

September, 2015

# THE VOICE

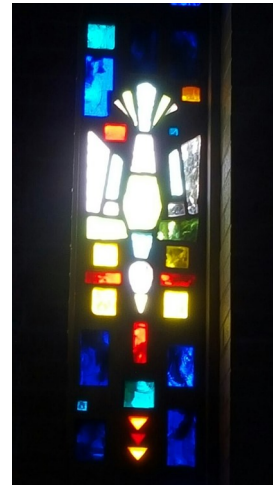


ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## **Help St. Andrew UMC Sack Hunger!**

Soooo Jay Cutler knows a lot about sacks; well, we want you to sideline hunger in our area with a food drive during the week of September 27<sup>th</sup> called "Sack Hunger!"

Each of you will receive grocery sacks with a list of needed food items at worship. During the week, share the sacks with your neighbors, inviting them to partner in this ministry of fighting hunger. On October 4<sup>th</sup> we will bring the collected items into worship for Respond Now (in addition to a loaf of bread for World Communion Sunday and the Munch and Learn).



**T**his is the season when we ask our youth to set aside time to dedicate themselves to learning about the Christian faith, Methodist history, and the Bible. Confirmation Classes will run from October through April for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up.

We will gather on Sunday evenings in the Horn Chapel at 6:00p.m. for a weekly, hour-long study.

Pray for our confirmands, their families, and your leaders: Pastor Biel, Cherryl, and Luke. If you know of any youth who would like to take advantage of this opportunity, have them contact the office by September 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with mentoring a student or leading the class let Pastor Biel know ASAP.

Parents and Students will have an orientation meeting on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

In Christ,

*Pastor Biel*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sept. 8	UMW Potluck	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 10	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Begins	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 13	Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks	
Sept. 16	All-Church Small Groups Begin	
Sept. 20	SWIFT Fall Forum, Elizabeth Seton Church, Orland Hills, IL	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 20	Fall Worship Celebration, 1st UMC, Oak Lawn	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	"Fall Fantasy" Dinner & Fashion Show First Presbyterian Church, Homewood	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26-27	Native American Harvest Pow-Wow, Naperville	
Oct. 4	World Communion Sunday Munch and Learn	after Worship

### **Save the Date!**

Drawing Closer to God, Saturday, November 14, 2015, 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church in Rockford. Bishop Linda Lee will be the keynote speaker. Experience workshops in spiritual prayer practices that will deepen your relationship with the living Christ. Bishop Lee is the editor of the book "A New Dawn in Beloved Community: Stories with the Power to Transform Us," which Regina's class studied last winter. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend; registration is only \$15.00 per person.



"We are not our bodies,  
our possessions,  
or our careers.  
Who we are is  
Divine Love,  
and that is infinite."

—Dr. Wayne Dyer  
1940-2015

## Small Group Meetings

**Are your goals too small? Are you living the “just-get-by” plan? Or is there a greater “God dream” for you that, if lived to the fullest, could permeate and inform every move you make?**

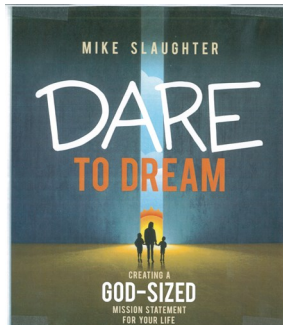
Our next all-church small group meetings will use the book “*Dare to Dream*” by Mike Slaughter as encouragement for developing our own life mission statements. Books are available for \$17.00.

Sign up now in the narthex for the small group of your choice.

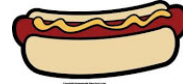
The groups established so far are:

- ◆ At the Brookdale, Monday mornings, 10:30 a.m., beginning October 5
- ◆ At the Patterson home, Tuesday afternoons, 3:30 p.m., beginning September 29
- ◆ At the Parsonage, Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m., beginning September 16
- ◆ At the Bridges home, Thursday evenings, 7:00 p.m., beginning October 15

It would be great if we could have even more groups, so if you are interested in hosting or leading a group at a different time, please call the church office or mark your attendance sheet to let us know.



## Rally Day!!



Rally Day is Sunday, September 13. Plan to stay for a hot dog lunch after the service. We will have regular, turkey, and veggie hot dog options. Buns, condiments, drinks and some chips will also be provided. If you would like to contribute, please bring finger foods to share, such as dip and extra chips, a veggie tray, cookies, or fruit. A freewill offering will also be taken.

