

Mark Your Calendar

8.2

Intercessory Prayer

8.4

Work Begins on Education Building
Restroom Remodel

8.5

Blessing of the Backpacks /
Promotion Sunday

8.7

Book Club at City Café

8.8

Captain's Table at The Cabin
in Gonzales (note different location)

8.9

United Methodist Women (UMW)
Hand & Heart Circle

8.19

Acolyte Training

UMKids Kick-off for 2018-19 School Year

8.26

Jazz Sunday

Safe Sanctuaries Training

8.27

First Day of Preschool
for 2018-19 School Year

8.28

UMW's Days End Circle

St. Andrew's UMC Mission Statement

At St. Andrew's, we intend to create a Spirit-filled home for sharing the story of God's work in our lives.

Our passion is to bring others to Christ in innovative ways while nurturing our church family.

St. Andrew's U.M.C. Sunday Service Times

8:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

9:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship
Sunday School - All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship



17510 Monitor Ave.,
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

225.752.2903

www.SAUMCBR.com

THE ANCHOR

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Andrew's UMC

August 2018

"Let's Worship!"

* The 8:30 AM worship service will officially be named "New Life: A Contemporary Service for Modern Lives" on August 12.



Nothing about the service will change; a named service will help identify this service as different from the traditional worship services, as well as help encourage others to invite their friends to join them in worship.



* Our Music Ministry is proud to sponsor "Jazz Sunday" on August 26. We will have only two worship services that day at 8:30 and 11:00, and each will feature jazz musicians from our area joining with our choir. Please invite your family and friends to join you on this special day of worship.

* An update... our new stage lighting has been presenting a few problems with glare, so we are working with a company in Rayne to move the lights. Please be patient with us as we resolve this issue.





LET'S HIT THE BOOKS!

St. Andrew's Book Club is meeting the first Tuesday of each month at City Café at 6:30 p.m.



August's book selection is The Lying Game, by Ruth Ware.

Please join us **Tuesday, August 7!**



Sweet Hour of Prayer
1st Thursday of each month
10:00 AM
St. Andrew's Prayer Room

The intercessory prayer group meets the first Thursday of each month in St. Andrew's prayer room, and all are welcome!



Join us at The Captain's Table Lunch Group, a time of fellowship geared towards

50+ crowd, on **Wednesday, August 8, at 11 AM at The Cabin in Gonzales.** We will meet at the church at 10 AM to carpool to the restaurant. Meals will be Dutch treat.

RSVP by Monday, August 6, to kagnew@saumcbr.com.

Sanctuary Flowers



Flowers are given by members of our congregation each week in honor or in memory of someone special. Please complete the Flower Calendar Binder found in the Narthex or contact Karen in the church office if you would like to reserve a date. Cost is \$55, and you may either take the flowers home to enjoy or donate the arrangement to our Flower Ministry for distribution to those in the hospital or are homebound.



Volunteer Spotlight

This month's volunteer spotlight shines on Diana Griffin. Diana donates her time twice a week by helping out in the church office. She answers phones, folds bulletins, records church attendance, and assists with many other tasks that help the church office run smoothly. She is also an officer in St. Andrew's United Methodist Women.

Her positive attitude and lovely smile brightens the office, and we are so grateful for her willingness to serve.

Recognizing excellence in heart and deed.

August 2018 Greeters

	8:30	9:45	11:00
August 5	Sharon Caughman Stephanie Fonté	Jennifer Nixon	Alrene Brewton Gerry Menard
August 12	Gwen Bourgeois Dot Morris	Maxine Rak Gene Rak	Laura Menard Vickie Sessions
August 19	Ray Davis Phil Moser	Vicki McGuire	Carolyn Pittman David Durham
August 26 Jazz Sunday	Debbie Bonner Joyce Schoonmaker	no 9:45 service today	Susan Lefever Dana Kelly

November 10th--SAVE THE DATE!



