

# SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church, 1230 Townsend Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513

Website: [standrewsnh.com](http://standrewsnh.com) E-mail: [office@standrewsnh.com](mailto:office@standrewsnh.com) Phone: (203) 467-0117



Happy 2017! And so, we begin a new journey around the sun! Even though each day is a new beginning, there is something

about a new year that compels me to look back to the past at all the things that have happened and to the future to all the new opportunities.

Last year I said goodbye to my grandmother and my uncle as they embarked on the ultimate journey toward God and this year I get to welcome my first granddaughter! Just a few more weeks and we get to welcome baby Rose into this world. Through all the sad of letting go and the happiness that life brings, there is always one constant in my life, God.

I take God wherever life brings me because I know God gave everything so that I could have an abundant life.

We just celebrated Christmas. By the time you read this note, the decorations and lights will start to disappear, but taking the decorations down should not make us forget the message: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. Jesus was born so that you could have access to the Father and to eternal life. That is the profound event we just celebrated; that is the event that we prepared our hearts for 4 weeks in Advent. That is our Gospel and central belief as Christians. So here we are, with a brand-new year in front of us and with our hearts still rejoicing for the good news of the birth of Jesus. Given a choice, either we go back to business as usual or we allow this gift from God to transform us.

One of my favorite services in the Methodist tradition is the Wesleyan Covenant Service. It is usually done the first Sunday of the year. Each one of us can recommit (or commit for the first time) to Christ. This commitment is not just a formality, it is not just a ritual we do; it is a sign that we are willing to respond to the invitation to walk with Christ this year.

## Table of Contents

Pastor's Message	1
Prayers and Vital Signs	2
Missions and Finance News	3
Sunday School and CT Resource Days	4
Operation Christmas Child	5
Dates to Remember and Poinsettias	6
Worship Series	7
Church Contact Information	8

Our Journey of Faith is a constant change. We not only receive enough Grace to believe in Christ, but this grace pardons our sin and gives us the strength to go into perfection to be a person created in God's image.

All of us need to study God's Word more, engage in spiritual practices like prayer, observing the Sabbath and community worship. All of us should listen to God's invitation to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth and engage in His mission. All of us need to let go of those behaviors, attitudes, and choices that keep us away from God. All that begins by saying: Yes, Jesus, come into my life and transform it.

Sometimes Jesus brings us to places we've never even dreamed of (tell me about it!), but with the promise that we are never alone in this journey.

My invitation to you is to think about what your commitment to Christ will look like this year. What are the things that you need to give up for Christ or take on for Christ? What are the areas of your personal life that you need to work on with Christ's help? Where is God nudging you to go?

It is a brand-new year full of possibilities, full of blessings and challenges and full of the presence of God, the Emmanuel, who is God always with us.

May you receive all the blessings that 2017 brings!

Ximena



**A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition  
(Contemporary Version)**

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
 Put me to what you will,  
 place me with whom you will.  
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
 Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,  
 praised for you or criticized for you.  
 Let me be full, let me be empty.  
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
 I freely and fully surrender all things  
 to your glory and service.  
 And now, O' wonderful and holy God,  
 Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
 you are mine, and I am yours.  
 So be it.  
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
 Let it also be made in heaven.  
 Amen.



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matthew 28: 18-20; Matthew 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



**Prayer for Our Congregation:**

Dear God, I thank you for all of the ways you are present in my life, especially today, I thank you for Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church and all of the ways you are present among us. Lord, I pray for all of the leaders in my church today; I ask that you guide us to be the church you want us to be. Transform us, o Lord, so we can truly be your hands and feet on earth.

Lord, I pray for the health and growth of Saint Andrew's UMC. I ask that you heal our hearts and give us a courageous spirit so that we can reach out to the ones that need to hear the Good News.

Lord, I pray for my brothers and sisters who are not yet in our midst; Lord, send us all of the people that no one else wants, but whom you are calling to follow you, and help us to welcome them as you have welcomed us.

