



3010 W 15th Street  
Panama City, FL 32401-1327

# The Lighthouse

July 27, 2017

## **SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

Sunday, August 20, may prove to be a watershed for the history of St. Andrew Baptist Church. Last year, our church engaged the ministry of The Lawless Group, church health and growth consultants. We asked Dr. Lawless, a professor at one of our Southern Baptist Seminaries and a consultant with the International Mission Board, to not only evaluate the health of St. Andrew, but to help us know what we could do to better reach the younger generations of our culture, those who are today young adults, teens, and children.

The church asked the staff to receive the report and recommendations from The Lawless Group and in turn to bring a report and recommendations for action back to the church at large. Your church staff has spent many, many hours both individually and together considering every aspect of the Lawless report and each and every one of its recommendations. We are now ready to bring our report and recommendations to you, St. Andrew Baptist Church.

We believe that if the church responds positively to our report and the recommendations to follow, that we will be leading the church in BUILDING 4 GENERATIONS TO COME. Do not take this phrase to only mean “building” with bricks and mortar. That will be a part, but not the most important part. Understand “building” to be the further development of every aspect of our church life in order to reach these under-reached generations among us.

**On Sunday morning, August 20, two things will happen:**

I will begin to preach a new sermon series based on the book of Nehemiah called **BUILDING 4 GENERATIONS TO COME** to offer us spiritual guidance from God’s Word concerning this mammoth-sized undertaking.

At the close of the morning worship service, we will distribute to church members the **Report to St. Andrew Baptist Church from the Pastor and Staff Concerning the Lawless Consultation**, a ten page document.

A **Special Church Conference** will be called for 6 p.m. on Sunday, August 27, for the church to consider action on the findings of the report and the desires and goals of St. Andrew for 2017 and beyond. Prior to the church conference, on Thursday, August 24, at 6 p.m., we will have a **Townhall Meeting** in the Fellowship Hall to explain the report and answer questions, giving everyone an opportunity to be well-informed in advance of the church conference.

If the church responds positively to the report and stated goals, as I sincerely hope we will, another document, **Recommendations from the Pastor and Staff Concerning the Lawless Consultation** will be distributed to the congregation on September 10, and a Special Church Conference to consider the recommendations will be called for the following Sunday night. Another Townhall Meeting will be held to answer questions about the recommendations on Thursday, September 14 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

(Continued; see SHEPHERD’S STAFF on page 2)

# Shepherd's Staff

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## To the Flock of God at St. Andrew Baptist Church

If it sounds like this report and the recommendations coming from it are a big deal, you are understanding correctly! I believe the direction we, your Pastor and Staff, are asking the church to go and the steps we are recommending to get there constitute **the largest challenge God has placed before St. Andrew Baptist Church** during my eleven years of ministry with you as your Pastor.

In addition to countless hours your staff has expended in participating in the consultation, studying the Lawless report, writing our own report to the church, and framing the recommendations to be considered, the staff also spent considerable time in prayer. We established a **weekly prayer time for all of the Ministerial Staff** to come together for nothing but prayer, and praying through this report and recommendations was constantly on our prayer agenda.

Would you, right now, join us in diligent prayer regarding the direction of St. Andrew for the future? Would you pray, as we have prayed, for God to cause your mind to think as He thinks and your heart to feel as He feels, so that together as a church, we may choose to do what the Lord desires of us? Please reserve the dates and times in August and September that I have shared with you. This is something we must do together if we are going to do it at all. I hope and pray you will choose to be a part of this process.

To God be the glory!

The Shepherd Loves the Sheep,  
Bro. Mike

## From Rick's Desk

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I'm looking back this morning. Do you ever do that? Do you ever look at seasons that you've gone through to see how faithful God is to help in times of need? I do. I do, because many times during the struggles and during the triumphs I am not as good at seeing God's hand as I am in hindsight.

