



NOVEMBER 2020

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 21ST

Gratitude

Rappin' with the Rev by Pastor Dave Milam



Serene Jones describes the Bible's Psalms of Thanksgiving as being about small things in the midst of life's greater challenges. As such, they are the silver linings sewn within (sometimes) mighty storm clouds. Perhaps you've noticed reasons for gratitude even though we have been living under so many stormy clouds in 2020. I have.

One of those silver linings is the memory of a new friend coming to pack vegetable bags for the food distribution we are doing in partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR). If you don't know, regularly on Tuesdays someone will stop by the LHR center in Leesburg to pick up a carload of fruits and vegetables, bring them to St. Andrew where a work station is set up in the narthex to put the potatoes, onions, oranges and the like into family packs so that another couple of volunteers can pick them up for a food distribution at the Main Street Commons apartments in Purcellville on Wednesdays. LHR joins us for the distribution in which the veggie bags are handed out with meats, milk and dry goods feeding 50-60 families at each distribution. The last time I saw my new friend was at one of those packing days.

Very sadly, a tragedy happened to this person. I know that he is loved. The project was one of the last outings he

had before a personal misfortune came. Yet, his opportunity to extend himself, giving aid to a needy stranger satisfied a purpose to live meaningfully, faithfully. Touching on the edges of trauma, that moment of gratitude and joy serves as but one example of blessings counted that helps my friend to be named as beloved by God.

Indeed, the moment of my friend's service is but one example of the many things for which we can show gratitude even in the midst of this odd, challenging year. Did you know, for instance, that the partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief in distributing food started because of the work of St. Andrew members who wrote the required input to secure a PPP grant? The grant was sought in the main part to help pay the staff of the Neighborhood Learning Center during the two and a half months that the Center was closed. And all of the staff were paid all of their wages for that time period. But the grant allowed us to also request support for mortgage, utilities and church staff salaries, leaving an extra blessing. So, \$10,000 was set aside and then matched by another \$5,000 in matching gifts from you all – leaving us with the opportunity to send \$5,000 a piece to LHR, to Mobile Hope and to Community Coalition for Haiti.

Not too long after these extra checks were sent, LHR Executive Director, Jennifer Montgomery, called me to see if we would like to work with them for a weekly Purcellville food distribution. Thanks to Finance Committee members and others, this new partnership was formed.

That is but one mission project supported by and often staffed by Mission Committee members along with numbers of church members and friends. They have also organized a Fill the Trunk on the third Thursday to gather food and other necessities. The Mission Committee also organized another Serve Sunday in September. And they have a coat drive to help a refugee family coming in November. Let us give thanks to the Lord – Gratitude!

And how about our services? I regularly hear what a blessing these are to you all, knowing that it isn't safe to gather in ways that we used to gather. Our tech crew has worked faithfully to put these services out on the Facebook Live feed. Yes, there are glitches – but I see similar problems occurring in national pro-

gramming on the TV, as well as, of course, all of the interruptions that happen in the distance learning efforts of our schools. Tom Hill, Amber and Daniel Gillispie, Anthony Semiao, Mitch Seipt and my son-in-law, Tyler Feret have made this happen. Zack Henderson, Anthony, Kate Rohrbaugh, Bonnie Milam with Weekend Update mainstays Clark and Mitch Seipt have made these services such a blessing with their music, welcome and humor. Let us give thanks to the Lord – Gratitude!

And what about other encouragements? We've hosted small safe gatherings in the parking lot so that we can have a moment to renew our friendship with one another. Gratitude! We've seen the NLC reopen and so far, safely, with no COVID-19 cases coming from the school's functioning. Gratitude! This newsletter is coming to you courtesy of the faithful work of Sally and Mike Brenton. Gratitude! The Brunch Bunch, Book Club, and First Place for Health have

"Rappin' with the Rev"
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Join us Sundays on
FACEBOOK LIVE

As we stream Service live at 10:00AM

Not on Facebook?
You can watch live by going to our website
standrew-pres.org



The St. Andrew Book Club

The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th at 7:30 pm. The book under discussion will be The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett. It is the prequel to the Pillars of the Earth or Knightsbridge trilogy. Please call or text Zoe Sowers at 703

629-4964 for more information and the location.