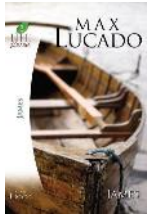
Women of St. Andrew's UMC -- Mark your calendars for "A Day Away", Saturday, November 10th . This retreat day for women will be a time to slow down, put away your "to do" lists, and have a creative time for reflection, prayer, renewal. We will gather at St Andrew's UMC from 9am until 3pm and keep the day simple. Wear your comfy clothes, bring your slippers if you like!

Registration information will be posted soon.

Should you have any questions, please Georgia Ford (225-603-9046 or joleeford@gmail.com).

Adult Christian Education News

Coming This Fall!



Life Lessons from the Book of James

Sep 12 – Oct 17 6:30-7:30 PM Facilitator: Russ Rome

Do your Monday actions reflect your Sunday worship? How about your claims to faith? James, the half-brother of Jesus, wasn't impressed with talk. He knew that a life of faith was all about actions that revealed a difference in a person's life. For him, it was not that works *save* the Christian, but that they *mark* the Christian. His message is bare-knuckled as he encourages, challenges, and confronts, offering practical words and admonitions to live out our faith.

This six-week study brings the Bible to life with intriguing questions, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections. Each week, a portion of the book of James will be read by the class, followed by discussion and reflection. A book is available, but not necessary. There is **no required midweek preparation**.

Midtown Lunch Table Talk

Beginning in September, 11:30 AM monthly

This is a new small group being formed to meet the needs of busy people who may not have time for an evening small group study. The group will meet at a midtown restaurant (e.g. Jefferson Highway, Perkins Rowe, etc.) during the lunch hour once a month (or once a week, if the group chooses) to discuss Christian applications to current cultural situations, study the Bible, and fellowship.

Look for more details coming up. Interested in participating in the launching of this new small group? Contact Marcy mbrennan@saumcbr.com or 752-2903.



Disciple 2 Fast Track Into the Word, Into the World

Genesis-Exodus

Sep 10 – Nov 26 6:00-7:00 PM

This study is a 24-week curriculum broken into two 12-week modules. The first module, which begins September 10, covers the books of Genesis and Exodus. The second 12-week module, beginning in January, covers the books of Luke and Acts.

The first module will immerse you in the books of Genesis and Exodus. You read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings. Each meeting includes a short video, review of scripture, group discussion and a spiritual discipline.

The Disciple Bible Study curriculum is life changing and transformational. You will emerge with a deeper understanding of the Bible and your response to scripture. Cost of the workbook is \$15.

Holy Conversations

Late Summer,
Following 11:00 service



Sometime late this summer or early in the fall, St. Andrew's will offer a workshop to help us to have "holy conversation" with each other and with our friends, families, colleagues.

We all have healthy and unhealthy ways of relating to conflict. However, growing as a disciple of Christ will require difficult conversations. Learning to manage our emotions, being able to respectfully engage those with whom we disagree or have an unsettled issue, and owning our perspectives are not innate skills.

This workshop will help us to learn skills and trust in the transforming presence of God's grace as we engage in holy conversations. The aim is to move us from skepticism to curiosity on to openness to encounter God's grace.

The workshop will be offered following worship on Sunday morning. Lunch will be served.

Adult Sunday School

If you have never attended Sunday School at St. Andrew's, or if it has been awhile, consider checking out one of our classes. We have a wide variety of class styles and curriculums. Contact Marcy Brennan in the church office or at mbrennan@saumcbr.com. Here are our current groups:

Koinonia – Room 1 Admin Building; all ages welcome; explores popular literature DVDs about Christian living

Agapé – Room 204 Ed Building; Gen Xrs, singles and couples; Bible based and topical

Remnants – Room 202 Ed Building; bridges baby boomers and GenXrs; uses different studies relating to topics chosen by attendees

Dallas Fiandt Fellowship – Room 2 Admin Building; young at heart with creaking bones; Bible studies chosen by the group

Bible Talk – Room 3 Admin Building; all ages; weekly lectionary study (selected Bible passages)

Transitions – Room 4 Admin Building; ages 22 through 39+/-; DVD and topical studies



Education Fair
Sep 9 between services

On September 9, St. Andrew's will hold an Education Fair in the courtyard and narthex to provide information on adult small groups, Sunday morning study groups, spiritual growth groups and life groups. Make sure to stop at the booths and gather information about what St. Andrew's has to offer.

