

The Newsletter of Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church

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Holy week has always been important to me. I have memories as a child with my family observing different rituals during Holy Week that gave me an awareness of Jesus' sacrifice. I must admit most of the time it was more like hearing a story that happened a long time ago, but still a story that was important for my family to commemorate.

Good Friday was without a doubt the most special day. I remember many times stopping in the middle of the day, at noon, to light a candle in front of my great grandfather's crucifix, with my mom and grandmother. I remember growing up I attended the Stations of the Cross many times; I also remember the one time we actually were invited to carry a huge wooden cross. All these memories, all these traditions made an impact on me that continue until today. In my household every year we pause and remember.

There was one Good Friday in 2004 that was especially significant to me. For the first time as I was attending the Stations of the Cross service at the First UMC of Shelton, it hit me, Jesus was crucified for me! This was more than a story, more than just ritual or something we did as a family; that night was for me and for my sins. I cried while I was telling my pastor, "I killed him," and she hugged me and said: "But he is risen for you, too."

Another significant Good Friday happened in 2010, while I was attending my first Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) unit and I happened to be on call that night. This meant that I had to stay in the hospital and cover the whole hospital all by myself, for any pastoral emergency that might happen. This was a small hospital so that really sounded worse than it was.

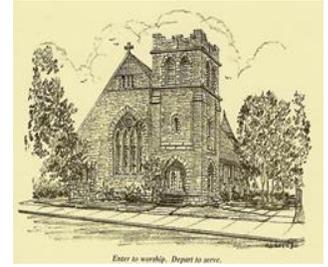


Table of Contents

Pages 1-2

Pastor's Message

Page 3

Missions

Dates to Remember

Membership

Intercessory Prayers

Page 4

Thank you Volunteers!

Pastoral Care

**Rhythms of Grace to Go
Sunday School & Nursery**

Youth Group

Bible Study

Page 5

Vital Signals

Finance Report

Sunday school News

Acolytes

Page 6

Easter Flowers

Page 7

Spiritual Renewal

Birthdays

Saint Patrick's Dinner

Pasta Dinner

Page 8-10

Journal of John Wesley

Page 11-12

Worship Guide

Page 13

Poem American Hero

Usually I would get a full night's sleep while on call; so with this in mind, I prepared my Good Friday rituals convinced that I was going to do what I usually did in the hospital: prayers, vigils, nice quiet time of reflection..... It was not long after my shift began that the first emergency arrived, a young woman was found unresponsive, her large family gathered in the ICU, trying to find answers and face their worst nightmare: she was most likely not going to recover from this. After a couple of hours together, they asked me to get a priest to provide the Sacrament of the Sick..... did I mention this was Good Friday? I called every single priest in the area but all of them were pretty busy with congregations, as most clergies are on a Good Friday. I prayed and kept calling until I found one who answered his phone and agreed to come by as soon as he was done for the day. I stayed with that family, holding hands, passing wipes, giving water and even offering coffee until the Sacrament of the Sick was done and they decided to go home. By the time I was able to go back to the on-call room, I was exhausted, forget about my Good Friday rituals. I just wanted to sleep and as I was cuddling up in the bed, the beeper went off again.

This time, it was an elderly woman who could not see and was hard of hearing. She was admitted and was very uneasy; she cried and moved, but no one could do anything to calm her down. Her niece, who was in the room with her, thought maybe a chaplain would help, so they called me. I screamed at the top of my lungs the Lord's Prayer (yes, at 1:00 am!) and she could not hear it. I tried everything I was taught to do and nothing helped, so I sat next to her, I held her hand, and I keep saying it will be ok. I also held the hand of the niece, who was all alone in that room with her aunt. By 3:00 am I was back in the on-call room, it was there when it hit me. That night, I was at the foot of the cross. As I helplessly observed those people, as I held hands and tried everything I could think of to support them, I had been part of the most profound Good Friday: in the midst of the pain and suffering, Jesus was there, in those rooms, in those Holy moments, and I had been blessed to stand at the foot of the cross.

