

# THE SHIELD

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-ELCA  
6 IVY HILL ROAD, RIDGEFIELD CT 06877  
On the Web at: [www.standrewselca.com](http://www.standrewselca.com)

July 2010  
PHONE: 203-438-0606

## Congregational Meetings

### July 11<sup>th</sup>

Don't miss this informational meeting to update the congregation on the status of the new building!

Our architect, John Doyle, will be here to present the site plans and schematic designs. The meeting will provide you with the latest information as well as being an opportunity to gather your input.

The meeting will be in the sanctuary immediately following worship.



### July 18<sup>th</sup>



The Church Council has called a Special Congregational meeting for Sunday, July 18, at 10:30 a.m., immediately following worship. In order to continue to live our mission, the purpose of this meeting is to address our current budget gap and hear proposals for growth.

At this meeting we will present plans for the fall worship and Sunday School schedule and discuss our current financial options.

The agenda is as follows:

- Call to Order at 10:30 a.m.
- Devotions
- Plans for the fall worship and Sunday School schedule
- Presentation of financial options and their impact on our vision. The presentation will include a motion concerning our current mortgage.

A quorum is 58 voting members. Please mark your calendars and save the date of July 18 for this very important meeting.

## Christmas in July?



Why not celebrate Jesus' birth in July? On Sunday, July 25 we will celebrate Christmas in July as we commemorate Jesus' birth and sing some favorite Christmas carols. These hymns have been turned in each year as "favorites" and we look forward to singing them together in the warmth of summer as well as in the cold of winter. Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday on July 25.

## **SIMPLY GIVING**

### **Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving**

Simply Giving is our new Electronic Funds Transfer program (EFT in Bank-speak), that allows contributions to be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. This new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Signing up is easy: just print, complete, and sign the authorization form from the link below. Then give it to one of the pastors or to Dave Grove. If you have questions, you may email Dave at [financialsecretary@standrewselca.com](mailto:financialsecretary@standrewselca.com).

Link to Simply Giving Authorization Form:

<http://www.standrewselca.com/Authorization%20Form.pdf>

Authorization forms are also available in the church narthex.

## **Synod School of Lay Ministry**

Next class forming for synod's School of Lay Ministry; register by Aug. 15

The next two-year program of the New England Synod's School of Lay Ministry begins with a mandatory weekend retreat Sept. 24-26 at Calumet Lutheran Camp and Conference Center, Freedom, N.H. Deadline to register is Aug. 15. The school is designed to educate and equip lay people for enhanced participation in congregational and synodical life through personal spiritual development, biblical enhancement, and life-long learning. For a brochure and application, visit [http://www.nesynod.org/resources/school\\_of\\_lay\\_ministry.php](http://www.nesynod.org/resources/school_of_lay_ministry.php) or contact the school's dean, Judy Armelin at 978-270-6026 or [judyarm22@aol.com](mailto:judyarm22@aol.com). The school graduated its second class at the recent synod assembly.



# NEW ENGLAND SYNOD

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 2010 NEW ENGLAND SYNOD ASSEMBLY - June 3-5, 2010

### Report to the Congregation

From Mark and Sue Brooks

We are honored to have served as St. Andrew's representatives at this year's Synod Assembly. It was an inspirational time of worship, fellowship, celebration, and important business. We'd like to share some highlights of the time we spent in Sturbridge, as participants in the gathering entitled, "God: Speaker, Word, and Listener."

First, some of the business that was conducted: We cast ballots for representation at the New England Synod Council, the Synod Committee on Discipline, the Synod Consultation Committee, and the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. We voted to approve the synod budget for the coming fiscal year (which begins in February 2011). We heard about servant ministry projects, such as The Global Mission Team, which will facilitate a mission trip to Honduras in August, and the Faith Kitchen, where the lines between those who are served and those who serve are blurred as church members and their "guests" work together to prepare and enjoy meals. Karl Ogren gave a rousing report on Camp Calumet. We witnessed the graduation of twelve students of the New England Synod's School of Lay Ministry.