Lovettsville Group

Not currently meeting due to novel coronavirus.

Brunch Bunch

The next meeting is scheduled November 14th. Contact Ann Paciulli at annpaciulli@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Group

Not currently meeting due to novel coronavirus.

Adding a Second Worship Service for Advent

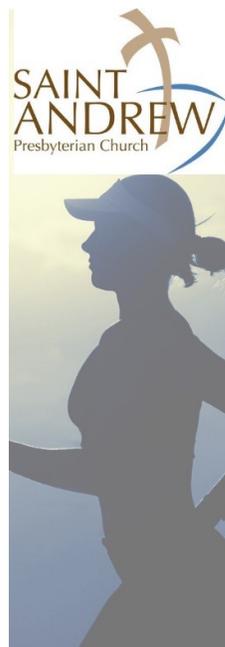
The wisdom of St. Andrew members in staying safe is encouraging and impressive. Many comment about how much they enjoy watching the Facebook Live services (or YouTube replays) while staying home. With kudos to the tech and music teams, thanks for staying connected through this new media.

That said, we know that in-person worship in the sanctuary is missed. Indeed, several have joined in, worshipping with those who put on the service in a mostly empty sanctuary. Bonnie Milam has been good to show who is there week after week. Because there are so many open seats, it is true that any are welcome to attend. We are so far from nearing Virginia-defined standards for safe distancing that everyone is welcome to consider attending on a Sunday morning.

In fact, in order to emphasize a welcome to worship, the Session has decided to offer a second Sunday morning service starting with Advent, which will commence on November 29th. The second service will be about forty-five minutes in length. It will be a very traditional service with a liturgist and traditional music played. Unfortunately, there won't be a choir so that we can mitigate risk. People might sing along to played music, perhaps. But we ask that everyone wear masks throughout the service, while spacing out, keeping distance from one another. With these safety practices, the Session hopes that those who especially miss being in the sanctuary might feel a special welcome, especially if they favor a more traditional style of worship.

In order to avoid overlapping with the 10:00 am Facebook Live service, the second service will begin at 11:30 each of the four Sundays of Advent (November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th). Following the month of services, the Session will evaluate whether to continue these services as we go into 2021.

Please know that any and all are very welcome to attend.



9-Week Bible Study

MONDAYS 7:00PM

via Googlemeet

First Place for Health is an international bible-based weight management and balanced living program -- focused on the whole person: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. Following their "Motivated to Wellness" 9-week Bible Study, our group will meet virtually.

Meeting Dates: August 31st, September 14th, 21st, & 28th; October 5th, 19th, & 26th; and November 2nd & 9th.

Interested please email Deborah Hill (coffeebooksrain@earthlink.net)

A Special Plan for Christmas Eve Worship

The holiday season is upon us, but not in the usual way. Halloween will have come and gone before you read this newsletter – with minimal Trick or Treating and the foregoing of other fun festivals. Thanksgiving looms with smaller turkeys sure to become a featured item at the grocery store – since our meals will be on a much smaller scale. (Please heed the advice of health officials and postpone the family gatherings with extended family this year. It's better to be safe than sorry, to be sure.)

So what happens with Christmas Eve? Well, we have a novel idea! The Session, Worship Committee and Pastor have given thought to how we might safely retain our Christmas Eve services. Knowing that the heart of the service lies in the retelling of the Christmas story and with the singing of *Silent Night* (while lighting candles of hope and love to brighten the darkness), we have decided on a very special alternative to our usual traditions. We will host twenty minute services at 5:00, 6:30 and 8:00 pm, outside and on the church steps keeping the essential elements of Christmas Eve worship. One service will likely include a creative, videoed Christmas pageant starring our kids. Another service will have *Silent Night* played on a guitar (like it was originally). Another might find the St. Andrew Ringers tolling among us as we cluster in family groupings for that short stint, bundled up in "carol-singer clusters."

