

# COMMENCING ON NEW ADVENTURES in 2018



## SARAH BUCHHORN

Master of Urban Planning  
Sarah is planning to go "wherever the Lord leads (aka wherever I get a job)."



## SOFIA GARFIAS-YI

B.A. Sociology & Communication; Art and Design.  
Currently on the job search



## BRIAN GIBBONS (December grad)

Ph.D. Electrical Engineering. "Switched Aperture Surface Current Measurements." Next destination: Columbia, MD to start work at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.



## ROJAN THOMAS JOSEPH

Master of Urban Planning-- Likely heading to St. Louis



## JOEL MULLER (December grad)

Ph.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Counseling Psychology, "From one human to another: A phenomenological study of intergroup dialogue." Joel has accepted a position as Clinical Counselor at the UIUC Counseling Center.



## ELIZABETH "LISA" POGUE

Ph.D. Material Science and Engineering: "Phase stability in the Cu-Zn-SnS system." She will start as a post-doctoral researcher at John Hopkins University this summer.



## LUISA RUGE-JONES

Master of Communication: Focus in Group and Organizational Communication. Luisa will remain at UI, entering the Ph.D. program in Communication this fall.



## SHERI SCHWERT

Sheri will be leaving her work at UI's Prairie Research Institute to enroll in a masters program in environmental science in Norway. She expects to be moved there by August.



## LORRAINE STAMBERGER (December grad)

M.S. Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences: "Assessing Preferences for Future Growth in Communities on the Rural-Urban Fringe using a Discrete Choice Model and Spatial Analysis Methods." Lorraine's future involves marriage and looking for work in the area.



**VI AND PAUL SCHROEDER**, members here for over 40 years, made the move to Pennsylvania to be closer to grandchildren, October 2017.



Congregation gathers around Paul and Vi Schroeder on their last Sunday here, Oct. 29, 2017, to give thanks for their faithfulness and bold witness to the newness of life in Christ as they commence on new adventures in their 90s.



Pictured here at their wedding in Ohio, Brian and Lisa, who met at St. Andrews, graduated this spring.

Summer 2018



# ST ANDREW'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CAMPUS CENTER

909 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820 | lutherancampuscenter@gmail.com

## Why Did Our Fish Bike Rack Spring Feet?

By Susan Barreto & Lisa Pogue

Saint Andrew's is not shy about taking a stand when it comes to faith and science. But is that why the fish bike rack seems to be standing on its own four feet? The Lutheran Campus Center has supported the mutual interaction and dialogue between faith and science for some time, participating in events such as the March for Science in 2017 and continuing to host The Rhetoric Conversations, which were set up eight years ago to engage the campus community in seeking clarity on the challenges of faith and science interaction.



Perhaps that is why the latest enhancement on Saint Andrew's front lawn gained the attention it did. The "feet" (which are removable) were featured in the Daily Illini, Pa-theos, and on social media.

Initially proposed by students, the feet combine the original shape of the bike rack — the ancient Christian fish symbol — with that of the "Darwin fish," the latter representative of a secular protest against what is popularly perceived as Christianity's incompatibility with, if not hostility toward, the scientific theory of evolution. By adding feet to the Christian fish, students at St. Andrew's have created a new symbol to challenge the popular assumption that Christianity and science cannot mix.

Lisa Pogue, (above, 3rd from left), who just

earned her PhD in engineering this spring, was the architect of the feet. "Scientific and faith communities have a lot of overlap and can be mutually supportive," she says. "Religion and faith can be a great motivator for trying to objectively understand the world around us and for using what we've learned for the betterment of society as a whole."

Pogue has, for several years, served on The Rhetoric Committee, which invited Lutheran theologian Dr. Robert Saler to present and lead a discussion on atheism and science this April, drawing many in from the local churches and campus communities. Saler posed what he sees as the mutuality and interrelationship this way: "Theology and science are complementary modes of uncertainty and not competing modes of knowledge."

*Susan Barreto is the Editor of Covalence, the online news magazine for the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology (www.luthscitech.org); chair of the St. Andrews Rhetoric Committee, and member of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Champaign.*

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### Board of Trustees:

Bill Adams, Rev. Ray Bowers, Melissa Idleman, president, Rev. Maggie Falenschek, Rev. Peter Hinrich, Bruce Rhoads, Tiana Montgomery, treasurer.

### Staff:

Pastor: Amy C. Thoren  
Director of Music: Martha Alwes  
Office Administration: Rachel Rasmussen

## New Council President Loves Welcoming Vibe

Hello, my name is Melanie Rohla, and I am the new Council President. I come from Lisle, Illinois, but I was born in Texas. I am going to be a junior studying Environmental Science and Global Studies this year. I'm very passionate about refugees, immigration, the environment and water quality.

