



# The Messenger

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*September 2014*

*Thinking out loud... Behind the Scenes of Worship*



## August 2014 Supper Church (an alternative VBS)

When we are tired, the Lord refreshes us;  
When we are hurting, the Lord heals us;  
When we are lonely, his Word fulfills us.

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer.**

When we are discouraged, the Lord reminds us;  
When we are confused, the Lord clears our minds;  
When we are yearning, the Lord supplies our need.

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer.**

For two evenings in August we gathered around the tables in the Fellowship Hall and shared a meal, music, and fellowship while we learned a little bit about how and why we do worship the way we do in the Presbyterian Church. We looked at the order for worship and talked about such things as why we have a prayer of confession and the significance of our affirmation of faith. Our music director, Kiki Neale, helped us learn about hymnody and how she works with the pastor to find music that sets the tone for worship and elevates the message for the day from our scripture.

We also learned that Presbyterian worship can be really creative – yes, really! We watched some interpretive dance, sang some hymns, and tried our hand at writing calls to worship and affirmations which were then incorporated into Sunday worship in the following weeks. We even did a reader’s theater that was so much fun our visitors the next week joined in! As proof that each of us have amazing, creative gifts to contribute one of our collaborative litanies appeared at the beginning of this article. While we couldn’t answer every question in just two evenings, we certainly made an attempt at understanding worship and recognizing that it’s not so mysterious, nor is it reserved just for the clergy or church leaders to have a hand in shaping.

Worship is the window to our faith, and it is always open. We can honor and uphold our traditions while simultaneously being creative and allowing the Holy Spirit to breathe fresh winds through our sanctuary!



Readers’ Theater in worship  
with Ashley, Charles and Trent



Collaborating on writing affirmations of faith...



One of the other important aspects of worship we discussed in our “behind the scenes” program was the act of giving through our tithes and offerings. In that vein, one of our congregants, Bill Moran, has decided to dedicate his efforts, talents, and energy in completing an IronMan competition for the benefit of St. Andrews! If you would like to support Bill and St. Andrews, please see Bill’s request below...

As many of you are aware, I have been training for Ironman Chattanooga for the past 7 months. On September 28, the quest for the finish line will hopefully be realized after about 13 hrs of swimming, biking and running through 140.6 miles and the announcement: “Bill Moran, you are an Ironman!”



Although this is a personal challenge for me, I would like others to benefit from this journey. I don’t like to ask for money, but it isn’t every day that I attempt an Ironman, so I am asking for you to consider a donation in support of my selected charity.

I’m raising funds for St. Andrews’s Presbyterian Church. Nadine has been the pastor there for the past 2 years. Although the congregation is small, they are a great group of people who are welcoming and friendly. They have all become my friends over the past years. This faithful congregation has been together for many years and wants to see their congregation grow and expand their mission. They have a great pastor (OK, so I’m bias) and an excellent music director. The congregation will determine the greatest need for your donations.

If you are willing to make a donation, I’m directing you to the church’s web site directly rather by paying fees for a fundraising site. Since this a direct donation to the church, [www.stapresb.org](http://www.stapresb.org), it is also tax deductible. Payments are securely collected by PayPal (button on lower right side of home page). On the payment review page, please click on “Add special instructions to the seller” and indicate your donation is an Ironman donation. This will allow the church to track your donation and allow me to thank you personally for your gift.

I will provide updates on my Facebook page and the church will update the progress on their page as well. On September 28, if you would like to track my progress, you can visit the Ironman site. There will be information for tracking athletes posted there. Please send prayers and positive thoughts my way to complete this journey.

<http://www.ironman.com/triathlon/events/americas/ironman/chattanooga.aspx#axzz3BvqdpTaK>

Thanks for your consideration!

Bill Moran



## Prayer Requests & Concerns

As the new school year is underway and our students are getting back into their routines, here is "A Student's Prayer" to help them remember that they are loved by God and can be a messenger of that love to others...

**Dear God,**

**When I walk out my door in the morning, help me remember I'm still a kid and I don't need to pretend to be something else. Even though I want to look cool and fit in, remind me that it's not worth doing anything I don't want to do just to get people to like me. You love me, God, so write those words on my heart every day so I know that just being me is enough. If I see a kid who is different and picked on, remind me that you love them, too, and help me to always be kind and fair and give everyone a chance. When my pulse starts to race and I feel my face turning red because I don't know the answers in class, slow down my anxious thoughts and give me the courage to ask my teachers for help when I need it, and to help others when I can if I see they are struggling. Remind me, God, that even the worst day I have at school isn't going to be the end of my story, and that there's no one who can make me feel bad about myself if I don't let them. Show me who likes me not just when I'm smart and popular, but also when I'm silly and awkward and make mistakes, who will be my true friend and teach me to be a true friend in return. God, keep an eye on me, even if I don't remember to talk to You very often, or even if I pretend I don't know you... I really do want You in my life because You are the One Who will always be with me, who will always listen to anything I want to say and take me seriously, even my fears, and will never, ever stop loving me. If I forget to say it later, God, thank you. Amen.**

Within the St. Andrews family and beyond, we also particularly remember in prayer:

Elizabeth Bridges and family, Barbara and Bob Beacon, David and Betty Ellsworth, Margaret Morgan and family, Danny Martin, Krystal Black, Barbara Blocker, Grace Daniels, Tina Eason, Fran Michaels, Heather Siebert, Linda Strickland, Kathy Stubbs, Thelma Thacker, Melda Burleson, Foy and Turner families, Sherrie Tolley, Ethel Guy, Mike Parsons, the Wingard family, the students and teachers across the nation who are returning to school, as well as God's Church worldwide, those in leadership and all who are called to minister, serve, and protect others.

## Mark your calendars...



**Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm is the**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blessing of the Animals**

On the front lawn of St. Andrews-

Invite all your four-footed friends!

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Closets full, garage overflowing, need to make some room?

Then bring your things to sell **Saturday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> (rain or shine)** at our church-wide yard sale to benefit St. Andrews. Space is available for pre-sale storage in the Fellowship Hall. Check the webpage for more details coming soon!

*There is no Session meeting  
this month...  
Elders please plan to meet  
Sunday, October 12th  
after worship*



**The 36th Annual Charlotte CROP Hunger  
Walk will take place on:**

**Sunday, October 19, 2014**

St. Andrews will once again be helping out to support the fight against hunger in our community. If you are interested in being a volunteer or in participating in the walk, please see either Maryland Ferguson or Kathy Burch for more details.

We hope you will be part of this important cause!



**REMEMBER TO FOLLOW  
ST. ANDREWS ON FACEBOOK  
AND SHARE OUR POSTS WITH YOUR FRIENDS!**