

# The Newsletter of Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church

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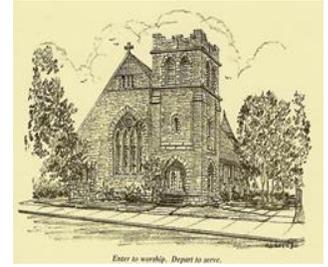
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## If you can dream it, you can do it!

My husband is a vivid fan of Star Trek which has made me, of course, a fan by marriage. We have seen ALL the Star Trek series and movies multiple times. The plots are ok and the acting is pretty bad sometimes, but what I love most is the idea of the technology that we can potentially expect in the future. Now let me remind you that this series runs from the end of the 60's all the way to 2005. They use, in the first series, devices that were used for common tools and were, literally, not even thought of yet in the real world. You can see tablet-like devices, communicators as small as a watch, hand held medical scanners, and don't forget the replicators and transporters, laser beams, automatic translators, and many others things that, at that point in history, were nothing but fantasy. What fascinates me is that some are becoming our reality today, just a couple of decades later. It took one crazy person to dream about the future for others to make it a reality. Today, with computers the size of a phone and 3D printers that can print out everything from plastic toys to cartilages used in surgery, it is just amazing to think what the future will bring us. You may be asking, pastor, "Why are you talking about Star Trek?" Well, I think that there is something we can learn from it as church members. If we can dream it, we can do it!

Our second year together has begun as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and I have to say, I am so proud of all we have accomplished in just one year! However, we still have much work to do. We need to dream. We need to envision what Saint Andrew's UMC will look like in the future, and we need to make the adjustments necessary to get there. It is not enough just to exist in the now, hoping that things will turn out OK. We must listen to God's guidance, for after all we do have an amazing God who has plans for us and it's the responsibility of all of us all to move with God in ministry to the transformation of the world.



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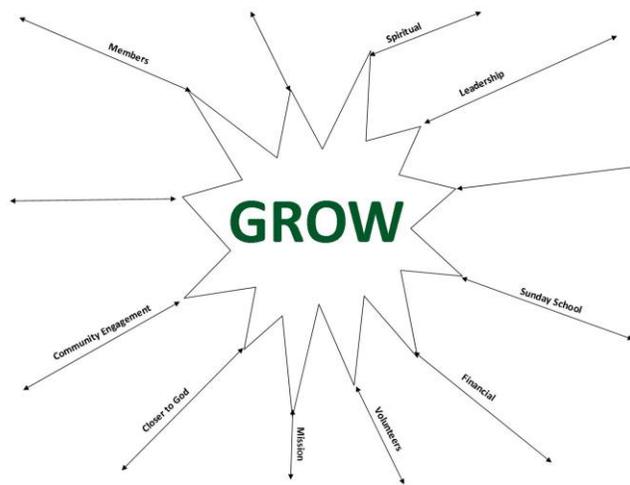
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First, I want to define “vision” so that we are all on the same page. I learned this definition from “The Leadership Challenge Workshop” that I attended in May. “*Vision is an idea and unique image of the future for the common good.*” It is something to aspire to that is unique to us, and that we can clearly see for the future the good of all people at Saint Andrew’s; the ones who are here now and the one we have not yet met. In light of this definition, I want to present to you the vision for our church for the upcoming year. This vision has come to me after a year of listening to all of you and hearing what you think we need; your dreams for the future as well as your concerns. This vision has also come by listening to God in constant prayer for guidance on my ministry among you.

Our vision is Grow. Many of you have point out to me the need we have to grow as church, grow in numbers, grow financially, grow our Sunday school program, grow our participation and volunteerism, grow in our engagement to the community, grow in missions, grow closer to God, grow new leaders, grow in our spirituality... do you see where am I going? We, individually and as church family, have many areas to grow to fulfill our mission statement: “to make disciples for the transformation of the world”. For that reason, in the upcoming year we will be very intentional about our ministries and activities. Before making a decision, we will ask: “how we will grow by doing this or not doing it?” keeping this way our focus on the things that will help up grow.... Our vision.



