

September 2016

# THE VOICE

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ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



I must say that I am walking on a cloud right now. I just returned from the first class of our All-Church Study, “Half-Truths” at Waterford Estates in Hazel Crest. I love the way that a small group comes alive with intelligent discussion around a relevant and engaging topic. Of the fourteen attendees, everyone was caught up in a spirit of inquiry and sharing.

It’s no secret that even leaders of classes are strengthened in their faith and nurtured by the wisdom that pours forth when we gather to study God’s word. I appreciate how my walk with God is deepened thanks to the insights and experiences of the group.

I hope you have signed up for one of the groups being offered, even if you cannot attend all five. I pray that one of the sermons on the topic of Half-Truths will stir your imagination. Half-Truths are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might even find in the Bible: “Everything happens for a reason,” “God helps those who help themselves,” “God won’t give you more than you can handle,” God said it, I believe it, that settles it,” and “Love the sinner, hate the sin.” We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth—yet they also miss the point in very important ways. Join us as we search for the whole truth.

And bring a lawn chair and your pet (if you have one) to the Pet Blessing Service on Sunday, September 18. We’ll be outside on the west side of the building to enjoy a worship where even the animals are welcome.

Deep Blessings,  
*Pastor Biel*



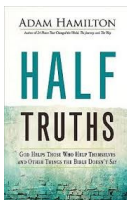
## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 9-10	PRHeSS Rummage Sale	9:00 a.m.
September 10	Breakfast & Program: Climate Justice	9:30 a.m.
September 11	RALLY DAY & PICNIC	
September 11	Youth Group Resumes	5:00 p.m.
September 15	Bell Choir Rehearsal Resumes	6:30 p.m.
September 15	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Resumes	7:30 p.m.
September 18	Outdoor Worship and Pet Blessing, Church Courtyard, Rev. Dr. Regina Davis Bridges Preaching	

*“As we have been blessed, we  
can be a blessing to others.”*



## **All-Church Study:** **Half Truths,** **by Adam Hamilton**



Yes, it's back-to-school time for kids and adults, too, in the life of St. Andrew. We are pleased to offer the five-week sermon series and study based on the book, *Half Truths*.

Upcoming study groups:

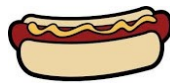
- ♦ Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Waterford Estates, Hazel Crest (started Sept. 6)
- ♦ Fridays at 6:00 p.m. at Toni's home, starts Sept. 9
- ♦ Sundays at 5:00 p.m. for Youth (and those who love youth) at St. Andrew UMC, starts Sept. 11
- ♦ Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. at St. Andrew, starts Sept. 13
- ♦ Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at Brookdale Senior Living, Olympia Fields, starts Sept. 15

Sign up at the table in the narthex or just come. We hope you'll find thought-provoking conversation, good fellowship—and maybe a few nuggets of new information!

## **Rally Day**

September is here and St. Andrew Rally Day will be held this Sunday, September 11. Come and join us for church, the first day of Sunday School, and a fun hot dog picnic to wrap up the day. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, water, and ice will be provided. (Rumor has it that ice cream will also be on the menu!) We would love to have you bring a favorite picnic side dish/dessert to share, and BYOB (bottle of drink, if you would like a soda or lemonade instead of water).

**Save the date—September 11—and come join your friends to start our Fall worship and Sunday School!**



## **From the Youth Group**

Beginning this Sunday, September 11, our regular meetings will start promptly at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings (no First Sundays). We look forward to a year of fun, faith, and growth together!



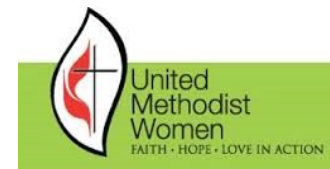
If you know anyone in grades 6-12 who would like to join us, tell Pastor Biel.