Lent is a time of preparation, it is a time where we must look inwards into our own relationship with God and journey with Jesus all the way to the cross so we can also be resurrected with Him.

The Passion of Jesus is much more than a story we retell, it is the story of our own salvation it is the story of a God who loved me so much that He sent His only begotten son so I shall not perish.

The moment you can say that and really believe it, with your heart and with your head, is the moment you know you are living your faith.

May this journey bring you closer to your Savior. I pray that this Holy Week you find yourself in the upper room, in the foot of the cross, and in front of an empty tomb singing Halleluiah, He is risen! Amen

Ximena.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us during Holy Week to observe the journey of the Cross. Every step, every service is design to help you grow closer in the understanding of Christ's sacrifice so you too can resurrect to a new life on Easter Morning. Invite others to join you on the journey to the cross.

Palm Sunday, March 20, 10:30am
Maundy Thursday, March 24 7:00pm potluck dinner starting at 6:00PM
Good Friday, March 25 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday March 27, 10:30am

IMPORTANT NEWS



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

Connectional giving — Connectional giving — all of us giving together — allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone. We join in with United Methodist 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. Our Next collection is January 17, 2016 Human Relations Day.

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.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

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 be delivered to a local food pantry. Fall and winter months are always difficult and food pantries are always empty!

U.M. ARMY is an acronym which stands for United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth. U.M. ARMY's mission is: "To provide Christ-centered missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth and young adults.



U.M. ARMY mission programs are an opportunity for youth, young adults and adult leaders to experience Christian growth through mission, worship and fellowship. Individual participants and church groups combine their strengths with those of other groups to meet home repair and maintenance needs of those unable to help themselves.

A team from Saint Andrew's UMC college students and the pastor is planning to go to the young adult camp from May 29 to June 4, 2016. We need your support. Each participant needs to pay \$300 in order to attend this camp. We will be fundraising to pay for our team. Can you help us?! Please make your check payable to Saint Andrew's UMC marked U.M. ARMY on the note. Help us to be the hand and feet of Christ on earth. For more information please go to: ne.umarmy.org/.

Remember!

Clean Up day every First Saturday of the month

Administrative Church Council March 1, 2016 7:00pm at the parsonage

SPRC meeting, March 6, 2016

Saint Patrick's Dinner, March 12, from 5:00 to 7:00pm

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 AM

Palm Sunday, March 20, 10:30am

Maundy Thursday, March 24 7:00pm potluck dinner starting at 6:00PM

Good Friday, March 25 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday March 27 10:30am

Easter brunch April 3 after the church service.

Pasta Dinner, April 16, from 5:00 pm to 7:00pm

Join Our Family of Faith

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

Please contact the pastor!

Intercessory
Prayer
Ministry

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

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
2/14/2016	30	11	\$968	\$13	0
2/7/2016	38	16	\$1012	\$190	0
1/31/2016	50	23	\$937	\$0	0
1/24/2016	0	1	0	0	0
1/17/2016	51	9	\$932	\$79	0
1/10/2016	30	4	\$1300	\$325	0
1/3/2016	32	0	\$973	\$347	0
12/27/15	28	4	\$966	\$50	0
12/20/15	55	0	\$1719	5\$	0

Finance Chairman's Report

Thank you to all that continue to give offerings to St. Andrews UMC this year. It is with your help that we can fulfill our operational obligations and be a vital church helping to serve the community. As of now our balance sheet looks good. Of course we have had help from Father Winter in granting us a light winter so far. Thank you again. John Quimby

Sunday school News

After finishing the Christmas story, our Sunday School lessons went on to Jesus teaching in the temple at age twelve, His baptism by John the Baptist, and His temptations by Satan. After learning about these events in the life of Jesus, we went on to discuss the ways baptisms are done today and the ways we are tempted in our lives. We look forward to the Easter story and activities coming up soon. Donations of individually wrapped candy would be appreciated for our annual Sunday School Easter Candy Hunt, scheduled for Palm Sunday, March 20.