Send your Holy Spirit to us so we can transform the world in Jesus' name; give me the strength to love you with all of my heart, soul and mind, and to love my neighbors as myself. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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 upon the goal-setting challenge initiated by the Vital Congregations work. It is a 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
12/18/16	47	13	\$727	\$35	0
12/11/16	37	14	\$653	\$20	0
12/4/16	45	6	\$825	\$46	0
11/27/16	42	5	\$1095	\$22	0
11/20/16	38	12	\$431	\$21	0
11/13/16	44	11	\$1238	\$340	0
11/6/16	49	5	\$1298	\$371	0
10/30/16	45	6	\$933	\$136	0
10/23/16	41	6	\$1217	\$7	0

## Missions

**We serve God by serving others. Here is what you can do:**



**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). Next Collection is January 15, 2017, 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 of the collected food items will be taken and delivered to a local Food Pantry. Fall and winter months are always challenging, and Food Pantries are always empty.



**Days for Girls International** is a grassroots non-profit creating a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls through advocacy, reproductive health awareness, education and sustainable feminine hygiene, because no girl should go without.

The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school, which is a huge challenge in some countries. Not having sanitary supplies means Days without school and isolation. Days for Girls gives Days back to girls, Days that can change their lives.

Our church will be joining the CT district and the New York Annual Conference this year to support the Days for Girls program. For \$20, one Kit will provide sustainable feminine hygiene for one girl for 3 years! Please make checks payable to the Saint Andrew's UMC (write Days for Girls in memo line).



**RAISE THE ROOF** is a Connecticut District Mission Project in Partnership with the South Congo Conference.

Bishop Kainda Katembo has reached out to the Rev. Wayne Lavender, pastor of Faith UMC in North Haven and director of the Foundation 4 Orphans, requesting the construction of a new orphanage for 80 children in the city of Lubumbashi, DRC. The newly proposed and designed orphanage for 80 children will consist of 5 buildings. The roofing for these dorms will be tin. Each building will need 80 sheets of tin: cost to install each sheet of tin (including purchasing of the tin, nails and labor) will be approximately \$50.

Our church will join our District on this project. Please make checks payable to the Saint Andrew's UMC (write Raise the Roof in memo line).

## Finance News



The General Council on Finance and Administration is proud to be in partnership with Tribute to present [UMCmarket.org](http://UMCmarket.org) -- the online portal designed for United Methodists to shop online at a variety of retailers who will donate to your local church or other United Methodist entities, to help you raise funds for ministry. Visit [umcmarket.org](http://umcmarket.org), establish your free online account and support our church by creating donations.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our church. Make sure you select Saint Andrew's UMC as your organization!

## Fuel Bank by Ralph & Carolyn Pickup

So far this year we have collected \$200.00 in quarters in our fuel bank. Thanks to everyone who donated and please keep the quarters coming.

## Bottles Money by Ralph & Carolyn Pickup

Since starting this project over 14 years ago we have now collected two hundred eighty two thousand and 10 cans and bottles for a total of \$14,100.50. This money is used for many projects, paint for church doors, stamps for newsletters, coffee hour supplies, sugar, coffee, plates, etc. and \$294.75 for 45 shirts our church just sold. A special thanks to Jamie, Irene, Morris and everyone else who keeps Ralph busy weekly turning the bottles in. Our balance in bottle money as of December 4th is \$149.30. Please keep them coming, the nickels add up.



Ann Penington and Clair Webster for organizing amazing special brunches for our church!

Elizabeth Harlow and Norma Ryan for blessing us with the gift of Music during Advent and Christmas season.

Henry Dynia for all the work he does around the church and for keeping our organ sounding beautiful.



Are you interested in becoming a member of our church or want to learn more about us? Please contact the pastor!



Here at Saint Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer! If you or someone you know needs prayer, please contact the pastor by phone or e-mail.



Children 5 years and older are invited to join Sunday school class the second, third and fourth Sundays of each month. If you feel called to be a substitute teacher, please talk to Carol Tripp or pastor Ximena.

**Notes on Sunday School by Carol Tripp:** The Sunday School meets for classes on the second and third Sunday of each month. On the fourth Sunday, we have our Christian music class, with the help of Janet Dey. The first Sunday is a time for everyone to attend the worship service.

