

Saint Andrew's Messenger

September 2015

Issue #66

The Newsletter of Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church

1230 Townsend Avenue, New haven, CT 06513

Phone: (203) 467-0117 E-mail:office@standrewsnh.com

Visit us on the web at: standrewsnh.com



www.facebook.com/churchofSaintAndrews



One of my constant prayers is for God's guidance, especially when it comes to leading Saint Andrews. We as a church have been praying for a year to find new ways to reach out to our community, especially to those whom no one is reaching, and I believe God is finally giving us some guidance on the matter.

About a month ago, I had a meeting with a colleague of mine, Sharon Betts. Sharon is an Episcopal pastor who will be ordained next spring. Sharon and I have crossed paths many times in our journey; we have taken classes together, worked as chaplains together and also worked as spiritual directors for South Central Emmaus, an ecumenical group that prepares retreats for teenagers. Meeting with Sharon, she told me about a new ministry that she is putting together, "Rhythms of Grace to Go," a program that will help churches reach out to a very unique population, children with special needs and their families.

The vision of Rhythms of Grace to Go... is to bring the love of Christ to families who might not otherwise worship in community, sharing the Gospel in such a way that it spiritually nurtures the parents and their children with special needs by adapting to their children's learning capabilities. I was fascinated with the idea, and was really inspired by the time and effort she had put into this. She shared with me the curriculum she uses and showed me pictures of all the tools and materials she provides. Then she paused and asked me, "Do you think your church would be interested in being a host church? I thought she was reading my mind! A host church is one that provides the space so that Sharon can come with all her supplies and invite families to worship. Worship services are once a month, at a different time than the regular church services.

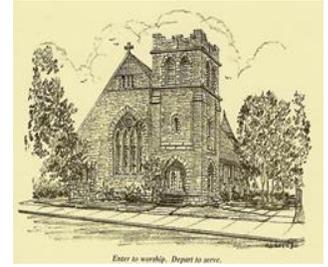


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IMPORTANT NEWS



Welcome Back To Sunday School

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church Sunday School Rally Day will be held on September 13, 2015 at 10:30 am. This will be a family worship service, with welcome back activities. Classes for children, ages 4 and up, will meet on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of each month. On the first Sunday, (and the fifth, if there is one), we will have family worship time and everyone will attend the church service. Classes will begin meeting on September 20th. The children will attend the church service, remaining until the children's message. They will then go to their classes. September 27th will be a family worship day with everyone attending the worship service.

This year, we are starting something new. Nicole Morales and Caroline Cordero have volunteered to supervise a Nursery Program during the church service. Parents of children, ages three and younger, may place their child/children in the Nursery, while they attend worship. It will be held in the main hall, just outside the sanctuary. There will be no Nursery care on the first Sunday of each month, to allow Nicole and Caroline the opportunity to attend services. Nursery care will begin on Sunday, September 20th. We look forward to seeing you and your child/children on Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 am.



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 the pastor by phone or email.



Dates to Remember

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

Clean Up day September 5, 2015

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

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

Church Annual Conference
November 3, 2015 7:30pm

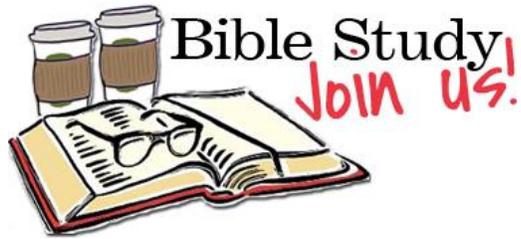


We are working on a new church directory, please advise the office if you want to be included in it by contacting the pastor or filling out our membership update form at: standrewsnh.com/Resources.html



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

Please contact the pastor!



New Bible Study starting: Invitation to John, A Short-Term DISCIPLE Bible Study

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

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)



Choir

Our Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 6th. Rehearsal will start promptly at 9:15 Sunday morning. We would welcome any new members - our hope is that singers of all ages will consider joining this group. Looking forward to seeing you!

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
8/23/2015	35	8	\$ 788	\$0	0
8/16/2015	41	9	\$1248	\$16	0
8/9/2014	33	7	\$755	\$35	0
8/2/2015	38	0	\$1091	\$112	0
7/26/2015	38	0	\$833	\$0	0
7/19/2015	43	0	\$776	\$0	0
7/12/2015	31	0	\$1160	\$17	0

Thank you!

