

May 2017

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



I live with someone who has a green thumb; the things she plants grow. Spring is a time of surprises for me, to see what plants have made it through winter and are now bursting into glorious flower at your parsonage. After months of bare earth and cold come colorful heads bringing pleasure to the eye, collecting sunshine and enticing pollinators. Some peek out slowly; others appear suddenly with a flourish.

Jesus referred to himself when he said that a single grain would fall to the earth and die and bring forth much fruit. He told his followers that if this did not happen, that single grain would remain by itself, alone. After his death, Christ's body was planted in the womb of the whole world. The world had its way with Jesus by killing him. His burial looked like the end.

Only, it was the beginning. From the darkness of the earth Christ arose; not just one time, but for all time. Jesus is alive in the hearts of those who believe in his glorious Resurrection. His bearing fruit, his flowering, takes place in countless lives. His seed, no longer hidden, manifests itself in each of us.

As bearers of Christ-life, let us also be sowers. Let us share seeds of hope, healing, joyful anticipation, and true rest for the weary. Your support of and participation in the ministries of St. Andrew UMC are some of the ways you sow righteousness in this life. I am convinced that together we will be humbly surprised by the harvest we gather in Resurrection life.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Biel



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6	UMW Salad Luncheon & Fashion Show	noon
May 7	Crop Walk 1:00 registration, 2:00 step-off	
May 9	UMW Potluck Supper	6:00 p.m.
May 16	<i>Stories of Faith</i> study begins, Waterford	10:00 a.m.
May 21	<i>Imaginarium</i> Roundtable with District Superintendent Rev. Jacques Conway	after worship
May 25	<i>Stories of Faith</i> study begins, Brookdale	3:00 p.m.



*The 2017 Maundy Thursday service, which included the Living Last Supper and communion, was held on April 13. It was a profoundly moving experience.
Thanks to everyone who participated and those who attended.*

Salad Luncheon/Fashion Show

We are on track for a strong attendance at our annual Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show on May 6, which pays the UMW pledge to missions. All extra proceeds are given to St. Andrew.

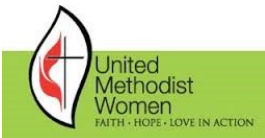
Salads and cookies are still needed. If you can make two identical salads, each one enough to serve about 12 people, or if you can bake cookies or cookie bars, please sign up in the narthex. You can also call Toni at 708-856-0336.



Potluck Supper & Program

All the congregation is invited to a potluck supper and program on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

Our United Methodist Women will have their end-of-season program meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, in the narthex. We'll start with a potluck supper. Our program, entitled *Criminalization of Communities of Color*, will be presented by Jessie . We invite the entire congregation for this program meeting. There will be no business meeting.



Imaginarium

On Sunday, May 21, following the worship service, District Superintendent Rev. Jacques Conway will be our special guest for an all-church "Imaginarium" roundtable. Plan to stay, if you can, for a generative dialog about living into God's future for St. Andrew UMC. A light lunch will be served, with a freewill offering to cover expenses.



UMW Circle Meeting

Our May business meeting will be held at our Circle meeting on May 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Waneta. We'll hear a report on the outcome of our salad luncheon. Our devotions will be led by Waneta, and the program highlighting our *Call to Prayer and Self Denial* special offering will be led by Lucy. We'll also decide if we want to have a "Ladies Night Out" sometime during the summer months and see about attending the summer "Mission U."

Adult Study: Stories of Faith

Using Tex Sample's DVD, Tex Mix, we'll hear and discuss contemporary faith stories as told by this master Christian storyteller.

We will meet Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Waterford Estates in Hazel Crest beginning on May 16th and ending on June 6th.

If you prefer Thursday afternoons, that group will meet at 3:00 p.m. at Brookdale Olympia Fields beginning on May 25 and ending on June 22.

If you would like to lead or host a study at a different time, please see Pastor Biel or call the church office at 708-798-8904.

Resisting Happiness

A new Summer Reading group will meet at St. Andrew at 10:30 on Saturday mornings, beginning June 3, to discuss the book *Resisting Happiness*. Billed as "a deeply personal, disarmingly transparent look at why we sabotage our own happiness and what to do about it," the book will be available in the narthex for \$5. All those who are interested are invited to join the discussion.