I have been coming to St. Andrew's for two years now. Upon my first visit, I fell in love with the small community present at St. Andrew's, as well as the welcoming vibe. So I continued coming, eventually joined Council and am now going to be president. As an undergrad, one of my goals is to bring in more undergrads to our community and expand in that way. I look forward to working alongside you all in the fall. Have a lovely summer!

*Melanie, pictured at right, wrote this to us from Kenya en route to Tanzania where she spent spring 2018.*



Rev. Maggie Falenschek

## "Campus ministry changes lives— it changed my life."

"I serve on the Board of this campus ministry center because I firmly believe in the mission of St. Andrews and have witnessed the incredible ministry that happens here," says Rev. Maggie Falenschek, pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran, Urbana. "Your contributions help us to secure a voice of grace, radical welcome, and inquiry on campus for years to come. Thank you for your support!"

**Please prayerfully consider supporting our ministry here financially and with prayer. You may use the enclosed form or give online at [www.lutherancampuscenter.org](http://www.lutherancampuscenter.org).**

## From the Pastor

*Dear friends of St. Andrews, friends in Christ,*



Left: Pastor Amy Thoren assists students Raphael Stern and Hannah Burson one Sunday after worship, as they collect worm compost from the center's vermiculture project for their gardens.

The word is **transition**. Its meaning is layered. As students and faculty leave campus for various life transitions, St. Andrew's finds itself in bigger transitions than I could have seen three years ago when I came on as the Interim Pastor and Director.

### Accessibility Project:

After raising just over \$10,000 for our Accessibility Fund — *thank you!* — we have transitioned from an original plan of installing a lift/elevator to a discernment process about our entire facility. Our building is in poor condition in many ways: our electricity is not up to code, the roof still leaks and the basement still floods, our HVAC systems are inefficient and often fail, and our kitchen lacks reliable appliances. Even with a lift to give access to our basement where the kitchen is, considerable work (foundation, plumbing) is necessary make the restrooms on that level accessible. Is it wise or faithful, we are asking, to invest \$100K or more for a lift in a building with so many other great needs? Our commitment remains absolute: we will become fully accessible. Your donations inspire and motivate us to discern the wisest, most faithful means to this end.

### Constitution(s):

With our Board of Trustees, we have decided that St. Andrew's is better served (and better equipped to serve) by having one constitution instead of our current two documents. We know campus ministry reaches young adults at a critical time in their lives, and many young adults today who find St. Andrew's have been raised without any faith tradition at all. We believe God is calling us to focus our resources on these unique needs at a major university. One constitution will help us build a leadership structure to support that calling.

### Student Leadership:

In addition to the students who serve annually on our active volunteer

Church Council, we are creating two part-time, paid Student Minister positions to begin in the fall. Student Ministers will work 3-5 hours each week, meeting with me for biblical/theological education, preaching once a year, and helping us plan and lead specific programs in the areas of outreach and service/justice. We believe raising up student leadership in this way is a very sustainable direction for us, bringing energy and focus to the unique mission of campus ministry and walking alongside students in their journeys in faith and life. We also know campus ministry is one of the best places to raise up leadership for the greater Church of Christ wherever it is found on earth. I can say with conviction that the churches in the areas our students are moving after they graduate will be richly blessed by their presence.

### Hellos and Goodbyes:

St. Andrew's, of course, deals with *regular, expected* transitions every year as students come and go. Graduation this spring was particularly poignant, as a number of students who have been here many years finished doctorates, masters and bachelor degrees and are now moving on (see photos on adjacent page). We are filled with gratitude for the years these students were active at St. Andrew's (two of whom met at St. Andrew's and married in their time in CU!), and we pray for God's presence with them as they go. We will deeply miss them.

### Church Council:

As this particular class commences, we note a tip in our community from being grad-student heavy to being more balanced with undergrads. Our Council President this fall, a junior who just spent a semester in Kenya, visited us after returning to the country and expressed her excitement about her upcoming leadership role. Melanie is passionate about the church's role in society, and we're grateful God led her to us to be part of the Church on earth in this place in this time.

The ministry at St. Andrew's is growing and flourishing! We have had another year of vibrant ministry to, with, and for students and others. God has blessed us, and our future is secure in God's hands. *We ask your partnership in prayer and financial support* as we face the challenges and excitement of transitions.

*Grace and Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Amy Thoren*

## "St. Andrews has become such a vital part of my college life"

Featuring Kenzhané Pantin, first year masters student, and Brendan O'Shaughnessy, first year undergraduate.

