

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



I've just returned from conducting the memorial service for my Aunt Caroline in Michigan. Being with extended family again gave me the chance to hear the stories I've heard again and again, as well as some new ones. These stories are more than just our memories. They tell what our values are, what special events shaped our character and identity.

Likewise, we have stories in the church that release in our hearts certain qualities and remind us of our identity as God's children. The earliest parts of the Bible contain stories we repeat the most. In Genesis we learn of some of the worst stories of humanity. We also learn about the figures who give us the courage to live faithfully in our own day.

What a gift to realize that we aren't the only ones called to leave our comfort zone, for instance, when we read about Sarai and Abram. Our ancestors in the faith were adventurous and set an example for the generations that would follow. Young people have had to leave home, exiles leave their native land, people leave behind childhood beliefs as we grow in wisdom. As we realize the inadequacy of conventional thought, as we explore unmapped regions of the planet and cosmos, as theories of matter and energy still compete to define truth, we are breaking new imaginative ground.

Daily I marvel and worry about how fast our world seems to move, how privacy and face-to-face interactions are on the decline, how ethics can't keep up with the pace of discovery. Yet the fast pace of today and the changes that brought us to this day give witness to our faith. With the awe, excitement, and revulsion of each new landmark discovery, we are invited to trust God, who commanded Sarai and Abram "Go from what is familiar and comfortable. There are realities greater than you know and I will lead you there."

Jesus worked intentionally at calling his followers beyond the friendly confines of human exclusion. He ate with sinners, spoke highly of Samaritans, touched the ritually unclean, talked with Roman soldiers, even invited a tax collector to be an apostle. Thomas Troeger says, "Part of what makes Jesus so attractive is his willingness to risk censure in challenging the exclusion of people from the circle of God's hospitality."

Hospitality begets hospitality when we read the Gospels; acceptance begets acceptance. May you find comfort and challenge in the command, "Go! Be my witnesses to the ends of the earth," from our taboo-breaking messiah. Once word gets out that we reach out to outcasts, imagine how quickly and widely grace will spread around.

Keep the Faith,
Pastor Biel



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12	T-Shirt Orders Begin	
June 18	Book Club Meets	10:00 a.m.
July 24	SWIFT Interfaith Picnic	1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
August 1-6	5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation	
	Last Day to Register: June 20	



“Grace is the celebration of life, relentlessly hounding all the non-celebrants in the world. It is a floating, cosmic bash shouting its way through the streets of the universe, flinging the sweetness of its cassations to every window, pounding at every door in a hilarity beyond all liking and happening, until the prodigals come out at last and dance, and the elder brothers finally take their fingers out of their ears.”

— **Robert Farrar Capon,**
Between Noon & Three: Romance, Law & the Outrage of Grace

St. Andrew T-Shirts

Beginning on Sunday, June 19, we will have an opportunity to order T-shirts with the new St. Andrew logo—a great way to show our church pride at summer events around town. Prices are \$10.00 for a screen printed straight cut or fitted cut T-shirt, or \$15.00 for a fitted V-neck, in lime or light blue (colors vary slightly according to cut). You can even consider ordering more than one—we need 72 orders for this one-time, full color printing.

Look for the order form in your bulletin this Sunday, or call the church office for assistance. We would like to have our shirts for the Fourth of July parade, if possible.



Celebration Sunday

Thanks to everyone who participated in our all-church celebration on Sunday, June 5. Whether you shared during the church service, offered your hands or food for the fellowship time, or simply attended, thank you for helping us celebrate all the things that make St. Andrew special!

Food, Fun, Games: SWIFT Interfaith Picnic

Sunday, July 24

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE: Our congregation is a member of SWIFT, the South/West Inter-Faith Team. SWIFT offers opportunities for interaction and learning among members of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian congregations. The SWIFT summer picnic will be held this year at Peace Memorial Church (UCC) at 10300 W. 131st St. in Palos Park. Members of all congregations and their guests are invited. Bring a side dish (salad, pasta, anything)...enough for your family and a little to share. A dessert...enough for your family and a little to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, pop will be provided by SWIFT (provisions will be made for dietary requirements of all Faith Groups (Halal/Kosher/Vegetarian, etc.) There are no tickets to purchase for this event, but you may drop off any amount you wish at the Picnic in the Free Will Offering box to help with SWIFT expenses and programs. Let Noel or Lucy know if you plan to attend. A head count is needed by July 18. And—let's wear our St. Andrew T-shirts!

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

Your Spirit Calls!

August 1-6, 2016

**Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House
420 W. County Line Road, Barrington, IL**

The Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation is intended for both clergy and laypersons who hunger for rich spiritual experiences. Rediscover Christianity's rich spiritual heritage through worship, learning and fellowship.

The teaching faculty are Daniel Wolpert (*"Creating a Life With God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices"*) and Jane Patterson (*Keeping the Feast: Metaphors of Sacrifice*).

The Five-Day Academy is sponsored and supported financially by the Spiritual Formation Committee of the Northern Illinois Conference in partnership with Upper Room. Both Pastor Biel and our former pastor Lora Zink are on the leadership team.

The registration fee is \$700, due before June 20, 2016. Only a few more spaces are available. Go to:

https://www.umcnic.org/th_event/5-day-academy-for-spiritual-formation-2/

to download the registration form. Scholarships are available and 3 CEUs (\$15), plus use of the beautiful Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington Hills, IL.



Church Council

Church Council will take a break for the month of June. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. Please remember that all church members are invited and encouraged to attend. Also, if there are any issues you would like the Council to address at the July meeting, please contact Chair Mary Lee or Pastor Biel.

