

May 2018



# THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**“***f the actual word "goodbye" has a sense of finality to it, it's not by accident. It's a contraction of "God be with ye," which conveys a blessing or prayer or hope that the person upon whom it's bestowed will travel safely. It's almost a plea.” Krystal D’Acosta in Scientific American*

So far, I have traveled to the village of Skokie three times in preparation for the pastoral transition that will happen this summer. I noticed that the rides home were solemn and left me fatigued. While new opportunities always bring me some excitement and pleasure, the thought of leaving makes me mokey.

This transition has me aware of one truth in particular: My heart is hurting. I feel a little helpless and sad anticipating the loss of the intimacy I’ve shared with you as pastor. I will miss the search for God’s treasures and truth we have had together. I will miss your love and support of me and my family. I will also miss the ways you show the world that the people of Saint Andrew Church are givers. You rise in moments of need and shine God’s love through your thoughtfulness and care.

Krystal D’Acosta says of long-term farewells, that we need to have a formal way to say goodbye to people who have come to mean a great deal to us.

I hope you can make it to one of the farewell gatherings on the weekend of

June 2 and 3. On Saturday, June 2, drop in at the church building between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. for an open house-style chance to say goodbye and God speed to me and my family. On Sunday, June 3, we will speak the formal words of farewell. Methodists have prayed for decades in our worship service.

*Once we know someone, it's hard to unknow them.”(D’Acosta).*

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. It has been a joy to call Saint Andrew my spiritual home for the last four years. Please excel in blessing God by blessing the person who will lead you next. I know that you will add much to each others’ lives.

Your brother in Christ,  
*Pastor Biel*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                  |   |                          |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>May 17-19</b> | <b>UMW Quadrennial Assembly, Columbus, Ohio</b> |                          |
| <b>May 20</b>    | <b>Day of Pentecost</b>                         |                          |
| <b>June 2</b>    | <b>Pastor's Farewell Open House</b>             | <b>1:00 to 4:00 p.m.</b> |



### **Living Last Supper 2018**

Thanks to all who contributed to another deeply meaningful Maundy Thursday service.



## Pentecost

This year, we celebrate Pentecost on May 20. Please wear red, and please bring a red geranium plant to decorate the sanctuary. These will be planted later—see the Memorial Day announcement.



## Memorial Day

On May 27, after the service, you are invited to help plant the geraniums in the planter outside and around the church in honor of those who died in the service of our country.



## Reconciling Ministries Mini-Fundraiser

On Sundays, May 20 and 27, rainbow-colored candies will be available for a "free will offering" during fellowship time. Minimum suggested donation is \$5. The proceeds from this will benefit St. Andrew's gift to the Reconciling Ministries Network, of which we are a member, as well as proposed new signage highlighting our Reconciling status. We hope you will be called to be generous in support of our status as a Reconciling Congregation.



## Loose Change Offering

The loose change offering that our children will be collecting on May 20 will go toward the Bishop's Appeal, which will help families affected by the Global Migration Crisis. As usual, bills and checks are accepted as well as all your loose change. 75% of the money raised by this appeal will go to the Global Migration Advance for international assistance to refugees and migrants; 25% will stay in Northern Illinois to support organizations like Refugee One and World Relief that work with local immigrant and refugee families. Today, more than 65 million people have been displaced by war, persecution, famine, or natural disaster—the highest number since World War II. By the end of each day, over 28,000 more people begin their own difficult and treacherous journeys in search of safe haven. If you want to contribute but cannot be in church on the 20<sup>th</sup>, feel free to place your donation in an offering envelope and designate it as *Bishop's Appeal*.

## Graduate Recognition



We would like to recognize all of our graduates of the past year in the June Voice. If you know of someone who should be on the list, please let us know by May 20.



## Annual Mission Challenge

The Mission Challenge for the Annual Conference this June is to collect cleaning bucket supplies. Our Chicago Southern District is being challenged to provide 300 of the following: Clothesline, plastic or cotton, (one 100 ft or two 50 ft), non-spray liquid household cleaner (10 to 20 oz bottle) and dish soap (16 to 28 oz. bottle). St. Andrew will be helping with this challenge. Our goal is to bring 25 of each item as our share of the challenge! ***Please bring any of these supplies to church by May 20.*** If you would rather provide a monetary donation, include it in your Sunday offering, labeling the envelope as Mission—Cleaning Bucket Supplies—and a member of your Mission & Social Concerns Committee will shop for you.