Having a vision is an important step in dreaming our future. Can you imagine it? Can you imagine all of our pews filled with a congregation of individuals excited about their faith, worshipping with energy and conviction, engaged in our mission, and changing our community? I can! That gives me strength to continue the work that we are entrusted with. We have an awesome God and we have an awesome congregation; there are no limits

I do have to warn you that having a vision is nice, but it is not the end. We need to create the steps on the way that will help us to walk in the right direction, with SMART goals. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-frame. For example: we can say that we want to grow closer to God, but that is kind of vague. A SMART goal would be to increase the number of adult study classes in the upcoming year from one group to two. These groups will meet weekly to learn and explore personal spirituality and ways to grow closer to God. This way a goal is clear and we can determine how close we are to attaining it, its relevance to our vision and that it is attainable.

During the summer, I will be meeting with the leaders of the congregation to determine some specific goals to put in effect by this coming fall. I encourage all of you to incorporate our vision and to listen to God for guidance as we grow together as a church family, grounded in the love of God.

Ultimately, this vision does not belong to me, and I am not the one who will make it happen. The vision belongs to all of us, together we discover the church God want us to be. So, please, talk to me. Let me know your ideas and your dreams. If we can dream it, with God’s help, we can do it! “**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**” Jeremiah 29:11.

Live long and prosper,

Ximena

## IMPORTANT NEWS



For the month of August our Worship time will be 10:00am, we will go back to 10:30 on September 6, 2015.



Saint Andrew's began recycling cans and bottles 12 years ago. Since then Ralph has process 250,403 cans and bottles for a \$12,520.15. We use this money for office supplies and other operational needs of the church so keep them coming! We can recycle all the cans and bottles mark with CT 5c in their label.



**We serve God by serving others; here is what you can do:**

**Food Pantry Collection** — non-perishable items are collected during the month. Every first Sunday of each month all the collected food items will be taken and delivered to a local Food Pantry.

**Connectional giving** — all of us giving together — allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone. We join in with United Methodists around the world in 6 special collections through the year. The money collected goes 100% to a specific mission designated by the general church. For more information go to [UMCGIVING.com](http://UMCGIVING.com).

Every first Sunday you can donate to the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**; this money is used by the pastor to help with immediate needs in the community.



Here at St. Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer! If you or someone you know needs to be pray for please contact pastor by phone or email.



### Dates to Remember

July 29, 2015 Church picnic at Lois McDonald's House

Fall Tag Sale September 12, 2015  
9:00am to 3:00pm

Heritage Dinner, September 26, 2015  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Next Administrative Board meeting  
September 1, 2015 7:00pm

Church Annual Conference  
November 3, 2015 7:30pm

### Membership Update Form

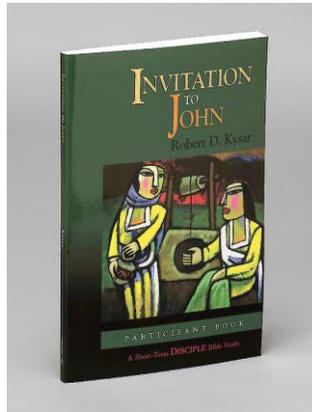
Please send in to the office your membership update form, if you need a new form, ask the pastor or go to: <http://standrewsnh.com/Resources.html>



Are you interested on becoming a member of our church or want to learn more about us?

Please contact the pastor!

## **New Bible Study starting August 6, 2015: Invitation to John, A Short-Term DISCIPLE Bible Study**



**Join us Every Thursday Night at 6:00pm to 7:00pm, at the parsonage.**

The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me". Experience the magnificent passages in John including the; I am statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.

Participants for this Invitation to John do not have to have an in-depth knowledge of the Bible to enjoy and benefit from participation. Reading just two chapters of John a week, they will discover the life altering stories that will invite them to follow Christ as true disciples.

