

# SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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As I write this article I am just coming back from the New York Annual Conference at Hofstra University. In my heart and memory are fresh wonderful messages from Bishop Bickerton and Bishop Dick, amazing worship time,

music and many hugs and prayers from so many colleagues in ministries that I have learned to love and respect through the years.

One of the important works of the conference is the announcement of the appointments. Bishop Bickerton has appointed me for another year to St. Andrew's UMC and to the community to serve as your pastor. I do not exaggerate when I say that even today, it brings tears to my eyes to know that out of all the amazing people in this conference, I have the privilege to be your pastor. It also seems unreal that we are beginning our fifth year together! It seems like yesterday I got the call from my District Superintendent. At the same time, we have accomplished a lot together. We have grown together. Our church is stronger and healthier, but we still have a lot of work to do.

Bishop Bickerton on his ordination sermon\*, "The Four B's of Transformation" stated that in order to be the church of 2018 we must:

- BREAK down the walls,
- BUILD the necessary relationships,
- BRING others on the journey
- BRIDGE our differences with grace and love.
- And BELIEVE with all of our hearts that God is not through with us yet. (Yes, this is the 5th B)

The bishop's message really resonated with me and with my ministry. The bishop began his sermon by giving us a reality check of church today. The reality is that for many reasons people are not attending church. In a world where everyone is extremely busy, church seems to be the last on the list. But that is not an excuse for us not to do what the church needs to do. Our work is more relevant than ever. Our community is in need of The Good News more than ever, and we are entrusted to bring Christ's hope, light and love to the world.

We still have a lot to do to break down the walls. As the bishop reminded us, we must break apathy, our judgements, our holier than thou attitude and our lack of commitment.

We still have a lot to do to build up relationships and bridge the gaps that divide us...and the list seems endless, just check the news or the social media.

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And we must take responsibility on bringing others on the journey that once we were brought to. Above all we must believe that God has a plan and a purpose for us, the people at St. Andrew's UMC.

As we begin our fifth year together we must be intentional on working on our B's. We have to find ways to reach out to the community, rekindle our love for mission, and we must dare to do new things to transform our community. We must let everyone we know that God loves them, and that God's grace is available for all. We must think out of the box and answer to our call.

We have a brand-new year together ahead of us. I know God has many more surprises for us this year and that we have all we need to fulfill our call as Disciples of Christ. I am looking forward to continuing this partnership and taking on the challenge to transform our community in Jesus's name. Are you with me?

Ximena

\*For access to Bishop Bickerton's full sermons please visit [www.nyac.com/authordetail/1457099](http://www.nyac.com/authordetail/1457099)



One of my joys is to spend time with you. I see most of you on Sundays, but usually Sundays are very hectic. Unfortunately I don't get to do that as much as I'd like. Some of you I don't get to see much. That is why I would like during the summer to invite you to have coffee (or tea, soda, lunch, ice cream, a walk or whatever you like) with me. No agenda, just a time where we can meet and talk about what's important to you. This invitation is for all of you! And I am hoping you will take me up on it. Please call me (203) 278-1568 or email me at [Ximena.varas@nyac-umc.com](mailto:Ximena.varas@nyac-umc.com) letting me know you want to have coffee with me, and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Looking forward to spending time with you!

Love,

Pastor Ximena

**Dates to Remember:**

**Cleanup Day:** Every first Saturday of the month

**Happy Independence Day:** July 4<sup>th</sup> building closed

**Administrative Church Council:** July 10, 7:00 PM at the pastor's office

**Summer Worship Schedule:** 10:00 AM during July and August

### New York Annual Conference 2018

By Moises Varas

I had the honor and privilege of serving as a lay delegate for St. Andrew's UMC at this year's New York Annual Conference (NYAC). The general theme I got from the conference was building leaders in laity for 2018, as reflected by the official theme "Pathways & Possibilities. Transforming the World." In a sermon on Friday, Bishop Bickerton made an analogy between the struggles of the Church and those experienced by Lewis and Clark on their expedition. He claimed that for the longest time we, the Church, have been "canoers" and our biggest challenge has been climbing the Rocky Mountains. Bishop compared Lewis and Clark's experiences to those of the Church by reminding us that at one point everything about the Church flourished and worked, but that method doesn't work anymore because the younger generation doesn't believe that it works anymore. He summed up how each church has the ability to grow within this new generation, but it's the job of laity to show that the Church is still relevant. This generation believes in the inclusion and acceptance of minorities, including but not limited to the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, refugees, etc. With that vision of inclusion in mind, we have elected four laity delegates and four clergy delegates, with four reserve delegates for both clergy and laity, to a special session in General Conference of 2019. The voting had a rough start with the use of an electronic voting system, but after a motion not to use electronic voting had passed, the process was, according to other delegates, one of the smoothest voting sessions ever in the history of the Annual Conference. Furthermore, Bishop Bickerton signed a partnership to formalize NYAC's continuing support to the recovery of Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria.

This year, I had the honor of playing with the worship band at NYAC. I was primarily the bassist for the band, and I enjoyed the experience. Although I missed playing in the opening worship on Thursday due to a personal appointment, the band was amazing and being a part of it felt like a dream come true for any musician playing in a United Methodist Church. My best moment with the band was on Saturday night while we were waiting for the ballots to be counted for the reserve clergy delegates; we had a "jam session" with the band where we played songs and everyone danced, socialized, etc. As for me personally, I look forward to potentially being invited back to the band next year. Finally, it is with great privilege that I report that Pastor Ximena Varas has been re-appointed to St. Andrew's UMC, and the surrounding community, for a fifth year starting July 1, 2018.



