

August 2017



Jesus said, "Do you know how difficult it is for people who have it all to enter God's kingdom?" The disciples couldn't believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on, "You can't imagine how difficult. I'd say it's easier to thread a camel through a needle's eye than to get a rich person into God's Kingdom." Mark 10:23, The Message.

I can't tell you how many times I've messed up a new shirt or pants with a spill or a tear, or scuffed some brand new shoes by stepping carelessly. The feeling of loss and frustration with myself is immediate. I'm pretty tough on things that I wear, which is why I stopped buying wrist watches years ago. The problem is, not only am I less than graceful, I'm also picky about the way things fit and stingy about paying a lot. So shopping with me is tedious; it's common for me to leave clothing stores without a purchase after trying on several items.

With all the time invested in an outfit, I get a brief sense of satisfaction. I get a fleeting thrill from having a fresh look. I feel, if even for a moment, that by looking good I've got it together.

In my imagination, the local official who asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life was probably the best-dressed guy the disciples had seen that day. Picture him, well dressed, a man of status and dignity, and what does he do? He runs! That's right. This important ruler, who has messengers to do his running for him, drops all his appearances, pride, and dignity and runs to Jesus.

After going over the requirements in Torah, Jesus informs this man that he'll inherit eternal life by selling everything he has, those possessions that hoard him, giving it to the poor, and following Jesus. I can't begin to imagine the rich man's sadness. The disgust I feel at ruining yet another garment is tempered by the fact that I can't remember owning 90% of my wardrobe. I look at old pictures and I am surprised at what I've owned. I count myself lucky in that attic junk (and losing it) doesn't mean much to me.

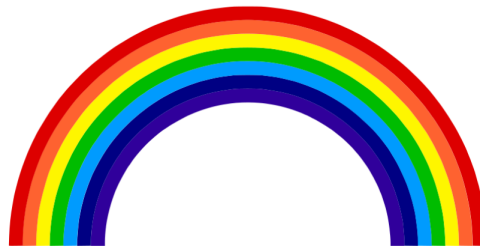
I guess I'm pretty lucky, too, that I don't "have it all together;" it keeps me humble. Jesus seems to be telling the rich young man that he needs to experience some dependence, some loss, some basic needs, the gift of extravagant generosity. Jesus knows that the "cracks" in our lives are where the light gets in. Jesus knows that our wounds are God's workshop where glory shines through, precisely because we didn't make it on our own. Our needs help us in our faith walk because they reveal to us our dependence on God and one another.

Church is not the place to go to once you've got it all together. We want you with your stains and brokenness. I like the saying that church is a "hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints." We are all in recovery, rehabilitation, and healing. Life beats us up, but without those human experiences and God in them, how could we minister or bring God's kingdom near to another's suffering? I like to think that the reason we have the rich ruler in all three synoptic gospels is because he was a "somebody" in the early church. That he

(Continued on p. 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 6	New Member Recognition	
Aug. 6—8	Vacation Bible School <i>God's Promises for ALL</i>	7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Aug. 13	Ladies' Day Out "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Beatniks on Conkey, Hammond, IN	2:00 p.m.
Aug. 13-16	Southern District Youth Camp	
Aug. 19	Community Garage Sale, St. Andrew	9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Aug. 26	NIC Stewardship Summit Barrington UMC	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Aug. 28	Montessori Fall Term Begins	



(Pastor's Letter—Continued)

took Jesus' challenge after confronting his sadness and found new life in the community of believers. Maybe they called him Saint Camel-Eye; who knows?

I do know this! You have the chance to cast off your belongings, to support the work of Jesus Christ alive in our midst, with the upcoming garage sale at St. Andrew August 19. May you be blessed to discover the treasure that really is eternal life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Biel

On-the-Threes Prayer Group

3:33 p.m. (after Yoga) Wednesdays, through 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.

From the Finance Committee

We on the Finance Committee are always looking for ways to identify, improve and simplify methods of giving to St. Andrew UMC. There are options of providing funds for the church now and in the future. Online banking and bill paying for example—this may be something you already do with your household bills, but may not have thought to use for your church contributions as well.