Our recent studies have been very interesting. We learned that Jesus used things the people knew about to help them understand how they could follow him. For example, Jesus said to the fishermen, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." We studied about the people living in tents, then and now, and how God is with us no matter where we are. The study of Joshua taught us that with God's help we can do impossible things. In December, the older class looked for the Christmas story in the four Gospels. We discovered that only Matthew and Luke give accounts of the birth of Jesus, and we noted the differences in their interpretation of the story. We look forward to making new discoveries in the coming months.



Pastor Ximena is available for talks, prayers and visits; in fact, she would love for you to invite her to visit. Please call her office, cell, or send her an e-mail to set up an appointment. Let her know if you or a loved one is in the hospital.



Receive updates, prayer requests and what is happening in worship every week. Subscribe to our mailing list by emailing us at [office@standrewsnh.com](mailto:office@standrewsnh.com)

**Notice from Morris Pennington:** Our church member Mary Adamez is recovering from hip surgery. She is staying at her daughter's home in Killingworth. Mary, we pray for God's blessing and that you have a very rapid recovery.



Please sign up to bring snacks and/or drinks for the coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Contributions are greatly needed and appreciated!

**Connecticut District Resource Days**



**Sunday, January 29, 2017** from 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. at Prospect United Methodist Church, 99 Summer Street, Bristol, CT

**Saturday, February 4, 2017** from 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. at Golden Hill United Methodist Church 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT

Our District Resource Days will feature a wide selection of workshops with a sampling of topics including church finance, prayer, and small group leadership, conversations with our Muslim neighbors, SPR 101, mass incarceration, and much more.

Watch out for a full list of workshop topics and descriptions, along with information on how to pre-register. We will offer information, inspiration, and opportunities to interact with United Methodists from around our District. Please plan to attend. Questions? Contact Maggie Carr, Chair District Council on Ministries at [jcarr01@snet.net](mailto:jcarr01@snet.net)



Once again this year, Saint Andrew's was a sponsor for Operation Christmas Child -- also known as

the "Shoebox" program. Our challenge was to fill 70 and then 75 boxes (15 more than the last couple of years) 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. Shoeboxes filled with personal hygiene items, candy, school supplies and more were sent to millions of children in at least 100 countries last year. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has reached more than 135 million children in over 150 countries and territories – almost three quarters of all countries in the world. In 2016, Operation Christmas Child hoped to collect enough shoebox

gifts to reach another 12 million children, up a million from 2015's goal. More than 7.4 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey, the follow-up program that is offered to many children who receive shoebox gifts. The Greatest Journey is implemented through a global church network to help children learn how to know and follow Jesus.

On behalf of my family and all those children that will receive our boxes we want to thank all of the people that donated money and gifts to this program. We raised enough money to support the shipping of all 75 boxes. We fell short on certain items, as we have in past years, but through God's blessing, and additional monetary donations we were able to purchase the items we needed to complete the boxes. I hope the "boxing party" we had was fun for all. It certainly saved a lot of time for my family packing them.

Next year, I'd like to have 2 boxing parties

And, if everyone is able to help out again, it should be even smoother. I challenged the church to up our goal from 60 boxes and our congregation responded with the passion it has.

When my wife and I delivered the 75 boxes this year a volunteer challenged us to 100 next year. Please help us meet this goal and you can start now by purchasing items at after Christmas sales. I know I will be looking for those deals as I do my shopping.

Thank you again and God Bless you all.

John, Jocelyn and John M. Quimby



**We Would See Jesus'  
Submitted by Norma Ryan**

It might be both informative and fun to learn about the histories of some of the hymns we sing. Our first hymn story is "We Would See Jesus" #256 in our Hymnal. The five verses of this hymn carry us from the Nativity to Epiphany. The words were written by J. Edgar Park and music by Herbert B. Turner. You will hear this particular hymn sung several times in the New Year we are entering into.