Facilitator and
Leadership Workshop
Sep 23 after worship



Have you considered offering your time and energy to facilitating a small group, short term study, long term study, committee or work team? You may be surprised to learn how rewarding it can be, and it's not nearly as scary as you might think!

On September 23 following the 11:00 service, we will conduct a short workshop for those who are interested or have been identified as potential leaders to come together and learn how being a group facilitator at St. Andrew's might fit your schedule. Lunch will be served. Look for more details in the near future.

Pet Ministry



SAUMC is offering a pet ministry to members and their pets. We thank God for the creation of our companions and we understand the difficulty of caring for them when they are sick and saying goodbye to them when their earthly time is over. We want to pray for you during those times.

Please contact De Ette Dalrymple (deette@flightybug.com) to volunteer or advise of a need.

Sermons Available Online



Did you know that our sermons are available on our website? That's right! Every Sunday Pastor Tom's sermons are recorded and can be found on our website by Wednesday of each week. Just look on the middle of our site at www.SAUMCBR.com under Sermon Archive. You never have to miss a sermon and you can share it with your friends.

Comment and Suggestion Box

For your convenience we now have a comment and suggestion box in the narthex on the bookshelf. If you have an idea or something that you would like to share just fill out an index card and place the card in the box provided. The staff will go over the cards at the following staff meeting.



Volunteers Needed for 9:45 AM Sunday Services



The Worship Team is asking for volunteers for Greeters and Ushers for our 9:45 AM Sunday services. Please contact Susan Lefever at 225-939-3307.



Missions

The United Methodist Men have volunteered to help Congregational Care in several ways.

They have offered to help St. Andrew's families or individuals who need minor household repairs. The men also have offered to transport items when needed (several have pickup trucks). In addition, they are willing to provide a church member a ride to a doctor or a church event if needed. Please phone Harold Choate 362-8811, Ken Musick 335-1237 or Karen in the church office 752-2903.

HOPE Ministries

Always keep HOPE Ministries in mind when buying food. St. Andrew's has always been a faithful provider to this ministry. A large bin is located in the back of the Narthex for Food Bank donations.



HOPE Ministries can always use the following:

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Rice & Red/ Kidney Beans
- Flour & Sugar
- Cereal & Grits
- Juice
- Toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, mouthwash, etc.)
- Canned Meats/Vegetables
- Mac n' Cheese
- Diapers
- Paper products
- Recycled plastic grocery bags

If you would like to volunteer to work or take food to HOPE Ministries (occasionally or frequently), please contact Celia Musick at 756-8964 or Ray Davis at 753-5100.

change to make a change

August: Cuba Mission Team from St. Andrew's UMC

On October 22nd, five (5) people from St. Andrew's UMC (Ken Music, Jenn Greg, Rev. Tom Howe, Bill Short and John Buetel) will join with other United Methodists from Louisiana to travel to the island nation of Cuba. There will be two teams - one stationed in the eastern end of the country to finish repairs and upgrades to a church. The other team will be stationed in Havana and will spend their time at a number of Methodist churches. During the day, this team will help rebuild and repair churches with the help of the local people, and in the evenings, attend vibrant worship services and meet with pastors and local church leaders. The Havana team will include the group from St. Andrew's, and will be headquartered at the Methodist Conference Center located near the Hotel Libre (Havana Hilton).