Kenzhané Pantin (Kenji) started cooking for our weekly "Chat & Chow" Wednesday meals from the first week of her arrival at UI in the masters in Psychology program. Her delicious recipes have become favorites now. "St. Andrews has become such a vital part of my college life. I especially enjoy dinners on Wednesdays because I often cook and then enjoy a family-like meal with such wonderful people. In the short time I've been visiting my happiness and faith have definitely grown!" (Kenji above left, at table on right)



"During Illinois' Waterway Cleanup Week," recalls first year student Brendan O'Shaughnessy, "I went on a canoe trip hosted by St. Andrew's with the Upper Sangamon River Conservancy. On this trip, we removed garbage from the river to restore God's work with our hands. This memory at St. Andrew's has been very meaningful because my favorite way to serve God is through the conservation of Earth's natural beauty." Brendan (below) carved the Reformation 500 jack-o-lanterns pictured on next page.



## God's Work ...

Center top: After being guests at the local Mosque several times last year, for inter-faith dialogue and conversation with our Muslim neighbors, this past fall was our turn to be hosts. Pictured at right are members of the Muslim Student Association at St. Andrew's Wednesday night "Chat & Chow" fellowship.

Below: St. Andrew's spends a rainy day at Champaign's Prosperity Gardens, an urban agriculture program that trains and employs under-served youth to farm.



## Our Hands...



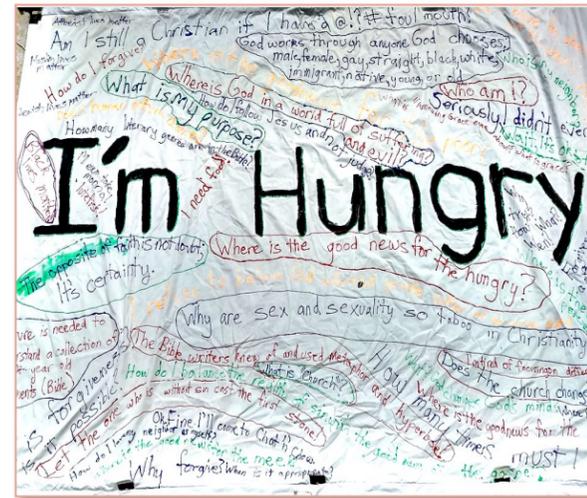
Center bottom: We volunteered with UC Books to Prisoners in April, reading letters from incarcerated people and selecting books for them according to their requests.

Below: We serve, we volunteer, we also play. We've learned and we keep re-learning that when we gather together in Christ, it is God who enjoys us body and soul, to do God's work, share God's Word of love, and to not take ourselves too seriously.



## What is This Place?

by Rachel Rasmussen



"What *IS* this place?" a breathless sophomore burst through the doors of St. Andrews one day to ask me. I am the office administrator here and I had been watching her out my window that faces a busy street on UI campus, as she stopped to read one of the banners our students had made. Even before our fish bike rack grew legs and feet, I have watched passers-by be stopped in their tracks by a large bedsheet banner hanging outside. "I'm hungry," it declares in large demanding letters. One of our engineering students, wanting to challenge her classmates' stereotypes about the church, took it upon herself to cover a sheet—graffiti-style—with far-ranging questions about faith, the church, and the Bible, as if to say, "all your questions are welcome here. We ask these questions, too." Another student came in after reading this sign and said, "This place just looks way too interesting and fun to be a church!" Students remind me through their sign creativity, that our work here isn't just for those Lutheran students who will seek us out, but especially in today's context, it must be for the wider campus community that passes us every day. Signs that shake up common assumptions about what "this place" is, and pique the curiosity about what sort of people can be found here are a vital part of the way we share the beckons of Jesus to surprising and unexpected newness of life.



## Reformation 500: Spring Break in Germany

By Hannah Burson, PhD candidate in Mathematics

This spring break, four of us went on a trip to eastern Germany titled "Reformation and Refugees." In addition to touring reformation sites, we struggled with the difficult parts of reformation history such as Luther's anti-Judaism and modern use of his writings to justify the anti-Semitism of the Nazi government. Then, during the second half of the trip, we visited organizations in Leipzig that are working with the massive influx of refugees. Both of these elements of the trip challenged us to think about the meaning of righteousness and the barriers we must tear down if we want to love our neighbors in the way Jesus taught. Of course, we also made sure to save some energy for being tourists and eating lots of good food!



Above R to L: Bob Coverdill, Pastor Amy, Sheri Schwartz and Hannah Burson in Wittenberg, Germany.