Several persons currently make their contributions to St. Andrew directly through their bank. Setting it up is a simple procedure that can be done by going to your bank's website and filling out a form or by going to your bank and making arrangements with an on-site banker. You will set up an amount, a date, monthly, quarterly or annually, when you want a bank check sent directly to St. Andrew. The bank will send an email to notify you when this has been done and you can enter it into your check register. When the check is received at St. Andrew, the contribution will be credited to you on your giving statement by the Financial Secretary. The process can be changed or stopped anytime you wish. This is a convenient way to be assured your contributions to St. Andrew will be received even if you cannot attend on any given Sunday.

(Cont.)

Some churches, especially those with younger members, have set up methods of giving using credit or debit cards. A surprising number of younger persons no longer carry cash or checkbooks. St. Andrew may not yet be ready for this manner of giving, but it could be something to address in the future.

We have benefited from remembrances in members' wills. These last cherished gifts are most welcome. Church members may make gifts of appreciated securities, including stock or bonds. There are potential benefits not only to the recipient of such gifts but to the benefactor as well. For example:

- Avoid paying capital gains tax
- Receive a charitable income tax deduction
- Enjoy possible increased income
- Further God's mission

See Pastor Biel if transferring any of your stocks or bonds to the church is something you would consider.





LAST CALL for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS at St. Andrew will begin this Sunday, August 6, at 7:00 p.m. and run through Tuesday, August 8, ending at 8:30 p.m. each evening.

Our theme is “God’s Promises for All.” On Sunday, we will have “God Promises Love;” on Monday, “God Promises Hope;” and on Tuesday, “God Promises Empowerment.”

We are looking forward to an enjoyable time with children from our church and from the community. If you know of someone who would like to attend but has not yet registered, it’s not too late. They can register online or in person. Please see Lucy or Anne for more information.

Ladies’ Day Out, 2017

United Methodist Women are sponsoring a “Ladies’ Day Out.” On Sunday, August 13, at 2:00 p.m., we will go to the musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at Beatniks on Conkey in Hammond, IN. Tickets are \$20. So far, we have 12 ladies signed up. Some may want to go to eat after the play. Watch for further information on that. Each person is responsible for purchasing their own ticket, but Lucy will try to make a reservation for the group ahead of time, so let Lucy know if you are interested in going. **All women of the church are invited.**

Community Garage Sale

August 19, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

It’s coming...it’s almost here! On Saturday, August 19, St. Andrew will host a community garage sale, and we’re all invited to donate our gently used household items...or rent a space and sell them ourselves. Or maybe you have specialty items you’d like to sell? It’s all up to you and your imagination.

\$10 will get you two parking spaces, and, if needed, you can use a 6’ table for \$5. (Or, call the church office and ask about sharing a table with someone.) You can register online for a space. Bring your own canopy. Setup can begin as early as 7:00 a.m. that day. We’ll have hot dogs, chips, pop, and water for sale through a vendor.

Call the church office at 798-8904 if you need someone to come and pick up your donations (kitchen and household items, tools—no furniture, televisions, electronics, or exercise equipment, please, and we prefer no clothing except babies’ clothing). A van pickup will be available Sunday, Aug. 13 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 14 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

We could still use a little help in organizing donations on Friday, August 18, and in setup and cleanup on Saturday. Cashiers will be needed as well. If you can help, please see Ken or Don or call the church office.

So—clean out your unwanted treasures, spread the word, and come, join the party!

*Northern Illinois United
Methodist Foundation Annual
Stewardship Summit*



“Stewardship for Real People: Flaws and All”

Saturday, August 26, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington. Are you seeking inspiration? Practical experience? Meaningful change? Join this summit to begin building a specific and practical plan for your church. The individual cost is \$40; for a church group of three or more, \$120 in advance. The cost at the door will be more. Childcare will be available for preregistrations.

The presenter will be Rev. Molly Baskette, author of the widely acclaimed *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead and Yours Can Too* and *Standing Naked Before God: the Art of Public Confession*. She is the senior minister of the warm and eclectic First Church Berkeley (CA) UCC. Rev. Baskette also serves as a consultant to local churches and regional and national church groups, with an affinity for church renewal, social media, and spiritual formation for the new millennium.