While in the country there will be an emphasis on forging relationships. The hope is by engaging in activities together, friendships can be established that will help set aside any misconceptions each group may have about the other, building on the common factor that each group shares: faith in Jesus Christ.

Please keep this team in your prayers. You may also help by donating needed items as the time of the trip draws closer, such as over-the-counter pain relievers (non-liquid), and children's vitamins (not gummies). This list will be made available in late August.

What's up with the Bus? Here's some FAQ's...



Thank you to all who have made contributions thus far to the Bus Fund. As we get month-end numbers we will report progress via this newsletter. If you wish to make a donation, simply mark "Bus Fund" in the memo line of your check.

Q – What type of Bus?

A – A gently used 15 passenger bus similar to the one in the photo above, complete with church logo and markings on the sides.

Q – Who can drive it?

A – This size bus does NOT require a special driver's license, known as a CDL. Our church bus use policy will set specific criteria for who is authorized to drive. They must demonstrate knowledge of the bus use policies and also demonstrate ability to operate it by doing an accompanied driving test. A list of approved drivers will be maintained by the church office.

Q- Who is able to use the bus?

A – Any church ministry area may use the bus; examples are the Youth, Children, Sunday School groups of any age, Boy Scouts, Pre School, Methodist Women, and Methodist Men.

Q – How much will the bus cost?

A - Our bus fund must reach \$53,000 before a bus will be purchased. A good quality used 15-passenger bus will cost about \$48,000 with Tax, Title & License. We presently have \$30,000 in the bus fund so an additional \$23,000 is needed. This fund will also provide for the first 6 months estimated ownership costs

Q- Is there a fee to use the bus?

A – A modest use fee will be asked in addition to replacement of any fuel used. One policy will be to always return the vehicle full of gas. Experiences with other churches with similar buses suggest we anticipate needing \$300 per month in revenue to offset maintenance and repairs.

Q – What are some ways we expect the bus to be used?

A- The best way to answer this question is to look at some history of transportation needs in some of our ministry areas. Obviously Youth are the big users.

Youth Leadership Retreat – Meth. Conference Center - Woodworth, LA (annual)

Senior High Retreat - Meth. Conference Center - Woodworth, LA (annual)

Junior High Retreat - Meth. Conference Center - Woodworth, LA (annual)

Confirmants visit with the Bishop - Meth. Conference Center - Woodworth, LA (annual)

Big Stuff – Summer Youth Rally – Panama City, FL (annual)

Great Day of Service – Youth mission day – various locations local (annual)

OWLS trips – "Older" members - Museum visits, concerts, lunches out of town

Saeger-Brown UMCOR Relief Depot – Day of mission work, all ages – Baldwin, LA

Happening weekend (youth retreat) - Meth. Conference Center - Woodworth, LA (annual)

Happening staff training – same as above

5th Sunday District Youth Gathering – local – (4X/yr)

However, what's most exciting are the possibilities. With our own bus, this church will find many MORE ways to enhance the ministry of Jesus Christ and make disciples of many more people, young and old.

Look for more details in next month's newsletter. Let's keep on rollin'

Thank you!

Thank you for all the thoughtful food delivery to our home following Laurie's death. She would have loved it! It certainly helped out with all the company.

The Louis LoBue Family

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the generous gifts of food and service. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Lisa Whitaker & Stacy Roshto
(daughters of Jackie Roshto)



As a reminder, the Trustees as part of long term campus improvements, will be remodeling the 4 main restrooms in the Education Building beginning Saturday, August 4 and finishing Friday, August 17. These will be unavailable on Sunday August 5th and 12th.



Join us on Mondays at 5:15 p.m. in the Friendship Building. REFIT® is a community-centered, value-positive fitness experience

designed to engage the heart as a muscle and a soul. Cost is \$5 per class.

Save the Dates!