In John 12: 20-23 we encounter the passage that inspired this hymn, which will be cited from the King James Version, since this was the source used by the poet, "And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast. The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, 'Sir, we would see Jesus.' Philip cometh and telleth Andrew and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified." Park

skillfully adapted the phrase, out of its biblical context, to fit the season of Epiphany, the time of the Christian year when we are aware of the various manifestations of Jesus that point to him as the Christ, the Anointed One, who has come to save us.

Published first in 1913 in *Worship and Song*, the hymn's five stanzas all begin with the assertion, "We would see Jesus."

In stanza one, the star above the stable lights the manger as we, joining the magi, "lay our gifts before the King."

In stanza two, Jesus is the "light of the village life from day to day" — a glimmer of the one who later declares, "I AM the light of the world." (John 8:12)

In stanza three, Jesus is teaching on the mountainside to all who will listen. Not only is Jesus teaching, but also "birds and flowers and sky above are preaching the blessedness which simple trust has found" — an image that connects Jesus with all of creation.

Stanza four reveals Jesus as a healer who is both "divine and human," giving himself

"in loving service" to humanity.

Finally, stanza five invites us to join the disciples by the lakeshore "in the early morning" and respond to his call to "Follow me!" The hymn ends with our sung commitment to "give ourselves to thee."

John Edgar Park (1879-1956) was born in Belfast, Ireland and died in Cambridge, Mass. His education was truly remarkable and international, including universities in Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Leipzig, Munich, Oxford and Princeton. As a Presbyterian minister, he served lumber camps in the Adirondacks, and then Second Congregational Church in West Newton, Mass. After teaching at Boston University School of Theology for one year, he became president of Wheaton College in Newton, Mass., serving in this capacity from 1926-1944.

This commentary was adapted from *History of Hymns*, by C. Michael Hawn and taken from Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

**Dates to remember:**

**Clean Up day:** Every First Saturday of the month

**Administrative Church Council:** January 3 2017, 7:00 pm at the parsonage

**Human Relations Day:** January 15, 2017, Special Sunday UMC

**Connecticut District Resource Days:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:45 p.m. at Prospect United Methodist Church 99 Summer Street, Bristol, CT and Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. at Golden Hill United Methodist Church 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT

**Boiling water**

This is an age-old story about a daughter who complains to her mother about the circumstances in her life. In response, the mother boiled three pots of water and added a carrot to one, an egg to another, and coffee beans to the third. After a half hour, the mother tells her daughter to take a look.

Each of the three items had been placed into the same situation– boiling hot water – but they all reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, but came out weak and mushy. The egg went in soft and fluid, but came out hard and unyielding. The coffee beans were unique. They used the boiling water to become something better – a delicious cup of coffee.

The mother then explains to her daughter that for every circumstance in life, we choose the consequence. We can let our circumstances weaken us; we can let them harden our hearts; or we can use them to become better.

How do you react to life? Are you more like the carrot, the egg, or the coffee beans? Do you let the circumstances in your life bring you down, or do you use them as a springboard to reach higher? The choice is always ours.

**Poinsettias 2016**



<b>Given by:</b> Irene Bailey	<b>In memory of:</b> all those I loved  Florence Wynne Helen Law Minnie Carlson  Jeanette & Arnold Julie  Mr. & Mrs. James Copeland  Arthur & Virginia Grippen Donald & Beatrice Patton  Leo Bell  Bernice Mayers Yvonne Walcott
Nancy & Ray Benoit and Michael & Paula Wynne	
Phillipa Blake	
James Copeland	
Ross & Diana Grippen	
Elizabeth Harlow	
Yvonne Lynch	
Ralph & Carolyn Pickup	James & Lillian Robinson Ralph & Maude Pickup
The Quimbys	Shirley & Howard Quimby
Carol Tripp	Thomas & Eva Tripp Lori Jackson
<b>Given by:</b> Irene Bailey  The Quimbys	<b>In honor of:</b> all those I love  Marco & Ligaya Sison



**January 2017**

- 02 Charlton Tobias
- 15 Lynn Stowe
- 08 Jim Copeland
- 19 Briannah Morales
- 26 Angelique Smith
- 29 Brenda Hermann

**February 2017**

- 09 Ralph Pickup
- 09 Carmen Tobias
- 10 Lucille Clancy
- 14 John M. Quimby
- 23 Brenda Burgos
- 25 Irene Diaz

## The Great Invitation

### January/February Worship Series

The purpose of the Season after Epiphany is to prepare the congregation for its work of preparing people to live out the way of Jesus during the season of Lent that follows.