Four resolutions were passed: Energy Stewardship; Support for Christians in the Holy Land; Immigration Legislation and Reform; and Youth Representation. Rather than summarize the entirety of each resolution, here are the impacts that each one has on our life at St. Andrew's:

- ❖ We are challenged to offer public witness of energy stewardship by determining our own "carbon footprint," conducting an energy audit, and committing to reduce our energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 percent per year, with the ultimate goal of reducing these emissions 25-40 percent by 2020. (*Something to be considered for our building project?*)
- ❖ We are asked to study and review the Kairos document, which is "the Christian Palestinians' word to the world about what is happening in Palestine." (*Something to be considered by the Adult Forum?*)
- ❖ We are urged to become familiar with the ELCA's Social Policy Resolution, "Toward Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform," with the hope that we would be moved to take action through advocacy and accompaniment. (*Something to be considered by the Wednesday night ecumenical group?*)
- ❖ We are challenged to meet the 2009 ELCA resolution of ten percent participation for youth and young adults in positions of leadership and to provide financial support for young people to participate in synod level leadership activities. (*Something to be considered by our Youth and Young Adult Groups?*)

We were blessed with the wisdom and wit of numerous speakers. Through keynote addresses and presentations of synod activities, we heard from luminaries such as Bishop Margaret Payne, The Reverend Dr. Sherman G. Hicks (ELCA representative), and The Reverend Susan Briehl (theologian, author and hymn writer). As part of the worship service on Thursday night, a very memorable homily was delivered by Pastor Elaine Hewes, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Bangor, Maine. The First Reading having been Isaiah 6: 1-8, in which a seraph holds a live coal to the lips of Isaiah to blot out his sin and empower him for the task of doing God's work, Pr. Hewes addressed the twelve graduates of the School of Lay Ministry and asked if they had been warned

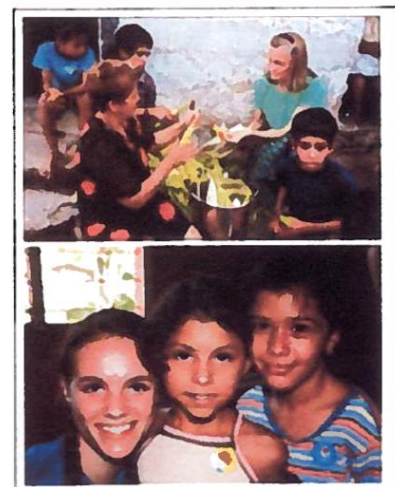
about the "live coal" part of their graduation! Once the nervous laughter died down, she brought the message back to the assembly with these words: "Isaiah of Jerusalem was sent to a particular people in a particular time and a particular place to speak a particular Word. As are we." But the question that we must ask ourselves is, What is that particular Word that we are to speak? After sharing some very funny examples of what the Word is *not*, she took us back to a lesson she learned from the pastor of her childhood, who needed a way to invigorate the students in his confirmation class. That night, she learned that the Word that runs throughout Scripture, from the first word to the last is ...*nevertheless*. Not the word you were thinking of? Not surprising. To help you understand the power of this Word, we encourage you to experience Pr. Hewes' homily for yourself by visiting the website about the assembly at [http://www.nesynod.org/events/synod\\_assembly.php](http://www.nesynod.org/events/synod_assembly.php). You can either watch her homily (in three parts on YouTube) or read it in its entirety. We guarantee that you will find it to be enlightening, entertaining, and inspiring.