The cleaning buckets will be distributed by UMCOR in the U.S. to help those in need after disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes.



## **Vacation Bible School June 10-12**

Mark your calendars for St. Andrew VBS 2018! This year's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday through Tuesday, June 10 through June 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Our theme is "Who Is My Neighbor?" VBS is open to children in 1st through 6th grades and will feature Bible stories, memory verses, music, crafts, and small-group lessons and activities. The cost is \$5 per child or \$10 per family, in order to cover basic program materials. Online registration is now open on the St. Andrew website. Please spread the word and invite friends and neighbors! In addition, we need many volunteers, so please see Lucy if you'd like to help with this summer outreach.



## **Check It Out**

Did you miss seeing the documentary, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, that was shown in February? Those of us who viewed it felt that it was very enlightening. Lucy Kokal has the DVD and is willing to loan it to you. Or check the DVD out from the library. If you have Amazon Prime, you can watch it online free as part of your Prime membership.



## **Music, Music, Music!**

The small but mighty St. Andrew Choir is singing, the children are singing; maybe you should be singing, too!!! Participation in the choir of St. Andrew is one of the most important ministries of the church. It is not too late to participate in the next few rehearsals for Sundays in May. Rehearsals are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings and 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, prior to worship.

We are also recruiting for special summer music and the fall choir season, which will commence right after Labor Day. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for those who would like to join the choir (or learn more about it) and for those who could offer special music over the summer—including being a part of monthly "ya'll come" Sundays.

No prior experience is required!! And you will have an opportunity to learn a lot about music from our highly skilled choir director, Dr. Robert Morris.

## **St. Andrew Part of Chairs for a Purpose**



St. Andrew is going to be a part of the Village of Homewood's summer event partnership with the Cancer Support Center, "Chairs with a Purpose." We are going to be sponsoring, painting and decorating a lawn chair which will be unveiled on June 3 at the Center's Block Party and displayed at Homewood's Artisan Street Fair and around the Village throughout the summer. The chairs will be auctioned in August to benefit the Center. This will give us a chance to have the name and welcome of St. Andrew on display throughout Homewood. We pick up our blank chair on May 8 and must have the chair completed prior to June 1. If you'd like to be part of the decorating, let Karen Patterson in the office know!

## Caring for Our Earth

Hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean have become more intense as the ocean temperatures have risen. The hurricane season now lasts about 20 days longer than it used to. From climate change to microplastics in our food and drinking water, human impact on our environment, and thus our health, is noticeable. So, is there anything we as individuals can do about that? Well, for starters, we can...

**Refuse the straw.** In 2013, Americans used 500 million drinking straws every day. To understand just how many straws 500 million really is, this would fill over 125 school buses with straws every day. That's 46,400 school buses every year! Americans use these disposable utensils at an average rate of 1.6 straws per person per day.

Most plastic straws, lids, cups, and stirrers provide a few minutes of convenience, little utility, and are disposed of in large quantities—to remain in the environment for 400 years! Refusing these useless plastics is an easy way to cut down on plastic use.

**Use a rain barrel to collect water for flowers and lawn.** A rain barrel is an easy, accessible way to get on the water-cherishing bandwagon. Use rainwater for your plants and it will replenish groundwater without a detour through the sewer and sewage plant.

## (Caring for Our Earth—cont.)

**Create a compost heap.** Compost is organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow. Food scraps and yard waste currently make up 20 to 30 percent of what we throw away and should be composted instead. Making compost keeps these materials out of landfills, where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

**When waiting for water to get warm/hot for dishes, collect cold water in an empty one-gallon jug and use it to water indoor plants.** Another small step that can add up. Global mismanagement of freshwater resources has created deserts, poisoned land with salt, killed entire lakes—in some cases even making them disappear—and caused unprecedented floods and drought, wiping out entire species. One-third of the world's population lives in countries which are experiencing water shortages, meaning that millions of people are getting thirstier by the minute! (*Source: WWF Global*)



## Thank You!

THANK YOU TO ALL who made salads, cookies, modeled, hosted tables, sold tickets, bought tickets, had a part in the program, and helped with set-up, clean-up, etc. for our annual Salad Luncheon. You make it possible for our United Methodist Women to pledge \$1500 to the work of the greater United Methodist Women's programs and their many missions to help women, children and youth. And hopefully there will be extra to give towards our congregation's budget. Watch for a final report later.