I looked back at some things that I wrote down during the construction of the Kid Zone and Student Center buildings. I recall how many had a dream of our church growing out of the portable buildings and into permanent structures that could be used to reach generations to come. I also recall how that vision became my vision. I remember how God burdened our hearts to give sacrificially so that babies, children, youth, and their parents might come to St. Andrew Baptist and hear the Good News that God loves them and has a plan of salvation for their lives. I can see in my mind's eye the day that St. Andrew took our stakes and wrote the names of those we prayed would come to the Lord because of the buildings that we were building. I rejoice as I think of some of those that I know have come as a result of God's drawing them, and using these buildings as a resource to accomplish His will.

Even as I look back and see God's mercies during this time in our life at St. Andrew Baptist, I am confident that God continues to work in and through us to reach the next generation with the Good News! As I'm writing this, I am reading through the book of Judges during my quiet time. You know how that book

chronicles the ups and downs of the Hebrew people after Joshua died. As time passed, the people forgot how good and merciful God had been to them in leading them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. In the middle of the good times, the people forgot God. Oh, dear brothers and sisters, I pray that we will not forget the mercies of God toward us and that our dreams and visions of serving Him and reaching others to grow the Kingdom of God would drive us to love well, work hard, and give sacrificially to see God's will accomplished here on earth as it is in Heaven. If you inspect your life and see evidence that you are not as close as you once were, then remember God's mercies; renew your commitment to love and follow Him; and respond by loving Him with your whole heart. God will lead you and will revitalize your passion to tell His story to the next generation.

**Sunday, August 6, as a part of morning worship, we will be opening the time capsule implanted in the cornerstone of the Fellowship Hall when it was constructed.** We are hopeful that seeing what was important to the leaders and members of St. Andrew so many years ago will be helpful to us as we pray about the direction for St. Andrew in the days ahead.

Looking back can be a good thing when it leads us to look up to God and forward to what He would have us do to build His kingdom. Will you try it today?

# Discipleship | Evangelism

Recently in our Lifechange Groups, the Explore the Bible curriculum took us through a study of Psalm 23. Most of the discussion in my group revolved around the shepherd and the sheep imagery.



As I pondered this imagery of the shepherd and the sheep, one thing that came to my mind is the fact that sheep are most susceptible to danger from predators when they feed at the edges of the flock, lag behind the flock, or wander off away from the flock. As a matter of fact, many times predators will attempt to scatter the flock so that they then can easily pick off the weakest link. Then it hit me, our Lifechange Groups are like little flocks within the body at St. Andrew. Together, we are less susceptible to danger, but alone, we are more vulnerable.

**1 Peter 5:8 states, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”** Like most predators, I believe that Satan tries to scatter us so that we become easier prey for him. The analogy of Jesus as Shepherd makes us, the church, His sheep. In this analogy, those sheep that follow the Shepherd and stay in the flock remain safe and secure. Those sheep that feed at the edges of the flock, lag behind the flock, or wander away from the flock can quickly find themselves in danger.

With this in mind, I challenge you to consider your relationship to the flock. Are you an active part of your Lifechange Group? Or are you on the fringes? Are you following the Shepherd, Jesus Christ? Or do you find yourself wandering off?

I pray that we, the flock of St. Andrew Baptist Church, will continue to come together for Bible Study and Worship and live our lives in full submission to Jesus Christ, that Great Shepherd of the Sheep!

God bless,  
Bro. Jeremy

## ON MISSION

Church Family,

I am absolutely overjoyed to be writing to you in this section of our Lighthouse! Chelsea and I are so excited to be making this transition as I begin to serve as your Associate Pastor for Missions and College. I remember my first trip to Brazil 10 years ago as I was beginning to follow Christ and recognizing even then that the Lord was doing something in my heart for the nations, and it is such a joy to be able to work that calling out in the very same church that helped me understand His call on my life.

