

June/July 2017



I used to have a saying, “Don’t make plans for May. May will make plans for you.” End-of-the-year school activities just pile up in May; graduations, confirmations, awards ceremonies, banquets, concerts, and art shows. This spring has offered us a glimpse into the accomplishments of our young Christians as well as an appreciation for their dedication to academics, arts and sports.



I’m proud of and celebrate the three graduates in St. Andrew’s midst: Kyah graduated from University of Iowa, Tess and Nyduta from Homewood-Flossmoor High School, and I.T.T. scholar Beverly will graduate midyear, as well. I pray God’s wisdom and guidance on them as they journey forth to acquire more education in the upcoming academic year. Tess will be attending Adrian College in the Fall, and Nyduta will be a little closer to home at Valparaiso University.

Summer 2017 is shaping up, too. The trustees are tackling some roof repair needs. In response to the All-Church Retreat, Imaginarium, in May, there will be a weekly Prayer Group Wednesday afternoons “On the Threes:” 3:33 p.m. To increase the visibility of our space, I will offer Free Weddings one day a week called Tie the Knot Tuesdays. We anticipate another good gathering of St Andrew Methodists to work the crowd

at the 4th of July Parade on the corner of Central and Ridge. Summer studies at the church and the Waterford will be available. And one of our church friends will be partnering with Exodus (from our Munch and Learn) to host a refugee family for one month; more details on how St. Andrew folks can assist will be coming.

Proverbs 28 reminds us that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” Vision, *chazon*, can mean *revelation*, or ‘*What God wants us to be.*’ I am excited about the opportunities St. Andrew provides to do God’s will. A vision needs a task. I hope that in activities in this newsletter and in your daily living you are blessed to witness God’s work in you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Biel



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3	<i>Happiness</i> Reading Group begins	10:30 a.m.
June 4	Pentecost Sunday Indoor Picnic	after Worship
June 6	First <i>Tie-the-Knot</i> Tuesday	
June 7	<i>On-the-Threes</i> Prayer Group begins	3:33 p.m.
June 17	Car Wash—Youth Fundraiser	11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
June 18	Father's Day	
July 4	Independence Day Parade Ridge/Center (Homewood) Meetup	9:30 a.m.
July 11	<i>Stories of Faith</i> begins at Waterford	10:00 a.m.
July 16	Pizza with the Pastor	after Worship
July 23	Night Ministry Tour	3:00 p.m.





Reminder

This Sunday, June 4, immediately following worship, we will celebrate Pentecost with an indoor picnic. Wear **RED!**



Car Wash!!!

Saturday, June 17, 11:00 am.-1:00 p.m.

We need your help to send four kids to Summer Camp. To raise funds for the Chicago Southern District Youth Camp, "Unmasking Faith," this August at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, we'll be at the church in a couple of weeks putting a shine on your ride. Freewill offerings are being accepted already. We could use your old towels, as well, to help make this event a success. Pastor Biel will accept your donations.



Youth Summer Camp

**August 13-16
Camp Reynoldswood**

Attention young Christians: this summer's Chicago Southern District Summer Camp at Camp Reynoldswood has everyone champing at the bit to Unmask Jesus. For youth entering 4th-12th grades, it will offer archery, swimming, canoeing, Bible study, team building, campfires, and so much more! The cost is \$249.

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 at Waterford Estates in Hazel Crest July 11, 18, 25 and August 8, 15, 22. Classes begin at 10:00 am.

Happiness Summer Reading

A new Summer Reading group will meet at St. Andrew at 10:30 on Saturday mornings, beginning June 3. We will 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." A couple of books are still available for \$5 to anyone who is interested in joining the discussion.

On-the-Threes Prayer Group

**3:33 p.m. (after Yoga) Wednesdays,
June—August.**

Refresh your spirit with a 30-minute midweek devotion in the Chapel.

Prayer Bookmark

If you have a prayer request which you would like to have added to the prayer bookmark, please let us know. You can write your request on the back of your attendance sheet, email standrewspeaks@gmail.com, or call the church office at 798-8904.



Calling All Musicians

If anyone would like to perform vocally or instrumentally during the summer for our Sunday service, please contact Angela or call the church office at 798-8904.



4th of July Parade

Corner of Ridge and Center

For the last two years, we have had a strong showing of St. Andrew supporters at the roadside of the Homewood 4th of July Parade. Bring a lawn chair, water bottle, sun protection, and a St. Andrew T-shirt. Let's celebrate our country's Independence together. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. The parade kicks off at 10:00.