## **Climate Justice:** **Call to Hope and Action**

The whole congregation is invited to a breakfast and program sponsored by the United Methodist Women this Saturday, September 10, at 9:30 a.m. *Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action* will be led by Waneta Martin, who took this class at the UMW School of Missions. There will be no business meeting at this time; that will take place at the Circle meeting on Sept. 27.

## **Deb'Est Circle Meeting**

The United Methodist Women's Circle meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at Lucy's home. We will assemble 24 school kits to go to the Mid-west Service Center in Chatham, IL, where they will be picked up and distributed by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) or by Church World Service. Devotions this month will be led by Waneta.



## **Interfaith Speaker**

St. Andrew is pleased to welcome Mohammed Nofal as our speaker here on Friday, September 30, at 7 pm. Mr. Nofal will talk about the mission and activities of SWIFT, SouthWest InterFaith Team, and share his Muslim faith. Please plan to come, and invite friends and neighbors to come, also. Light refreshments will be served.

Mohammed Nofal is the Muslim co-chairperson for SWIFT. A licensed attorney since 2001, he is a board member of the Orland Park Prayer Center Mosque and a former commissioner with the Tinley Park Economic Commission. He is married and has four children.

From the SWIFT website <http://swiftinterfaith.org/>: "The mission of SWIFT is to promote dialogue among the Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious communities and to work together on common community projects. The hope is that the efforts of SWIFT will promote mutual respect and will build understanding among these religious communities.

Membership of SWIFT is made up of Christian churches, Jewish synagogues and Muslim mosques. SWIFT is made up of groups centered around but not restricted to the Southwest suburbs of Chicago, IL.

It is not the goal of SWIFT to convert any group to the beliefs of another. Also, SWIFT does not take stands on political issues.

SWIFT provides a forum for the Christian, Muslim and Jewish people in the area to educate, interact with, and learn from each other. May God bless this endeavor and give it much success."



## **SWIFT Speakers Forum**

The Fall SWIFT Speakers' Forum will be held on Sunday, September 18, at 2:45 p.m. at B'nai Yehuda Beth Sholom, 1424 W. 183rd Street, Homewood. The topic is *Mercy in Our Abrahamic Faiths: Christian, Muslim and Jewish Perspectives*. Speakers are Rabbi Peter Knobel, Dr. Larry Greenfield, and Imam Ahmed Arafat. Admission is free, but you can bring along school supplies to donate to Respond Now.

SWIFT is a nonprofit organization made up of synagogues, churches & mosques located in the south and southwest suburbs of Chicago. Their goal: Christians, Muslims and Jews working together for respect... understanding...religious harmony. St. Andrew is a member of SWIFT, and our congregation and our guests are all invited to attend SWIFT events.



## **Welcome Our New D.S.**

Join us as we welcome Rev. Dr. Jacques Conway as our new Chicago Southern District Superintendent! Sunday, September 18th, at 3:00 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 15101 S. 80th Avenue, Orland Park.

## **Chicago Urban Summit**

"Faith in the Public Square: Becoming the Prophetic, Pastoral and Political Church" is a two-day event. Come, join us for the Young Adult Worship Experience on Friday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Park UMC, 11705 S. Elizabeth Street, Chicago. The program will be held Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Morgan Park United Methodist Church, 11030 S. Longwood Drive, Chicago. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks from the New York Theological Seminary. Cost is \$15.00. Let Pastor Biel know if you would like to attend.

## **Last Summer Rerun:**

## **With Rally Day Approaching, Let's Get in Full Swing**

Before you know it, the summer will be winding down; vacations will be over, kids will be returning to school, Labor Day picnics will be behind us, and it will be Rally Day here at St. Andrew (September 11 this year.) That means that all activities at St. Andrew will be in full swing. Now, as should be obvious, we can't all just SIT ON the swing. A whole bunch of us need to be there to do the pushing -- even better, we could all take turns at pushing the swing.

Since our spring Vision to Action luncheon and through the summer, the Church Council has been synthesizing the results of discussions our members had about the major work areas of the church. While we are still engaged in this process, we have already identified the following focused priorities for our church.

