

January / February 2017



THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



An eye on the past and an eye on the future.

The gospels go the extra mile to show that Jesus fulfills prophecies spoken about the messiah. King Herod's advisors studied the prophets to divine Jesus' birthplace: Bethlehem. We learn that the Holy Family fled to Egypt to escape the violence of King Herod. From Bethlehem to Egypt, both Jeremiah and Hosea's prophecies come to life; Rachel weeping for her children in Ramah, and "Out of Egypt I have called my son." Jesus' birth, like Moses', involves the slaying of children. Like Moses, Jesus comes out of Egypt offering God's deliverance.

Jesus' adult life continued to reflect what was said of old about God's Savior. In particular, that he was unwanted, persecuted, and murdered by the legally sanctioned power of the state.

It's hard to make sense of the life of Jesus' family, with its suffering, violence, strange angelic visitations, and immigration. Yet, the cost Mary and Joseph were willing to pay, their sacrifice, led to Jesus' public ministry. Even today, courageously following Jesus leads us into suffering (one's own and the suffering of others). My Roman Catholic friends call this truth an "enigma;" that suffering often does lead to light and life.

Even with a rudimentary understanding of scripture, it's easy to draw parallels to the atrocities taking place today. I don't think it's our job to find meaning in senseless violence. Not all grief leads to belief. It's not our task to perform autopsies on whatever hurt us in the past. The God who calls us into intimate relationship does not make terrible things happen to us.



One can accept that Jesus' original family suffered and still reject the violence done to people and life on the planet today. Just as we would not condone Herod's slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem, we must not blame God for the killings (and acts that kill the personhood or spirit) in our modern life. Nor should we remain silent about them. Instead, however, we must keep open to the possibility that suffering can be used by God to lead us past the cross to resurrection.

The gospel writers had an eye on the past and an eye on the future as they wrote about the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the one who fulfilled the prophecies. With the towering crosses of rejection and human pain surrounding us, we too, need to know our *his-story* and look forward to God's Life-Story living and moving and breathing through our lives.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Biel

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11	Breakfast & Program	9:30 a.m.
February 12	Boy Scout Sunday	
February 26	Soul Food Potluck	After Worship
March 1	Service of Ashes	7:30 p.m.
March 5	First Sunday in Lent	