Pizza with the Pastor

July 16, after worship

Interested in the United Methodist Church, its history, polity, and future plans? Would you like to join St. Andrew UMC and become a member? This informal one-hour meeting will enlighten you about some of the unique characteristics of Methodism in general and St. Andrew in particular.

“Imaginarium” Gathering Report



On Sunday, May 21, Pastor Biel and the Church Council hosted our District Superintendent, Rev. Jacques Conway, at an all-church “Imaginarium” gathering. Following a light lunch, Rev. Conway brought a welcome from his office and led the 30 members in attendance through table discussions focused on the joys, challenges, and prayer needs of St. Andrew.

Following this uplifting time together, Church Council Chair Mary Lee reviewed progress on the following goals set at our May 2016 Visioning gathering:

Church Growth and Outreach

Goals and progress:

- **Communications Committee:** Established and co-chaired by Anne and Kate. This committee is now meeting regularly.
- **Follow-up with visitors:** Greeters and sign-in book. We have begun a welcoming process for visitors, including St. Andrew gift bags. Pastor Biel follows up with visitors. We have yet to establish regular member follow-up.
- **Establish consistent/ongoing process for advertising church events:** Betsy has taken this on with significant success.
- **Visible presence at community events:** T-shirts with church information.

Pastor Biel continues to make inroads in this regard.

- **Unique visible event:** Communications and Church Council continue to strategize for this.

Finance and Physical Plant

Goals and progress:

- **Use resources of Community Partners for the Common Good:** Trustees have had a meeting with this group and are processing advice given.
- **Organize a development team:** Committee established and chaired by Don Sobelewski. The committee is evaluating ways to make our facilities more attractive for community use.
- **Reassessing rental arrangements:** Ongoing, with Trustees and Finance involved.

Worship and Spiritual Growth

Goals and progress:

- **Small groups are thriving:** New lay leaders have stepped forward.
- Once again, the Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper, in ecumenical conjunction with St. Andrew’s Lutheran in Glenwood, was a huge success – drawing a good number from the larger community.

Children and Youth Ministries

Goals and progress:

- **Establish leadership for Youth Program:** Pastor Biel has taken this on

with significant success. Regular Youth meetings and events are taking place.

- **Provide more opportunities for Youth to participate in UMC youth events:** Our youth will attend the summer NIC camp program.
- **Engage more of congregation in children’s ministry:** We have reached out to the congregation for more volunteers for the Sunday School program and members have stepped up.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Will be re-established this coming summer, thanks to the leadership of Lucy and a few others.

Adult and Senior Ministries

Goals and progress:

With the exception of the overlap purpose of the small groups, there is still much opportunity to engage here. Ideas suggested last spring included:

- Game nights
- Progressive dinners
- Activities involving the community

After Mary Lee’s report, Finance Committee Chair Nita gave an update on the finances of the church. She reported that giving continues to be faithful, but that weekly collections continue to fall about 25% short of income needed to meet budgeted expenses. Fortunately, expenditures are also below budgeted figures.

(Cont.)

("Imaginarium" Gathering Report—continued)

To date in 2017, we have not needed to tap into church reserves, but Treasurer Jessie noted that will likely be necessary in the near future.

In a related report, Chair of Trustees Don explained that we are at a crisis point in terms of roofing needs for the church building facilities. Bids are being secured and we will need to determine soon how the expenses will be met.

Finally, co-chairs Anne and Kate reviewed the extraordinary progress of the new Communications Committee. This included the successful application to the NIC Creative Ministries Grant, which resulted in a nearly \$700 award to begin a new ministry in the area of English as a second language. It was noted that this grant will allow us to launch a new outreach into a previously unserved segment of our community.

The meeting ended on a very positive note, as long-time active member Wanita remarked on how wonderful it was to gather together and focus on the positive aspects of what St. Andrew accomplishes together as a community of faith!



Vacation Bible School

August 6, 7, 8

We will hold VBS at St. Andrew this August on three evenings, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, August 6-8, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Our goal (and our limit) is about 25 children going into 1st through 5th grades. Our theme is "God's Promises for ALL." We'll emphasize one promise on each evening: God Promises LOVE, God Promises HOPE, and God Promises EMPOWERMENT.

Each session will have a relevant Bible story, memory scripture, music, small-group discussion, and a related craft activity. Lucy is leading the "Love" theme, Pastor Biel is leading the "Hope" theme, and Kate is leading the "Empowerment" theme. Our helpers, so far, are Toni, Ann, Cheryl, Emily, Jenny, and Kay. We could use a couple more, particularly male role-model helpers.

Registration is from June 4 through July 9. This is not restricted to children from our congregation, so please do invite your friends and neighbors!