### In the area of Church Growth and Outreach:

- ♦ Organize follow-up with church visitors and others expressing interest in St. Andrew. This includes providing a welcome gift to visitors and initiating member follow-up with thank-you notes, phone calls, and personal visits.
- ♦ Establish a church team for consistent and ongoing communication to the community about EVERY church event.
- ♦ Maintain a visible presence at community events (already begun this summer with the St. Andrew T-shirts and event attendance).

### In the area of Finance and Physical Plant:

- ♦ Establish an ongoing St. Andrew "Development Team."

- ♦ Build upon previous successful fundraisers.
- ♦ Secure leaders and volunteers to serve on a Stewardship Campaign this fall.

### In the area of Children and Youth Ministries:

- ♦ Expand the team of those willing to assist with Sunday School and other children's activities.
- ♦ Establish a leadership team for youth activities.
- ♦ Enlist a youth member to serve on Church Council.
- ♦ Provide opportunities for youth to attend UMC youth events.
- ♦ Provide more opportunities for children and youth to be participants in worship services.

### In the area of Worship and Spiritual Growth:

- ♦ Develop a larger core of members willing to participate in worship as:
  - ◇ Liturgists
  - ◇ Communion Servers
  - ◇ Musicians
- ♦ Build upon possibilities for spiritual growth beyond the worship service, including small groups, classes, creative initiatives (your ideas here!)

We have great ideas here at St. Andrew and a common interest in not only sustaining our church, but growing it and expanding our impact in the community. Church Council meetings are generally attended by 8-12 members, representing a total committee membership of perhaps 25. But with St. Andrew's membership of around 120, and average worship attendance of 60 or more, we definitely need and should have more

folks "pushing the swing." There are many rewards to serving St. Andrew, not the least of which is a stronger sense of connection to a church we love.

So, please, as we enter a new school year, I ask:

- ♦ What priority or area of service to St. Andrew appeals to YOU?
- ♦ Where do you think you might have time or talent to contribute?
- ♦ Is there an area you'd like to learn more about?
- ♦ Where would you like to grow as part of our Christ-centered faith community?

Get back to me ([maryleeruss@aol.com](mailto:maryleeruss@aol.com)), Pastor Biel (and the Nominating Committee), Karen, or any member of the Church Council, and let us know where you can/will serve in the coming year.



*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8*



## **CPR Training at St. Andrew**

Have you wanted to take a course in CPR but didn't know where to go? In late September, CPR training will come to St. Andrew! The cost is \$25.00 per person. At the end of the class you will get a certification card from the American Heart Association that will be valid for two years.



A signup sheet will be available in the narthex for those who are interested. Date and time of the class are yet to be determined, so if you have a preference, let us know.

Then—spread the word! Tell your friends and neighbors about this valuable training. It just could, one day, save a life.

## **Golden Opportunity Books**

Golden Opportunity Books are now available for sale. The price remains at \$25. Take a look at the books on the table by the refreshments. Even if you never use a coupon for a restaurant, you can find plenty of coupons to more than cover the cost of the book. Each book that you buy earns the United Methodist Women \$7.00 to support missions for women and children.

## **COMING SOON!**

### **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**



Mark your calendar! Our spaghetti dinner fundraiser has been scheduled for Friday, October 14. Please try to be available to attend and to help with this event. We'll also need the congregation to sell tickets, which will be available after Labor Day.

### **Christmas Cookie Walk/Bazaar:**

We still need co-chairs for this important fundraiser, which will probably be held on the second Saturday of December. Please consider whether you could serve in this way. We'll need lots of helpers and donations of homemade cookies, candy and bazaar items. Contact Lucy if you can step up and co-chair this event.



