

November, 2015

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Commitment Sunday" is November 22nd. Dedicate your pledge card in worship.

Throughout life we are often asked to be faithful. We are asked to be faithful to our marriage and family; to our country; to our teams; to our schools and too many other things. These faithful commitments are important because when they are made and kept they help to hold the fabric of our lives and society together. Faithful commitments to those institutions and relationships which are important is a necessary and vital part of life. Unfortunately, we have all seen the harmful and sometimes destructive results that occur when these faithful commitments aren't kept.

As Christians we are also asked to make and keep faithful commitments related to our faith in God. Each person who is a member of the United Methodist Church was asked to make such a commitment when he or she joined the church. Each of us committed to support God's Holy Church through "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness." The commitment we made when we became a member of the church is a sacred commitment because that commitment was made to God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

In the sermon series that leads up to "Commitment Sunday," November 22nd, we will consider this sacred commitment and how it impacts our stewardship. As we look forward to dedicating our pledge cards, you are invited to look with honest eyes at how faithful you are being to this sacred commitment.

In Christ,
Pastor Biel

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Nov. 1 | All-Church Meeting: State of the Church Finances | After worship |
| Nov. 1 | The Brief returns, every Sunday | 7:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 3 | Munch & Help—Lap Blankets | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 6-7 | Pastor Biel in Rockford for
Annual Conference Special Session | |
| Nov. 8-22 | Stewardship Drive | |
| Nov. 14 | Drawing Closer to God, Christ UMC, Rockford | 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 16 | State of the Church Follow-Up with Dr. Malone | 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 26 | THANKSGIVING DAY | |



To the Congregation of St. Andrew

“We so appreciate the wonderful collection of food you provided for the Respond Now pantry. Our clients always enjoy having additional choices when they are making their monthly food selections.

“Thank you, once again, for your generosity and for thinking of Respond Now.”

—Sue Perkins, Respond Now



The Brief

The bold, interactive worship experience known as "The Brief" will return to St. Andrew UMC Sunday evenings, beginning this Sunday, November 1, at 7:15 p.m. Led by Pastor Biel, this uplifting service lasts 30 minutes. In its pilot phase, "The Brief" was packed with prayer, praise, and great discussion.

We're looking for participants to worship, of course. We also welcome you and your friends who would like to sing, play an instrument, perform in readers' theater, or just move some furniture. We need helpers to bring "The Brief" to life in this preview stage of its development. Please contact Pastor Biel if you or someone you know would like to get involved.

Do you love to sing upbeat, contemporary Christian music

(Top 40 on Shine.FM or K-LOVE 94.3)? If you are in sixth grade or older, **WE NEED YOU** in the Brief! Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or meet Victoria before the Brief at St. Andrew this Sunday, November 1, at 6:40 p.m.



All-Church Meeting

As the members of St. Andrew continue to confront the financial challenges facing us, the District Superintendent has encouraged us to hold an all-church meeting to make sure that everyone is fully informed. The Finance Committee is preparing a presentation that will be held on Sunday, November 1, immediately following worship. It is very important that as many members as possible attend.

Munch and Help

On Tuesday, November 3, at 6:30 pm., we will again be making lap blankets for veterans at the home in Manteno. No sewing involved—just cutting and tying, so everyone can help. The veterans who have received them in the past do appreciate them very much. The evening will begin with a light supper, and, as always, we will have one vegan option available. Please let us know that you are coming by signing the sheet in the narthex by the window, emailing Carolyn or just letting any member of the Missions and Social Concerns Committee know that you are coming. The sign-up sheet as well as the menu will be available by mid-October. Everyone is welcome and needed.

Drawing Closer to God

The focus of spiritual prayer practices deepens our relationship with the living Christ. "Drawing Closer to God," Saturday, November 14, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., will introduce participants to two of four different spiritual prayer practices: Praying in Color, Contemplative Photography, Praying with Beads, and Labyrinth: Walking Prayer.

The Keynote Speaker is Bishop Linda Lee, Bishop-in-Residence at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and the first African-American woman to be elected bishop in the North Central Jurisdiction. Bishop Lee is working in the areas of spirituality, spiritual formation, and United Methodist studies and polity. She is editor of the book "A New Dawn in Beloved Community: Stories with the Power to Transform Us," which was the focus of study here at St. Andrew last winter in a class led by Deacon Regina.

"Drawing Closer to God" will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, 4509 Highcrest Road, Rockford, IL 61107. The event is sponsored by the Northern Illinois Conference Spiritual Formation Committee. Register by mail or online at umcnic.org/ministries/nurturediscipleship/spiritual-formation/

The registration fee is \$15.00 per person. We have secured a van for transportation, so please mark the back of your attendance card if you wish to ride with others from St. Andrew.

United Methodist Women

Our Program meeting in November will be held on Saturday, November 7, at 1 p.m. Dessert and coffee will be served by our hostesses, the Mission Team. Our devotions will include our World Thank Offering, which is an extra mission offering of the United Methodist Women. The program will be the second half of the study of "The Roma of Europe."