## Choir Rehearsals

Chancel choir will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and will begin singing in service on Sunday, September 13. The chancel choir also meets at 10 a.m. each Sunday prior to the service. Rehearsals will be held weekly. All are welcome.

The bell choir will begin rehearsing Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Bell choir is open to anyone who *currently reads music*; however, bell choir does require regular weekly attendance. If you are interested in participating in bell choir and did not participate last year, please contact Angela, as music is chosen on the basis of the specific number of ringers.



## Reconciling Discernment

On July 31, 2015, a core team from St. Andrew met to begin discussion on the possibility of entering a discernment process. This process, if approved, would engage the entire congregation in holy conversations to consider becoming a Reconciling Congregation of the United Methodist Church. On August 12, the Church Council gave its unanimous approval for the core team to move forward with education, discussion, dialog, discernment, and prayer on this topic.

To be a Reconciling United Methodist church means that the church adopts a public statement which, while inclusive of all families and individuals, specifically welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, thus stating our openness and inclusiveness of all of God's children just as they are. It DOES NOT mean that the church would be in conflict with the Church Discipline. Regardless of whether or not we become a reconciling congregation at this time, the prohibitions against pastors performing same-sex unions and the appointment of openly LGBT pastors would govern actual practices of St. Andrew.

It should be noted that our Bishop, Bishop Dyck, is supportive of the Reconciling Ministries Churches in our conference.

The entire discernment process, guided by the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral” of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience, is likely to take around nine months. In the end, the decision to be or not to be a Reconciling Congregation rests with the people of St. Andrew.



## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will have a potluck supper meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8. All are invited (spouses also). There will be no business meeting. The program will be "The Roma of Europe." The presentation will include two short videos about the Roma. This is part one of the study of the Roma. Part two will be at the October meeting.

The business of the UMW will be conducted at the joint circle meeting which will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, at Lucy's home. Our program will be the assembly of 24 school kits for use by UMCOR or Church World Service. Devotions will be by Waneta.



## Caring Crafters

The St. Andrew crochet/knit group has chosen a new name that is more reflective of their work. The new name is Caring Crafters.

The group has been making prayer shawls and is beginning to work on items for the St. Andrew Cookie Walk and Bazaar which will be held on December 12.

Anyone interested in crafting, not just crocheting and knitting, please bring your projects and ideas to share with the group. The group meets in the narthex on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. All are welcome.

## Medicine Bottles Still Needed

We are continuing to collect medicine bottles for the Malawi Project. When you remove the labels, it is important to remove all the sticky residue too. Then bring them (with caps) to the container reserved for them in the narthex. No over-the-counter bottles, please, as they are too large for this particular use.

## First Sunday Food Wagon Collection

Our First Sunday food (and cash) collection does make a difference in the lives of our struggling neighbors here in the south suburbs. Respond Now accepts all types of nonperishable food items as well as cash. And if you miss the wagon collection, food can be dropped off in the shopping cart near the front door at any time.

## Golden Opportunity Books

Golden Opportunity Books will be available for sale beginning September 13! 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 purchase worthwhile. Coupons cover restaurants, car rentals, hotels, air travel, shopping, Chicago area recreation, cleaners, movies, etc.

## CROP Hunger Walk

The CROP Hunger Walk will move back to Homewood for the next two years. Salem Lutheran Church will be the new host church. St. Andrew will probably be asked to be one of the rest stops again when the route is developed. **The date for 2016 is Sunday, April 24.** Mark your calendar.

The ecumenical Steering Committee is in need of someone to create the route and do the signage (with help) that Sunday morning. There needs to be a "long" walk of about 4 miles and a shorter loop of around 2 miles, both with rest stops. This fall when the trees are in full color would be a great time for a couple of people to do some driving around Homewood (starting and ending at Salem Church) to plan the route. Please see Lucy if you wish to do this.

The final results of the 2015 CROP Hunger Walk are now in. The total raised was \$21,804.40. This is down from the \$30,000 that was raised last year. Trinity Lutheran Church of Park Forest was top fund-raiser with a total of \$3,894. Second was Emmaus Community Church of Chicago Heights with a donation of \$2500. Hazel Crest Community UMC was third with \$1,370, **St. Andrew UMC was fourth with \$1334**, and First Christian of Chicago Heights raised \$1315.