While we are praying that God would help us with all of that with a very light snow that won't stick, we know our plans may need further adaptation. In case of inclement weather, alternative plans are being made for a drive-through service in which cars can stop at four or five tented stations where a song can be shared, the Christmas story from Luke can be read, communion can be celebrated and a candle can be lit for each vehicle as it wends its way through the car procession. It will be a Christmas to remember, no matter the final form.

Your participation is what will be the key. Plan to join us for this year's very special Christmas Eve services, indeed.

RAPPIN' (CONT)

"Gratitude"
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been meeting. Gratitude! Committees have been meeting on Zoom. Gratitude! We had small groups and a sermon series on Race and Racism with guests from the community who shared vulnerably about how we might envision and embody long promised social change. Gratitude!

And throughout, your financial support of our church has been amazing. Our giving has noticeably increased this year. (Say that again.) Yes, you heard me correctly. Our giving is higher this year than it has been in perhaps the last three or four years. Thanks be to

God – Gratitude! And while we are not *gathering* as a church community we are *being* a church community that is faithful to our call to follow Jesus and to imitate his ways as we live our lives in the crazy time. Let us give thanks to the Lord – Gratitude!

Yours,



Pastor Dave Milam

DEACONS

A special message from your Deacons:

In this month of gratitude and thanksgiving, the Deacons encourage everyone to reach out and express your gratitude and thanksgiving to someone who has been important in your life - someone who has helped you get through this time of pandemic, or someone you haven't seen in a long time; a family member or friend, or someone from the church or community."

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

September Income	\$26,382
September Expenditures	<u>\$17,269</u>
<i>Difference</i>	\$9,113
Year-to-Date Income	\$252,323
Year-to- Date Expenditures	<u>\$239,397</u>
<i>Difference</i>	\$12,936
Cash on Hand September 30, 2019	\$73,454
Cash on Hand September 30, 2020	*\$180,216



HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

LET'S SEE YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES!!!

It's been a while since we've seen each other - think we'll recognize you?

Send in a picture of you in your Halloween costume!

Pictures will be shared during church service on November 8th.

PLEASE EMAIL TO NOVEMBER 5TH

Email: stop55796@dropevent.com

Upload: dropevent.com/stop55796



DONATE WINTER WEAR FOR AFHAN REFUGEE

for **FAMILY OF 10**

Items Needed!

- ▲ Adult male - 3 XL coats
- ▲ Adult female, 1 large, preferably not a short coats
- ▲ Boys, 1 - 16 (XL) 1- 12 (M), 1- 12 months
- ▲ Girls, 1 -16 (XL), 1 - 10(M), 1 - 4T

Donations drop off by Sunday, November 15

711 W. Main St
Purcellville, VA

Questions regarding types of outerwear and appropriate colors were asked, and there were no colors that would be considered offensive, and male adult coats can be of any winter appropriate type. Avoid light colors for the children (for obvious reasons!), and logos, which the children would likely not know of.

Any additional winterwear to go with the coats, like gloves and hats, are also appreciated. Coats must be delivered to St Andrew by Sunday, November 15th. It will be most helpful to contact Mission co-chairs, Dee Treptow, @ dtreptow@computerblues.com or Marj Diehl @ marjoriediehl@gmail.com regarding the coats you would like to donate. Coats may be either new, or gently used and in good condition. You will be a blessing to this displaced family, challenged to assimilate into a new, foreign community, without extended family, or familiar surroundings.

Christmas for LAWS Families

It's LAWS Christmas tree time again, but as with so many things this year, we have to get creative. There will be no tree in the narthex with ornament tags. Because of the pandemic, LAWS is asking us to supply gift cards instead of the actual gifts. This minimizes interactions for everyone even though it seems less personal - less personal for us, but the needs are still there for these families.