2017 Bishop's Appeal

(excerpted from the NIC Reporter)

...The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) is the recipient of the Bishop's Appeal for 2017. Each congregation is asked to take a special offering or to do some type of special fundraising to help support the appeal.

In years past, the Bishop's Appeal has raised \$45,000 or more for the causes selected...Twenty-five percent of the funds donated may be retained in the annual conference for local projects.

The World Health Organization, WHO, reports that 36.7 million people are infected with HIV. Nearly half of those who are infected are women. The UMGAF assists 287 projects in 44 countries. The goals of the UMGAF are: the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; the prevention of HIV in young people and high-risk populations; increased access to HIV counseling, testing, and treatment services; stigma reduction and psychosocial support to people living with HIV...

UMGAF is seeking a total of \$50,000 in support for 2017...The NIC HIV/AIDS Task Force believes this is more than achievable when we all work together. Bishop Dyck gives us an opportunity to respond to this continuing global crisis. There are many ways to support the Bishop's Appeal. There are many educational resources available on the NIC website, GBGM website, and many others.

According to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, over 43,000 people in Illinois are living with HIV/AIDS. The majority of those persons live within the boundaries of the Northern Illinois Conference. HIV/AIDS is both global and local. Your giving to the Bishop's Appeal for the 2017 annual conference session helps both those who are far away and those who are close to home...

Please act courageously, give generously, and love boldly, that we can help put an end to a disease which continues to devastate families, communities, and countries. For more information and resources, visit:

www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal.

St. Andrew's Loose Change Offering on May 21 will go to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal. Please give generously.



Respond Now Food Collection

As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: canned beef stew, potato products in a box, canned vegetables, canned fruit (especially pears and peaches), apple juice. The food wagon collection will be on May 7, but you can place your donations in the shopping cart by the front door at any time.

South Suburban CROP Hunger Walk – Sunday, May 7, 2017

Calling all walkers! This fundraiser helps fight hunger around the world (through Church World Service) and also here at home (through six local food-providing agencies). The walk will start and end at Salem Lutheran, 18324 Ashland Avenue in Homewood. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m., with opening ceremonies at 1:30 and stepoff at 2:00 p.m. The long walk has been shortened to four-plus miles and the short walk to just under two miles.

See Jessie if you can be a walker. If you can't be a walker, please consider sponsoring a walker with your donation; checks should be made out to "CWS/ CROP." You can also "walk online" by registering on the South Suburban CROP Hunger Walk site and soliciting donations from your online friends and relatives. Our grandchildren do this all the time for school and sports team fundraisers. To register to walk online, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/homewoodil



Night Ministry Tour

The Night Ministry in Chicago has set up a special van tour for us on Sunday, July 23rd. The plan is to meet at the West Town shelter at 3:00 p.m. for an introduction to the mission and a tour of the shelter facility, and then visit the Health Outreach Bus at its first stop in Humboldt Park at 4:00 p.m. The tour will wrap up by 4:45 p.m. We will definitely plan to car pool. July is a long time away but will be here before we know it. We need to know that there is enough interest for this tour, so please sign the sheet in the narthex to indicate your interest (or let Carolyn Funk know of your interest).

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, healthcare, and human connection to members of our community struggling with poverty or homelessness. Through The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus, Youth Outreach Van, and Youth Shelter Network, each year services are provided to 5,200 adults, teens, pregnant and new moms who have nowhere else to go.



Attention Young Christians:

Chicago Southern District Summer Camp

August 13-16, 2017

Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon IL

We're bringing the Chicago Southern District to Dixon next summer, as our district kids and youth (grades 4-13) take over *all* of Camp Reynoldswood for the Chicago Southern District Camp August 13-16.

Chicago Southern District Superintendent Jacques Conway's contagious enthusiasm for this new mini-camp (Sunday through mid-morning Wednesday), has everyone champing at the bit to *Unmask Jesus* through archery, swimming, canoeing, Bible study, team building, campfires, and so much more!