Looking at the agenda for what amounts to a giant three day congregational meeting, one might be leery of ever attending such a beast! But to the contrary, the experience was truly a blessing for us. It is so easy to focus on our own small community of faith with our own troubles and dreams. The synod assembly is a real opportunity to hear from individuals who actually do work and mission that makes a difference in the lives of real people in need. St. Andrew's is a part of a greater whole. One cannot help but be inspired by the people of faith who are making daily sacrifices in service to their neighbor. One cannot help but lament the resource constraints that force budgets to limit support for expanding such endeavors. One cannot help but be thankful for the dedication of the individuals who do this work. One cannot help but realize that God's work is accomplished through people who are willing to give of themselves to make a difference in the lives of those around them. We saw and heard from people who accepted God's call. We felt connected to them, to our larger community of faith, and to Christ. We thank the congregation for allowing us to have this experience.

## HONDURAS

### MISSION TRIP

The [Global Mission Team](#) of the [New England Synod](#) is planning a mission trip to our companion synod in [Honduras Aug. 7-14](#). This trip is open to all in our synod, as well as friends and family. Participants should be 18 or older. However, children and teens also are welcome when accompanied by a parent or grandparent. Mission work includes leading [vacation bible school](#), constructing buildings and making needed health infrastructure projects such as sinks and stoves. The Global Mission Team will provide the training. Cost is \$695 per person, plus airfare. Hotel, meals and supplies are included in the fee. For more information, contact Pr. Jim Hazelwood at [jim@standrewri.org](mailto:jim@standrewri.org) or 401-322-0088 or Steve Dumas at [stevendumas@cox.net](mailto:stevendumas@cox.net).



## Time Line for Building Phase 1

The excitement builds! This timeline is displayed on the hallway bulletin board and will be updated as the project moves forward.

June 24	Building Team met with John Doyle, our architect
July 11	Plans shared with the congregation
July 20	Building Team meeting to review Congregation Comments and revise plans accordingly
August 19	Building Team meeting
August 24	Building Team meets with Council to share plans
TBD	Multiple Congregational Review Sessions
September 12	Congregational meeting for final approval of plans
September 19	Plans to neighbors
October 1	Plans submitted to Planning and Zoning
November 1	Commence Preparation of Construction Documents
February 1	Bids to go out
March 1	Submit for building permits
April 1	Break Ground



## Update from the Finance Team

The finance team has prepared a summary of the church's financial position as of June 30, 2010. If you have questions on any of this information please talk to one of the members of the finance team (Pr. Barker, Corey Smith, Dave Grove, and Chuck Hall).

Summary of Operating Balance Sheet on June 30, 2010	
Total Non-Capital Campaign Cash	\$78,243
Restricted Funds (Memorials, Organ, Wolforth, Special Needs, Youth Group)	\$29,896
Emergency Maintenance Cash Reserve	\$16,766
Net Unrestricted Cash	\$31,581

	2010 (YTD)	June 2010
Total Income	\$199,480	\$47,763
Total Expenses	\$183,292	\$41,041
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$16,188	\$6,722
Mortgage Principal Repayment	\$9,611	\$1,621
Net Surplus/(Deficit) per Budget	\$6,577	\$5,101

Summary of Capital Campaign on June 30, 2010	
Total Pledged	\$913,262
Total Received from Pledges	\$179,945
Total Net Spent (Expenses – Interest)	\$23,630
Available Capital Campaign Cash	\$156,315

# July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 5:30 pm Music Staff  6:30-9 pm Women's AA  7:00 pm Worship & Music	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 PENTECOST 6</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	<b>5</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30-9 pm Women's AA  7:30 pm Building Team & Council	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 PENTECOST 7</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Congregational Building Information Meeting 11:30 Faith & Care Brunch Groups 2 & 3	<b>12</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA	<b>13</b>  7:30 pm Stewardship Team Mtg.  7:30 pm Education Team Mtg.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 PENTECOST 8</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Special Congregational Meeting	<b>19</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA	<b>20</b>  7:30 pm Building Team Mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA  7:30 pm Council	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 PENTECOST 9</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 New Spiritual Life Team	<b>26</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6:30-9 pm Women's AA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

