

- **Calling All Church Singers. Join the Summer Singers!** Come share your voice and fellowship this summer with our Summer Singers! We will lead the singing during the 10:00am Worship Services on **July 26** and **August 30**. Join us at **8:30am** for coffee, doughnut holes, and a review of the hymns and songs. At **9:00am**, we will rehearse in the sanctuary with the Praise Band before worship. There are **no extra rehearsals**, and **no music-reading experience required**. The hymns and songs will be familiar and easy to learn. A sign up poster will be in the foyer July 12. It's a wonderful opportunity to sing and worship alongside fellow church members!
- **Christmas in July.** We will again collect \$20 gift cards for Target or Walmart every Sunday in July. These cards are given to families at North Dover and South Toms River Elementary schools to make Christmas a little brighter. Financial donations will also be accepted. Last year we collected 140 cards. Can we match or beat that!??
- **The Church Office** will not be running on normal hours Friday, July 3 through July 10. Voice mail messages will be checked intermittently and handled. For food pantry requests please contact Dave Richardson, cell: 732-779-1869, wdrichardson1960@verizon.net for building maintenance issues contact Dave or any Trustee member. Prayer Chain requests email Sue Herflicker, flikerfarm96@gmail.com. Emergency situations contact Pastor Anna, 325-669-4380, anna@standrewtr.org.
- **Meals That Heal.** Please join us on Wednesday, **July 15** for our annual summer barbecue. Our menu will include hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, pasta salad, and watermelon for dessert. There is food for all and all are welcome! Fellowship Hall 5:00pm-6:00pm.
- **The Sermon Series July 12-August 2 will be "Summer Reading List."** To prepare for each week, Pastor Anna encourages you to read a book of the Bible. If you'd like to glean more from each week's sermon, read the following books before each Sunday. **July 12 - Ruth / July 19 - Jonah / July 26 - Philippians / August 2 - James.**
- **Trustee News.** The Trustees are excited to share some very important news. In April, an opportunity was forwarded to the Church from the Annual Conference for the possible housing of an Battery Energy Storage System to be constructed in the back of the St. Andrew property. The system is essentially several large batteries placed on a concrete platform, placed behind a privacy fence, that draws energy from the electric grid during non-peak overnight hours when energy costs are low and then feeds the energy back into the system during high demand hours when the cost of energy is higher. This process of taking and then releasing energy, allows for the system to generate income. The projected revenue that the Church should receive is \$75,000/year. The project requires NO expense from St. Andrew - from its planning origins through construction and activation. It is essentially free money for the cost of leasing some land, of which we have plenty not being used. The project requires Toms River zoning approvals, including public hearings. If approved, the time-frame is approximately 24 months to completion. The Trustees endorsed the project in May and Agreements have been submitted to allow the first project planning actions to proceed.

The Trustees have also embarked on another energy-based project - installing solar panels on the roof of the Fellowship Hall and the Parsonage. As a result of seeking information on installing panels on the recently (2024) installed Parsonage roof, the Church discovered that there are significant incentives for installing panels on non-profit buildings - including Churches. The company contacted - same one the

Church considered 15 years ago - submitted proposals for both buildings. The contractor-of-choice has installed systems on another UMC Church, and is actively installing additional panels on the same Church. The Church leaders couldn't say enough good things about their work with this contractor. As the incentives that make this project extraordinarily financially attractive expire in the beginning of July, the Trustees endorsed the project and contracts were signed. The incentives require permitting from the Toms River building department by July 4. Applications for permits were made at the end of May and as soon as approved, the permits will be secured. The Church will be expending \$167,000 for the construction of both systems. With the expected incentives (40% of cost immediately returned), 15 years of credits and saving approximately \$21,000-22,000 per year in electric bills, the Church should recover all of its expended monies in 4-5 years. At that point, the Church will still be receiving \$10,000 in credits for another 10 years and there should be no annual electrical costs going forward. A 25 year cash flow analysis, suggests that the Church could benefit by more than \$700,000, with incentives and credits totaling \$226,000 and electrical savings upwards of \$500,000. Final decisions on financing the installation of the system are still being evaluated (but rest assured, the Church has the funds to finance it).

The Trustees understand these are BIG developments and will make a short presentation to the Church at the July 5 Church service and answer questions following the service.

Blood Drive Thursday, July 2 from 1-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome! For an appointment call 800-933-2566.

- ***United Methodist Men's Breakfast.*** The men's breakfast will be on **Sunday, July 12.** Breakfast will be served at 8:00am and be available till just after 9:00am. All men are welcome and encouraged to come!
- ***United Women in Faith (UWF).*** Save the date for our ever popular ice cream social **August 20 at 6:30pm.** Lots of ice cream, including dairy free, with a yummy assortment of toppings and a community sing-along will make for a very pleasant evening. See you then!
- ***Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 3-7 from 6-8:30pm.*** Come join us as we get ready to discover the bigness of God in the smallest of things! Volunteers are needed and we hope you will invite the children in your neighborhood & extended family – we are going to have a great time! ***Registration is now open for children entering K-6th grade.*** Children and volunteers can sign up through the link below, or you can also find the link on our website at standrewtr.org or <https://forms.gle/nQKMr5CAgArRP8v77>. Any questions: contact Lisa Lockwood at LMLockwood1@gmail.com.
- ***Veterans Ministry. Save the date-12th Annual Project Be A Hero Event.*** Join us at the Clinton Elks on **August 15, from 2-8pm!** Live music by Ten Gallon Matt, Moore Bros. Band & The Big Fuss! This year, we are proud to support Military Support Alliance-Food Warriors program. We will be raising much needed funds to help Michael Schaffer and his volunteers at Food Warriors ensure that the food pantry at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey can provide non-perishable food to food insecure New Jersey active duty military and their families. Event admission is \$50 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance. [Tickets can be purchased online through Zeffy](#), or you can call us at (908) 319-3533, email info@projectbeahero.org. Sit at picnic tables under the pavilion or bring your own folding chair and sit under a shade tree or your pop-up tent. For more information contact Sgt. David Nordt, Veterans Ministry Leader at 732-703-0064 or veteransatstandrewumc2019@gmail.com. Always remembering our freedom isn't free.
- ***WOW! Women's Book Club.*** Calling all Women who love to read! Our selection for July is *A Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. We will meet via ZOOM on **July 18 at 10:00am.** Happy Reading!