The Chicago Southern District Superintendent's office will be offering full and partial scholarships to ensure that every child who deserves to attend can attend. If you can sponsor a child or two, direct your questions/donations to the Chicago Southern District office at 77 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602 (312-346-9766, ext. 732). Make your check out to "Northern Illinois Conference" and put "Chicago Southern Camp" in the memo line.

In addition to creating a great experience for our own children and youth, this is an opportunity to recruit kids from around our neighborhoods. It just might help grow St. Andrew's children's ministry.

Register online at

www.niccamp.org/summercamps

Early Bird Pricing: \$229 (deadline 6/6/2017)

Full Price: \$249.



Mark Your Calendar:

Vacation Bible School Is Scheduled for August 7-10

Organizational Meeting Monday, May 15

The Church Council voted to schedule a Vacation Bible School (probably for grades through 5) Monday through Thursday, August 7-10, in the evening. There will be a preliminary organizational meeting on Monday, May 15. If you think you can help with this endeavor, please try to be at this meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, see Lucy to express your willingness to help and in what capacity.



PADS 2016-17 Draws to a Close at St. Andrew

We've made it successfully to the end of another season of offering shelter on Wednesday nights to homeless women and children. Our many volunteers have offered not only shelter but food and comfort and, above all, hospitality. We had 50 volunteers who came on a regular basis this season to host our PADS guests, and we had four substitutes. THANK YOU to all of you, and thanks to all the following volunteers as well:

Dinner was provided by: Progressive Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago (1st Wednesdays); Peace Memorial UCC of Orland Park (2nd Wednesdays); New Hope Christian Community Church of Monee (3rd Wednesdays); First Presbyterian Church of Homewood (the first two 4th Wednesdays) Sandy and Pat on the 4th Wednesday of January; the P family (4th Wednesdays of February and March); and Mayo AME Church (4th Wednesday of April). A catered "soul food" meal was provided by the South Suburban LINKS Club on our two 5th Wednesdays (November and March).

Breakfast and Lunch Food Items were provided by: LINKS Club on 1st Wednesdays; Salem Lutheran Church of Homewood on 2nd Wednesdays; New Hope Christian Community Church on 3rd Wednesdays; St. Joseph's Catholic Church on 4th Wednesdays; and our own St. Andrew congregation on the two 5th Wednesdays.

In addition, we had twelve volunteers who helped serve dinner and cleaned up, one who hemmed the towels that Lucy receives from donors and cuts up to be made into towels for our guests; three who made telephone reminder calls to regular volunteers; and our Boy Scouts and their leaders, who set up our site with mattresses, pillows, blankets, sheets, tables and chairs, etc.



For the most part, it is a joy to welcome and serve our guests. We have few problems. However, as with any other aspect of life, there are a few difficulties that go with the territory. In a recent entry in *The Upper Room* devotional booklet, a woman tells about her father, who just loved to feed the birds, especially the beautiful birds that came to the feeder. But sometimes there were crows that came and created a bit of a raucous. She asked him why he didn't chase them away, as they were just a problem. His reply was, "the crows need to eat too." That reminded her (and me) that, whereas most of our people are easy to love and care for, even those who are an occasional problem need our love and care as much as, or more than, the others. Each one is a creation of God, beautiful in some way. We are truly blessed to be able to be Christ's disciples, serving "the least of these."

Lucy
St. Andrew PADS Site Coordinator



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From the Bishop: A Time to Declutter?

Few people do “spring cleaning” anymore. In case you’ve never heard of it, it was the practice of thoroughly cleaning a house in the springtime. Its history is debated, but in most cultures, spring was a time of new beginnings which called for the cleaning out of the old.

The origins of spring cleaning are thought to go back to the Iranian Norouz, the Persian New Year, which falls on the first day of spring. Iranians practice “khooneh tekouni,” which literally means “shaking the house” before the New Year begins. Scotland and Japan also have “New Year’s cleaning” on December 31.

In northern climates, whether in caves, huts, teepees, sod houses, wooden or brick structures, spring cleaning meant that you had to have enough light and warmth to take draperies and rugs and even mattresses outside in order to clean them. You had to open the windows and the doors to let a fresh breeze blow out the stuffiness and let in more light, which is always good for cleaning!

Traditionally, the Church had a thorough cleaning of the altar and everything associated with it on Maundy Thursday.