**Thank you to ALL OF OUR WALKERS, who let their feet speak on behalf of the hungry in our world, and to ALL OF THE DONORS who have sponsored our walkers with their monetary gifts.** These gifts will be converted into acts of compassion as food and water are made available in times of disaster anywhere people suffer for want of these basic necessities of life.



## **Munch and Learn**

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, a Munch and Learn is planned for after worship. Our speaker will be Pastor Linda, who has been involved with Kairos Prison Ministry. Three different soups, including a vegan option, will be served along with a dessert. We will be asked to bring bread for World Communion Sunday worship, and any extra bread will be enjoyed with our soups.

Linda was involved at the Dwight women's prison until it closed and now is at the Logan Correctional Center in Dwight where the women were transferred. She has been appointed by Bishop Dyck to plant a United Methodist Church within the walls of the women's prison in Dwight.

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

We will have a free will offering for expenses, with all extra funds going to the prison ministry. Please be generous in your giving.

## **Prayer Bookmarks**

Please help us update our prayer card by sending additions, deletions, or changes to Mary Lee or to Karen at the church office. If you write a prayer request on the back of your attendance sheet that you would like to have added to the prayer card, please mark that option to let us know.

## **All-Church Fundraiser: Spaghetti Dinner**

St Andrew will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday, October 23, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Joan and Lucy will co-chair the event. We are looking for folks to be on the planning committee. Also, we will be calling everyone to find other ways they can help, so consider these possibilities:

- ◆ Being one of the “cooks” in the kitchen.
- ◆ Working in one of the rooms behind the kitchen assembling bowls of salad and baskets of bread, cutting desserts and putting them on dessert plates, etc. (This could be a sit-down job pretty much.)
- ◆ Being a table server, host/hostess (seating our attendees), coffee person, dish washer, dish dryer; there will probably be more jobs that we haven't thought of yet.
- ◆ Donating home-made desserts; we'll need lots of them: cakes, pies, brownies, bars, etc.
- ◆ SELLING TICKETS (probably \$10 or \$11; the Committee will have to decide a price.) We need to sell at least 200 in order to make this a profitable, worthwhile event.
- ◆ If you can't help in other ways, how about donating \$40 toward the cost of the supplies?



## **All-Church Fundraiser: Cookie Walk/Bazaar**

We do not have co-chairs or a committee yet for the Cookie Walk/Bazaar in December. Please call the church office if you are willing to be a co-chair. Chairpersons will begin recruiting coordinators of the various aspects of this event: the cookie walk, the craft table, the bistro, the “rented tables,” the Fair-Trade table (if we decide to have one), and the “gently used” table. And, like last year, we'll need many, many donations of home-made cookies and candy and a few desserts for the bistro (if we have it again). Also, we'll need donations of items for the “hand-made gifts” table and for the “gently used” table.

Both the spaghetti dinner and the cookie walk will be important fundraisers for the church, so please consider how you can best support these efforts.

## **1st Pres Dinner/Fashion Show**

The Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood invites you to their annual “Fall Fantasy” dinner and fashion show. Location: 17929 Gottschalk Avenue, Homewood. Friday, September 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Westminster Hall of the church. Tickets: \$18.00 for adults, \$9.00 for children under age 12. Fashions are from the Dress Barn of Homewood. For tickets, please contact Janice at 708/481-0071 or Marilyn at 708/798-2258.

## **Fall Worship Celebration**

All clergy and lay persons are encouraged to attend the Chicago Southern District's 5th Annual Fall Worship Celebration.

The celebration will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn, 100th Street and Central Avenue, Oak Lawn. The theme is *It's A Family Affair: Revive, Renew and Rejoice*, with Rev. Dr. Tracy S. Malone preaching.

Join us as we welcome new pastors, celebrate our shared ministry, and worship with joy! A reception will follow and a special offering will be taken.

*This event is sponsored by the Chicago Southern District Program Council.*

## **School Mentoring**

Our Bishop has been emphasizing the need for us to be involved in mentoring children and youth. St. Andrew is fortunate that Churchill School in Homewood has a program set up which uses volunteers to tutor children for one hour after school. The children can come to Homework Club one or more days, Monday through Thursday, from 3 to 4 p.m. after school. Each adult volunteer gets to develop a relationship with a couple of children over the course of the year. The program usually starts sometime in October.

If you are interested in volunteering one day a week for one hour, contact Anna J.H. or Lucy to find out how to get signed up for the orientation meeting.

