

September 2017

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



In the homes of families with children and youth, this is Back to School season. Likewise, at St. Andrew, it is Back to Sunday School time. Pray for our wonderful kids and their helpers as they grow in their faith on Sunday mornings. In October, some of our youth will begin the two-year process of Confirmation, while others will finish the course and be confirmed in May. I'm excited for Adult Christian Education opportunities coming up in the Fall, too. There is something for everyone to help us become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

It's a good time to remember the basics of our faith formation: worship attendance, daily Bible reading, generosity, personal prayer, small group study, and witness. That last one, witness, is about sharing the good news about what God has done.

You ever notice that part of the Bible with Ezekiel, where God's voice tells him to eat the scroll? And, when he had, do you remember what Ezekiel said it tasted

like? The words on the scroll, lamentation and ruin, fit the experiences of Ezekiel's people. But, instead of being bitter, these words of truth were sweeter than honey. What tasted good to Ezekiel's spirit-filled body in God's presence, he was able to share with others. Because, face it, if something tastes good we want to tell somebody.

The Bible, this library of sixty-six books of history and poetry, enlightened ideas, and faith, is a living text. By that, I mean that it still informs our daily life. It is a way for the Spirit to lead us, or as Rob Bell says, is "way ahead of our present consciousness and practice."

In worship, daily devotion, and study groups, the word comes alive and it is worth sharing. Lots of people are already talking about grief and anger, change and danger, doubt, worry, joy, grace, and health; those are exactly the sorts of things happening in the Bible and the life of the church. So we connect. We examine and notice, together. We recount stories about God's spirit tugging and goading people just like us to become a people, through whom God blesses the world.

Again, Rob Bell: "I've been reading and studying and exploring and rereading and rethinking and giving sermons from the Bible for twenty-five years, and I find it more compelling and mysterious and interesting and dangerous and convicting and helpful and strange and personal and inspiring and divine and enjoyable than ever." That's a lot of "ands;" and, he has a point! Together, our thinking is shifting, our consciousness growing, and our deeply spiritual issues are made known, namely, our need for God's love and grace revealed in Jesus and how to faithfully respond. Together, as the church, we enter into God's story of ending violence and being a blessing.

Embracing our scriptures, our traditions, our experiences, and our intellect is best done in community. I hope that within this newsletter some opportunity to grow in your faith walk with others at St. Andrew presents itself. And when you taste what we have to offer you find it sweeter than honey.

Confirmation classes will begin on October 8th at 4:00 p.m. Parents, there

(Continued on page 3)



September

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9	Breakfast and Program	9:30 a.m.
Sept. 10	Rally Day	
Sept. 17	SWIFT Speakers' Forum, Frankfort	3:00 p.m.
Sept. 22	Movie: <i>Hidden Figures</i>	7:15 p.m.

To the members of St. Andrew,

Our annual Back to School event on Saturday was once again a success. Your collection of 400 rulers was *amazing* and was so helpful in filling the backpacks with needed school supplies.

On behalf of the children who can start the new school year ready to learn, thank you for your generosity and support of Respond Now.

Sue Perkins
Back to School Committee
Because all our neighbors matter.



will be an overview of the class after worship on September 17th. Please plan to join Pastor Biel, Cherryl, and this year's mentors for orientation and class schedule.

Youth! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 24th. We will travel to Northbrook for a Northern Illinois Conference-wide Youth Group gathering. We depart at 3:30 and will return at 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.

The October Sermon Series and All-Church Study is based on "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul." Look for small group sign-ups in the lobby. If you'd like to place a book order through the office, you have until September 17th. Cost is \$15.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Biel

Rally Day

Rally Day, which kicks off the beginning of the new school year at St. Andrew, will be held on September 10. Hot dogs and chips will be provided after the worship service. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, if you wish.



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.

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



Breakfast and Program

"Mass Incarceration"

led by Jessie Cunningham

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring this event in the chapel and 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.



Movie: Hidden Figures

Hidden Figures will be shown at St. Andrew on Friday, September 22, at 7:15 pm. Everyone is invited, including older children and youth. After the movie, there will be a discussion.

Hidden Figures is the incredible untold story of Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, brilliant African-American women working at NASA who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanized the world. The visionary trio crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big.

