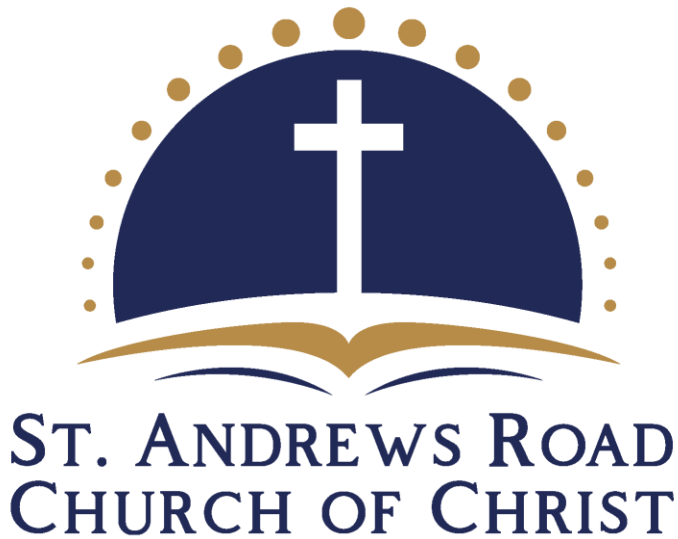


July 2, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 27



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Totally Dependent

As we celebrate our nation's independence this Tuesday, July 4th, I am reminded of the Declaration of Independence, which began with these words: *"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."* The words "dissolve," "separate," and "separation" seem to jump off the page.

There is another document where similar words are written, but not against a tyrannical king; rather, against a merciful God. **Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us" (Psalm 2:1-3 NKJV).** The goal of our nation's founding fathers was freedom. But these of whom it is written in this Psalm were severing their only hope for freedom. They thought they could be free if they followed their own desires, but they actually became slaves to sin. **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness (Romans 6:16)?** No one is truly independent. A person either serves God or serves sin. This verse might surprise many in this country, as sadly, many of our fellow citizens follow their own pursuits, even on the Lord's Day, unlike their ancestors. **They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him (Titus 1:16a).** It is ironic that so many of our countrymen rely upon themselves rather than God, as our founding fathers did. As evidence, the last sentence in the Declaration states: *"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."*

The second Psalm was ultimately fulfilled when the people crucified Jesus Christ. **For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done (Acts 4:27-28).** This was the ultimate rejection of God from the Jewish people. God was longsuffering, and had previously sent prophets to them that they might repent of their ungodly ways, but they did not repent. As a result, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman army in A.D. 70. **He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:4-6).**

While we celebrate our nation's independence, let us never forget that we are fully dependent upon our heavenly Father and His Anointed, Jesus Christ. Isn't it wonderful that we can depend upon Him? It is God who **has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3).** It is through naivety or rebelliousness that men choose independence. **Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him (Psalm 2:10-12)**

Brotherly,
Jamie

SUMMER SERIES

The **FUNDAMENTALS** of the

the doctrine of
Christ

Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

July 5

“Repentance”

Rodriquez Johnson,
Williamston COC

New Teaching Quarter Begins Today

All students move up to their 2023-2024
school year grade.

Sunday Classes

2's & 3's	Belinda Hutchison
4's & 5's	Lisa Larmon, Kristin Holzer
1-2 grades	Melissa Byrom
3-5 grades	Sherry Pyle
6-12 grades	Josh Parks, Eric Kelly
Young Adult	Jaime Byrom
Adult	John Daniels

Weds Classes

2's – 5's	Vicki Gregory
1-5 grades	Tassie Norcross
Teens & Adults	Summer Series



VBS Supplies Needed

Juice boxes, water,
canned drinks,
individual bags of chips,
Debbie cakes

Please place items in the
kitchen. Thank you!

Water Day

July 15

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

For children of all ages

Children's Bible Times

Thursdays

July 13 & 20

10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

2 years old – 5th grade



Vacation Bible School

“A Royal Adventure”
A Study of Great Kings

July 23 – 26

Sunday – Wednesday
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

**Now –
July 19**

**SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**



Our Youth are collecting school supplies for
the community again this year. Their goal is
96 student backpacks and 10 teacher
backpacks, which will be distributed on July
29. If you have any questions, please see
Eric or Crystal Kelly.

**See full list of supplies needed on
the bulletin board.**