### **Session titles and scripture:**

1. Come and See (John 1–2)
2. How Is It Possible? (John 3–4)
3. Taste for Yourself (John 5–6)
4. To Believe or Not to Believe (John 7–8)
5. Are We Blind? (John 9–10)
6. I Couldn't Believe My Eyes! (John 11–12)
7. Would You Believe It? (John 13–14)
8. What Time Is It? (John 15–16)
9. Look Out! (John 17–18)
10. Believing Without Seeing (John 19–20)
11. Do You See Him? (John 21)

**everyone is  
welcome**

**We welcome visitors and new families and children.  
Do you know someone who would like to visit us for Sunday Worship?**

## MORE IMPORTANT NEWS



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 22:36-40). This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.

### Our Vital Signs

The Vital Signs Dashboard is a tool developed by Brick River through GCFA. This tool allows you to track your weekly worship attendance, professions of faith, small group participation, missional participation and financial giving for your congregation. It is a tool designed to help congregations follow their progress on the goals that they set for each year, based on the goal-setting challenge initiated by the Vital Congregations work. It is in response to the Call To Action to focus on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in the mission of The United Methodist Church.

Date	Worship Attendance	Small Groups Attendance (week)	Pledges & Offerings	Charitable Giving	New Members
7/5/2015	43	6	\$1029	\$84	0
6/28/2014	58	9	\$1194	\$0	0
6/21/2015	32	7	\$2037	\$0	0
6/14/2015	40	7	\$683	\$0	0
6/7/2015	37	18	\$1300	\$20	0
5/31/2015	37	11	\$853	\$128	0



### Thank you!

**We give thanks to all of you who make sure our church looks its best!**

**Thank you to Diana and Brenda for making our newsletter and keeping us inform.**

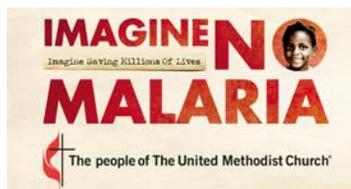
**Thanks to Ralph Pickup for taking care of our cans and bottles recycling.**

**Thank you all who fulfilled their pledges in 2014-2015!**

**Big thank you to Lynn Stowe for taking care of our gardens, we appreciate your dedication and love.**

### Pastoral Care

Pastor Ximena is available for a talk, prayers and visits, in fact she will love for you to invite her to visit. Please call the office, pastor cell phone or email to set up an appointment.



The Imagine No Malaria Initiative is an extraordinary effort of the people of The United Methodist Church, putting our faith into action to end preventable deaths by malaria in Africa, especially the death of a child or a mother. The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has committed to raise \$1,200,000 for Imagine No Malaria and we are half way there! \$771,211.056 has been collected to date. Bishop Middleton and the NYAC Cabinet challenge each church in the NYAC to raise \$10 for every member on the MEMBERSHIP LIST. We will be having a special collections thought the summer to join this campaign. Put your donation on an envelope mark Imagine No Malaria, make your check out to our church with Imagine no malaria on the memo line. Together we can eradicate malaria from the planet!

## The 216<sup>th</sup> Session of the NY Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

The conference started with a special greeting from Elder Elizabeth Thunder Bird Haile of the Stinneck Nation. Then there was a video tribute to the late Bishop Martin D. McLee. Through photos and the sound of his voice the gathering was reminded of the legacy he left behind in the short time he served the conference. The theme of the conference was Dance with the Spirit. Bishop Jane Allen Middletown was introduced by two liturgical dancers. A small vial of water from each of the congregation represented was collected at four points in the arena. Liturgical dancers then carried those vessels to the stage and poured them together into one bowl as a reminder of our baptism by water and spirit. Bishop Middletown's purpose at the conference was to heal, empower and prepare. She also emphasized how to find God's grace in all people. The conference music team was a group of incredible singers who set the tone for spirit filled worship. The preacher for that evening was not able to be there but we were inspired by some people who responded to the bishop's invitation to share their experiences in past conferences. It was fulfilling and inspiring. The clergy approved 11 commissioners. The bishops listed some of the attributes for effective Clergy members. A new conference secretary was also appointed.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference was the Service of Remembrance. We remembered and gave thanks for passed clergy, spouses of clergy, children of clergy and laity. A votive candle was lit and placed on the altar as each name was read. Rev. Sungchan Kim's message was from earthly body to glorious body; this was so inspiring, and I believe this is one of the best sermons I have ever heard. The service drew to a close with a reaffirmation of baptism using the waters collected from the conference. The afternoon session started with legislative councils. I was in legislative section 2 which dealt with different councils on ministries. What I learned here was how these different ministries are operated and funded. We voted and approved them for the year. Back at the arena, 18 retirees were sent off with love. They expressed their deep gratitude for their lives in the ministry through videos. Some were anticipating the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends, time to write or pursue other passions. Many expressed excitement for the next phase of their lives. The night schedule brought some special visitors: John Wesley showed up to offer a historical yet so relevant message about finding grace in holy conferencing.; Dr. Derrick- Lewis Noble (he came to our church) who is the director of church development and revitalization shared his passion for Jesus and the church. The Chinese United Methodist Church was also honored on this night.