SWIFT

Christian, Jewish, and Muslim speakers will discuss the relationship between religion and science at the next SWIFT Speakers' Forum, Sunday, September 17, with registration beginning at 2:30 pm. The Jewish speaker is a retired ear, nose, and throat doctor who now teaches medical ethics, while the Christian speaker is a chaplain who also teaches medical ethics. The Muslim speaker is a practicing physician in pulmonary and critical care medicine and an associate clinical professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago; he was named Chicagoan of the Year for 2016 for his humanitarian work in Aleppo. This should be a very interesting program, so we are encouraging you to attend.

SWIFT is a nonprofit organization made up of synagogues, churches, and mosques located in the south and southwest suburbs of Chicago. St. Andrew is a member. **The forum will begin at 3:00 p.m. on September 17 and will be over around 5:30 p.m.** There will be a break for refreshments around 4:30; a question-and-answer session will follow. Please bring nonperishable food for Respond Now.

The Speakers' Forum will be held at the St. Francis Woods Auditorium of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, 9201 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort. (Drive toward the back of the main building to the chapel area.) Let Carolyn, Jessie, or Karen know if you are interested in carpooling.



Sixty Plus Retreat

Spiritual Journey into a Deeper Place

Everyone aged 60 and above is invited to come and experience spiritual growth Thursday, September 28, at 1:00 p.m. until Friday, September 29, at 3:00 p.m. at Northern Illinois University Hotel in DeKalb, IL (121 Normal Road, DeKalb, IL).

Themes include

- Living Life to the Fullest Spiritually
- Exercising Your Total Self
- The Gift of Stability
- The Power Within You

Early registration (by September 20) for commuters, which includes three meals and parking, is \$30. After Sept. 20 the cost is \$40. A double occupancy room (two single beds for two people in one room) is \$70 by Sept. 20, \$80 after. A single occupancy room is \$110 by Sept. 20, \$120 after. Registration for a couples room (two people for one bed) is \$120 by Sept. 20, \$140 after.

Scholarships are available; contact James Barry for information at texbarry1@yahoo.com. For general information, contact Pastor Rosa Lee at pastor-rosalee@gmail.com or Pong Javier at abjavierjr@gmail.com

This is an Older Adult Ministry in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Kindling the Faith— Engaging the World



Do you long to be with others who share a desire to deepen one's relationship with God through teaching, prayer, daily Communion, and covenantal fellowship?

The Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation meets again this fall, between October 29 and November 3, at the Siena Retreat Center, 5637 Erie Street, Racine, Wisconsin.

The Academy, designed for both “head” and “heart,” is for clergy and laity. It is a place where Christian faith is challenged in the context of a shared experience led by faculty presenters who invite participants to reflect on your own spiritual journey and how God is at work in your life.

The presenters this year are Sister Mary Margaret Pazdan, OP, PhD, and Rev. David Brownlee. Registration, which includes room and board, is \$525. For more information, contact Linda Vance at lin-daandmel@charter.net or 608-630-9485.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is a program of the Upper Room sponsored by the Wisconsin Annual Conference, Foundation, and Spiritual Formation Resource Team.

Spiritual Formation

Drawing Closer to God

Saturday, November 4, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Barrington United Methodist Church
98 Algonquin Road, Barrington

Drawing Closer to God, an annual event sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Committee of the Northern Illinois Conference will be held this Fall. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

The day includes worship, a keynote address, and two workshop sessions. Lunch is included. There are opportunities for conversations with other people, quiet time, and labyrinth walking.

Our keynote speaker this year will be **Rev. Dr. Regina Davis-Bridges**. Her presentation is “**Spiritual Pathways: Drawing Closer to God Using our Own Unique Paths.**” She will also offer a workshop “Prayer and Personality Type: Creating Your own Individualized Plan for Spiritual Growth.”

Other workshops are Praying in Color, Labyrinth Walking, Spiritual Journaling, and Biblical Storytelling as a Spiritual Practice. [Click to download a brochure.](#) Registration by mail is open now. The online registration on the NIC website is scheduled to be available in early September.