Tie-the-Knot Tuesdays

Once a week, all summer, St. Andrew UMC will offer free weddings to interested couples. "Tie-the-Knot Tuesdays" will include, free of charge,

- use of the sanctuary
- a bridal room
- the pastor on the day of the wedding
- a required "get to know you" meeting
- up to two wedding consultations.

Additional building use will be available for a fee.



Brethren,

I greet you in the name our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

My gratitude to you for your continuous support of PRHeSS ministry over the years. This is our ninth year of successful ministry, making positive difference in the lives of His children in rural Africa, all to His glory.

With your support, PRHeSS Community Hospital is now serving at least 7000 residents in rural Sierra Leone, praise God! You are a blessing to many in need.

Through no fault of ours, PRHeSS ministry did not meet the Advance approval this year. According to the reviewers, PRHeSS ministry has not generated a significant enough amount of funds to meet our outlined budget. It has been recommended that we work with the Global Health Unit of the GBGM. PRHeSS ministry, however, is still a member of the Rainbow Covenant of the Northern Illinois Conference.

Please continue to keep PRHeSS ministry in your prayers. We appreciate your financial support. Your support means everything to the poor, deprived, and suffering folks in rural Sierra Leone.

Please write your checks to PRHeSS ministry and mail to PRHeSS, P.O. BOX 1071, Homewood, IL 60430 or visit www.africanhopeanddignity.org and donate.

Attached please find pictures of the hospital that you have supported, in action.

Thank you again for all your sacrifice in time, effort, and resources.

Dr. Sam Kormoi., 708 308 3064, kormoi@yahoo.com

Founder, PRHeSS ministry.

Transformation Community UMC, Harvey IL

PRHESS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SERVES THE UNDERPRIVILEGED



PRHeSS is a non-profit organization (NFP) and its management is based at :

12757 South Western Ave., Suite 106 , Blue Island, Illinois, 60406
or P.O. Box 1071 Homewood, IL, 60430

Phone (708) 668-6020

Donations accepted through:

www.africanhopeanddignity.org

We thank you all for your contribution to this significant life saving effort towards a healthy community



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 carpool. July seems like 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 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.



PRHeSS Walk-a-thon

PRHeSS, Pan-African Rural Health and Social Services, is using our grounds for a Walk Fundraiser, July 15. The walk kicks off at 9:00 a.m.



Respond Now Food Collection

As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: canned salmon, canned baked beans, grapefruit juice, cold cereal, cake mix, cookies. 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.



Feeding Program June 5—July 18

Rich East, Rich South, and Rich Central High Schools are all serving free breakfasts and lunches to all children ages 1-18, no matter where the child lives. Any hungry child may participate. Just show up; no need to register. Also, any adult may purchase a breakfast for \$2 and lunch for \$3 with no proof of income. The program starts June 5 and runs through July 18. Breakfast will be served between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Lunch, between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Questions? Call the District Food Service office at: [708-679-5728](tel:708-679-5728) or email: bwilliams@rich227.org



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!

June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom		1 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Stories of Faith, Brookdale	2	3 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
4 DAY OF PENTECOST  10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon After Worship- Hot Dog Lunch VBS regis begins	5 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	6 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	7 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	8 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 3:00 pm-Stories of Faith, Brookdale	9	10 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
11 10:30 am-Worship Graduate Recognition	12 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	13 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	14 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	15 9:30 am-TOPS	16	17 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Rm 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> 11am-1pm- Car Wash
18 FATHER'S DAY 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change	19 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	20 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday 7:00 pm-Church Council	21 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer	22 9:30 am-TOPS	23	24 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
25 10:30 am-Worship After Worship- Communications	26	27	28 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	29 9:30 am-TOPS	30	

July 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon Collection	3 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	4  9:30 am-Parade Meetup, Ridge and Center	5 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	6 9:30 am-TOPS	7	<div> <div>10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group</div> <div>10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading</div> <div>1</div> <div>8</div> </div>
9 10:30 am-Worship	10 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	11 10:00 am-Stories of Faith, Waterford <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	12 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	13 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance	14	15 9:00 am-PRHeSS Walk-a-thon 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Rm 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
16 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change After Worship- Pizza with the Pastor	17 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	18 10:00 am-Stories of Faith, Waterford <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	19 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	20 9:30 am-TOPS	21	22 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group Voice Deadline
23 10:30 am-Worship 3:00 pm-Night Ministry Tour (Sign up!)	24 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	25 10:00 am-Stories of Faith, Waterford <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	26 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	27 9:30 am-TOPS	28	29 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
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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