

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2010

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Steps in Faith . . . We're On a Mission

Christians, following in Jesus' example, are a people of mission, of service. Jesus says at the end of Matthew, "Go out there-fore and make disciples of all nations..." These words of Christ and others in the Gospels are the foundation upon which we build a life of faith. We are a people on a mission, people who actively seek out others to serve and to share the Good News. In the 52-year history of St. Andrew, Christian mission through the people of this faith community has unfolded in an amazing variety of exciting, life-giving, and generous forms.

In this time and place, as we add to our story of a people in Christian mission, I want to make you aware of a special one-time opportunity being offered at St. Andrew for congregation members and friends. It is a unique opportunity to explore, in guided small groups, our personal and communal understandings of being "in mission."

What does the word "mission" mean to you?

What might you consider "mission work" that would be very exciting to you? Work that fires your imagination and passion?

Is your unique gift for mission and service financially supporting mission efforts, or being involved in hands-on mission service (in the church?, in the community?, in the world?) or both, or something else?

What should we keep in mind as we seek to serve Christ together in mission?

These are the questions we will be exploring in guided small groups on Sunday, August 8 between worship services from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

It is an opportunity for all of us to share with one another our hopes and dreams in mission as the people of God. It is an opportunity to become renewed and invigorated for ministry by connecting with others who share similar enthusiasm. And it is an opportunity to come together and dream big as the Spirit moves among this talented and gifted congregation.

Childcare will be provided for this event. Jr. high youth who choose to participate, and all ages above jr. high youth, are welcomed to participate in these small group "mission study circles."

The mission aspirations and directions that

arise from this event will be shared with and benefit Session, the new incoming Senior Pastor, church teams, and the full congregation.

Also, I invite those of you who were trained as a small group leader by Alban Consultant Susan Nienaber to contact secretary Colleen Jacobson (319/338.7523 or colleen@saintandrew-ic.org) if you are interested in being a study circle leader for this event. The training for small group leaders will be held at the church on Thursday, August 4 at 7 pm.

So come join this one-hour St. Andrew Mission Study Circle in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 8 between worship services. Others in the church community will be there ready to connect with you, to hear your ideas and passion about mission, to link arms with you in serving our neighbor and the world in Christ's name!

Peace,

Bob David
Interim Senior Pastor



St. Andrew Ministry Fair

Sunday, August 29

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Come and see what God is doing at St. Andrew! Enjoy ice cream sundaes and sign-up for different ministry opportunities.

Community News + Events

St. Andrew Book Sale

Donations are being taken for St. Andrew's annual book sale on Sunday, August 22. Donations may be brought to the library.

Get ready for the Ministry Fair!

This special event to share information about what's happening in the life of our congregation will be from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Sunday, August 29, in conjunction with Fellowship Team's ice cream social.

Every team, program, activity and group at St. Andrew is invited to host an information table. The tables can be used as a recruitment tool for fall programs and activities, or just to share information. We encourage the groups to decorate the tables or fill them with information. The congregation is invited to wander through the displays while enjoying ice cream that morning.

Visitors to the Fair will have the opportunity to:

- Sign up for music ensembles
- Register for Joy Club, Lighthouse, BASIC, and ETC
- Sign up to join a small group
- See how Sewing for Others is serving the world
- Visit with representatives of lots of other groups, teams and programs!

A representative from each group that wants to participate should contact the church office so we know how many tables to set up for the Fair. Each group is responsible for manning its own table. The Ministry Fair is a great opportunity to share the energy and excitement of our lively congregation!

2010 Root River Bike Trip

YES! It is time for St. Andrew's annual Root River Bike Trip. This year's trip will be the greatest adventure of your summer!! Some people say that summer ends Labor Day, so it is your last chance for some summer fun! Our trip this year is Sept. 3-6 (Labor Day weekend). Like last year, we will be at Eagle Cliff Campground and Lodge (www.eagle-cliff.com), section D (this is a new camping area), located in Lanesboro on the Root River State Trail (www.rootrivertrail.org) in southeastern Minnesota. Information packets and registration forms are available at the Welcome Table or on our website's front page.