Thank you, Carol Trip

Acolytes

Our acolyte program is off to a great start. There are five members, who work in pairs for a month at a time. They wear black robes with white tops and look very nice as they open the weekly church service. Many thanks to Briannah Morales, who lit the candles by herself for so long and now leads the acolyte program.

Thank you, Carol Trip

Easter Flowers

You may purchase flowering plants in memory or honor of someone for Easter Sunday. You may order daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, or lilies. Each plant will cost \$10.00. Please call Carol Tripp at 203-865-8174, or fill out an order blank at church, before March 13th, to place your order.



Easter Lilies

To purchase one or more plants to help decorate the church on Easter morning, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or give it to Carol Tripp **by the deadline date, Sunday March 13**. Each plant will cost \$10 and may be paid with the order.

All checks should be made payable to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. Please print as neatly as possible, and indicate whether you wish to take your plant following the service on Sunday, March 27, or donate it.

Please note that each plant donated is for one name or one couple's name (as in "John and Jane Smith.") Please do not list more than one name/couple's name per plant donated.

Your Name: _____

(as you want it to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin)

Telephone # (in case of a question) _____

Number of Plants: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I would like to donate: ___ daffodils ___ hyacinths ___ tulips ___ lilies

- I wish to take my plant(s) home
- I wish to donate my plant(s)



Please join us for Easter brunch on Sunday, April 3rd after the church service!
Thank you, Claire



Time away with the Lord is fundamental for our Christian Journey. Here are some opportunities:

Emmaus for Youth- An Emmaus weekend offers young people of high school age a short course in the Christian way of life. Those who come to an Emmaus weekend experience Christian community, and a time of reflection and insight into their own lives. There is uplifting music, a chance to meet and get to know new friends, and opportunity to know oneself, others, and God on a deeper level, and to share the joyful and loving relationship that is central to the Christian experience. The total cost is \$45. Scholarships are available. Next weekend is April 22 to 24, 2016 at First UMC of Shelton

Tres Dias for Adults- Tres Dias is a community of Christians, from many denominations, supporting one another in our faith journey. On a Tres Dias weekend you will find yourself being drawn into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. What's more, you will be empowered to make an impact in your church, your home, even your workplace! A weekend retreat is a full three-day (typically Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon) experience which includes fellowship, music and activities to help strengthen your relationship with your fellow Christians, the Church and Jesus Christ. A wonderful thing you will discover about the weekend is that it takes the basics of Christianity and makes them personal for you. The opportunity to focus on Christ, for three days, in a loving and open environment, makes your faith come alive! Upcoming Weekends

Men's 102 April 28-May 1 and Women's 102 May 19-21 at Our Lady of Calvary in Farmington. **For more information, talk to pastor**



MARCH

- 02 Floyd Brown
- 04 Joseph McDonald
- 23 Charlene Penna
- 30 Joan Gans

APRIL

- 04 Lola Copeland
- 06 John Miessau
- 09 Caroline Cordero
- 25 Carolyn Pickup
- 25 Diana Grippen
- 29 Phillipa Blake



Join us for our Annual Saint Patrick's Dinner

On Saturday March 12 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Dinner will be \$15 per Adult, \$7.50 per Children under 10 and Free for Infants under 2

Please call or email for your Reservation by March 10 (203)467-0117 - office@standrewsnh.com

All proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's Methodist Church



Join us for our Annual Pasta Dinner

On Saturday April 16 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Dinner will be \$10 per Adult, \$5 per Children under 10 and Free for Infants under 2

For more information, call or email (203)467-0117 - office@standrewsnh.com

All proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's Methodist Church



Journal of John Wesley

By Norma Ryan

Week 10: March 6th

A little history: In Wesley's time, it was customary for people's 'souls' to belong to particular parishes. For Wesley to preach to persons belonging in and to another clergy's parish was an invasion of the other clergy's domain.

