

February 2018

# THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**A**s they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. “Master, don’t you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand.”

The Master said, “Martha, dear Martha, you’re fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it’s the main course, and won’t be taken from her.” —Luke 10:38-42

Growing up in Beloit, a buddy of mine and I used to laugh about his parents asking him, “Why can’t you be more like Tim?” because my mother would ask me a similar question, “why can’t you be more like Mike?” In the story of Mary

and Martha told in Luke’s gospel, Martha may feel like Jesus is singling her out to be more like her sister. It’s hard to reflect on the fact that Jesus is trying to help, says Rev. Christian Coon in his new book “Failing Boldly.”

If you’re like me, realizing that you’re doing something wrong can be humiliating and embarrassing. I sometimes resent and get envious of others who are ‘doing it right.’ Faced with the errors of my ways, I totally fit the description Jesus uses, saying, “You are worried and distracted by many things.” There’s only one thing you need to pay attention to. That’s Jesus.

Rev. Coon compares Jesus’ advice to a scene in the film, *City Slickers*, about three city dwellers trying to get away from it all on a dude ranch out west. Billy Crystal’s character, Mitch, opens his heart to the guide and veteran rancher, Curly, about his mid-life crisis and search for direction. Curly offers him a simple bit of wisdom.

“You know what the secret of life is?” as he holds up one finger.

“Your finger?” Mitch asks, joking.

“One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and everything else don’t mean s\*\*\*.”

“That’s great, but what’s the one thing?” asks Mitch.

“That’s what you gotta figure out,” responds Curly.

Just as Jesus sensed Martha could choose a better option, we can each use the upcoming season of Lent to put aside distractions and focus on what our “one thing” might be. I invite you to explore the landscape of your heart and its desires with others from the St. Andrew community. How fitting that Valentine’s Day is the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Whatever your one thing is, I’m sure it will be met with God’s love and grace.

In Christ,

*Pastor Biel*

# February

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |         |                                       |               |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Feb. 10 | Breakfast and Program (UMW sponsored) | 9:30 a.m.     |
| Feb. 17 | Laity Convocation, Sycamore UMC       | 9:00 a.m.     |
| Feb. 25 | Lunch and a Movie                     | After Worship |

*To the Congregation of St. Andrew,*

*We want to thank you for collecting pudding for our Christmas food baskets. Our Respond Now families enjoyed having food for a holiday meal with extra fixings.*

*Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness during the holiday season.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sue Perkins*



## **New Music Director to Join St. Andrew February 1**



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Morris will be joining the staff of St. Andrew as Music Director on February 1. His first Sunday will be February 4. With a doctorate in choral conducting from the University of Iowa, Dr. Morris has most recently retired as Director of Music Activities at Macalester College and Minister of Music at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, both in St. Paul, Minnesota. Prior to that, he was organist and Director of Music at several United Methodist churches, his own denomination.

Dr. Morris welcomes anyone who would like to join our adult chancel choir. If you have ever considered the ministry of singing in our choir—this is the time to step forward!! Just check the bulletin for rehearsal times and join the challenge and feel the blessings of singing God's praises! In addition, Dr. Morris will be reconvening the adult bell choir in the near future.



## **Thank you, Karen!!**

Many thanks to Karen, who accompanied the choir and provided music for worship during the month of January.

## **Communications and Outreach**

Our new Communications & Outreach Committee has spent the past year working to expand community awareness of St. Andrew. Most recently, we've developed a short summary of our purpose and primary responsibilities (listed here), along with a publicity request form (next page). This form will be posted on our website, for electronic submission, and also available in the church office. Please take a few minutes to look over our focus statement and objectives and our publicity form, and let us know how we might help you with communication and outreach. We are excited to continue spreading the good news about St. Andrew!

### ***Focus Statement:***

The purpose of the Communications and Outreach Committee is to promote St. Andrew as a Christ-centered, diverse, and inclusive church community. Within the church, the committee will act as a resource in this effort.