Thank you to all who help us keep the building in great shape. Thank you especially to Ralph and Jamie who coordinated replacing the roof and the construction of our new ramp.

Thank you to all our children who bless us every week!

Thank you to all who participated in the summer worship by suggesting parables and stories of Jesus to be explored. Our worship was indeed enhanced by your picks.



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

Treasurer's Report

Summer is almost over and we are now heading into the fall and cold weather. We were able to meet all of our obligations during June, July and August: electric \$1048.99; insurance on church buildings \$1361.58; apportionments \$1052.20; telephone, gas and pest control \$214.94; plus salaries and pension. This is a total of \$5,918.81. Now with colder weather on the way, we need to build up funds for heat and snow removal. Our quarter bank was again filled in August with another \$50.00 destined for heat and snow removal. Keep those quarters coming! By working together we will be able to pay all our bills and get through the cold and snowy weather ahead. Carolyn Pickup

Stewardship Campaign:

Thank you to all that have pledged to St. Andrews UMC this year. It is with your help that we can we can fulfill our operational obligations and be a vital church helping to serve the community. As of the end of June we had 21 Pledge Cards turned in compared to 18 last year so that was an increase of 16.7%. Great Job! The amount pledged is up 17.8% also. Thank you to all that have pledged to our Stewardship Campaign this year and a great big Thank You to Pastor Ximena for her wonderful sermons during this time. The Finance Committee has created the church budget, counting on the pledges we have received. Honoring your pledges helps us fulfill our obligation. If for whatever reason you cannot fulfill your pledge please talk to me or the Pastor so we can adjust our budget and your pledge accordingly. If you would still like to pledge, please see me or Lucille.

Submitted by John Quimby



Since the last newsletter we have added to our inventory of items for the shoeboxes of our Operation Christmas Child program. The program has grown from 2 boxes to the 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, and we all thank Pastor Ximena for promoting this project. The program continues to grow because it's for children that will have the opportunity to know that they are loved by others and will have the chance to learn about Jesus Christ. Many of these children have NEVER received a Christmas present, and over the years many thousands of lives have been helped because of the generosity of people like those at St. Andrews. This year we would like to send 60 boxes, and with your help we can. In this start of the school season many of the items needed can be purchased at discounts. There will be envelopes on the side table for donations towards the shipping cost. Please put your name on the envelope so we can include your gift on your annual statement for income tax purposes. If you have any questions, please call John at 203-248-1556.

Thank you and God Bless You.

The Quimby family

Shoebox Gift Ideas

UPDATE AS OF 8-28: We especially need 1 more toothbrush, 46 matchbox type cars, 31 card games, 26 pencil sharpeners, and 22 washcloths., also 96 pencils and 160 pens (3 each per box), 53 family size tubes of toothpaste, 35 8.5 X 11 single-subject spiral notebooks, 56 boxes of 24 count crayons, and 50 glue sticks.

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.



South Central Emmaus XXXIV
Trinity Episcopal Church, Seymour
November 6- 8, 2015

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. There are also talks about Christian faith followed by small group discussions. Talks and small group leadership are shared by both adults and teen team members. The weekend, which runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, is held in a retreat setting. However, there is no fasting and very little solitude. There is discussion, fellowship, good food, high energy and much fun. Although different weekends have different numbers of candidates and team members, in general there are about 3 candidate members per team.

Candidates come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds. Some may attend worship services regularly, some occasionally, and some almost never. Clergy and adult team members are from many Christian denominations. Worship services follow the order given in the Pilgrim guide given to candidates attending the weekend. Candidates are encouraged to continue as active members of their own regular worship communities after the weekend. Nothing will be asked of candidates that in any way conflicts with Christian beliefs or Biblical Teachings.

As rector of an Emmaus weekend, I am in charge of the weekend and its preparations. I get to choose the scripture that will be the center of the weekend; all talks and presentations will be centered in this scripture. I decide and secure the location of the event, put together the team by calling the people that meet the requirements and assigning them their role and duties. Then, under my direction and with the assistance of the Spiritual Directors (2 pastors, one of them will be Pastor Ximena), the team will prepare for the weekend. Finally, together we will receive the candidates. The weekend is planned minute by minute, and most candidates come out changed for the better in one way or another. St Andrews congregation can help and participate by praying for us, for our preparations, and during the weekend for the presence of the Holy Spirit. The weekend will be from November 6 to November 8. If you know of a high school student that will benefit from a retreat with Christian teachings, please let me know.



