to look through this newsletter again and respond to one of the ministry invitations. Maybe you'd like to give me or one of the pastors a call and we can help you find a place that fits your talents. Or simply come on Sunday mornings and sing as loudly as you can from the pew.

God's eternal purpose of redemption was accomplished by Christ and is being made known to the heavens by us, His Church. Let's live it out together.

Using Your Gifts in Worship

Extrovert Opportunity

You're energized by being around people! Being part of a **first impressions team** might be right up your alley. Greet people as they come in, learn names, pass the plates, help serve communion, and be ready to assist in an emergency. You can be a "face" of St. Andrews!

→ When: Either service, about once per month on a rotating basis. Brief initial training by Pastor Dan.

Introvert Heaven

You might be more comfortable behind the scenes. **Altar guild** may be the place for you! Prepare communion over the weekend in a quiet church and then clean the altar as worshippers head home.

→ When: A few hours on a Saturday and Sunday, about four times a year. A couple hours of training are needed. Contact Rachel McGehee (rachel@stalc.org).

Technology volunteering is another way to help but stay out of sight. Learn to run the slides for worship services.

→ When: About once a month at either service. (We're especially in need at 8:30am.) Need to stay awake during church. Multiple on-the-job trainings needed. Talk to Ron Centers (tech@stalc.org).

"I'll Talk, but Don't Make Me Sing."

Feel ok in front of a microphone but don't want to carry a tune? Volunteer to **read the Scriptures** of the day or **offer the prayers** of the church.

→ When: Once every 4-8 weeks at either service. Contact Rachel.

St. Andrews would love to incorporate **live drama** in our Sunday and midweek worship services. If you're interested in participating in the occasional skit or busting out a monologue during Lent, we'd love to have you!

→ When: Rehearsals on an as-needed basis. Contact Rachel.

"I'll Play Music, but Don't Make Me Sing."

Band: Guitar, percussion, bass, keyboard, banjo—we've got openings.

→ When: About two Sundays per month from 9:30am-noon. Talk with Erika Kleinert about skills needed (erika@stalc.org).

Instrumental solos and ensembles: Enhance worship by playing along with congregational singing or the choir, or by presenting special music.

→ When: Rehearsals as needed for various services. Talk with Rachel about skills needed.

Handbells: Even without music skills, handbells are fun and easy to learn. If you can count to 4, you're in!

→ When: Two 1-hour rehearsals and one 8:30am service per month. Talk to Rachel.

Sing Your Heart Out

Band: You help lead the whole congregation with your voice. What a privilege!

→ When: One to two Sundays per month from 9:30am-noon. Talk with Erika about skills needed.

Choir: It feels amazing to sing in a group! Choir does a variety of styles and learns some vocal technique.

→ When: Two 1-hour rehearsals and one 8:30am service per month. Talk with Rachel about basic skills needed.

Vocal solos and ensembles: Enhance worship by cantoring with the congregation or presenting special music.

→ When: Rehearsals as needed for various services. Talk with Rachel about skills needed.