Child Care Volunteers Needed

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for volunteers to help with child care during the morning service. Volunteers would work with trained, paid child care workers about once a month. You would need to arrive at least 10 minutes before the beginning of the service. Most Sundays child care is not needed, so you would be able to attend most of the service.

Volunteers are needed because we need to reduce the cost of child care at this time. If you think you might be interested, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Contact a SPRC member for more information.

Snow Plowing

SNOW will be here before we realize it. Trustees need to find someone reliable to plow our parking lot. If you know a dependable person who might be interested in the job, please contact a trustee or Karen at 798-8904.



Choir Rehearsals

Chancel choir will begin weekly rehearsals again this fall on Thursday, September 14, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The choir also meets at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday prior to the service. Everyone is welcome to join in as their schedule allows.

The bell choir will also resume on September 14 with rehearsal at 6:30 pm.



CSD Lay Academy—Fall 2017

The Chicago Southern District Lay Academy will take place on two consecutive Saturdays, October 7 and 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at Faith United Methodist Church, 15015 Grant Street, Dolton. Participants must attend both sessions to receive Lay Servant credit for completing the course.

Classes include:

Basic Course: Lay Servant Ministries
United Methodist Heritage: Living our Faith
A Mission Journey
Afire with God
Bible Study: Book of Exodus

Registration is \$20. You can either pay at the door or send a check with your registration to Debbie Rogers at 77 W. Washington St., Suite 1820 Chicago, IL 60602
Make your check payable to: Chicago Southern District Lay Servant Academy.

You can also email your registration to drogers@umcnic.org or fax it to 312-346-9730.

If you have registration questions, contact Debbie Rogers at 312-346-9766, ext. 732. Lay Academy questions should be directed to Dr. Irma Clark, Director (irmklarc@aol.com; 773-239-0704) or Rose Faulkner, Dean (rosefaulkner@sbcglobal.net; 773-288-5433).

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 Kokal (799-7953) to volunteer.

Providing Pathways Home

Vision: South Suburban PADS is an interfaith movement working to prevent and end homelessness in the region.

Pathways Home: South Suburban PADS provides a continuum of services to help people survive and escape homelessness.

People Served: South Suburban PADS helps families, veterans, and people with special needs.

Fiscal Year 2016 / 2017 Impact:

Engaged 448 people through street outreach

Provided emergency shelter for 822 guests

Served 34,299 meals

Preserved or provided affordable rental homes for 570 residents, including 204 kids

27-Year Impact:

Provided emergency shelter for over 17,000 guests

Casey was working and doing well. Then he lost his job. After a few months, he exhausted his savings and became homeless—sleeping in his car or on the couches or the floors of friends.

Fortunately, Casey was able to obtain an affordable rental home at South Suburban PADS' Country Club Hills Wellness Center. With help from South Suburban PADS staff and programs, he found a new job and completed a training program at John Amico School of Cosmetology, where the motto is "Beauty Changes Lives."

According to Casey, "beauty changes lives, but so does a home."

Thank you for providing pathways home for people like Casey.

Respond Now Food Collection



As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: rice, canned tuna, pancake mix, cranberry juice, grape juice, canned beef ravioli. 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 Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.


Chair Yoga Classes

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.

TOPS

TOPS invites you to check out the local chapter that meets here in the Wesley Room every Thursday morning, 9:30—11:00.

September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom</p>					1	2
3 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon	4 LABOR DAY NO Chair Yoga	5 6:30 pm-Worship Committee 7:00 pm-Trustees	6 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 3:15 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	7 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts	8	9 9:30 am-Breakfast and Program
10 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship RALLY DAY Sunday School	11 3:15 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance	12	13 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 3:15 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	14 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15	16 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
17 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Sunday School After Worship- Confirm. Orient. 3:00 pm- SWIFT Forum	18 3:15 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance	19 1:30 pm- DebEst Circle, Lucy's Home 7:00 pm-Church Council	20 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 3:15 pm- Chair Yoga, FH	21 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 7:15 pm-Movie <i>Hidden Figures</i>	23 10:00 am- Book Club 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group
24 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School 3:30 pm-Youth Group Gathering	25 3:15 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance	26	27 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 3:15 pm- Chair Yoga, FH	28 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10:30 am- <i>Happiness</i> Reading Group

the Voice

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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