Prayer Bookmarks

Please help us update our prayer card by sending additions, deletions, or changes to Mary Lee Hoganson at maryleeruss@aol.com or to Karen at standrew@ameritech.net. 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.

Book Club

Do you like to read? Would you be interested in a monthly book club? Former members of First Christian Church of Chicago Heights have continued their book club. The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 17th, at 10:00 a.m. at Lucy's house. The book for June is *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. It is a life-affirming memoir of a neurosurgeon's life after a diagnosis of terminal cancer. If you have any questions, contact Toni.

South Suburban PADS Summer Shelter Program

Summer PADS has started. It offers shelter 3 nights a week at Bethel Community Center on the east side of Chicago Heights. (*Please note the change in location.*) Phone Desiree at the PADS office (708-332-7700) to volunteer.

Summer Mission Project

Our Missions Committee has chosen a Special Needs collection for Respond Now as our special project for the summer. As you probably know, the federal Food Stamp program (now known as SNAP), does not cover non-food items such as toothpaste, toilet tissue, and sanitary napkins, and yet these are items people need. So we are collecting the following items during the four Sundays of July:

Toothpaste	Shampoo
Toothbrushes	Conditioner
Toilet tissue	Lotion
Dish detergent	Sanitary napkins
Deodorant	Razors
Bar soap	Shaving cream



Respond Now Food Collection

While any non-perishable food items are accepted and appreciated, this month's collection for Respond Now highlights canned salmon, canned beef stew, cake mix, cookies, pancake mix, and cornbread or muffin mix as possible donations. You can place your donations in the shopping cart by the front door at any time.

Bottle Cap Collection

The Western Springs United Methodist Church is saving bottle caps to acquire a bench, so we are collecting them here again. There is a container on the table in the narthex. Lucy will take what we collect to Kathleen when she sees her at Mission U in July, so we can collect bottle caps until then. Plastic caps such as those from peanut butter and mayonnaise jars and milk, juice, water, detergent, and medicine bottles can be used.

Dear St. Andrew Church,

Thank you guys so much for this beautiful book for graduation and for all your support during the years; you've provided wonderful experiences for me, such as bell choir and Scouts. I am thankful to all of you.

Sincerely,
Luke

Thanks to All Who Helped Make the Salad Luncheon Such a Success!

Thank you to all of our church family who worked hard to make this year's Salad Luncheon/Fashion Show such a success. Rain and clouds made for a bit of a gloomy day outside, but there was a bright spirit inside as about 108 people enjoyed the home-made salads and homemade sweets. And then our 12 models showed us the latest in fashions (eyelet and lace were popular) from the Dress Barn store on Halsted in Homewood.

Total proceeds (which included some extra donations) were \$1908. This covers the United Methodist Women's pledge of \$1500 to support the work of the greater United Methodist Women, supporting projects to help families, women, children, and youth. And that left \$400 to be given to help our own congregation cover its expenses and benevolences.

Again, thanks to all who worked at the luncheon, those who donated salads and treats, those who purchased tickets and sold tickets, and those who donated cash! This was a real team effort.



Upcoming All-Church Fundraisers—Fall, 2016

St. Andrew will have two fundraisers in the fall to help our general church budget.



Spaghetti Dinner:

(towards the end of September or beginning of October) We have two co-chairs for this event but will still need lots of helpers to pull it off. Please be ready to buy and sell tickets and to bring desserts and help where possible.



Christmas Cookie Walk/Bazaar:

(probably on the second Saturday of December) We still need co-chairs for this event, so please consider whether you could serve in this way. And then we'll need lots of helpers and donations of homemade cookies, candy and bazaar items.

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 handcrafted items. Caring Crafters meets in the narthex on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Come, join us!

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!

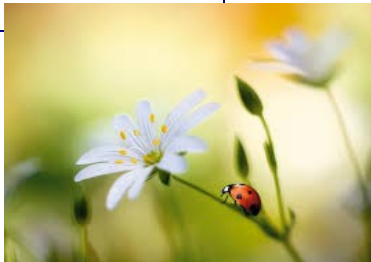


Chair Yoga Classes

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!

June 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom			1 9:00 am-Men's Coffee 10:00 am-Brookdale Study 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Christian Education	2 9:30 am-TOPS	3 9-11 am-Hello Montessori Picnic & Performance	4
5 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Celebration Sunday	6 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF	7	8 10:00 am-Brookdale Study 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	9 9:30 am-TOPS	10	11
12 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Following Worship: T-Shirt Orders	13 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-SPRC	14	15 9:00 am-Men's Coffee 10:00 am-Brookdale Study 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	16 9:30 am-TOPS	17	18 10:00 am-Book Club 8:00 pm-Grad Celebration of Ngozi, FH
19 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change	20 9 am-noon-Hello Montessori Summer Program Begins 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	21	22 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	23 9:30 am-TOPS	24	25
26 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship	27 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	28	29 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	30 9:30 am-TOPS		

July 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Food Wagon Holy Communion	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5	6 9:00 am-Men's Coffee 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	7 9:30 am-TOPS	8	9
10 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship	11 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	12	13 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	14 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance	15 Last Day Hello Montessori Summer Program	16
17 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change 4:00 pm-Eagle Court of Honor- Luke & Alex	18 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	19	20 9:00 am-Men's Coffee 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	21 9:30 am-TOPS 7:00 pm-Church Council	22	23
24 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship 1-5:00 pm- SWIFT Interfaith Picnic	25 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	26	27 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	28 9:30 am-TOPS	29	30
31 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship	FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom					

the Voice
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Methodist Church**
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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



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK