

September 2014

Issue 59

# Saint Andrew's Messenger

The Newsletter of Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church



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## "Everything Changes"

It has been two months since I officially began my work at Saint Andrew's UMC and what a couple of months it has been. First let me say, thank you, for your warm welcome and all you have done to make sure that me and my family feel at home.

There was a song when I was growing up that I used to sing and love called "Todo Cambia" from Mercedes Sosa. This song means "Everything Changes", and as I reflect on my life since April, I can say INDEED everything has change.

Even though change can be nerve-wracking and stressful I have to say that change open doors to new things, new blessings that we cannot even imagine. I, for once, could never imagine how much I was going to love been part of this community, but all began with a change. In order to receive this blessing I had to change from driving to Shelton each Sunday morning to driving to New Haven.

Many changes have also occurred here at Saint Andrew's since the beginning of my appointment. The most visible one is the installation of a screen and projector on our Sanctuary and a restructure of our worship service, all this with the hope of helping us to encounter the Living God each week as we gather together to regain strength in the Lord.

We have clean and make the church office into the pastor's office. We have worked on the parsonage and the sanctuary to keep in good condition. New garden has been planted. New signs have been orders. New curriculums for Sunday school for children AND adults are underway, and the list continues.

I can say with all conviction, Saint Andrew's is a small but MIGHTY community. I am impressed with the commitment and resilience of its members, and I am sure God is not done with us yet. There are many changes and many more blessing coming our way.

I believe God has poured out on us abundant gifts. These gifts will help us to envision and put into action the plans that God has for us in the upcoming year together.

Our sole purpose as a church in the corners of Townsend and Forbes is to change the world in our Savior's name; there is that world again: change! Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Christ on this corner of the world. Our Job is to bring Christ with us wherever we are; and by doing so we will bring others closer to Christ. Our small by mighty community has the power given by the Holy Spirit to do that and more.

*"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17 New Living Translation (NLT)

It is my prayers that we together can find a new life in Jesus. I know God has big plans for us, I can feel it, can you?

In His love,

*Ximena Varas, pastor*



## Saint Andrew's UMC Annual Conference

Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7:30pm  
Join us to celebrate all that God has done  
for us and within us this pass year.  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME



## Lay Servant Ministries

In 2012 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved legislation to change the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to Lay Servant Ministries. The term servant was chosen because it best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself had performed the duties of the lowliest servant. We are also called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership! A Lay Servant is.

- A professing member of a local church or charge who is ready and desirous to serve the church
- Eager to serve the church, the community, and the world
- Well-informed on and committed to the scriptures and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church
- Trained in witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communication, church and community leadership, and care giving ministries.



## Lay Servant Ministries BASIC Course

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Our Church will host a Basic Lay Servant Class on November 8, 15, and 22. For more details on this ministry or to register for this class, please speak with the pastor.



## Tag Sale

Find treasures in our Church Tag Sale-  
September 13, 2014  
Rain date September 20, 2014



## Altar Flowers

Are you celebrating a special occasion or do you want to honor or remember someone special in your life? Bring flowers to our altar on Sunday mornings and we will all remember with you and give thanks to God for the occasion and the person you are remembering.

Altar Flower sing up will be located at the welcome table, write a short description of the reason you will be bringing flowers that day.



## Welcome Back to Sunday School

Sunday School will start the new school year on Sunday, September 14, 2014, at 10:30 A.M., during the regular worship service. We will celebrate Rally Day with a special service and everyone will attend church instead of classes. We will continue the excitement during coffee hour and we hope that many children and their families will attend.

Our Sunday School schedule has changed from last year. A family service will be held the first Sunday of each month, which means the children will attend the worship service. This enables them to experience the whole church service, to worship with their family, to participate in the service, and to take communion. The second and third Sundays will be when we hold our regular Sunday School classes. The children will stay in church until the children's sermon, at which time they will go to their classes. The fourth Sunday will also be a Sunday School meeting day, starting in church. Instead of having classes, we will have a singing session, where contemporary Christian songs will be taught. It is hoped, that in the future, the children will sing during the Family Sunday Service. If there is a fifth Sunday, there will be another family worship service and everyone will attend the church service.