### **2016 Annual Harvest Pow Wow**



Let's get to know our neighbors! The Midwest SOARRING Foundation will hold its annual Harvest Pow Wow this year on September 24 and 25. Saturday the hours are 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sunday, until 5:00 p.m. The location is Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster Street, Naperville. The event will include Native American dancing and drumming; craft and food vendors; cultural demonstrations; children's crafts; renowned native flute player, Al Jewer; an exhibit featuring the American Bald Eagle, Deshka; and much more! Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$7 for children 3-12. You can purchase tickets online at a discount if you order by September 18. For more information, please see the flier on the kiosk.

If you are interested in attending after the worship service on Sunday, let Karen know. We might be able to carpool.

## **St. Andrew PADS Site Opens Wednesday, October 5**

Our PADS site opens for women and their children on October 5. We hope our past volunteers will return this year. If we've not heard from you, you should receive a call this week so we can get you scheduled. We'll also need a few new persons, particularly a man for 5:30 a.m. on the Thursday mornings after the 1st Wednesdays. This person's special duty will be to wet-mop the floors with a sanitizing solution. This job requires a few muscles and a good back. We have openings on other shifts, as well, for both men and women. Each volunteer works just one Wednesday a month (with a couple of exceptions) for 7 months (Oct. – April). The shifts are as follows:

6 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; 10:45 p.m. to 3 a.m.;  
2:45 a.m. to 7 a.m.; 5 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Call Lucy Kokal (799-7953) to volunteer.



## **Respond Now and the Clients It Serves Says:**

### **"Thank You, St. Andrew"**

St. Andrew had a wonderful response to the collection of personal hygiene items for *Respond Now* during the month of August. There are many things people really need and which people on a limited budget sometimes have to do without, unless they can get it at *Respond Now*. And even those who have a SNAP card often have to do without, because these things are not "food."

#### **This is what we collected:**

- 7 large packages of toilet tissue
- 30 bars of soap
- 2 large packages of adult diapers
- 44 toothbrushes
- 1 package of cotton balls
- 29 tubes of toothpaste
- 20 deodorant sticks
- 1 box of Johnson's foot soap
- 6 cans of shaving cream
- 1 tube of body lotion
- 50 disposable razors
- 1 tube and 3 bottles of baby lotion
- 11 bottles of shampoo
- 5 packages of baby wipes
- 1 package of table napkins
- 3 bottles of body wash
- 1 foaming body cleanser
- 5 packages of feminine maxi-pads

We also received a few travel-sized items: soaps, shampoo, conditioner, lotion and mouthwash. Our Missions Committee, along with *Respond Now* and the clients it serves, is grateful for your generous response. As we have been blessed, we can be a blessing to others.

## **Respond Now Food Collection**

As always, any non-perishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: cold cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice. The food wagon collection is the first Sunday of the month, but you can place your donations in the shopping cart by the front door at any time.



## **Flood Buckets**

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center has sent over 2000 flood buckets to Louisiana to help in cleanup efforts after the recent flooding there. In September St. Andrew will be collecting supplies to help Midwest replenish their cleaning bucket supply. Everything must be new and must meet the size requirements listed below. Feel free to assemble an entire cleaning bucket if you wish. Donations will also be accepted; just be sure to indicate that you want the donation to go toward flood bucket supplies.



## **An UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Kit (\$65 Value) Contains:**

- One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (Buckets can be reused if cleaned, except those that have stored chemicals, i.e., paint or pool supplies)
- Liquid laundry detergent (one 50-oz. bottle or two 25-oz. bottles)
- Liquid household cleaner (12- to 16-oz. bottles—no spray bottles)
- 5 scouring pads (no stainless steel or pads with soap built in, like SOS Pads)
- 18 cleaning wipes (handiwipes - NO terry cleaning towels)
- Dish soap (16- to 28-oz. bottle)
- 1 can air freshener (aerosol or pump)
- 1 insect repellent spray (6- to 14-oz. can)
- 1 scrub brush (no long handle)
- 7 sponges (NO cellulose sponges, due to mold issues)
- 50 clothespins
- Clothesline, cotton or plastic (one 100-ft. or two 50-ft.)
- 24 heavy-duty trash bags, rolled (33-45 gallon)
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pairs of kitchen dishwashing gloves (good for multiple uses), no latex.
- 1 pair of work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)

## **Caring Crafters**



Crocheters and knitters are welcome, and so are other crafters. We'd love to have you come and share your projects and ideas with the group. We are making prayer shawls as well as other hand-crafted items. Caring Crafters meets in the narthex on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Come, join us!