Registrations are due, Aug 1.

Guest Lecturer

First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant will host distinguished theologian, Professor Walter Brueggemann, as its sixth annual Visiting Scholar on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15. Details of the weekend's schedule of events associated with Dr. Brueggeman's visit; lectures he will give and discussions he will lead; directions how to register (free!) and participate may be found on the front page of our website: www.saintandrew-ic.org.

Parking Lot Expanding

Session has approved the Presbyterian Men to contract with John Roffman to prepare and gravel the area immediately north of our parking lot in the back of St. Andrew. The graveled area will be used to park approximately the same number of cars that the men parked last year for the Hawkeye football games. This is because with the construction of the new sidewalk by University Heights, we can no longer park cars

on the grass in the front of the church.

The Presbyterian Men are paying for the project from proceeds that are collected for parking cars during the Hawkeye football games. The graveled area will be used to accommodate any overflow parking needs for the rest of the year. If you have any questions, please talk to one of St. Andrew's Building Team members or Graham Dameron.

Check out our website!

View pictures from past events at St. Andrew: youth music mission trip, VBS, FAITHS, F3: Faith, Family, and Fun, and Stronghold on our website: www.saintandrew-ic.org.

Thinking about Membership?

You are invited to join us for a One Spirit lunch on the second Sunday of any month to talk about your experience of ministry, life, and worship and ask any questions you may have about membership. Contact Bob at 319/338.7523 or revbob@saintandrew-ic.org if you have any questions.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Good news! The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has narrowed their search to three candidates, all of whom may be visiting Iowa City near the end of summer (though not to meet with the congregation). On the basis of these visits, the PNC may be able to identify the person who could be called as the new Pastor (Head of Staff) at St. Andrew. Please continue to pray for us.

The PNC: Lora Morgan Dunham; Bill Ford, chair; Ellyn Found; James Hemsley; Ernie Lehman; Kyle Nicholson; Nelda Wittig

Serving Opportunities

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

There is another opportunity for St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to help with the *Room For All* build in east Iowa City. On the morning of September 11, we will be landscaping and doing end-of-construction tasks at the site. Volunteers will be sought in August for this work, and there are no age restrictions for participants (families are welcome). In addition, HFH would be interested in knowing if St. Andrew members have plants or trees that could be used in the landscaping efforts. If you have plants or shrubs that you could donate to the build, please contact Becka Yucuis now at 319/338.3853 or b.yucuis@gmail.com. This will allow the HFH staff to plan as they finalize a landscape design.

Get Moving for Healthy Kids

Sunday, August 29 8:00 am
Mark your calendar for the annual *Get Moving for Healthy Kids 5K Run/Walk*. Register online after July 9 at: www.communityfoundationofjohnsoncounty.org
Proceeds to benefit Healthy Kinds Community Care school-based health clinic endowment.

Salvation Army

2 or 3 people who would be willing to serve Salvation Army Sunday Noon dinner are needed on August 8 + 29 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. If you can help, please contact Marilyn Holland at 319/338.4218 or holl1630@mchsi.com.

Small Groups

The St. Andrew Women's Book Group will meet Wednesday, August 11, to discuss *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls.

Future meetings will feature:

The Help by Kathryn Stockett (9/8)

Orange is the New Black

by Piper Kerman (10/13)

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout (11/10)

Visitors/new members are always welcome.

For location or more information, please contact Susie Pappas (319/338.0692 or susiepappas@hotmail.com).

Weekly bike rides

Summertime means bike-riding time! Scott Hendrickson will lead family bike rides every Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. Meet at the gravel parking lot across from I-Hop in Coralville. Join us as we ride part of the Clear Creek trail in Coralville at an easy, relaxed pace. All ages welcome. For more information about this opportunity for fun and family fellowship, contact Scott at hendsc@gmail.com or 319/438.2453.

Sewing for Others will have their first meeting of the fall on Friday, September 3, from 9:00 - 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall (always the first Friday of the month). There will be lots of "bagging up" of projects sewn this summer and perhaps a quilt or two to work on. It will be great to see everyone again and perhaps those of you who have not come before will join us if you are interested in this mission project of sewing for children in Haiti and other poor countries, as well as local projects. You *do not* have to be a sewer to join us, as there are several other areas in which you can help.