### ***Objectives:***

The Communications and Outreach Committee will:

- receive and help disseminate details of church programs and events;
- provide guidance and support for the advertisement of church programs;

### ***(Communications & Outreach—cont.)***

- facilitate the development of a welcoming environment at St. Andrew; and
- promote community awareness of St. Andrew's mission, vision, and ministries.

To access the Communications & Outreach page on the St. Andrew website, <http://homewoodsaintandrew.org>, click on WE DO and then on Communications & Outreach Committee. This page currently has our focus statement and objectives and will also have a link to the publicity request form. You will be able to print out and submit a copy, or, if you prefer, you can complete it online and email it directly to the church office.



## **December Fund-Raisers a Great Success**

This is a belated thank you and pat on the back for EVERYONE who assisted with our December fund-raisers: The cookie walk, Homewood Holiday Lights, and the Chatham Choral Ensemble concert, dinner, and silent auction. There was an incredible outpouring of support in terms of volunteers and attendance from so many church members and friends!! Together, these efforts raised nearly \$5,000 for the general operating fund of St. Andrew.

Please submit to the Church Office at least one month prior to the event.

## PUBLICITY REQUEST

*Information will be included in any or all of the following locations: the bulletin, Voice, St. Andrew webpage and Facebook page, media outlets, community flyers, and our sign out front*

Required fields \*

\*Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Event Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Time \_\_\_\_\_

\*Place \_\_\_\_\_

\*Dates requested for advertisement to run \_\_\_\_\_

\*Description (will be printed as is, subject to editing; attach additional page if needed)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registration required? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Registration deadline \_\_\_\_\_

How to register \_\_\_\_\_

If online registration, list information you require:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_  
How to pay/purchase tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\*Submitter's information (in case of questions; won't be published)

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Your email \_\_\_\_\_

\*Public contact information (where members of community can get additional details)

Public contact \_\_\_\_\_

Public email \_\_\_\_\_

Public phone \_\_\_\_\_



## **Laity Convocation**

This year's Laity Convocation is scheduled for **Saturday, February 17th from 9:00 a.m to 12:45 p.m. at the Sycamore United Methodist Church.** The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson, the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries. Dr. Dotson will be speaking about the "See All the People" movement, developed to inspire disciple-making across our denomination. There will also be several breakout sessions focused on sharing our faith, meeting our neighbors, using data to better understand our communities, talking about The Way Forward, and further discussion of "See All the People".

A group from St. Andrew will attend, and some of us will carpool from the church on Saturday morning. We will need to submit the group registration before February 3 in order to take advantage of the \$40 per group fee. Please consider joining us! Contact Anne or the church office by **Wednesday, January 31** if you'd like to attend.

## **Exodus World Service Care Pack**



We are assembling a Care Pack, a small assortment of food staples and household items, for a refugee family that has been assigned to us by Exodus World Service. A Care Pack is a way to continue welcoming

### ***(Care Pack—cont.)***

refugee families after they have been here for several months and are no longer receiving regular visits. The list of needed items is on the counter in the narthex. Please help us get this Care Pack together by volunteering to purchase one or more of the required items. We would like to have all items brought to St. Andrew no later than Sunday, February 18th.

Our assigned family is a mother and her adult son who arrived in this country in September; the husband remains in Afghanistan. The mother attends English classes every morning at her resettlement agency's office. The son is working full-time to provide for them. Several of us will personally visit the family when we deliver the Care Pack to show our love and hospitality.



## **A Celebration of Love and Friendship – Saturday, Feb. 10**

Everyone in the congregation is invited to a "Celebration of Love and Friendship," sponsored by the United Methodist Women, on Saturday, February 10, at 9:30 a.m. Following a continental breakfast/fellowship time in the chapel, we'll have a couple of inspiring stories, sing our "Love" round, have a game, and close with a brief devotional.

The UMW Circle meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20.