Entry-Monday, July 1st: "You accordingly ask, how is it that I assemble Christians who are none of my charge to sing psalms, and pray, and hear the scriptures expounded?"

And think it hard to justify doing this in other men's parish upon Catholic principles? Permit me to speak plainly. If by catholic principles you mean any other than scriptural, they weigh nothing with me; I allow no other rule, whether of faith or practice, than the Holy Scriptures, but on scriptural principles, I do not think it hard to justify whatever I do. God in scripture commands me to instruct the ignorant, reform the wicked, confirm the virtuous. I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean that in whatever part I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation."

Lenten challenge: It is the season of Lent, a time of slowing down and preparing for Resurrection (Easter) Day. What better good news can you bring to your families and neighbors than "Jesus died but now He is alive." He died on the cross to save us from our sins so that we could have new life and have it more abundantly. Have you ever shared the story of the Cross and Resurrection with anyone? Go ahead, be courageous --- do what Wesley did --- "instruct the ignorant, reform the wicked, confirm the virtuous." Tell someone what you know about Jesus. You can do it. It is your "bounden duty to tell all that are willing to hear."

Week 11: March 13th

Entry: Tuesday June 5th: "I told them plainly the Scripture had concluded them all under sin---high and low, rich and poor, one with another. Many of them seemed a little surprised and were sinking apace into seriousness, when their champion appeared and, coming close to me, asked by what authority I did these things. I replied, "By the authority of Jesus Christ, conveyed to me by the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, when he laid hands on me and said, "Take thou authority to preach the gospel."

Lenten challenge: Today we don't need an Arch Bishop's mandate to share the gospel message. We, like Wesley, have been given that authority by Jesus himself. During this season of Lent and at all other seasons too ---Take time to thank God for sending Jesus---Take time to thank Him for all He has given you. Thank Jesus for forgiving us and bearing all our sins on the Cross. Thank God that Jesus rose from the dead. Don't let this week pass by without giving thanks for the blessings we have received bless someone else by sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus with them. Share Jesus today---It is always the right time---NOW is the time to share salvation. (Note: This charge, "Take thou authority to preach the gospel." is still used in our ordination ritual today.)

Week 12: March 20th Palm Sunday

A little history: Wesley did not invent a new religion. He preached only the Scriptures. With the help of his Moravian friends he rediscovered the true gospel message of salvation by faith alone by the shed blood of Jesus. And when he believed this message of faith alone, and acted on it, he was compelled to preach the gospel to everyone!

Entry: Sunday August 16th: "I preached at Moorfields to about ten thousand, and at Kennington Common to, I believe, nearly twenty thousand... At both places I described the real difference between what is generally called Christianity and the true old Christianity, which, under the new name of Methodism, is now also everywhere spoken against."

Lenten challenge: So you call yourself a Methodist--- but do you live and believe as Wesley did? Have you done what Wesley did? Have you preached the gospel message to ten thousand people yet? Have you shared the story of Jesus' death and resurrection with someone in your family or maybe a neighbor? Or, have you shared the message with so many people they now speak against you for sharing your faith? This "Holy Week" tell someone about Jesus every day. That's 7 people you have the privilege of introducing to Jesus; people who may never hear about the love and forgiveness of God if you don't tell them. Throw hesitation aside ---You are the only hands and feet Jesus has on this earth today.

Week 13: March 27th Easter (Resurrection) Day

A little history: Just as in our own lives, throughout Wesley's journal there are accounts of times when he questioned his calling and ability to fulfill that calling. One such occasion occurred early in his ministry during a conversation with Peter Bohler.

Entry: Tuesday, April 18th 1738: "I (Wesley) asked P. Bohler again whether I ought not to refrain from teaching others. He said, "No; do not hide in the earth the talent God hath given you."