On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> we had a Connecticut conference breakfast and fellowship. This included everyone from CT. We introduced ourselves and discussed matters concerning CT ministry. Back in the arena, there was a tense moment when it came to religion and race. There was a great deal of bitterness when it came to gay rights. With prayers we were able to come to a conclusion. There was a healing of Relationship and Repentance with Indigenous People. This was a bitter sweet service and we made a covenant to accept the Native American ministry into the conference. We were all given a band to tie around our arm to show oneness moving forward.

Later on new appointments were announced, as well as scholarships and award presentations. The service of anointing was a blessing. The anointing team was stationed around the arena where everyone received anointing and prayer. Saturday was the highlight of the conference: the service for commissioning provisional members for service, the ordination of elders and the presentation of license to local pastors. In commissioning, the bishop laid hands on the shoulders of the candidates as a sign of sending them into ministry for a specified period of time; in ordination, the bishop laid hands on the head of the candidate as a sign of the impartation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for a lifetime of ministry. The sermon, Stepping with Jesus, was delivered by Bishop Ernest Lyght.

## The 216th Session of the NY Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church Continued...

I was so excited to spend my birthday with blessed and anointed members of the church I believe in. The whole program was well organized. As we entered the arena we were given our badges and a small bag containing all that we would need. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served on time and there was variety for everyone. There was transportation to everywhere around the campus. Being alone was a blessing as I was able to focus and appreciate every moment. On the night of the anointing I asked God to fill me with the Holy Spirit and later on I felt His spirit within me. I was so blessed on the day of the ordination service; what my eyes saw no camera could have captured. The whole arena was converted into a Mega Church. I was sitting up in the bleachers and at the start of the service the whole clergy fully dress in white came in from all four entrances. I burst out crying as did everyone around me. The laying of hands on the local preachers and the Elders was one of the most sacred and solemn ceremonies I have ever witnessed. The hymns for the service were carefully chosen and the words meant a lot to me.

I thank God that I was able to attend.

With love,

Junette Cole



Since about 2006 St. Andrews UMC has sponsored Operation Christmas Child. Our members have donated items for the boxes and money towards the \$7.00 cost per box. Since the beginning of 2 boxes the program has grown to 50 boxes per year that we fill and deliver to Pastor Bob at Gateway Bible Church in Oakville. This past year we noted a big increase in the monetary donations thanks in a large part to the help from Pastor Ximena promoting this project, which the Quimby family have embraced as part of the Ministry of this Church. They offer their huge thank you on behalf of the children that have and will have the opportunity to know that they are loved by others and get offered the chance to learn about Jesus Christ. This year we would like to grow the program to 60 boxes and with your help we can. Remember that this is the ONLY Christmas gift some children get.

Thank you.  
The Quimby family

### GIFT IDEAS

**TOYS** -small matchbox style cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**- pens, pencils, crayons (24 pk) or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

**HYGIENE ITEMS**- toothpaste, individually wrapped bar soaps, combs.

**OTHER**- Hard candy and lollipops (individually wrapped), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

**NOTES:** Some people have been busy already and we only need 1 more toothbrush, about 49 matchbox type cars, 31 card games, 26 pencil sharpeners, no 3" X 5" pads, no 5" X 8" notepads, 40 washcloths.