Monday,
October 1



38th Annual Golf

Classic at Beau

Chene Country Club,

Mandeville

To benefit the

Methodist Children's

Home of Greater

New Orleans



Sunday,
Fall Festival October 28th
& Trunk or Treat 4-6 PM



The Summer Co-Ed Softball League schedule for August 2018 is below. All games are at 6:30 PM at St. Andrew's unless otherwise noted.

Come support St. Andrew's team as they knock 'em out of the park!

August Schedule

- Thursday, 8/2 - Broadmoor v St. Andrew's (at Broadmoor Middle)
- Tuesday, 8/7 - Jefferson v St. Andrew's
- Thursday, 8/9 - St. Andrew's v Broadmoor
- Tuesday, 8/14 - St. Andrew's v Jefferson
- Tuesday, 8/21 - University v St. Andrew's (at Westdale Middle)



2 Corinthians 9:6-15 says: *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

Stewardship defines our practical obedience in the administration of everything under our control, everything entrusted to us. It is the consecration of one's self and possessions to God's service. Stewardship acknowledges in practice that we do not have the right of control over ourselves or our property—God has that control. It means as stewards of God we are managers of that which belongs to God, and we are under His constant authority as we administer His affairs. Faithful stewardship means that we fully acknowledge we are not our own but belong to Christ, the Lord, who gave Himself for us.

As we each consider what God's Grace has meant in our lives, let us ask ourselves what our response to that Grace will be!



The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6.

Welcome to August! UMW ladies will soon be gathering their seeds of good company, harvesting their crops of good deeds, planting their bulbs of good food, and storing their Fruits of the Spirit. Then they will pour everything out in their mission, disciple, and fellowship activities for the coming fall. All ladies of St. Andrews are invited to join us at any function, we enjoy company!

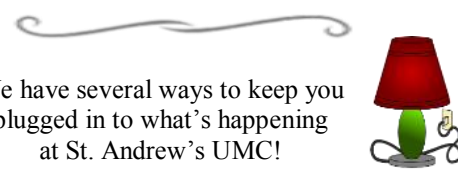
Upcoming circle meetings:


- Hand and Heart Circle Thursday, August 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the church office.
- Joy Circle Will not meet this month.
- Day's End Circle Tuesday, August 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Rita Smith's house.

***The Executive Committee will have a planning meeting in August and will be receiving information about the date by e-mail.

Janene and I are excited to announce that our speaker for the upcoming Fall General Meeting in September will be Doug Hall. He is the Development Officer for our area of the Louisiana United Methodist Children's Home. We donate to all three Children's Homes in Ruston, Mandeville, and Sulphur. He will share the latest information about these homes, as well as the OWL, Methodist Foster Care, and the new home to be built in Robert, La. Plan to attend this General Meeting on Friday, September 28, at 9:30 a.m. in the administration building. Hand and Heart Circle will be hosting this event.

For more information or ride requests, please e-mail Lori Cutrer at loriart-ed@yahoo.com, or Janene Robinson at jrobinson611@cox.net.



 **Sign up for St. Andrew's text and email service!**


To join, please "Text Thrive to 84576". Click on the link to sign up for both text and email messages. You do NOT need to create a password. You DO need to confirm your email in the verification email sent to you.

This will serve as an additional means of communication for those who prefer texting over Facebook and email. Text messages will be sent when important announcements need to be communicated in addition to our weekly emails. This will be helpful during weather emergencies when we do not have internet service. You can opt out at any time.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 752-2903 or ifo@saumebr.com.

Thanks for staying connected to St. Andrew's UMC!

Donna Leggett
Director of Communications

 Did you know that St. Andrew's has two (2) Facebook pages? We sure do and we offer updates on the fun and exciting events going on in the life of St. Andrew's.

You can find our pages under St. Andrew's UMC Baton Rouge and St. Andrew's United Methodist Youth. Be sure to click "like" then click the little triangle in the box right next to the word like. A box will drop down. Next, click "yes" to receive notifications. And just like that, you will receive posts from St. Andrew's directly to your page. When you receive a notification be sure to like, comment and/or share. This helps us to spread the word and reach even more people.