## Personal Care Bags

The 30 personal care bags crocheted by the Caring Crafters and filled by the DebEst Circle have been delivered to the Crisis Center of South Suburbia, which serves women victims of domestic violence and their children. Thanks to all who contributed the personal hygiene items, etc. which were put into the bags.

## **PADS Volunteers at St. Andrew for 1917-1918 Season**

### **First-Shift Volunteers**

Gene	Sandy
Ric	Dawn
Jeneanne	Erica
Carol	Kay
Dorethen	Mary Lee
Lucy	Michael
David	Randy
Toni	Howard
Emily	Dick
Betty	Jack
Judy	Jackie

### **Second-Shift Volunteers**

Ken	Sandy
Rev. Tim Biel	John
Stephanie	Tammie
Gerry	Carolyn
Keith	Greg
Lynsey	Chris
Darius	Penny

### **Third-Shift Volunteers**

Lucy	Donald
Anne	R.J.
Ken	

### **Fourth Shift Volunteers**

Sandy	Shirley
Fredric	Nan
Ember	Rachel
Glenn	Lori
Juanita	Bill
Birdie	Jay
Christine	Carol

### **Scouts for Set-up**

Various boys and family members under the leadership of Keith and Jen

### **Callers (to make reminder calls to volunteers)**

Karlene	Gene
Lois	

### **Cook Teams**

Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, led by Estella (first Wednesday of each month) with Jessie heading up the servers

Peace Memorial United Church of Christ, led by Lori (second Wednesday of each month)

New Hope Christian Community Church in Monee (third Wednesday of each month), led by Veronica and Tina

On the fourth Wednesday we've had to recruit a different team each month. They were as follows:

October – Unity Club from Richards High School

November – Melody

December – Homewood Baptist Church small group, led by Jacquie

January – TOPS Club, led by Marilyn Weaver and Dawn Satkowski

February – Zion Lutheran of Tinley Park, led by Marci

March – Zion Lutheran of Tinley Park, led by Marci

April – Zion AME Church, led by Donna

Our two fifth-Wednesday dinners were brought by the South Suburban Chapter of the LINKS Club, led by Leona

### **Breakfast-Lunch Teams**

First Wednesday: LINKS Club, led by Leona

Second Wednesday: Salem Lutheran of Homewood, led by Laura

Third Wednesday: New Hope Christian Community Church, led by Veronica and Tina

Fourth Wednesday: St. Joseph Catholic of Homewood, led by Janet

Fifth Wednesday (just 2): St. Andrew UMC, led by Lucy

### **Other Volunteers**

Betsy hems towels which have been cut for our guests to use.

Dorethen's church in Markham donated gas cards and McDonalds cards for our guests at Christmas time

Subs: Lori, Sandy, Denise

I am very sorry if I inadvertently forgot someone.

Lucy, Site Coordinator

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY POSSIBLE FOR TWENTY-SOME YEARS.





## Summer PADS

Spring is here and the weather is improving, but many of our neighbors still face hardship because they have no place to sleep at night. Please volunteer to assist at the South Suburban PADS homeless shelter hosted by St. Lawrence O'Toole in Matteson. The summer shelter will run Monday through Friday from May 14 to September 14. Volunteers and meal teams are needed. To volunteer, please contact [volunteer@sspads.org](mailto:volunteer@sspads.org) or call 708-332-7700, extension 131.



## 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: pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned beef stew, apple juice, canned vegetables. Monetary donations are also accepted.

## Prayer Bookmark

If you have a prayer request which you would like to have added to the monthly 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.

## Church Office Help Needed

If you can help in the church office part time, please speak with Karen (798-8904). The schedule is flexible.



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## 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.

# May 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm- Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH	<b>3</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Collection	<b>7</b> 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Scouts	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:30 pm- Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	<b>10</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School	<b>14</b> 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Scouts	<b>15</b> 1:30 pm-UMW DebEst Circle at Waneta's home 7:00 pm-Church Council	<b>16</b> 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Crafters 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH	<b>17</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir UMW Quadrennial, Columbus, OH May 17-19	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 am- Book Club
<b>20</b> 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Sunday School	<b>21</b> 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Scouts	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	<b>24</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School	<b>28</b> 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Scouts	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	<b>31</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir		



## 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**