Since we don't have the gift requests yet, the Mission Committee is asking you to just donate the money you would have spent on a gift for these families. The committee will purchase the gift cards with your donations. Send your donations to the church designated for 'LAWS Christmas'. There will also be a line item for LAWS on the church's online giving page. Please send your donation by November 18. If you would like to send a card or note, LAWS will deliver them, but there cannot be any identifying information on it.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and your flexibility. You have been so supportive of this project for many years.

Donate Thanksgiving Dinner Bags for Loudoun Hunger Relief!

Please fill a reusable grocery bag with the following items (to feed four people)

- stuffing mix
- four cans of vegetables
- boxed potatoes
- gravy (no glass, please)
- cornbread or biscuit mix
- cranberry sauce
- dessert mix/ingredients

- \$10-20 gift card to local grocery store for purchasing meat

There will be a designated drop-off time on Sun., Nov. 15 in the parking lot. Or leave it in the box in the narthex.

Thank you for your generosity!

Note that the Thanksgiving Dinner Bag collections on November 12th and 15th will take the place of the normal 3rd Thursday Fill the Trunk. A mission committee member will be stationed in the church parking lot, with the trunk of their car open and waiting for your donations!



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Family Volunteer Opportunity!



**BAGGING ON TUESDAY
NOV. 10TH & 24TH**
(Bagging can be done anytime after 2pm)

**DISTRIBUTION ON WEDNESDAY
NOV. 11TH & 25TH**
2PM - 3PM

Make it a family volunteer affair!! Help the Mission Committee continue its partnership with Hunger Relief to help the food insecure in our community. Please sign up via Signup Genius or email the church office (secretary@standrew-pres.org) / call 540-338-4332.



711 W. Main Street Purcellville, VA

Erika Huddleston, Deputy Director for Community Partnerships & Program Services, Hunger Relief, and our contact for the distribution program here in Purcellville the second and fourth Tuesday/ Wednesday of each month, would like to continue the distribution program through November and December. The fourth week of both November and December precede holidays.

Loudoun Hunger Relief has greatly appreciated the support of St Andrew during the stressful time of this pandemic, with significant job loss, and continued virtual learning, which has complicated life for so many in our community. With that in mind, and knowing that there will be vacation days around the holidays where there will not be deliveries of meals to children, this is an important time to increase our efforts to support our community members in need.

Sharing of our time and talents is what we are asked to do, and are able to do, through the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please consider being a special holiday volunteer to help feed our local families in need.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Happy Anniversary this month to:*
- 19 JC and Mary Barnes
 - 27 Jeff and Deann Mitchell
 - 30 Matt and Teresa Wilburn
- Happy Birthday this month to:*
- 1 Kevin Burel
Lorna Howard
 - 3 Scotty Hill
 - 6 Cameron Fetch
Dylan Wagers
 - 7 Scott Hall
 - 9 Kristen Dragon
Milt Gilmore
 - 9 Emily Linehan
Jacob Linehan
 - 14 Matthew Falter
Mark Rohrbaugh
 - 15 Spencer Groo
 - 17 Alexa Lugar
 - 19 Garrett Milich
Meredith Varnecky
 - 23 Mary Barnes
 - 24 Deborah Hill
 - 27 Carlinda Kleck
 - 30 William Groo

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

We lift up our concerns

Congregation

Jim W for ongoing chemo treatments. Melissa M on the passing of her father, Clyde. Betty W had surgery to implant an electronic stimulator in her back which went well and she is now home recovering.

Friends and Family

Susie G's mother, who has dementia, and her siser-in-law going through chemotherapy. Pastor Dave's friend, Nile H and their family. Nile's wife, Judith passed away from ALS. CourtneyH asks prayers for football players with COVID-19. Lisa M's friends Tammy and Madison as they travel from Ohio to NIH for care. Jennifer H's brother, Wallace and his family as he continues a devastating battle with cancer. Kristin W's sister, Sigrid in hospital for mild stroke and UTI. Prayers for the entire Milam and Tefft families. Pastor Dave and Bonnie's son, Scott, whose mother-in-law, Tina Tefft passed away this week from cancer. Tina was a wonderful mom to Hillary and Scott, and grandma to Emily and David.