## Nicaragua Mission Trip by Ximenita

Friday started out as our first day of work. We arrived at the AMC center and for the first half of the day we had a history lesson. The first lesson was a little over two hours long and was all about Nicaragua, from the Spaniards conquering, to dictators ruling, to what is happening now. It was a lot of history. What was surprising is how recent their history is. One of their greatest war heroes was killed only two years ago and his tomb is near the old cathedral along with two others. The next history lesson we were given was all about the history of AMC. AMC stands for ACTION MEDICAL CENTER. What they do is to help out communities with medical attention, disasters, and especially to help them to be able to create plans for dealing with emergencies on their own. They were founded by 11 college students who wanted to help towns that were poor and in need of help. They wanted to show God's love through their help and action. They have been doing this for 30 years. They are striving to survive for they do not have much funding for carrying out their mission. They don't get help from the government; all their money is from grants and donations.

The next four days (the rest of Friday, half of Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday) we worked in the AMC headquarters on a cement building. They had started construction on this building a few years ago but had to discontinue the project when they ran out of funds. They resumed construction with the intention of using it as a multipurpose building. They wanted to be able to hold meetings and conferences there, to use it as a safe house and rent it out to others. They already have potential clients who would like to rent out the building. Eventually, they want to add a second floor and make it a living quarters where volunteers can stay in order to save the cost of a hotel. We spent those four days cementing the walls with the rough and finishing coat. Three of the walls were painted with a white primer. We were able to put the first coat of cement in all the inside and outside walls and we finished a few walls. We were working with the contractor, Carlos, and his two workers, Henry and Álvaro. We saved them about a month of work.

Within those 4 days, we went touring and saw some of the landmarks that we had learned about in our history lesson; we went to a lake which was a volcano that is inactive, hollowed out, and had fresh water added inside of it; we went to the market to buy gifts, and we went to a church service which was two hours long. The church service was amazing. You didn't even feel the two hours pass. Everyone was so spirited and moved. We had interpretive dancing in the service and a lot of songs. They were celebrating Father's Day. At the end of the service, they opened up the microphone to the congregation, allowing them to say something about their papa's (fathers) and their mapa's (mothers who play a father role as well). It was beautiful.

On Wednesday we split up into two groups. My group went to a special needs school to visit Ruby and her family. Ruby is a special needs child whom Darrel, a member of our group, sponsors. Darrel pays \$50 a month to sponsor her and this pays for Ruby's uniform, school supplies and medical attention. Special needs kids are seen as invaluable to society since they cannot contribute. They are put in the backburner when it comes to medical help because of their disabilities and won't receive the medical attention they need right away if at all. The children at the special needs school were so happy and were fascinated with us. They loved taking pictures with us and seeing them afterwards. I couldn't tell you what exactly was wrong with them but you could see that they were slower and different than normal kids. Four of them were deaf and only spoke in sign language. I learned a bit but we were able to communicate easily even though I didn't know sign language.

Thursday and Friday was spent in Matagalpa. Matagalpa is a village on the mountaintop. There was an AMC base up there that we stayed. Within those two days we went to three different land banks, a farming school, and a sexual health and reproduction theater class. A land bank is a property of land that AMC gives to a family who lost their house and job. They have 10 or 12 years to pay off this land and then it officially belongs to the family. We hiked up and down mountainsides and hiked everywhere to see these land banks. Their success story was able to pay off his land in 6 years and now sells organic coffee and coco beans to big companies nationally. Another woman who we visited payed off her land and now has a loan to grow chickens. The farming school that we went to shows people how to farm as well as experiment with crop, organically, to see what types of soil and combination of soil would be best to grow different types of crops. Lastly, the sex education and reproduction class was actually a theater group. This theater group performs on the streets a play that they created to show the people the true lives of those in Matagalpa. They were working on a play to show the abuse that occurs in the communities within Matagalpa. They have a high rate of home abuse in the communities because its common and no one will report it. There is no type of DCF to help the children and if people don't report the parents to the local authorities then they don't get stopped. Pregnancy is also very high. 406 girls between the ages of 10 to 17 have given birth this year alone. They hope to change this by working with churches and performing in the communities on the streets to raise awareness and potentially stop these things from happening.