## **Lunch and a Movie**



After worship on Sunday, February 25, we will have a soup lunch and then show the video, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. The sign-up sheet will be on the counter in the narthex. While we are not requiring advance sign-up, it would definitely be helpful so as to have some idea of attendance so we can be sure to have enough soup for all. As always, we will have a vegan soup option. We are suggesting a freewill donation of \$4 (\$10 per family) to help with expenses. Excess donations will go toward missions.

*Pray the Devil Back to Hell* tells the remarkable story of Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee and the courageous Liberian women who came together to pray, protest, and bring about a peaceful end to a bloody civil war. This inspiring film from Academy Award-nominated director Gini Reticker and acclaimed producer Abigail E. Disney shows how grassroots activism can alter the history of nations.



## **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](mailto:standrewspeaks@gmail.com), or call the church office at 798-8904. New prayer bookmarks are printed at the beginning of each month.

## **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.



## **Respond Now**

Our regular monthly food collection for Respond Now is taken on the first Sunday of each month, but donations can be left in the shopping cart near the front door at any time. Any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated. Possibilities: rice, canned tuna, canned beef ravioli, pancake mix, cranberry juice, grape juice. Monetary donations are also accepted.



## **Bottle Cap Collection**

### **No More Bottle Caps Needed at this Time**

Bloom Township has collected all the bottle caps they need for the bench at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, so we are ending this collection. If we hear of another group collecting bottle caps, we will notify the congregation, but until then, you can put them into your recycling bin.

## **Coupon Books**

Golden Opportunity Coupon books are still on sale for \$25.00. St. Andrew United Methodist Women get \$7.00 for each book sold, so your purchase helps women and children locally and worldwide. Take a look at a book on the hospitality table after worship to see how much you can save by using just a few of the coupons. There are Northwest Indiana books available as well as books for our south suburbs.

## **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.

# February 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



FH = Fellowship Hall  
LF = Lower Fellowship

**1**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
2:30 pm-Int'l Folk  
Dance, LF  
6:00 pm-Cub Scouts  
7:00 pm-Choir

**2**

**3**

**4**  
9:45 am-Choir  
10:30 am-Worship  
Holy Communion  
Food Wagon  
4:00 pm-  
Confirmation

**5**  
2:45 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Scouts

**6**  
3:00 pm-Worship

**7**  
9:00 am-Men's  
Coffee, H Panera  
1:30 pm- Caring  
Crafters  
2:45 pm-Yoga, FH  
6:00 pm-PADS

**8**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
2:00 pm-Finance  
2:30 pm-Int'l Folk  
Dance, LF  
6:00 pm-Cub Scouts  
7:00 pm-Choir

**9**

**10**  
9:30 am-Breakfast  
& Program (UMW  
Sponsored)

**11**  
9:45 am-Choir  
10:30 am-Worship  
Sunday School  
4:00 pm-  
Confirmation

**12**  
2:45 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Scouts

**13**

**14**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:45 pm-Yoga, FH  
6:00 pm-PADS  
7:30 pm-Ash Wed.  
Service

**15**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
2:30 pm-Int'l Folk  
Dance, LF  
7:00 pm-Choir

**16**

**17**  
9:00 am-Laity  
Convocation,  
Sycamore UMC

**18**  
9:45 am-Choir  
10:30 am-Worship  
Loose Change  
4:00 pm-  
Confirmation

**19**  
2:45 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Scouts

**20**  
1:30 pm-UMW  
Circle Meeting  
7:00 pm-  
Church Council

**21**  
9:00 am-Men's  
Coffee, H Panera  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:45 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
6:00 pm-PADS

**22**  
9:30 am-TOPS  
2:30 pm-Int'l Folk  
Dance, LF  
7:00 pm-Choir

**23**

**24**

**25**  
9:45 am-Choir  
10:30 am-Worship  
After Worship-  
Lunch & a Movie  
4:00 pm-  
Confirmation

**26**  
2:45 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
7:30 pm-Scouts

**27**

**28**  
1:30 pm-Caring  
Crafters  
2:45 pm-Chair  
Yoga, FH  
6:00 pm-PADS



## **the Voice**

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**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