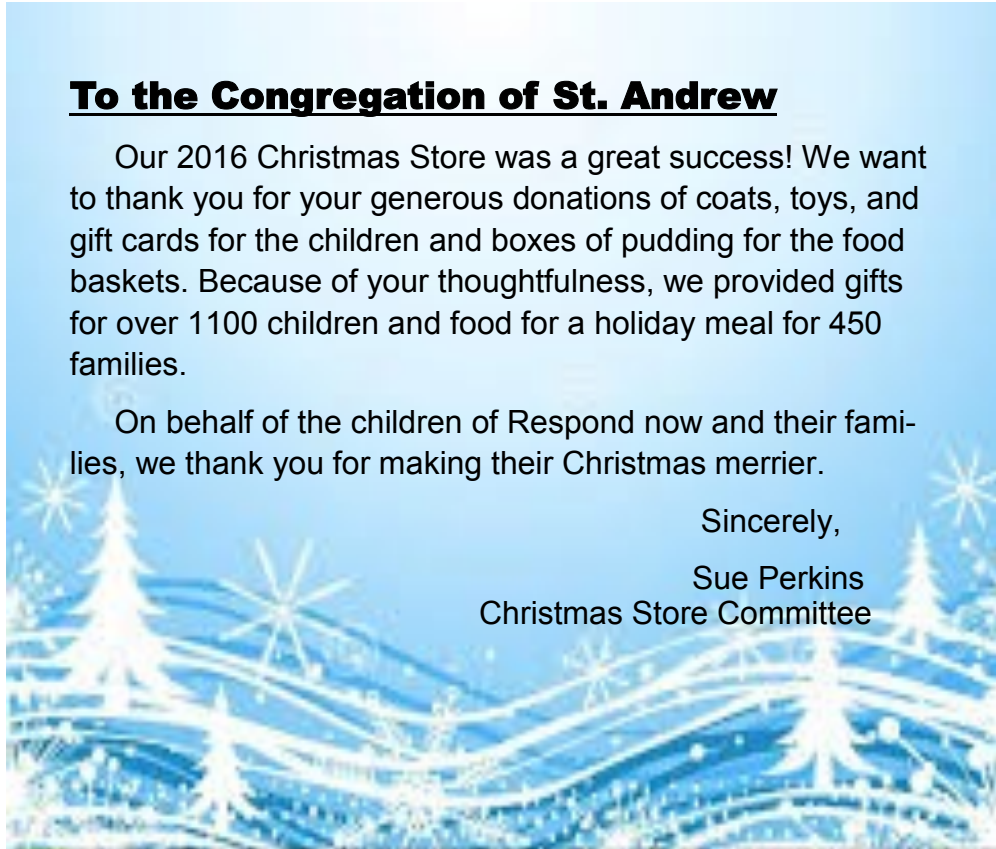
To the Congregation of St. Andrew

Our 2016 Christmas Store was a great success! We want to thank you for your generous donations of coats, toys, and gift cards for the children and boxes of pudding for the food baskets. Because of your thoughtfulness, we provided gifts for over 1100 children and food for a holiday meal for 450 families.

On behalf of the children of Respond now and their families, we thank you for making their Christmas merrier.

Sincerely,

Sue Perkins
Christmas Store Committee



A Iso from the Pastor...

"Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet, do it with gentleness and reverence." 1 Peter 3:15-16

In my youth, I thought speaking truth to power had to be inflammatory. I enjoyed punk rock and rap artists that used profane and disrespectful speech. I felt an electric energy when their lyrics highlighted injustice and abuse by authorities.

As I've grown, I see how much more powerful and lasting respectful speech can be; still bold and forceful. Disrespect can be ignored by those in power. Good causes should not have their message derailed because of caustic language. A recent example for discussion might be the athlete Colin Kaepernick, whose call for racial justice has been drowned out by critics because of his delivery, kneeling during the National Anthem at NFL games. Of course, one could argue that his controversial tactic snared the news channels into playing his footage.

"Speaking truth to power is too important a tool for change to have its effectiveness muted by intemperate argument and speech," says Woodie White. Whether we are looking at the life of Jesus, the early church, or America's Civil Rights Movement, it can be said that those with the greatest impact spoke truth to power in ways that could not be ignored.

What will it take for us, today, to speak in ways that cause not only our friends and neighbors but also people in power to hear and respond? As social media is swamped with memes that disrespect opponents and divide us, how do we raise conversations about higher causes to a higher level of speech?

With Black History Month giving us the opportunity to remember innovators, orators, people who dreamed, all who struggled for truth, let us have the courage to say the right thing in the right places the right way. Let others see the hope that is in the people of St. Andrew because of God's Word alive in us.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Biel

Save the Date

2017 Laity Convocation on Saturday, February 18, at Barrington UMC between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. A new quadrennium, new time schedule, new training format, and session topics to meet the needs local church members expressed during the Landscape Listening sessions. Bishop Dyck will lead us in an interactive Bible study.

Soul Food Potluck

After weeks of gray skies and cold weather, we need to schedule a fun event! In honor of Black History Month, the Worship Committee decided to host a "Soul Food" potluck to be held on Sunday, February 26, after worship. Not all of us grew up on "soul food," so Jessie Cunningham will provide recipes and suggestions from her cookbook collection. A signup list will be in the narthex. Give a new recipe a try and come join the fun and the wonderful food.

Ash Wednesday

The Service of Ashes will be held on March 1 at 7:30 p.m.



Communications / Outreach

The Communications Committee met at St. Andrew on January 15 and had a great turnout. One purpose of the meeting was to recruit committee leaders, as well as expand committee membership. The former goal was fulfilled by selecting new committee co-chairs, Anne C. and Kate A-T. Anne and Kate are both new to St. Andrew, so please come up to them, introduce yourself, and share with them what makes St. Andrew special to you.

The Communications Committee is eager to strengthen and expand the ways we spread the word about our church community. One of our goals is to better fulfill our mission as a community of faith that shares gifts and resources while spreading the gospel and serving others locally and globally. We plan to increase local awareness of the many blessings of becoming part of our church family, and of our identity as a reconciling ministries church congregation.

The next committee meeting is planned for Sunday, January 29, at 9 a.m. at St. Andrew. We hope that you will attend. We look forward to hearing your ideas at the meeting, or in conversation. We have several volunteer opportunities, both large and small, that could use your expertise. Please feel free to contact Kate or Anne with any questions, and join us on January 29!

Development Committee

The Development Committee is in need of expertise in marketing, grant writing, fundraising, community connections to promote use of our building, and legal expertise. Please contact Mary Lee (maryleeruss@aol.com) or Pastor Biel if you can help us out or if you know of someone who may be willing to help. The Committee will meet on Saturday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m. in the narthex. Would love to see anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the church.