This is an easy way to invite your friends to join us in the events that interest your family. I'll be looking for you on Facebook!

Donna Leggett
Director of Communications

August Youth News



Youth Ignite – August 18th

This event is open to anyone who may want to learn more about the Youth in the Methodist Community and to also build lasting Friendships!

Hosted by the New Orleans & Baton Rouge Districts.

Where: First Grace UMC, 3401 Canal St, NO, LA

Time: 7:30 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per participant (includes Conference Shirt, Meal, and Fare for the streetcar to City Park)

Please let [Kasey](#) know ASAP if you will attend!



Manna Bags - \$5
For \$5 you get 1 to give away and send 1 to Open Air Ministry. Join us and help the homeless around BR.

BigStuf 2018 was AMAZING!

Originals know where they started. Originals stand out. Originals know when they see one. Originals have a crew. Originals are ordinary. Jesus is our Original!



August Youth Calendar

Wednesday, August 1 st	7:00 – 8:00pm	Church-fil-A
Sunday, August 5 th	9:45 – 10:45am 5:00 – 7:00pm	Youth Sunday School STAY Sunday Fellowship
Wednesday, August 8 th	7:00 – 8:00pm	Church-fil-A
Saturday, August 11 th	10:00am- 12:00pm	DCYM Meeting @ Main Library
Sunday, August 12 th	9:45 – 10:45am 5:00 – 7:00pm	Youth Sunday School STAY Sunday Fellowship
Wednesday, August 15 th	7:00 – 8:00pm	Church-fil-A
Saturday, August 18 th	7:30am-4:30pm	DCYM Youth Ignite in New Orleans
Sunday, August 19 th	9:45 – 10:45am 5:00 – 7:00pm	Youth Sunday School STAY Sunday Fellowship
Wednesday, August 22 nd	7:00 – 8:00pm	Church-fil-A
Sunday, August 26 th	9:45 – 10:45am 5:00 – 7:00pm	Youth Sunday School STAY Sunday Fellowship
Wednesday, August 29 th	7:00 – 8:00pm	Church-fil-A

Church-fil-A



Join us every Wednesday night at the Chick-fil-A on Millerville from 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

There will be a devotion, fellowship, and ICE CREAM!

Text “STAY” to 84576 to sign up to receive both text and email messages from St. Andrew’s UMC Youth Group (STAY).

Youth Week 2018

Area 51



Scavenger Hunt



Church-fil-a



Random Acts of Fun!



UpTown Climbing



STAY (St. Andrew's Youth)

- Sundays, 5-7 PM in the Friendship Building
- Wednesdays, 7-8 PM at Chick-fil-A on Millerville

STAY is open to all 7th-12th graders, and you are encouraged to bring your friends to join you as we discover more about Christ, each other, and ourselves!



It's time for UMKids!!

**Sunday August 19th
5:00-6:30 pm**

UMKids will kick off the new school year. *Bring your friends!*

All 4th-6th grade kids are invited to join this young youth ministry. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 5:00-6:30 pm in Room 3 in the Administration Building.

Join us for fun and fellowship!!!

St. Andrew's UMC
Blessing of the Backpacks
August 5 @ 8:30 & 11
9:30
Enjoy refreshments in the courtyard
9:45
Children will promote to their next grade level

Sunday, August 5
8:30 & 11:00
All students and education staff are invited to bring their backpacks or tote bags to worship for a special blessing to begin the new school year surrounded in prayer.
9:30
Refreshments will be served in the courtyard.
9:45
Children will promote up to this year's grade

Exciting things are happening in the New School Year!!!
Check out our annual printable children's ministry calendar www.saumcbr.com

- Making wiser choices
- Building stronger relationships
- Developing a deeper faith

Starting this August! Sunday mornings 9:45 children will enjoy new bible study that weaves music, bible stories, and creative activities together to reinforce one clear simple bottom line each week so kids can walk away and remember what matters most.

If you are looking for ways to share gifts of time or talent, our Children's Ministry offers many exciting opportunities!
Please contact: Kathy Craft Cell: (225) 975-2217
KCraft@saumcbr.com



LIVING REMEMBRANCES

The following gifts have been received in memory of someone special:

In memory of Jackie Roshto
Given by UMW Joy Circle
The Bonvillain Family
Jim & Marian Gilbert
Diana Griffin
Lucile Holmes
Art & Judi Miller
Lonna Willingham

St. Andrew's accepts memorial or honorarium gifts at any time and in any amount. This is a wonderful way to remember or honor someone who has been a special influence in your life.

Please see Marcy Brennan in the Finance Office should you have any questions.



STAFF DIRECTORY

PASTOR	Rev. Thomas Howe capt_ten@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS	Libby Shackelford LShackelford@saumcbr.com
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	Kathy Craft KCraft@saumcbr.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Karen Agnew KAgnew@saumcbr.com
INTERIM YOUTH DIRECTOR	Kasey Waller KWaller220@gmail.com
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SEXTON	Eric Alexander
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR	Janine Borne JBorne@saumcbr.com
PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Heidi Towns HTowns@saumcbr.com
MINISTERS	Every Church Member

Happy Birthday, August Birthdays!



Sharon Barton	8/1	Carol Bernard	8/16
Jack Momenzadeh	8/1	Georgia Ford	8/16
Jim Scarton	8/1	Laura Moser	8/16
Carol Ann Rome	8/2	Sonny Baker	8/17
Anastasia Williams	8/2	Tom Casaday	8/18
Talbert Barger, Jr.	8/4	Ryan Stevens	8/18
Barbara Gilliam	8/5	Carol Vaughn	8/18
William Brock Burgess	8/5	Gerrie Williams	8/20
Reece Katherine Singleton	8/8	Merilyn Artman	8/21
Susan Kern	8/11	Mason Wiltcher	8/22
Andi Sessions	8/11	Eric Alexander	8/23
Heather Dugas	8/12	Ken Waller	8/23
Charlie George	8/12	Dionne Harter	8/25
Tony Pittman	8/13	Skylar Merrett	8/26
Lisa Whitaker	8/13	Vinnie Ruiz	8/27
Kyle Boiteaux	8/14	Nancy Wright	8/28
Andy Kern	8/14	Abigail Brown	8/31
Mollie Choate	8/15	Vel Knight	8/31
Martha Davis	8/15		



“Annual Conference is boring.” I’ve heard it many times. That was true in the past, but not anymore. This year not only was it not boring, it was life-giving!

The three-year theme (2018-2020) echoes our mission statement: “Making Disciples, Transforming the World.” This year’s subtheme was “Together.” In keeping with the subtheme, Dr. Maria Dixon Hall spoke to us about cultural intelligence, an awareness and understanding of the cultural background of the people we encounter. One of the highlights for me included her telling us that her students at SMU tell her that one of the reasons for membership decline in the church is that we are not having authentic conversations about what matters. She explained that Authentic Conversation can happen, but not until we know each other and until we know ourselves. You can watch both her talks at <https://bit.ly/2uSjXOI>. She was an engaging speaker and it’s worth the time to hear what she had to say.

We enjoyed great worship! There’s nothing like 1000 clergy and laity joining together in community to experience the presence of God.

If course, the highlight of Annual Conference for me this year was accepting a Wesley Award on behalf of the Transitions Sunday School class for their Comfort Care Caddies. The ministry was featured in Bishop Harvey’s Episcopal Address. You can see the Episcopal Address, including the video made of our Transitions class at the same link as above.

It was a great experience! Thank you for allowing me to go.

Marty Ducote