Children + Youth Ministries

Monday/Funday is back!

All events are for students entering or currently in jr. high.

August 2: Dodgeball At St. Andrew

August 9: [Cedar Rapids Kernels Baseball](#)

Wednesday, August 11: [Gross Night](#)

Saturday, August 14: [Adventureland](#)

Check out the front page of the [St. Andrew website](#) for more information and release forms. Questions? Contact Randy Hausler,

youth director, at 319/338.7523 or randyh@saintandrew-ic.org.

Worship + Music

Fall is quickly approaching!

Planning is underway for another great season of music making at St. Andrew! Many of our ensembles will begin rehearsals in September, so watch the *Mini-Messenger* and September *Messenger* for specific dates and times.

St. Andrew Jazz Band

Rehearsals begin Monday, August 16 at 7 pm.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lee Rabe, lmrabe@aol.com.

Stephen Ministry



Grief Comes During Many Life Events

All experience grief in our lifetime. Grief can develop during many different events -- whether the loss of a loved one, a move to a new location,

the end of a marriage, a friend moving to another location, the end of an occupation, or the end of a phase in life. Experiencing grief during these and other events is very normal and often very troubling. Should you be experiencing grief due to any event, our Stephen

Ministry team has a series of books that can assist and Stephen Ministers willing to listen. Feel free to contact one of our Stephen Leaders listed below for more information.

Stephen Ministers complete a fifty hour training program on many topics including care during life transitions, grief, and other struggles; further instruction is provided through monthly continuing education. If you think this support would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact Margie Loomer 319/351.2420, margieloomer@yahoo.com,

Andy Smothers (319/594.1089, adsmothe@gmail.com), or Pastor Kyle Otterbein (319/338.7523, revkyle@saintandrew-ic.org).

Brochures are also available in the Narthex or upon request.

Prayer Ministry

Praying for Justice and Peace

"How am I to pray for all the hungry children in the world?" a person asked. "I know how to pray for the people down the street and in my neighborhood. But all the hungry children. I don't know how to begin." Often the needs of our troubled world can seem overwhelming. Our prayers seem small and insignificant in the face of a poor economy, poverty, war, and even an oil disaster. Yet, when we open our hearts to the struggles of others, how can we not pray?

Allow your heart to guide you. What in the local, national, or world news tugs on your emotions? Where in the world would you like to give your energy of love? As you choose one over another, remember others will be making different choices, thus fairly well covering the needs. Your prayers may start out in confusion, inadequacy, or even anger. As you continue to pray, pay attention to how your prayers may change.

Hearts change in many different ways as we pray for justice and peace. Sometimes we begin with strong directives, telling God exactly what to do to bring about peace. One can study the issues extensively and believe that you know what God should do. However, this puts our self in control of the issue. God could become an instrument of your will. With awareness, prayers can shift in several ways. You can begin to pray prayers of surrender, prayers that lift the people affected by it into God's presence for a holy solution. Also, you may recognize there are ways you can act in your own community to contribute to a just and peaceful world.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: "Don't look for spectacular actions; what is important is the gift of yourselves. It is the degree of love you insert in your deeds." When we are motivated by love, writing letters to Congress people, serving in food pantries, tutoring children, registering voters and many other activities become

prayers of justice and peace. Rather than using words, we offer our prayers through acts of service.

Praying for justice and peace takes perseverance and patience. We have to be willing to pray even when we experience no response. This is when we need to revisit our theologies. How do your images of God help you in your prayers for justice and peace? A person might think like this when staying faithful to prayer: I believe God is close to us and involved in creation. I believe that God is hearing our prayers.

I believe that God's power to intervene and interact is sometimes tragically restricted in ways we cannot pretend to understand.

A social activist wrote these paradoxical words, "History belongs to the intercessors who believe the future into being."

- taken from an e-course on
Intercessory Prayer with Jane Vennard

General Assembly News

This past month the PC(USA), St. Andrew's denomination, held its 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The following is an excerpt of letter to all congregations in the PC (USA):

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38)....

Just one week ago, the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened with Scripture and music and prayer. Commissioners and advisory delegates from every presbytery across the church gathered around the baptismal font with hopeful expectation of what God's Spirit would do in and through them as they sought to discern together the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

While all assemblies are significant, this one holds particular significance in the life of the PC(USA). Among the assembly's decisions – to be ratified by presbyteries – are the addition of the [Belhar Confession](#) to *The Book of Confessions* and a revised Form of Government. Both of these items give a clear signal that we are a church that is not afraid to change – an important perspective to have in these days of great change in the church and the world. The assembly celebrated and was greatly encouraged by the commissioning of 122 young adult volunteers and 17 new mission workers

for service around the globe. Commissioners voted unanimously to renew the call to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" and were inspired by the stories of congregations that are growing in evangelism, discipleship, diversity, and servanthood. They celebrated the generosity of Presbyterians who have contributed more than \$10.5 million to relief and redevelopment work in Haiti in the wake of January's devastating earthquake.

The assembly also engaged in discussion about significant matters of faith and life – ordination standards, justice and peace in the Middle East, and civil union and marriage, to name just a few.

Information on the more than 300 assembly actions is available. Answers to frequently asked questions about the items that have already garnered media attention are attached to this letter. We commend these resources to you for their accurate and straightforward information.

[Civil Union and Marriage](#), [Form of Government](#), [Middle East Peacemaking](#), [Middle Governing Body Commission](#), [Ordination Standards](#)

While the content of the assembly's decisions is important, what may be of equal or greater importance is the manner in which commissioners and advisory delegates did their work. They debated, but did not fight. They tackled tough issues while refraining from tackling each

other. They placed great value on finding common ground as they displayed gracious, mutual forbearance toward one another. They sought the will of God within their actions, rather than regarding their decisions as the will of God. One commissioner called the experience of seeking – and finding – common ground truly "miraculous."

At the heart of being Presbyterian is the principle belief that our discernment is best done when we gather together. Being able to gather in one place, as one people, for the one Church is a powerful and transformative experience—one which dramatically shapes future generations.

The assembly has commended to the church a number of items for further study. May the good and faithful work begun in Minneapolis truly be just the beginning of a season of respectful, earnest, and gracious engagement – both in our words and in our deeds – all for the sake of the gospel.

To read the full letter and access links to the various resources, see our web page or visit: <http://ga219.pcusa.org/news/2010/7/10/post-general-assembly-pastoral-letter-moderator-an/>.

Session Minutes - June 17, 2010

Bob Lamkins, representing the Stewardship Team, presented their new proposal "Travel the Second Mile." The purpose of this financial "blitz" is to raise enough money to overcome the \$35,000 deficit in the general fund before a new senior pastor is installed. The team is asking a voluntary contribution (\$500 per family suggested) from members of the church leadership. The team would like to announce a challenge to the congregation to match the amount raised by church leaders every Sunday in July.

Eric Goers, member of the Finance Team, said that Latta Harris accounting firm will perform an audit of church finances. Eric also reported that FinanceTeam has put into

place new procedures and guidelines for counting Sunday offerings. These changes should streamline the process and provide enhanced internal control safeguards.

Mission resource support was approved for:

The Faith, Family and Fun (F3) program at St. Andrew: \$1,000
The second half the church's 2010 Habitat for Humanity pledge: \$3,750
The area's Free Medical Clinic: \$1,200
Perry Oakes' Mission with Wycliffe Bible Translators: \$2,500
Total: \$8,450

Bill Jacobson's request for a donations box to be placed in the church for a new local thrift store called *Potentially Yours* was moved, seconded

and **approved**. This new store has been started by Reach for Your Potential, Inc. Several members of the church are clients of Reach for Your Potential.

Mary Jo Abbott thanked the team for their hard work this spring finding candidates for elders, deacons and other offices.

Pastor Kyle wants the Session to be aware that the One Spirit group meets the second Sunday of each month immediately after the 11:00 service. No advance sign up is necessary. Session members are encouraged to tell new people about One Spirit.

Pastor Kyle adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm with prayer.

Stewardship



Travel the Second Mile . . .

But I say to you, if anyone compels you to go one mile, go also the second mile.

— Matthew 5:41

To our members and friends:

Here is our good long-term financial news: St. Andrew is moving in a positive direction. We are creating equity in our land (land debt reduced from \$1,285,193 to \$607,414) and reducing building debt (down to approximately \$87,012). We will have both properties paid for within two years. That is exciting!

Here is our short-term financial challenge: through May 31st, our income trailed expenses by about \$35,000. Pledge fulfillment is right on—you are honoring those commitments. We are behind mainly due to the category called "other giving"—members who don't pledge yet give throughout the year; or others who are already fulfilling a pledge commitment and choose to give more or for special occasions. While there is some seasonality to that "other giving" (meaning we should catch-up part of the shortfall by year-end), it still appears we are behind budget.

We believe a couple of factors are limiting truly spontaneous giving. One is our Pastor situation. Pastor Bob is a wonderful pastor with a gift for interim ministry. He shares that church giving often stagnates in periods between permanent pastors. This rings true for us, and the good news is that this is a short-term issue. A second, longer-term issue is the uncertainty about our physical home in the future. Uncer-

tainty can impede generosity, and that uncertainty won't be solved tomorrow. That said, there are a lot of people working hard to create the atmosphere to enable us to work together and move forward in a positive and meaningful way.

So what do we do now? Our Stewardship Team believes our congregation was presented with a meaningful stewardship process – the *Abundant Catch* – and responded by considering, then making and honoring their pledges. We thank each of you. The *Abundant Catch* was a success: many more people made written pledges for 2010 than in 2009. So when we considered a mid-year pledge drive, we decided against it. We believe it could harm our long-term stewardship ministry to begin this course of dealing – it could impede the meaning and success of our annual pledge drive.

Instead, in June we challenged the members of some key leadership teams - Session, Deacons, Finance and Stewardship Teams – to make a special gift to the church of \$500 per household, payable in June. As a result of that call, we raised nearly \$10,000 from these groups alone.

We now ask you, our members and friends, to join these teams in making a *Second Mile* gift. We would like to bridge the \$35,000 gap. We ask you to travel the *Second Mile* with us, through your gift of \$500, payable in July or August, so we can bridge our funding gap.

We believe our future is bright. When the short-term issues resolve themselves, we will grow giving, pay-off our debt, own two valuable properties free and clear, and will be in a great

position to chart our future. We ask for your commitment to help us bridge this period of time, to travel the second mile, and to carry us into God's bright future.

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Team: John Benson, Sheila Baldwin, Kathi Anderson, Debbie Dreusicke, Cindy Kasper, Bob Lamkins, David Bluder, Pastor Bob David

Some possible questions you may have:

Is this mid-year shortfall an annual problem? *It certainly appears to be, since we had a similar challenge last year at this time. Please note the discussion above. Clearly at year-end 2010, our budget process will need to take into account funds raised in the Second Mile, and we will need to make best efforts to avoid a recurrence in 2011.*

Can I spread a second mile offering over time? *Yes. If it is easier, you can spread it over several months, as needed.*

Can I give more than \$500? Less than \$500? *Any amount is meaningful to St. Andrew, if it holds meaning to you. Any amount will help us bridge this period of time, to Travel the Second Mile, and to carry us into God's bright future.*

How do I designate that my Second Mile gift is different from my annual pledge offering? *Just include "Second Mile Offering" in the memo line of your check.*

Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)