Easter challenge: As it is written in I Peter 4:10-11, use your gifts and talents for the benefit of each other and to the glory of God. Jesus is the greatest love gift ever given to us and He does not expect us to hide the knowledge of Him under a basket. Use your gifts and talents to share Jesus with everyone you meet. So... Where could you use your talents and gifts at St. Andrews UMC? Where could you use your gifts and talents in our local community?

"Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us." (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts/talents>) Please use the website above for more information about spiritual gifts.

Week 14: April 3rd

A little history: Wesley spent long hours on horseback to reach those he ministered to and there were literally many rough roads that he encountered.

Entry---Sunday 24th: "As I was riding to Rose Green in a smooth plain part of the road, my horse suddenly pitched upon his head, and rolled over and over. I received no other hurt than a little bruise on one side; which for the present I felt not, but preached without pain to six or seven thousand people..." Then another entry- Monday 24th: "I preached once more at Plaistow and took my leave of the people of that place. In my return, a person galloping swiftly rode full against me and overthrew both man and horse, but without any hurt to either."

Lesson: God's blessings were upon Wesley and he never forgot to acknowledge the wonderful power of God working on his behalf. Begin Eastertide with thanksgiving in your hearts. Begin by making an intentional effort to acknowledge God's marvelous intervention and His protection in our lives and give Him glory and thanksgiving for the countless times He has kept us safe from harm. Easter and the resurrection of Jesus is the greatest miracle of all times. Let God's miracle working power work through you. As you live ordinary life, soon you will discover the ordinary becomes extraordinary when Resurrection power intervenes.

Week 15: April 10th

Because Wesley preached with authority and power, he had many enemies who opposed his teaching that we are saved through faith in Christ alone, and along with the opposition came temptations. Wesley wrote this entry at about the time of his encounter with the Holy Spirit at Aldersgate: "I was much buffeted with temptations, but I cried out, and they fled away. They returned again and again. As often as I lifted up my eyes, He (God) sent me help from his holy place. And herein I found the difference between this and my former state chiefly consisted. I was striving, yea, fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered; now, I was always conqueror."

Lesson: Too often we forget that Wesley was as human as we are. If he found all he needed in Christ to overcome the temptations placed before him...we can too. We do not have to be conquered, we can be conquerors! Bring ALL your temptations to Jesus then find a brother/sister that you trust and share and pray together. Whatever you do---Don't give up. You will win the victory!!! [Romans 8:37: Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.]

Week 16: April 17th

John Wesley definitely had a unique sense of humor as related in this entry dated Monday, May 17, 1742, "On Thursday, 20, I set out. The next afternoon I stopped at Newport-Pagnell and then rode on till I overtook a serious man; with whom I immediately fell into conversation. He presently gave me to know what his opinions were: therefore, I said nothing to contradict them. But that did not content him: He was quite uneasy to know whether I held the doctrine of the decrees as he did; but I told him over and over, "We had better keep to practical things, lest we be angry at one another." And so we did for two miles, till he caught me unawares, and dragged me into the dispute before I knew where I was. He then grew warmer and warmer; told me I was rotten at the heart and supposed I was one of John Wesley's followers. I told him, "No, I am John Wesley himself." Upon which he would have gladly run away outright. But being better mounted of the two, I kept close to his side and endeavored to show him his heart, till we came to the street of Northampton."

Lesson: Enjoy being a disciple of Christ. Laugh a lot---Live a lot---and Love a lot. Enjoy the surprises. Proverbs 17:22 Reads, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine but a downcast spirit dries up the bones."

Week 17: April 24th

A little history: Wesley's journal also included a letter from his mother dated July 24, 1732. It affords insights into Wesley's upbringing with Susannah's principle rules of discipline.

Excerpts from Susannah's letter: "The children were always put into a regular method of living in such things as they were capable of, from their birth; as dressing, undressing, changing their linens, etc." "When turned a year old, they were taught to fear the rod and cry softly." "As soon as they were pretty strong, they were confined to three meals a day." They were never suffered to choose their meat, but always made to eat such things as were provided for the family."

