

St. Andrew's UMC

Pastor's Pen

August 2024

Dear Friends,

Sometimes life takes some real twists and turns! I have been doing continuing education for two weeks in Madison, New Jersey, at Drew University Theological School (one of thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States). I am beyond thankful for this experience of interacting and studying with people from all around the world. This has been a very formative time of growth for me, for which I will always be thankful.

I am deeply blessed to share with you that I have been admitted to a Doctor of Ministry program at Drew, with a focus of "Courageous Leadership in a Changing Culture." The great news is that modern technology allows me to take classes online to complete the three-year degree program designed to be done in the ministry setting. My sincere hope is that God will work through this experience to develop my gifts and guide me as a leader to be the very best pastor that I can be for you. I look forward to celebrating with you!

Do you know what the leaders from all around the world who I have studied with have in common? They love their families, churches, and they love Jesus with all they have, too! As I write this article while on campus, I am homesick! I miss Nikki, our family, and each of you! I miss Central Texas and I am ready to come home!

What new and sudden blessings have come your way? What challenges are you facing? One thing we do know, as Paul says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." What do these words mean to us today?

Blessings,

Pastor Terry