In response to feedback, this year’s summit will include both a plenary session and time for churches to work with their teams to begin building financially healthy congregations.

To register and for more information, visit umfnic.org/summit

The Congregation Is Invited —
Saturday, September 9 – 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Program

“Mass Incarceration”

led by Jessie

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring this event, but the whole congregation is invited. There will be no business meeting at this time; that will take place at the Circle meeting on September 19.

Rulers for Respond Now

We met the goal of 400 rulers for the backpacks that will be given out to needy children at Respond Now’s “Back to School Party.” THANK YOU to all who contributed rulers. YOU ARE AMAZING.



St. Andrew PADS

St. Andrew’s PADS Site opens for women and their children on Wednesday, October 5. We hope our past volunteers will return this year. If we have not heard from you, you will receive a call right after Labor Day to get you scheduled. We will also need a few new persons. We particularly need a man for 5:30 a.m. on the Thursday mornings after the first Wednesdays. This person’s special duty is to wet mop the floors with a sanitizing solution. We usually finish up by 7:00 a.m. or very shortly after. This job requires a few muscles and a good back. We have openings on other shifts, as well, for both men and women. Each volunteer works just one Wednesday a month (with a couple of exceptions) for seven months—October through April. The shifts are as follows:

6:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
10:45 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
2:45 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.
5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Call Lucy to volunteer.



Crop Hunger Walk



The South Suburban Crop Hunger Walk thanks St. Andrew for being the #3 fundraiser this year. The total for the 2017 walk was \$22,025.00. St. Andrew’s total was \$1,645.00. Trinity Lutheran of Park Forest was #1 with \$4,999.00 and Emmaus Community Church of Chicago Heights was #2 with a total of \$2,947.00. A total of 29 churches/organizations participated. Thanks for sharing with hungry persons around the world and here at home.



Respond Now Food Collection

As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: peanut butter and jelly, canned chicken, canned soups, potato products in a box (scaloped, instant mashed, etc.), canned fruit (especially pears and peaches). 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.



Tie-the-Knot Tuesdays

St. Andrew is still offering free weddings to interested couples, once a week, through August. "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.



Remember Our Servicemen

Bible Word Search: Love

Contributed by Hannah Holt

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

Christ, Church, Commands, Fruit, God, Grapes, Jesus, Lesson, Love, Matthew, Revealed, Spirit



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 Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.



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 at St. Andrew 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!

August 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom		1 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday 7:00 pm-Church Council	2 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	3 9:30 am-TOPS	4	5 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
6 10:30 am-Worship New Member Recognition Holy Communion Food Wagon 7-8:30 pm-Vacation Bible School	7 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7-8:30pm-Vacation Bible School	8 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday 7-8:30pm-Vacation Bible School	9 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	10 9:30 am-TOPS 10:00 am-Adult English Program Planning Meeting 2:00 pm-Finance	11	12 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
13 10:30 am-Worship 2:00 pm- <i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i> —Ladies' Day Out Southern District Youth Camp (Aug	14 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 13—16)	15 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	16 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	17 9:30 am-TOPS	18	19 9:00 am-2:00 pm-Community Garage Sale
20 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change	21 11:00 pm-Staff Parish 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	22 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	23 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	24 9:30 am-TOPS	25	26 8:00 am-3:00 pm-NIC Stewardship Summit, Barrington UMC 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
27 10:30 am-Worship	28 Montessori Fall Term Begins 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	29 <i>Tie the Knot</i> Tuesday	30 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 3:33 pm-Prayer Group	31 9:30 am-TOPS		

the Voice

Is published monthly by

St. Andrew United

Methodist Church

18850 Riegel Rd.

Homewood, IL 60430

Phone: 708/798-8904

E-mail: standrewspeaks@gmail.com

Website: homewoodsaintandrew.org

Editor: Karen Patterson

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Biel, Jr.

Deacon: Rev. Dr. Regina Davis Bridges

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