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 be 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

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

Operation Christmas Child, we will be collecting to fill our boxes to send the message of hope to kids all around the world. Our goal for this year is to fill 60 boxes.

Congratulations!

To Morris Pennington on his new white car!

A note from the Trustees:

New roof over hall has been completed, please consider donating to onset the cost of this project. Yellow envelopes marked "roof donation" will be at the welcoming table.



Poetry Corner

What is Life?

Life is an opportunity, take it.
Life is a struggle, fight it.
Life is a puzzle, solve it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is a tragedy, face it.
Life is a sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is a goal, achieve it.
Life is a duty, perform it.
Life is a beauty, praise it.
Life is a gamble, change it.
Life is a mystery, unfold it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a gift, accepted.
Life is a journey, complete it.

Written by D. Hendy
Submitted by Y. Lynch

The Mutant Octopus

The octopus is an amazing creature.
He can rocket away, or glide toward,
A black-clouded inky escape, or a tentacled touch or take,
Eight arms to speed him away, eight arms to reach and play.

The startled octopus escapes, the starved one squeezes his prey.
He might be friendly and playful, maybe infrequently, mind you,
Like foxes and squirrels and cats that play their teases and taunts,
He has eight arms to reach and snap with, suckers to grasp and
cling with.

He could get lost in his game, you know,
And have so much fun life's not the same, you know.

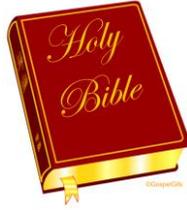
He can s - t - r - e - t - c - h.....
And make greater reach to hold and smack with!

What is a mutant octopus? Please, what can he do?
My friend be undaunted, your dreams can move the seas.
You can grow a bigger spirit, with arms as big as you please.
Just make haste to mutate, and be a bigger you!

By Diana Grippen



Contributions for the newsletter are welcome every month!! We would love to hear from you!! If you would like to submit any news articles, testimonials, poems etc. please reach out to Diana Grippen or Brenda Burgos. Deadline for submissions is due by the 20th of each month.



Fall Worship Guide

(The Holy Spirit reserve the right of changing the order of service as the Spirit moves)

9/6/15

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

Scriptures

Luke 22:14-23

9/13/15

Rally Day, welcome back to Sunday school

Let the children come to me

Scriptures

Luke 18:15-17

A Way Out of No Way

"I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being." - God

We enter the biblical narrative of God's action in human history "already in progress" and right out of the gate we are plopped down in the middle of major crisis: Noah and the flood. We will spend six weeks witnessing other Hebrew Bible stories of God urging the people forward in times when it seems there's no way out. We will recall our own narratives and affirm the strength God gives us to find a way through. After all, our percentage of actually living through a crisis at this point is 100%!

9/20/15

Saving

If a Doppler radar had been around then, the severe weather warning would have been intense. God tells Noah how to get ready for the deluge and he sets to work, making a way out a no way. We don't really come to know God until we have some reason to trust God. God's rainbow covenant allows us the baseline of trust we need to start a journey and process of self-discovery that will lead us into a life renewed that is large enough for us to inhabit with our full selves.

Scriptures

Genesis 6:16-22; 9:8-15. **"I will remember my covenant."**

Matt 8:24-27

9/27/15

Blessing

Leaving everything we have known before to set out for the unknown can feel unsettling, to say the least. But at 75 years old?! Abram trusted this new path—this new way—and the promise of God's presence and blessing anywhere. We take the first significant step on our journey with God when we accept a blessing that we believe is too large for us to deserve and a responsibility that we feel is too large for us to fulfill.

Scriptures

Genesis 12:1-9. **"Leave your land, your family and your father's household... I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."**

Matt 28:19-20

World Communion Sunday 10/4/15

Rev. Art Yost Preaching / Pastor away on Jurisdictional event

Scriptures

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

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05 Rawle Nathaniel Lynch
11 Jocelyn Quimby
15 Claire Webster
25 Cathalene Tobias
25 Crystalene Tobias

October 2015

03 Aliani Cordero
07 Marco Sison
11 Jorge Varas
13 Carol Lawson
15 Timaya Sandra Lynch
17 Javier Varas
21 Moises Diaz
24 Ana Marie Lopez
31 Mary Lou Adametz

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