## **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 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 Silver Sneakers 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!



# September 2016

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

FH = Fellowship Hall  
LF = Lower Fellowship  
SC = South Classroom



**1**  
9:30 am-TOPS

**2**

**3**

**4**  
10:30 am-Worship  
Holy Communion  
Food Wagon

**5**  
LABOR DAY

**6**  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Waterford

**7**  
9:00 am-Men's  
Coffee  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH

**8**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
2:00 pm-Finance  
6:00 pm-Cub Scouts

**9**  
9:00 am-PRHeSS  
Rummage Sale  
1:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
*Toni's* home

**10**  
9:00 am-PRHeSS  
Rummage Sale  
9:30 a.m.-All  
Church Breakfast  
& Program:  
Climate Justice

**11**  
10:30 am-Worship  
RALLY DAY &  
PICNIC  
5:00 pm-Youth  
Group Resumes

**12**  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Int'l Folk  
Dance. LF

**13**  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Waterford  
3:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
St. Andrew  
7:00 pm-Trustees

**14**  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH

**15**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Brookdale  
6:30 pm-Bell Choir  
7:30 pm-Chancel  
Choir

**16**  
1:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
*Toni's* home

**17**

**18**  
10:30 am-  
Outdoor Worship  
Pet Blessing  
Loose Change  
2:45 pm-SWIFT,  
B'nai Yehuda

**19**  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Boy  
Scouts, FH

**20**  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Waterford  
3:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
St. Andrew

**21**  
9:00 am-Men's  
Coffee  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH

**22**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Brookdale  
6:30 pm-Bell Choir  
7:30 pm-Chancel  
Choir

**23**  
1:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
*Toni's* home

**24**  
Bishop's Task Force  
On Intercultural  
Competency-  
Schaumburg

**25**  
10:00 am-Choir  
Rehearsal  
10:30 am-Worship

**26**  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Boy  
Scouts, FH  
7:30 pm-Int'l Folk  
Dance. LF

**27**  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Waterford  
1:30 pm-Deb'Est  
Circle, Kokal home  
3:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
St. Andrew

**28**  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:30 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH

**29**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
10:00 am-*Half Truths* study,  
Brookdale  
6:30 pm-Bell Choir  
7:30 pm-Chancel  
Choir

**30**  
1:30 pm-*Half Truths* study,  
*Toni's* home  
7:00 pm-Interfaith  
Speaker  
Mohammed Nofal  
St. Andrew

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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

#### Welcoming Statement

***Jesus said, “This is My commandment,  
that you love one another, just as I  
have loved you.” John 15:12***

*St Andrew UMC prayerfully strives to be a  
faith community of open hearts, open  
minds and open doors. We believe all  
people are of sacred worth and dignity as  
part of God’s creation and as demonstrat-  
ed by the life and ministry of Jesus  
Christ. As God’s love extends to all, we  
therefore welcome everyone into partici-  
pation and membership regardless of age,  
race, ethnicity, gender, family structure,  
socio-economic status, marital status, ed-  
ucational background, sexual orientation,  
gender identity, physical or mental ability,  
faith history, or life experience. We  
acknowledge that no two of us are alike,  
except in God’s love for us. We believe  
that our differences make us a stronger  
community of faith as we worship together  
and as we grow in our relationship with  
God and one another.*

***Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you  
welcomes me, and whoever welcomes  
me welcomes the one who sent me.”***

**—Matthew 10:40**