Lesson: Can you see how Wesley's adult life was shaped by the discipline of his childhood experiences? From past excerpts we see he had a remarkable knowledge and understanding of scripture and chose to live his life accordingly dedicated in service to the precepts of God. He was disciplined in his lifestyle but also able to adapt to changing circumstances. He was strong in his personal convictions, willing to endure hardship to carry out his divine destiny. We as Christian parents and grandparents should love as Jesus did and consider our children and grandchildren to be gifts placed in our care by the Lord. Our children should be taught the scriptures and be expected to live by Biblical principles. They should be encouraged to make good, sound choices not always taking the easy way out of difficult situations. Scripture says, "Bring up a child by teaching him the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn away from it. (Proverbs 22:6) And as Susannah always did--- pray...pray... and... pray. Who knows how many future John Wesley's are in our congregations.

Worship Series Season after Epiphany
(The Holy Spirits reserves the right to change things as the Spirit moves)

Lent Sermon Series: The Way

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43: 19

Lent is a time of reflection and there's nothing like a pilgrimage to conjure that up. Inspired by passages in the scriptures that talk about the journeys, roads and pathways of life, we will make our "way" together through this poignant season.

The Way Home 3/6/16

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew

Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! - 2 Corinthians 5: 16-17

...Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" - Luke 15: 11b-32

No matter what we call "home" in this physical world, we yearn for a spiritual home within that offers serenity, acceptance, and belonging. The extravagant acceptance of the father for the son in Jesus' parable of the wandering son is difficult for us to believe sometimes... that no matter what we have done, who we are, how far we are from what we want to become, we are welcomed home by the Loving Parent.

Scriptures

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-13, 11b-32

The Free Way

Fifth Sunday of Lent

3/13/16

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43: 16-19 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. - Phil 3: 13-14

New paths are possible through freedom in Christ. And these ways made plain before us if we have eyes to see. Yes, we will strain against adversity—such is life. But new life is we have eyes to see. Yes, we will strain against adversity—such is life. But new life is always possible. New horizons are ours through relationship with God and with each other. We will offer symbols of our efforts this day in the form of rocks (which can be both stumbling blocks and stepping stones along the way) and affirm that God, our rock and our redeemer is with us every step.

Scriptures

Psalm 126

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:4b-14

The Other Way (Palm Sunday) 3/20/16

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" - Luke 19:28-40

This moment on this road for Jesus feels both like the end and the beginning. Such are so many moments of our lives. A pilgrimage may reach its destination but the hope, the wisdom, the lessons learned along the way have offered a new starting point for us. What have we learned and what transformation—what "other way"—are we called to in the name of right relationship in our lives?

Scriptures

Palms:

Luke 19:28-40

Passion:

Luke 22:14-23:56

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Visit us on the Web at:
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www.facebook.com/church
ofSaintAndrews

American Hero

For Rosie Lopez, in honor of Rafael Garcia

Do you know Papi, on the American street? Not out of the
West, he's from the East. He knows the ropes at the Carousel,
In the restaurant cooks and cleans equally well.

A born mechanic, well- almost!
He operates machines that make paper, can actually choose
where to work,

And not just because he can laugh and joke!
He came from the School of Hard Knocks, so to speak,
Learned to handle the rough along with the sweet.
For him the thugs and the mafia could soon go to hell;
For him they feared and respected, they guarded his family well.
Iron man was he, self-taught from as young as could be.

His mother died when he was seven,
Maybe that's partly why he seemed to close to Heaven.
Like a legend, at eighteen he arrived from the Island.
There his schooling years were rich in love, and rich in hunger, too.
Longing for work and for learning, he found opportunity.
He worked, earned respect; a teacher, he taught by example.
He saved his sisters' lives; from Puerto Rico they came to New York.
He played a hard game, he won at Bingo and he won at Life.
Papi was greatly loved by his sisters, his children, his wife.

By Diana Grippen

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United Methodist Church**

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March/April 2016