Which brings me to my point. Have you looked around your church building lately? Do you have a lot of clutter? Do you have

rooms that you don’t use much anymore and they have become clutter magnets, collecting every old thing brought into or made in the church? Take a look at the backside of the pulpit. Could you do an archeological dig of every children’s sermon in the last year (or more)?

Just like Jesus “cleaning the temple,” I can tell you stories about cleaning out storage areas in a church only to be met with harsh criticism. “You threw away what?” Whatever it was, we hadn’t used it in years. One particular thing that really upset an elderly woman in the church was so faded you could hardly recognize what it was. My husband threw away a raggedy cardboard donkey (who hadn’t gotten the lead in a Christmas play or Palm Sunday parade for years) and he got a real dressing down! People don’t always like you to mess with their clutter!

But it is all worth it! You see, when we have a lot of clutter around our churches, especially in public spaces for all to see (not just new people or visitors), it says that we live in the past, not in the future. We’re hanging onto stuff that we don’t need and in fact keeps us from being free, nimble, and even new. Our old stuff is more important than dreaming and creating fresh expressions of being church, telling the story, and living unencumbered by all the old.

Decluttering our buildings from literal papers, props, and stuff may actually help

us declutter some other things, like old hurts, “we’ve always done it that way” excuses, and too much looking back and inward instead of looking forward and outward. We could all really use some spring cleaning in our hearts, minds, and relationships!

There’s a meme on Facebook that says, “Instead of giving up sweets for Lent, give up clutter! Each day, fill a bag (any size) with things that you no longer need/ use and donate to charity.” It might be a little late to do the...Lenten practice, but even if you [give up clutter now]...at church and in your own life—you might find the decluttering of your house, church, heart, and soul.

God is always seeking to do a new thing in us and through us. Give God some space to work; open the windows and doors of your life for fresh breezes and more light, beginning in your building and moving into your heart and mind.

Enough for now; I’ve got some decluttering to do. What about you?

—from the *NIC Reporter*, April 2017



Bishop Sally Dyck

South Suburban PADS Has a New Executive Director

Doug Kenshol is the new Executive Director for South Suburban PADS, replacing the last director, who resigned a few months ago. Mr. Kenshol is married to Amy Wiegert, an ELCA pastor who previously led churches in Evergreen Park and Tinley Park, at which time they became involved as donors and volunteers for PADS. Prior to joining SSPADS, Doug served for nearly nine years as the Regional Vice President for Resource Development at Mercy Housing Lakefront, where he secured private philanthropic gifts totaling more than \$20 million. He holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. He and Amy are parents of two children adopted from Africa.

The statistics for this PADS season will be out in time for the annual meeting in June, but in the previous season, PADS reports having housed 384 people. The total number of individuals sheltered at the emergency overnight shelters (of which our church is a part) was 703.



Bible Word Search: **John 3:16**

H	E	T	L	I	O	W	S
I	V	A	N	E	H	H	H
S	E	H	G	O	F	S	A
V	I	T	E	A	S	I	L
M	L	V	E	D	V	R	L
B	E	G	O	T	T	E	N
R	B	Y	L	N	O	P	O
D	L	R	O	W	E	H	T

**Begotten, Believe, Gave, His, in Him, Life,
Only, Perish, Shall not, Son, That, The
world, Whoever**

*Christian Bible Reference.org
contributed by Tanya*



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!

May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	2	3 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Worship 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH	4 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	5	6 Noon-UMW Salad Luncheon & Fashion Show
7 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon 1:00 pm-CROP WALK	8 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	9	10 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	11 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	12	13
14 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	15 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	16 10:00 am- <i>Stories of Faith</i> , Waterford	17 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH Voice Deadline	18 9:30 am-TOPS 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	19	20 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Room
21 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Teacher Apprec. Sunday School After Worship- Imaginarium 5:00 pm-Youth	22 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	23 10:00 am- <i>Stories of Faith</i> , Waterford	24 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	25 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm- <i>Stories of Faith</i> , Brookdale 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	26	27
28 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	29 Memorial Day	30 10:00 am- <i>Stories of Faith</i> , Waterford	31 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom		



the Voice

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St. Andrew United

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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