Cookie Walk Report

The Dec. 10, 2016 Cookie Walk and Craft Fair was a big success, resulting in a profit of \$ 2,241.66. Setting up downstairs in the Narthex and the Chapel made for a more intimate setting. This also helped make the Christmas Café a more popular site. The Chapel was the perfect size for the eight crafters to display their wares. The event was also organized to make for much less work and a need for a smaller number of volunteers. Thanks to everyone who participated and made this fundraising event profitable and fun.

—Chloe and Toni, Co-Chairs

United Methodist Women

The Deb'Est Circle will host a continental breakfast and program on Saturday, February 11, at 9:30 a.m. The entire congregation will be invited. More details will follow soon!

Book Club



The Book Club will be meeting Saturday, January 21, in the Wesley Room to discuss *The Hamilton Affair* by Elizabeth Cobb. This historical fiction tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, a bastard and orphan raised in the Caribbean, who became one of the most daring and improbable heroes of the American Revolution. His beautiful wife, Elizabeth, from the wealthy Schuyler family, was a pioneering advocate for women. This novel gives a much more realistic picture of the perils of the Revolution and the battle of wills and personalities of the founding fathers that menaced the Hamilton family and the country itself.

On February 18, the Book Club will be discussing *A Wolf Called Romeo* by Nick Jans. This is a true story of an exceptional black wolf who spent 7 years interacting with the residents (human and dog) of Juneau, Alaska. This is a book no animal lover should miss. See Lucy or Toni if you would like to participate.



St. Andrew Youth

The St. Andrew Youth meet in the narthex at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays (except for first Sundays). It is for junior high and high school age youth looking for faith, fun, and friends. We broaden perspectives, we play, we create, and we compete. Upcoming meetings: January 22, 29, February 12, 19, 26.



Our PADS Ministry at St. Andrew

“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ...A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. —Isaiah 42:1-3

In Old Testament times, reeds were used to make papyrus and also woven to make baskets. Naturally, the best reeds would be chosen and the inferior [the bruised reeds] were cast aside. Isaiah was aware that this also happened in human society. The needy, the vulnerable people in society [the bruised reeds and dimly burning wicks] were often the most neglected. But Isaiah claimed justice for those who were “damaged” or appeared not to be the most “useful.”

Many people see our homeless population as “inferior” and not as deserving as some others. But God calls us to **Justice**, not to **Discrimination**. Jesus experienced what it was like to be persecuted unjustly. He understood the fragility and vulnerability of the poor, the handicapped, the lonely. He calls us as his servants to serve the “least of these.”

Here at St. Andrew, we have the opportunity for hands-on ministry to one segment of persons in need—those women who are chronically homeless, or those just temporarily homeless, and of course, in some cases, to their children. Last Wednesday we housed and fed 26 persons (6 of whom were children). Our population varies from week to week, but there is always that need for a welcoming place for 20-30 women and children. We are blessed to have this opportunity to answer God’s call to serve with love, to “bring forth justice.” If you wish to help in any way with this ministry, contact me.

Lucy

St. Andrew PADS Site coordinator

Respond Now Food Collection

As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: rice, canned kidney beans, canned beef stew, canned vegetables, cornbread or muffin mix, crackers. 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.



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!

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!

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon	2	3 10:00 am-Waterford Book Study 2:30 pm-St. Andrew Book Study	4 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	5 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Brookdale Book Study 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	6	7
8 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	9 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	10 1:30 pm-Worship Pastor at Barrington	11 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	12 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Brookdale Book Study 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	13	14 Winter Warming, Arlington Heights
15 9:00 pm-Communi- cations/Outreach 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Sunday School 12:00 pm- Development	16 2:30 pm-Yoga 7:30 pm-Scouts	17 7:00 pm-Church Council	18 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	19 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	20	21 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Room
22 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	23 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	24	25 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga 6:00 pm-PADS	26 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	27	28
29 9:00 am-Communi- cations/Outreach 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	30 2:00 pm-SPRC 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	31	FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom			



February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Crafters 2:30 pm-Worship 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	2 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	3	4 10:00 a.m.- Development Committee, narthex
5 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon	6 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:00 pm-Trustees 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	7	8 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	9 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	10	11 9:30 am- Potluck & Program
12 BOY SCOUT SUN 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	13 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	14	15 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	16 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	17	18 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Room
19 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	20 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	21 7:00 pm-Church Council	22 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga 6:00 pm-PADS	23 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	24	25
26 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School After Worship- Soul Food Potluck 5:00 pm-Youth	27 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	28	FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom			



the Voice

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St. Andrew United

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 demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. As God’s love extends to all, we therefore welcome everyone into participation and membership regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, socio-economic status, marital status, educational 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