GENERAL FUND 01, June 2010

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget %	Budget Difference
INCOME					
PLEDGES & IDENTIFIED GIFT	\$77,843.29	\$413,715.07	\$933,998.00	44.30%	-\$520,282.93
CAMPUS MINISTRY GRANTS	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	100.00%	0.00
FACILITIES/OFFICE INCOME	0.00	60.00	600.00	10.00%	-540.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	44.80	341.42	1,200.00	28.45%	-858.58
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0.00	177.23	600.00	29.54%	-422.77
TOTAL INCOME	77,888.09	418,793.72	940,898.00	44.51%	-522,104.28
EXPENSES					
LAND	\$352.64	\$6,698.65	\$8,800.00	76.12%	-\$2,101.35
BUILDING	5,389.37	40,925.97	86,575.00	47.27%	-45,649.03
UTILITIES	2,703.57	15,302.49	30,800.00	49.68%	-15,497.51
EQUIPMENT, F & F	-50.00	521.07	200.00	260.54%	321.07
VEHICLES	168.52	1,186.48	5,301.00	22.38%	-4,114.52
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES	445.73	2,773.34	6,700.00	41.39%	-3,926.66
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	45.50	514.54	1,250.00	41.16%	-735.46
MINISTRIES - CARE/SUPPORT	112.42	144.61	1,200.00	12.05%	-1,055.39
MEMBERSHIP/EVANGELISM	47.00	2,952.80	5,550.00	53.20%	-2,597.20
MISSION	10,592.78	56,091.49	127,350.00	44.05%	-71,258.51
MUSIC	892.36	2,384.92	9,015.00	26.46%	-6,630.08
OFFICE EXPENSE	1,407.64	11,340.62	23,800.00	47.65%	-12,459.38
OPERATING EXPENSES	4,059.19	24,694.00	68,145.00	36.24%	-43,451.00
PERSONNEL	42,880.83	275,236.99	553,917.00	49.69%	-278,680.01
WORSHIP	31.59	1,147.19	2,675.00	42.89%	-1,527.81
YOUTH MINISTRIES	2,328.12	5,347.29	9,620.00	55.59%	-4,272.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	71,407.26	447,262.45	940,898.00	47.54%	-493,635.55
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$6,480.83	-\$28,468.73	\$0.00	0.00%	-\$28,468.73

Have you paid your Per Capita?

Per Capita is a way for individual churches to share in the expenses incurred by the larger PCUSA church. It supports the important work of the General Assembly as well as the work of our synods and presbyteries. It is the financial grease that keeps the greater church's cogs spinning, just as our weekly offering keeps St. Andrew running. Churches are assessed a fee based on confirmed members. Again this year, because of budget concerns, we are asking that each confirmed member in your household to contribute their own Per Capita fee. Please remit \$29 per confirmed member for 2010 and write "Per Capita" in the memo line. Thank you for your help in covering this operating expense for the good of the greater Presbyterian church.

St. Andrew Session Members

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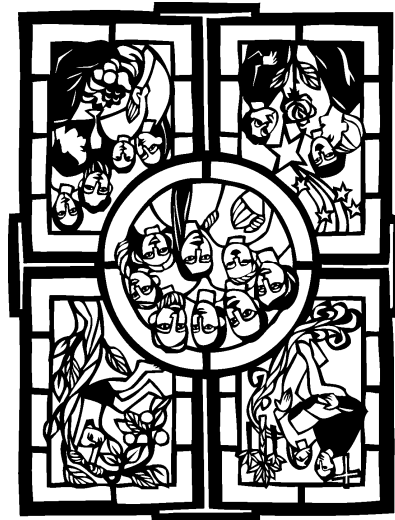
Rebecca Schuchert
Director of Finance
finance@saintandrew-ic.org

Colleen Jacobson
Secretary/Receptionist
colleenj@saintandrew-ic.org

Come and see what God is doing at St. Andrew!
Enjoy ice cream sundaes and
sign-up for different ministry opportunities.

Sunday, August 29
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

St. Andrew Ministry Fair



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

MESSENGER

August 2010

1300 Melrose Ave
Iowa City, IA 52246-1726

www.saintandrew-ic.org

Phone: 319/338.7523

Fax: 319/338.8599

E-mail: office@saintandrew-ic.org

Summer Office Hours

8:45 am - 1 pm Monday - Friday

except holidays or when otherwise announced

❖ If you would like to start/stop receiving the
Mini-Messenger, Messenger,
and special church announcements
electronically, please email the church office at
office@saintandrew-ic.org.

Allow one week to process your request.

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