## **SWIFT**

Our congregation is a member of SWIFT (Southwest Interfaith Team). SWIFT is an association of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations that wish to work together with each other and get to know one another. Several of us have attended some of the forums in the past and find them very interesting and worthwhile. SWIFT has three events coming up this fall.

September 20: The Fall Forum – 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Seton Church, Orland Hills. The theme is “Racial Harmony In Our Community from Our Faiths’ Perspectives.”

The Forums begin with three speakers (Christian, Jewish, and Muslim) speaking on the topic of the day. Then there is a break for fellowship and refreshments, followed by the question and answer period. Attendees are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for Respond Now.

October 11: Fall Service Project – 1:30 p.m. (location yet to be determined).

Attendees will be packing meals for a Hunger Van. More information to follow.

Interfaith Dinner: November 15 at the Orland Park Prayer Center. The theme is “The Role of Food in Our Faiths.” This is a catered meal. Cost and other information will be available later.

Some of our members who have attended SWIFT events in the past are: Jessie, Lucy, Waneta, Noel and Karen. Talk to them if you want to know more about SWIFT.

## **Harvest Pow-Wow**

You are invited to experience the Midwest SOARRING Foundation's 21st annual Native American Harvest Pow Wow at the Naper Settlement in Naperville on Saturday, September 26, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 27, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Witness Native American dancing and drumming, cultural demonstrations, and arrowhead making; visit craft and food vendors and tour the Naper settlement until 4:00 p.m. daily. Children's crafts will also be available. Gate admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors 62+ and children 3-12. Please see the flier on the kiosk for more information.

Last fall a contingent of St. Andrew members attended the Naperville Pow-Wow following a Northern Illinois Conference Acts of Repentance Listening Session with Native Americans and found it fascinating and enlightening. A group may be attending after the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 27, so please call the church office if you wish to carpool.



## **Saving Our Environment**

The Clean Air Act works! Every year since 1990, 3 million tons of toxics on average have been removed from the air. Reductions include: benzene, 66%; mercury, 60%; lead, 84%.

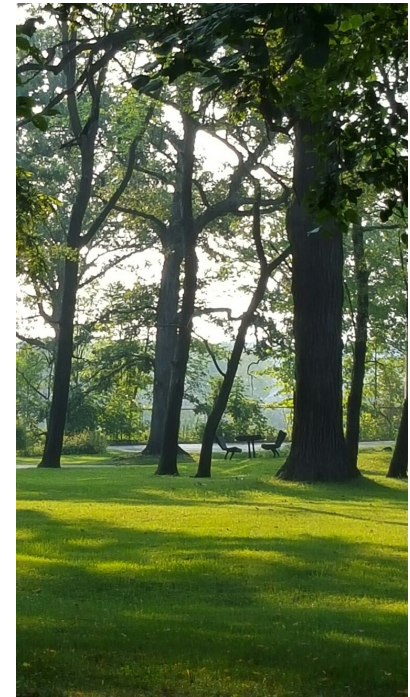
[Ambient air concentrations; Source, EPA]



## **Congratulations, Lee!**

Congratulations to Lee for winning 2 gold medals, in the 400 meter run and the 4 x 400 meter relay, and a bronze in the 200 meter run at the World Masters in Lyon, France.

We celebrated with a potluck in Lee's honor after the worship service on Sunday, August 30. Some of his fellow runners joined in the celebration.



The staff of St. Andrew held a mini-retreat at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer (The "Port") in Frankfort Sunday evening, August 30. This provided much-needed time to re-group, reflect, and, yes, pray. Watch for additional retreat offerings!

We did indeed "Celebrate the Gift!"

# September 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am-Men's Coffee	<b>3</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-AKA, LF	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm-Spaghetti Dinner Planning	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon	<b>7</b> Labor Day	<b>8</b> 6 pm-UMW Potluck	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 am—TOPS 7:30 pm—Chancel Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 am- Reconciling Core Group
<b>13</b> 10:30 am-Worship Rally Day Blessing of the Backpacks	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm-Trustees	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm-SPRC	<b>16</b> 9:00 am-Men's Coffee 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	<b>17</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change	<b>21</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Worship	<b>22</b> 1:30 pm-UMW Joint Circle 6-9 pm-AKA, FH	<b>23</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	<b>24</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-AKA 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00 am-Noon- AKA, FH
<b>27</b> 10:30 am-Worship 12:15 pm-Naperville Pow-Wow	<b>28</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH		FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship	



the Voice  
Is published monthly by  
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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