Our November Circle meeting (the merger of the Esther and Deborah Circles) will be held at the church on Tuesday, November 17, at 1:30 p.m. Our hostesses are Dee and Carolyn. We will have our election and dedication of officers, sign up for hosting, program, and devotions for 2016, and conduct any other UMW business as needed.

Golden Opportunity Books

Golden Opportunity Books are available for sale by the United Methodist Women. All profits go toward mission projects for women and children. Stop at the fellowship table to purchase one or more; books for Northwest Indiana are also available. Using just a few of the coupons makes your \$25.00 purchase worthwhile. Coupons cover local shopping, Chicago area recreation, cleaners, movies, etc. So, even if you do not use the coupons for restaurants, car rentals, hotels, and air

Coming Up:

UMW Christmas Party

THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO THE UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Date: Thursday, December 17

9:15 a.m. - Continental Breakfast served in the chapel meeting room

10:00 a.m.- Program – in the sanctuary

The Children's Choir from the Millennium School of Homewood will again sing their repertoire of seasonal music for us. One of the children from our church (Masila) is in the choir.

We'll have a brief Christmas story or a little drama and sing a few Christmas carols.

We'll finish with a little more fellowship time in the narthex over a cup of hot, spiced cran-apple juice.

travel, you can make good use of the book and help with mission projects. Please write checks payable to UMW.

Medicine Bottles Still Needed

The District UMW has taken on the project of collecting and shipping medicine bottles for the Malawi Project, so we are continuing to collect them here. When you remove the labels, please remove as much of the sticky residue as possible. Then bring the bottles (with caps) to the container reserved for them in the narthex. No over-the counter bottles, please.

Mentoring of Children – Churchill School in Homewood

Our Bishop has been emphasizing the need for us to be involved in mentoring children and youth. And St. Andrew is fortunate that Churchill School in Homewood has a program set up which uses volunteers to help children for one hour after school. The children can come to Homework Club one or more days (Monday through Thursday) from 3 to 4 pm after school. The program has varied slightly from year to year (I think this is the 4th year now). But each adult volunteer gets to develop a relationship with a couple of children over the course of the year. Last year there was a shortage of volunteers, so I'm sure more from our church would be welcomed. The program usually starts sometime in October. Those of us who've done it before will probably be contacted soon as to when the orientation meeting will be. If you are interested in volunteering **one day a week for one hour**, contact Anna or Lucy to find out how to get signed up for the orientation meeting. Whenever there's no school there is no Homework Club, so you do get some breaks. And most of us do have a conflict occasionally, which can be worked out.



Spaghetti Dinner Fund-Raiser Report

Congratulations to all! WE DID IT! This was our first Spaghetti Dinner, and we had a few little glitches, but, thanks to the wonderful team-work of all of our volunteers, dessert donors, and our chief spaghetti-sauce cook, Anita, we had an extremely successful event.

Our gross proceeds from ticket sales, sales of left-over desserts and spaghetti (\$2053.55), and from some generous donations (totaling \$540.57) were 2,594.12. Our expenses totaled \$400.57. **So our profit from this event was \$2,193.55.** Thanks to all who helped to make this event such a success.

—Lucy and Joan, Co-Chairs

Third Sunday Loose Change Collection in November

The recipient of our third-Sunday Loose Change Collection in November will be the Honduras Mission Project. This is the Mission that Lucy participates in where a group from Northern Illinois works alongside the Hondurans to build six small concrete-block houses (this year they will actually be doing 7). In addition to the funds contributed by the participants in the trip, it is necessary to raise a lot of additional funds to accomplish all this. They work in the southern (poorest) part of Honduras in a remote rural village.

Thanksgiving Collection of “Special Needs Items” for Respond Now

St. Andrew's Missions and Social Concerns Committee has suggested a collection of Special Needs items for Respond Now as our special “Thanksgiving” effort. In gratitude for what we have, we can share so that people with few resources can have some of the basic hygiene items that we take for granted. These items cannot be purchased with a Snap card (what we used to call “Food Stamps”). And yet they are very necessary items. On the first three Sundays of November we'll have boxes in the narthex to collect these items. Suggestions are as follows:

Bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and tooth brushes, dish detergent, laundry detergent, toilet tissue, hand lotion, disposable razors, shaving cream, women's sanitary napkins or tampons, disposable diapers (especially sizes 4 & 5, which Respond Now doesn't receive enough of), and baby wipes.



Cookie Walk/Bazaar Fund-raiser Scheduled for Saturday, December 12

For the past two years since we started doing it, St. Andrew's Cookie Walk has been a successful event. It is scheduled this year for Saturday, December 12, but we still need a chair or co-chairs for the event. Who will step up to the plate to get going on this important fund-raiser?

There are other folks who will take charge of various parts, but it takes some leadership to get these positions filled. Having co-chairs (like we did for the Spaghetti Dinner) really works well. Please see Lucy to find out what is involved. How can you help?



Caring Crafters

Anyone interested in crafting, not just crocheting and knitting, please bring your projects and ideas to share with the group; they are making items for the Cookie Walk and Bazaar as well as prayer shawls.

