



JUNE 2018

NETWORK NEWS

TIMELY TOPICS FROM ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR—

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33)

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly (GA), the highest governing body in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meets biennially and has several specific responsibilities. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The GA presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.



“Kindom Building for the 21st Century” is the theme of the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that will be meeting in St. Louis from June 16 to 23. (My spell checker keeps insisting that “kindom” is misspelled. It’s not; it’s something entirely different) This year’s theme about kindom building is especially relevant because kindom connotes a top-down monarchy; whereas, kindom suggests “a more horizontal structure of power in which everyone is a beloved child of God,” says Raj Nadella of Columbia Seminary. “Kingdom tends to be very exclusive,” says Nadella. For example, people may be excluded because of their race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or other factors. “The metaphor of kin-dom allows us to envision an inclusive community, built on common humanity and shared values.”

“Presbyterians have a lot of clout in the economy of the United States,” Nadella adds. “We have been complicit in kingdom building. Now we need to leverage our privilege to make room at the table for excluded and marginalized groups—immigrants from the Global South; non-Christians, especially Muslims; and people of color, especially African Americans.”

There are a wide range of issues coming to GA this year. Some of them are rather controversial. The major ones involve the structure and funding of the PC(USA) and the General Mission Agency going forward, including a requested substantial increase in the amount of per capita for General Assembly in 2019 and 2020.

I have been elected as a first-time commissioner from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley and will be attending the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis. The days are long and tiring, I am told. I ask for your prayers as we commissioners seek to follow the Spirit’s guiding.

In Christ,
Roger



WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP – JUNE 2

Women’s Fellowship will meet Saturday, June 2, at 11:00 AM at **Pat and Gracie’s** in Graceland Shopping Center for brunch, chatting, and just having a good time. It’s a fun place – it has a spectacular chandelier, good food and it will be fun to get together before Summer. Women’s Fellowship will start again in October. Please contact Sally Rogers, 614-846-3248, if you plan to attend. And bring ideas for next year’s meetings.

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

The Second Sunday Offering for June will go to the Near Northeast Side Material Assistance Program (NNEMAP). NNEMAP Food Pantry is a cooperative ministry of over 30 churches distributing food and material assistance to residents of the near northside of Columbus. NNEMAP's clientele consists of families living at or below 200 percent of the federally designated poverty level. Please consider contributing to the Second Sunday Offering to help feed those in need.



THE SCHOOL OF NEW HOPE

Kathy Lynn Gray has written an informative article for *Columbus Monthly* about Fugees Academy coming soon to St. Andrew. Gray quoted Pastor Roger saying, "We're excited to give them a starting point...There is a tremendous need in our community to help refugees, and we're right in the middle of it. We felt it was a good mission outreach." Be sure to check out the entire article on page 24 of the June issue. It's posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



MEET THE PRINCIPAL – FELLOWSHIP HOUR – JUNE 3

Session will be sponsoring the fellowship hour following worship on June 3. The newly hired principal and coach for Fugees Academy, Nathaniel King, will be making a presentation and will be available to answer questions. Please plan to come and welcome him and his family.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MAY 22, 2018

Approved proceeding with plumbing repairs in the Southeast restroom.

Heard from the Finance Committee concerning having a debt reduction campaign in that will enable the church to make a

substantial payment in principal, saving approximately 22 months of future payments.

Heard a report on the status of the beehives. The bees have swarmed or died due to a cold April. A future restart is being considered.

Discussed plans for a session-sponsored fellowship hour on June 3. Nathaniel King, the newly hired principal and coach for Fugees will be making a presentation and answering questions.

Heard a report of faith development plans for youth and adults beginning in September.

Agreed to use funds from the Pentecost offering for sending youth to future retreats.

As part of the mission study that is required by Presbytery, session held a substantive conversation about St. Andrew's "Future Story." A vision statement will be developed as part of the transitional process mission study.



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

"Have you been reading about St. Andrew's new Community Garden? There was a wonderful article and interview with Nikki Zupp, a neighbor of the church, in *This Week Community News*. Nikki applied for and received a grant through the Columbus Foundation for \$881 for the garden, which is



located on the northwest corner of our property. By the time you read this, tilling of the soil will have taken place. On June 1, the bed-building

will take place, starting at 10 a.m. People who help build beds will receive a discount on renting plots, which will be 4 x 8'. For more information, contact Nikki at nikzup03@yahoo.com."