Going to Nicaragua was an amazing opportunity and I have learned a lot from this. The people there were a maxing and the time I spent learning and helping those who needed it has opened my eyes and amazed me. All these thing I didn't imagine would happen happens there. It was an opportunity that I am so glad I was able to take. Thank you so much for supporting me and donating. You have given me an eye opening opportunity that I will share with the congregation on a later date. Allowing me to go to this beautiful country would not have been possible without this churches help and I will be forever grateful of this.

Ximenita

## **Summer Worship Guide** **Learning from Jesus, by following his example.**

**Centering Music for summer: Congregation is invited to select two hymn each Sunday and we will sing, 2 verses of each.**

7/5/15

### **The Sermon of the Mount**

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-20

7/12/19

### **A Sinful Woman Forgiven**

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

7/19/15

### **The Good Samaritan**

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

7/26/2015

### **Lazarus resurrection**

Scripture: John 11:1-46

8/2/2015

### **The prodigal Son**

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

8/9/2015

### **Do Not Worry**

Scripture: Luke 12:22-31

8/16/2015

### **The Parable of the Great Dinner**

Scripture: Luke 14:15

8/23/2015

### **The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector**

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

8/30/2015

### **The woman with the Issue of Blood**

Scripture: Luke 8:42b-48



## Poetry



## & Music Corner

### Jesus Loves Me

Chris Tomlin

From the album Love Ran Red

I was lost,  
I was in chains,  
The world had a hold of me.

My heart was a stone,  
I was covered in shame,  
When He came for me.

I couldn't run, couldn't run from His presence,  
I couldn't run, couldn't run from His arms.

Jesus, He loves me, He loves me, He is for me,  
Jesus, how can it be, He loves me, He is for  
me.

And it was a fire,  
Deep in my soul,  
I'll never be the same.

I stepped out of the dark,  
And into the light,  
When He called my name.

I couldn't run, couldn't run from His presence,  
I couldn't run, couldn't run from His arms.

He holds the stars and He holds my heart  
with healing hands that bear the scars  
the rugged cross where He died for me  
my only hope, my everything.

Jesus, He loves me, He loves me, He is for me  
Jesus, how can it be, He loves me, He is for  
me.

### Somebody's Mother

- Mary Dow Brine (1816-1913)

Submitted by Lucille in dedication to her mom

The woman was old and ragged and gray,  
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.

The street was wet with a recent snow,  
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

She stood at the crossing and waited long,  
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng

Of human beings who passed her by  
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eyes.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,  
Glad in the freedom of "school let out,"

Came the boys like a flock of sheep,  
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.

Past the woman so old and gray  
Hastened the children on their way.

Nor offered a helping hand to her -  
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir

Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet  
Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last came one of the merry troop,  
The gayest laddie of all the group;

He paused beside her and whispered low,  
"I'll help you cross, if you wish to go."

Her aged hand on his strong young arm  
She placed, and so, without hurt or harm,

He guided the trembling feet along,  
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,  
His young heart happy and well content.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,  
For all she's aged and poor and slow,

"And I hope some fellow will lend a hand  
To help my mother, you understand,

"If ever she's poor and old and gray,  
When her own dear boy is far away."

And "somebody's mother" bowed low her head  
In her home that night, and the prayer she said

Was "God be kind to the noble boy,  
Who is somebody's son, and pride and joy!"

**Saint Andrew's United  
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**July 2015**

01 Oriona Webster  
03 Donna Francis  
04 Jayne Crowley  
10 Pauline Kidd  
25 Rawle Lynch  
26 Anthony Penna, Jr.  
29 Nicole Morales  
29 Elva Tripp

**August 2015**

01 John Quimby  
05 Joshua Cordero  
06 Destiny Hermann  
17 Carol Tripp  
24 Mckenzie Miessau  
28 David Guthrie  
31 Mark Lillie

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**Saint Andrew's  
United Methodist Church**

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**August 2015**