We look forward to the start of a new school year. We welcome children ages four and older. Please see the Pastor if you have any questions.

**Potluck Celebration after the Service. Bring a dish to share.**



## Christmas Shoe Boxes

Once again this year, Saint Andrew's will be a sponsor for Operation Christmas Child -- also known as the "Shoebbox" program. Our goal is to fill 50 boxes and provide the \$7.00 shipping cost for each one.

This program is a longtime project of Samaritan's Purse, an organization providing help for people around the USA and worldwide. Shoebboxes filled with personal hygiene items, candy, school supplies and more were sent to almost 8 million children in more than 100 countries last year. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has reached more than 100 million children in over 130 countries – almost three quarters of all countries in the world. Through the follow-up program, millions of children and their family members have heard the Gospel for the first time, and many have accepted Jesus Christ into their lives.

Please help us to meet our "fifty Shoebbox" goal again this year with your gifts or a donation toward mailing costs (current costs are \$7.00 per shoebbox). You will find a list of suggested gifts, an items donation box and labeled envelopes for monetary contributions on the Welcome Table. Thank you.

### Shoe Box 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, sharpeners, 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.

Shoe box ideas continued...

#### 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.

At this time we do **NOT** need any more Scissors or Tissue Packs. We are close to our goal on 8X10 single subject spiral notebooks and crayons.



## St. Andrew's UMC Prayer List

Here at St. Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer!

We will start with a new system for our prayer chain, each month we will be adding a new list and those people will stay on it for the whole month, people can continue to be on the list for as long as they need, just let us know you would like to continue to be pray for.

If you or someone you know needs to be pray for please contact John Quimby (203)494-7762 or johnboat1@hotmail.com), pastor (203 278-1568 or Ximena.varas@nyac-umc.com) or fill out a Prayer Request (at the Welcome Table) and put it in the collection plate.



Feed My Sheep

## Food Pantry

Every first Sunday of each month all the collected food items will be taken and be delivered to the Branford Food Pantry.

Help us feed HIS sheep!



Join Our Class!

## Adult Christian Education

Starting September 18th at 7:00pm Join us every Thursday night for fellowship and learning, we will be working on the book.

How God Takes Our Little & Makes It Much by James Moore

James W. Moore is a best-selling author of more than 40 books and an acclaimed pastor and ordained elder in The United Methodist Church

In this 6-session, video-based study, Dr. Moore uses key Scriptures that distinctively shape us as United Methodists. There are two sessions from the Old Testament and four sessions from the New Testament. Each session also lifts up and uses core terms and life application topics taken from the Wesley Study Bible to help you grow as a faithful follower of Jesus as you practice your faith in everyday life.

#### Contents include:

- 1: God Takes a Reluctant Shepherd and Makes a Bold Leader: The Story of Moses
- 2: God Takes a Harem Girl and Makes a Heroine: The Story of Esther
- 3: God Finds the Lost and Celebrates with Joy: The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Son
- 4: God Takes a Fisherman and Makes a Disciple for All People: The Story of Peter

Adult Christian Education Continued...

5: God Takes Our Little and Makes It Much: The Story of the Church  
6: God Takes Mere Sinners and Makes Us More than Conquerors

## September- October Worship Schedule

**The Holy Spirit reserves the right to change this schedule as the Spirit moves.**

### 7 Sept

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Finishing Sermon Series: God is Holding Your Life*

"God's Love Endures Forever"

**Scripture: Psalm 136**

Our journey through the psalms culminates in a litany of thanksgiving and the assurance that the love of the Holy Living Creator endures forever. God is Alpha and Omega, the All-in-All, the One who has, does, and will, lead the people out of their despair and discouragement. All generations proclaim trust in God!

### 14 Sept

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Rally Sunday**

Let's celebrate together the beginning of the Sunday school year.

**Scriptures:**

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Luke 2:39-40

Mathew 22:34-40

**Sermon Series: Moving Out of Scare City**

The sense that there is not enough drives greed, fear and exclusionary behavior.