The group meets in the narthex on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. All are welcome.



PADS Shelter Ministry

St. Andrew's PADS ministry to homeless women and children is up and running in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights. **However, we're still short some volunteers.** We need a regular, 4th-week volunteer for the breakfast shift, 5 to 5:15 a.m. until 7 to 7:15 a.m. This involves preparing and serving breakfast, and clean-up. We also need a man to come in at about 5:30 a.m. on the second week, whose primary responsibility would be to wet-mop the floors—the hall, bathrooms, and kitchen. In addition, we are desperately in need of a back-up person for the 3 a.m. shift, as we need to ensure that we have at least two volunteers present on all shifts. You should only need to work one shift a month (except when we have a 5th Wednesday and we have to ask some volunteers if they would be willing to do an extra one).



Saving Our Environment

Texas and Kansas are showing what is possible with wind power. At one point last year, wind generated nearly 40% of Texas' electricity.

Christmas Collection of Food and Toys for Respond Now

As in the past few years, we will collect new **toys and games and \$10 gift cards** for Respond Now's Christmas food and gifts distribution. Toys requiring batteries are not a good choice as replacement batteries tend to be too expensive. Toys and games are needed for all ages. For teens we are giving gift cards of \$10 from local stores such as Target and Walmart. Please do not wrap.

Now is the time to shop for toys and games that you find on sale while you are shopping. Gifts will be placed under a tree in the narthex after Thanksgiving, but gift cards should be given to a member of the Missions and Social Concerns Committee or placed in the Sunday offering plate.

For the food part, this year our congregation has been asked to collect **800 boxes of jello** (not necessarily Jello brand; Aldi's has their generic variety for \$.35 per box, and some of the other stores have a generic available at a very reasonable price, also. Since we have advance notice of what we have been asked to collect, we can watch the ads in the grocery stores and Walgreens, etc. and may even find the Jello brand on sale. 800 boxes is a lot, but if we start now, WE CAN DO IT!



Chair Yoga Classes

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress, increase endurance, and feel better overall. Even better, participating in yoga can help you burn calories, increase core strength, and improve posture and balance.

A gentle form of yoga in which students do not get onto the floor is now being offered in Fellowship Hall on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 2:30. The class is taught by Jeffrey Lippert, certified instructor. It is free for SilverSneakers members and available at a nominal fee to others. So come, join the fun!

TOPS

TOPS invites you to check out the local chapter that meets here in the Wesley Room every Thursday morning between 9:30 and 11:00. Take Off Pounds Sensibly!

International Folk Dancers

The South Suburban International Folk Dance Group meets downstairs below the Fellowship Hall on Monday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The group does ethnic dances from around the world, mostly line and circle dances, so a partner is not required. If there are new dancers, the group will do beginner dances during the first hour and then they will do advanced dances during the second hour. Newcomers are welcome. Participants pay \$3 each time. For more information, please see Lucy.

November 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon After Worship-All- Church Meeting 2-6 pm-AKA, FH 6 pm-Confirmation 6 pm-Brief Rehears. 7:15 pm-The Brief	2 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm- Reconciling TF 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH 7:30pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF	3 6:30 pm-Munch & Help-Lap Robes	4 9:00 a.m.-Men's Coffee 1:30 pm-C Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	5 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts, SC 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	6 6-10 pm-AKA, FH Pastor in Rockford Special Session)	7 8:30 am-6:00 pm- AKA, FH 1:00 p.m.-UMW, Narthex (Annual Conference
8 10:30 am-Worship Stewardship Drive 2-6 pm-AKA, FH 5 pm-Confirm Lead. 6 pm-Confirmation 6 pm-Brief Rehears. 7:15 pm-The Brief	9 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Trustees 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH 7:30pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF	10	11 1:30 pm-C Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	12 9:30 am—TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts, SC 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm—Chancel Choir	13	14 9 am-1 pm-AKA, FH 9 am-3 pm-Drawing Closer to God, Christ UMC, Rockford
15 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change 6 pm-Confirmation 6 pm-Brief Rehears. 7:00 pm-Scout Leadership, FH 7:15 pm-The Brief	16 10am-2pm-State of the Church Fol- lowup-Dr. Malone 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH 7:30pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF	17 1:30-D'BEST, Narthex 7:00 pm-SPRC VOICE Deadline	18 9:00 am-Men's Coffee 1:30 pm-C Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	19 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	20	21
22 10:30 am-Worship Dedicate Pledges 6 pm-Confirmation 6 pm-Brief Rehears. 7:15 pm-The Brief	23 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH 7:30pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF	24	25 1:30 pm-C Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29 10:30 am-Worship 6 pm-Confirmation 6 pm-Brief Rehears. 7:15 pm-The Brief	30					
				FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom Blue = Private Meeting		

the Voice
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Mission Statement

St. Andrew seeks to be a community of
faith that is
Christ-centered
compassionate
and inclusive
sharing gifts and resources
while spreading the gospel
and serving others
locally and globally

Worship with us at 10:30 am
Child care provided