The season is "bookended" by Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration Sunday, days that call us to remember and recapitulate the beginning and the glorious end of the discipleship journey we've undertaken and are actively inviting others to join in during these weeks.

Between these two bookends, scriptures will guide us to extend Christ's invitation to learn what he is all about and what discipleship to him looks like.

**1/1/17**

Covenant Sunday

#### Scriptures

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 & John 15: 1-8

**1/8/17**

Epiphany of the Lord

#### Scriptures

Isaiah 60: 1-6 & Matthew 2: 1-12

**1/15/17**

The Heavens are Open  
Baptism of the Lord

We witness the baptism of Jesus, reaffirm the baptismal covenant, and enter anew into the mystery of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from "opened heavens" for the work of evangelism that lies ahead of us during the coming weeks.

#### Scriptures

Isaiah 42: 1-9 & Matthew 3: 13-17

**1/22/17**

*Follow Me*

At the end of the story of the calling of the first disciples in Matthew's gospel, we follow Jesus with his disciples into the places of greatest need and opportunity and offering teaching, good news, and healing love.

#### Scriptures

Isaiah 9: 1-4 & Matthew 4: 12-23

**1/29/17**

*#Blessed*

We've seen Jesus in action. Now we settle in for the first of four weeks to hear him teach his first disciples with a large crowd in the background. Today he sets us straight about who and what God's kingdom is blessing in the world.

#### Scriptures

Micah 6: 1-8 & Matthew 5: 1-12

**2/5/17**

*Salt and Light and Righteousness Abounding*

In light of who and what God is blessing and how different that is from what the world and sometimes even the church seems to bless, how do we then live? As salty, light-shining people whose righteousness abounds!

#### Scriptures

Isaiah 58: 1-12 & Matthew 5: 13-20

**2/12/17**

*This, Not That*

Jesus continues to offer concrete examples of what life in God's kingdom does, and doesn't, look like.

#### Scriptures

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 & Matthew 5: 21-37

**2/19/17**

*And Now Your Reward*

Blessings are a gift of God in God's kingdom. Rewards are the result of living more fully into the ways of God's kingdom, or as we might say, "growing in holiness of heart and life." Jesus reminds us of ways we can stay on or stray from the trail God's kingdom blazes for us in this life.

#### Scriptures

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 & Matthew 5: 38-48

**2/26/17**

*Shine!*

*Transfiguration Sunday*

Today we exult in the vision of God's exaltation of Jesus and in anticipation of our own transfiguration now and in the age to come. That hope, that vision, drives us not to stay where we are on the mountaintop, but to get into the valley of sin and suffering and be a healing and formative presence for all who seek God's salvation with us in the weeks of Lent that lie ahead.

#### Scriptures

Exodus 24: 12-18 & Matthew 17: 1-9

**Saint Andrew's  
United Methodist Church**

1230 Townsend Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06513

**Phone:**

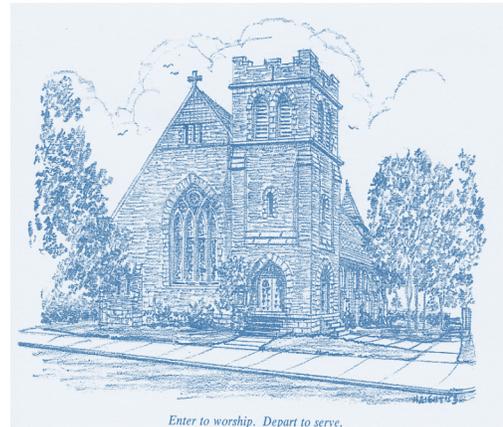
(203) 467-0117

**E-Mail:**

office@standrewsnh.com

**Facebook:**

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



**Saint Andrew's  
United Methodist Church**

1230 Townsend Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06513

January/February