In this first letter, I want to ask sincerely for your prayers. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways in the area of ministry. From the way He has grown a food closet almost twenty years ago into two organizations that provide food, clothing, medical services, and pregnancy care, all while sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to the way He has given us partners in

Baltimore, Portland, Mexico, Brazil, West Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and others. Yes, the Lord has truly been at work in our church. We also know, however, that there is so much more work for us here at St. Andrew to accomplish in the name and by the power of our Savior. As of today, there are 7,032 people groups around the world totaling about 4.3 billion people that have a population that is less than 2% Evangelical Christian. Almost half of those groups (3,186) are Unengaged, meaning there is no strategy or work underway to affect their spiritual condition. No, the work is not finished. That's why we need prayer. We need the Lord's guidance to help us see what He has for us in the future. We need His help as we seek to carry His Glorious Gospel to these peoples, so “that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among **ALL** nations” (Psalm 67:2).

I'd also ask you to join me in sharing your appreciation to Bro. Lynn Briley for the

great work he has done over the last decade at our church in Missions. The Lord has truly used Lynn as an instrument of His Sovereign Will to take the Gospel to the nations. When you see him this Sunday, tell him how much you love him, and how blessed our church is to have served with him in Missions. I know he will be encouraged, as he is excited for this next step in his life and to continue serving in missions as a part of our church family.

Lastly, as you pray, I'd like to ask you to ask the Lord how He would use you as a part of His work in missions in our local church. As He confirms His plan for you, and you'd like to talk about all the opportunities we have to serve, I'd love to talk with you about your place in taking the Gospel to the nations!

Grace and Peace,  
Thomas

# Pre Teens with a Purpose

There are some powerful testimonies of God working through kids in the Bible... Samuel, Naaman's servant girl, Josiah, and the boy with the fish and loaves to name a few!

God is still working through kids today! One great example is right here in our own church!



Our preteens (5th and 6th graders), went “on mission” in their Jerusalem at the Baptist Center in Millville this summer. It's a great first step in missions for them! Like any other mission trip, before they go they have to be willing to prepare. In the process they even have the opportunity to learn how to use the Evangecube to share the gospel. Then, weeks ahead of VBS they sign up for the specific areas where they would like to serve, and they attend a training session with needed materials and helpful instructions. As a part of our training we teach them about being flexible and about putting the needs of the kids at the Baptist Center ahead of their own needs. Wow! Those are tough disciplines to learn at any age! It's really inspiring to see preteens grapple with these and be successful!

So many seeds of the gospel were planted during the VBS and one of their students became a follower of Christ! We all came away from the experience different from when we started! We had seen God work in, through, and around all of us!

**Our Preteens are Preteens with Purpose!**

# Youth Ministry UNLEASHED



Boy that escalated quickly. June and July that is. It's gone! Summer has been a whirlwind of trips and events for our youth ministry. It's at this time we set our eyes on Promotion Sunday. Promotion Sunday, August 20th, is the day in youth ministry that all the new 7th graders come into the youth group for the first time. There is a lot of excitement around this day. All the new 7th graders run around the gym like they have never been allowed to before. All the upper classmen shake their heads as if they themselves never did that. We have a big breakfast for all the youth to welcome them to their new class.

Here are some reasons Promotion Sunday is so important for your youth no matter what grade they are in. Promotion Sunday is a good time:

## For a New Perspective

Promotion Sunday helps youth see that they are getting older and more is expected of them. Every year I do a senior commissioning for all the new 12th graders. It's a time where I can show them that the example they set for the other youth is key. Also, we have Intermission on August 18th where we invite all our youth to a high-energy event where we cast

vision to our youth. We show them what it looks like to be in the youth ministry.

## To Reconnect

Ok, life happens. Sometimes after missing a few Sundays it gets easy to miss more. Promotion Sunday is a great time to get back in the loop. It's a time for a fresh start. There are new teachers, new classes, and new experiences for everyone. Why not take advantage of this? St. Andrew Youth Ministry seeks to connect youth to the gospel and show them how to live out the gospel every day. Connecting youth to youth ministry is to connect them to the living gospel.

Two events to mark down on your calendar:

- **AUG 18TH - 6PM INTERMISSION IN THE STUDENT BUILDING**
- **AUG 20TH - PROMOTION SUNDAY 9AM IN THE STUDENT BUILDING**

Bro. Mark

## MUSIC MINISTRY MOMENTS

WORSHIP is expressed in many ways.