We begin to live in "Scare City" where it seems that death, starvation, feelings of being overwhelmed and swallowed up can lurk around every corner. The Good News is that this is an illusion. A spiritual journey into the truth of abundance of all that we need offers us an alternative vision of where to live our lives. This series will have us "Moving out of Scare City" and traveling to the vast, open habitats of God's grace.

*September- October Worship Schedule continued...*

### 21 Sept

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Towers of Power

**Scriptures:**

Genesis 11:1-9

Phil 4:6-7

More, more, more! Like skyscrapers that begin to loom over us casting a shadow below, our quest for "more" power, prestige, wealth, and domination have created a culture of oppressive "not enough-ness." We are overwhelmed, overworked and overstressed. Our perspective of how much we actually have is skewed by the immensity of images of what we "ought to have." In this first week of our series, we begin to confront the myth of scarcity and focus on abundance.

### 28 Sept

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Around Every Corner

**Scriptures:**

Isaiah 41:10

Phil 4:6-7

We are often surrounded by messages that encourage feelings of scarcity and fear. What "makes news" heaps images and stories of what might happen to us. Like walking down dark, winding and narrow alleyways in Scare City, we can move through our lives in fear of what might be lurking around every alleyway in Scare City, we can move through our lives in fear of what might be lurking around every corner. This week we discover what trust in the presence of God can do to shift our fear to curiosity and assurance that we are never alone.

### 5 OCT

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday**

The Other Side of the Tracks

**Scriptures:**

Acts 15: 8-9

Phil 4:6-7

In Scare City, people are divided in fear of the "other." This makes us over-protective fence-builders and hoarders. Is this any place to live?

Rather than offering safety and freedom, we find ourselves trapped. The walls we build to protect become our own prisons. This week we will discover the abundance that comes when we draw the circle wide.

### 12OCT

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Children's Sabbath**

"Altars Everywhere"

**Scriptures:**

1 Timothy 6: 18-19

Phil 4:6-7

The irony in Moving out of Scare City is that we don't have to pack up and go anywhere. Rather, we are called to transform the places within and around us with the evidence of God's love and grace. We are called to build "altars everywhere" to show forth the gifts of abundance to a hungry world. How can we offer radical generosity to transform the places where we are?

### 19 Oct

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday**

We give thanks to God for the laity of our church.

The ministry of the laity is the work of mission or ministry to which each believer is called. As Christians we are all called to this ministry or priesthood – not just clergy. Each of us has a responsibility to proclaim the Good News and reach out to others in love.

Preaching: Renata Smith, Conference Lay Leader

"Engaging Small Groups"

**Scriptures:**

Matthew 18:20

Acts 2:1-4; 42-47

Hebrews 10:19-25

### 26 Oct

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday**

Reformation Sunday commemorates the Protestant Reformation as well as Martin Luther, who nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517, the eve of All Saints' Day.

**Scripture:**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

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Visit us on the Web at:  
[staumc.wordpress.com](http://staumc.wordpress.com)



[www.facebook.com/churchofSaintAndrews](http://www.facebook.com/churchofSaintAndrews)



Congratulations to Charlene Tobias, who graduated from Wilbur Cross High School in June. Charlene is entering her first year of studies at Quinnipiac University. We wish you much success, Charlene. Charlene is the daughter of Charlton and Carmen Tobias.



**Happy Birthday!**

**September**

- 05 Rawle Nathaniel Lynch
- 11 Jocely Quimby

**October**

- 04 Jean Fletcher
- 13 Carol Lawson
- 14 Kevin Clancy
- 19 Olumide Cole
- 21 Mary Cockerline
- 25 Phoebe Mae Guthrie
- 31 Mary Lou Adametz



**Welcome!**

We welcome visitors and new families and children.

Do you know someone who would like to visit us for Sunday Worship

**Special Dates**

Labor Day, September 1, 2014

National Grandparents Day, September 7, 2014

Patriot Day, September 11, 2014

Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15–October 15, 2014

Laity Sunday October 19, 2014

First Day of Autumn, September 23, 2014

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"You may carry on one bag and one personal item. No trunks."