NLC

Alex and Jessica C. (parents) and Gunner(son), ask for prayers for their soon-to-be-born girl, who will be delivered at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she will receive special care.

Joys

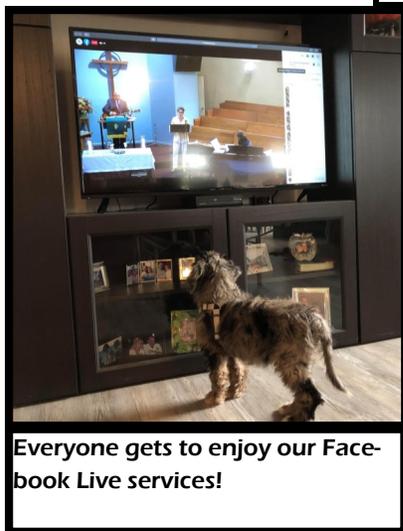
George and Melissa M on the marriage of their son Sean to Laura. Congratulations to Cherise and Anthony S on their nuptials Satur-



day, October 10! Clark S gives thanks for First Sunday Family gathering.

Community/World

For the victims of wildfires in Colorado and California, and all those suffering from COVID-19.



Everyone gets to enjoy our Facebook Live services!

NOVEMBER MUSIC REHEARSALS

VIRTUAL CHOIR REHEARSALS

Join the choir from home!
We are rehearsing through Zoom.

WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM - 8:00PM

Interested?
Email Zack at zackh900@gmail.com

The **St. Andrew Ringers** and the **Children's Choir** are not currently meeting due to restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Flower Calendar

If you would like to provide flowers to decorate the sanctuary, please sign up on the Flower Calendar in the entryway or call Nancy Gilmore. Purcellville Florist will deliver the flowers to the church in time for the Sunday service if you order from them. Of course, you are free to bring in your own arrangements or get them elsewhere. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gilmore at 540-454-3219 or ngilmore5@verizon.net.



November Flower Calendar

1st	Open	8th	Diehl
15th	Open	22nd	Brenton
29th	Open		

December Flower Calendar

6th	Barbagallo	13th	Open
20th	Open	27th	Open

The deadline for each issue of *Loaves & Fishes* is the **21st of each month**. The next deadline is **NOVEMBER 21st**. Please send your submissions to Sally Brenton at sbrenton@rstarmail.com.

November Sermon Series: Let's Turn to Gratitude

November 1st (Prayers for our Nation; Sacrament of the Lord's Supper)

Theme: Trust as a Building Block for Resilience

Scriptures: Psalm 10:12-18; Psalm 22:1, 12-16, 20-21, 24;

Psalm 119:54, 103, 129-130, 165-168, 171-175

Sermon: *"Prayers for Deliverance, Lament and Thanksgiving"*

Worship Leader: Kestina Carneal

November 8th

Theme: Finding Our Inner Gratitude

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Sermon: *"Confessions of a Gratitude Klutz"*

Worship Leader: Clark Seipt

November 15th

Theme: Making a Practice of Gratitude

Scripture: James 1:2-4

Sermon: *"Thankful with Soft Eyes"*

Worship Leader: John Howard



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www.standrew-pres.org

The Rev. Dr. David Milam, Pastor

The Rev. JoAnna Rich, Children and Family Ministries Director

Marcia Owens, Clerk of Session

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

November 22nd (Sacrament of Baptism; Thanksgiving Sunday)

Theme: Gratitude as a Shared Purpose

Scripture: Psalm 95; Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: *"Gratitude Always Comes with a Preposition"*

Worship Leader: Stacy Newton

November 29th (Sacrament of Baptism; First Sunday of Advent)

Theme: Hope

Advent Candle Family: The Kleck Family

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:1-12

Sermon: *"Concentrated Hope"*