Each week from the platform, I see people singing, some raise their hands, others close their eyes, some use their talents and play skillfully on instruments, while others run the tech and add to worship through their skills. Your visible engaging is an encouragement to me personally. Then there are some that just stand there, seemingly unengaged. Yet I have come to know that they too might be worshipping in their hearts as they just take it all in. I have and always will be one for participation, not merely spectating, and definitely not performing.

I am grateful to be part of a church family that has a heart for God and His glory, that finds delight in singing both hymns and praise songs, the contemporary and the classic, tried and true songs of the faith.

That being said, could I challenge you and invite you to consider being part of THE CELEBRATION CHOIR? This fall, we plan to be even more intentional and especially desire to have younger ages involved and even occasionally multi-generation worship leading.

With WORSHIP LEADING being our goal, you could help teach our congregation NEW WORSHIP

SONGS, sing more of the HYMNS of our faith, and provide CHOIR SELECTIONS that could become congregational chorus favorites here at SABC! You are invited to be part of this EXCITING new journey in worship and it all begins soon. You will hear more about this in August when we kick off the new church year!

Can we look for you this August as we sing praises to the Lord by being part of the Sunday WORSHIP LEADING CHOIR? Wednesdays from 7 - 8:15 ~ It's gonna be great and we want you to experience it! ~ Doug

# PostingBoard

## News & Information

### Coming for Membership

**By Baptism:** Casey Barnes, KZ Barnes, Ephraim Bazzel, Andrew Martin, Harris Dobbs, Brileigh Knight

**By Statement:** Morgan Barnes, Rhonda King, Virginia Bouchillon

**By Letter:** Hank and Kimberlee Hathcock

### Sympathy Is Extended To

Family and friends of Dee Diaz, who passed away, along with her unborn child, on June 30, in Texas.

Eddie and Bea Mabiuis, family, and friends, in the passing of their great-grandson, Jacques, on July 2.

Kwang Hwa Lee, family, and friends, in the passing of his father, on July 2, in South Korea.

Richene Schreffler, family, and friends, in the passing of her father, Dick Blanchard, on July 10, in Michigan.

Family and friends of Randall Barnhart, who passed away on July 13, in Panama City.

Becky Bowers, family, and friends, in the passing of her mother, Sarah Mitchell, on July 15, in GA.

Cliff Whitaker, family, and friends, in the passing of his twin brother, Clinton Whitaker, on July 19, in AL.

### Martha Lloyd Media Center

The Friendship LCG made a donation to the Media Center in honor of Carrie Gibson's birthday. These books have been added for

your reading enjoyment: IF I AM FOUND by Terri Blackstock, THREADS OF SUSPICION by Dee Henderson, THE LEGACY by Michael Phillips, CHILD OF THE RIVER by Irma Joubert, and COME RAIN OR COME SHINE by Jan Karon. Homeschool books are also available for check out. See you in the library!

### Budget Information

As of July 27:

YTD Budget Goal: \$1,233,480.90

YTD Received: \$1,065,635.06

Global Outreach Budget:

YTD Budget Goal: \$189,735.90

YTD Received: \$125,504.25



### Announcements

Two Summer Monday Movie Nights left... July 31 ~ War Room, August 7 ~ God's Not Dead 2

Sunday, August 13, 5pm, Prayer First with a Back to School Emphasis

Wednesday Activities resume on August 23!

Did you know that this newsletter can be e-mailed to you? To sign up please send an e-mail to [jenniferstrickland@sabc.org](mailto:jenniferstrickland@sabc.org).

## The Lighthouse

Volume 131, Issue 7

St. Andrew Baptist Church glorifies God as we worship, equip, minister, fellowship, and share Christ at home and around the world.

The Lighthouse is published every month by St. Andrew Baptist Church to keep members informed on news and events of the church.

The deadline to submit information for the next issue is Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

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Join our group on Facebook

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