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 Vitalsigns:

The Vitalsigns 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 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
6/10/18	35	0	\$658	\$35	0
6/3/18	36	0	\$1097	\$92	0
5/27/18	44	6	\$858	\$118	0
5/20/18	43	10	\$962	\$33	0
5/13/18	46	5	\$693	\$5	0
5/6/18	35	3	\$956	\$45	0
4/29/18	40	5	\$839	\$5	0
4/22/18	42	5	\$977	\$130	0



**7/3** Donna Francis  
**7/13** Elizabeth Braddon  
**7/14** Mark Rockefeller  
**7/22** Norma Ryan  
**7/25** Rawle Lynch  
**7/29** Nicole Morales  
**8/1** John Quimby  
**8/5** Joshua Cordero  
**8/6** Destiny Herrmann  
**8/12** Elizabeth Harlow  
**8/13** Moises Varas  
**8/17** Carol Tripp  
**8/18** Jennifer Arvelo  
**8/28** David Guthrie  
**8/29** Willie Tart  
**8/31** Mark Lillie

## Missions



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



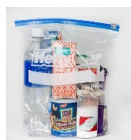
**Connectional Giving:** all of us giving together allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone. We join United Methods around the world in 6 special collections through the year. The money collected goes 100% to a specific mission designated by the general church. For more information,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



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



**Food Pantry Collection:** Non-perishable items are collected during the month. Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month the items will be delivered to a local Food Pantry. Fall and winter months are always challenging, and Food Pantries are always empty.



**Hope Bags:** We are looking for items to fill Hope bags to share with people in homeless situations around New Haven. We've distributed more than 100 bags. Praise God! Items may include socks, cereal bars, water bottles, tissues, soap, deodorant, shampoos, etc. You may also donate money to this ministry and we will shop for you!



**Operation Christmas Child:** While many of us are thinking that Christmas is months away we have to have the shoeboxes ready by mid-November. With that in mind, many of us know that in July and August stores are advertising for Back to School.

That is the perfect time to pick up the school supplies we use in our program. When one can purchase 24 count of Crayola crayons for .25 each compared to \$1.00 each other times of the year it helps extend our money to help out 4 children instead of only 1. Thank you to those that have purchased items towards our 100 box goal for 2018. As of now, we have enough of the matchbox cars. Everything else we need more of. I will be producing a list of the exact numbers we need soon. Thank you for your support.

John, Jocelyn and John M. Quimby

## Gift Ideas

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

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

**Hygiene Items:** toothpaste, individually wrapped bar soaps, combs.

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

**Program does NOT allow** candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

\*Please note that as of 2017 toothpaste is no longer accepted. Also, liquids and lotions have not been accepted due to possible freezing and damage if they leak.



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."

A team from Saint Andrew's UMC and the pastor will be going to the mixed age camp from July 15 to 21 to Dover, NH For more information, please go to: [ne.umarmy.org/](http://ne.umarmy.org/) or ask anyone of our team members: Nicole Morales, Briannah Morales, Angel Karpel, Moises Varas, Javier Varas, and Pastor Ximena. We need your prayers and your financial support!

## 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 to help you raise funds for ministry. Visit [umcmarket.org](http://umcmarket.org), establish your free online account and support our church.



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!

## Letter from Finance Chair

The church is continuing on in a positive direction towards our goals of staying in the meeting our financial needs and our missions thanks to all of you. An update to our insurance change to Church Mutual. We have received checks from our previous insurance companies as re-imbursement to our payments. With the savings the church will be in a better position to balance our annual budget. By lowering our operating costs through the savings it will allow us to invest in more ministries and missions to fulfill our call to help transform the world in Jesus Christ's name. Please continue to reward GOD with your tithing during the summer months. If you have any questions or issues related to their pledges or the church's finances, or ideas on how we can be thrifty with our finances please feel free to contact me. My home number is 203-248-1556.

Thank you and God Bless each of you.  
John Quimby



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.



Thanks to the choir for the music that enhanced our worship service! We look forward to having you back in September.



Thank you to Norma Ryan for serving as our Director of Music Ministry this year. The choir thanks you. We truly appreciate and are grateful for your joyful and inspiring leadership in praising the Lord with music and singing.



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.



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



The acolytes continue to do a fine job lighting the candles at the beginning of service and extinguishing them at the end. We thank them for the very sincere way they perform this service for their church.



**And our church is open!**

**Join us each Sunday at 10:00 AM for worship during the months of July and August!**

### Summer Worship Guide 2018 Questions of Faith

This summer we will be exploring questions of faith. You are invited to submit your question of faith to pastor Ximena. If there any faith topic you will like to learn more about? Pastor Ximena will pick one question each Sunday and preach about it. Keep in mind not all questions have a black and white answer, but together we can explore what the Bible says about it and what The United Methodist Church doctrine tells us. The hope is that we can engage in conversation and learning as we explore our faith.



### Sunday School News

Sunday School will be on a break until September! Children are encouraged to attend and participate in worship during the summer. Joyful noises and giggles are always welcome!

The Sunday School ended the school year with the annual Children's Day activities. The young people led the church service, served as greeters, acolytes, and ushers, and sang. They did a fantastic job and showed how much they have learned. Certificates and a small gift were presented to each child for participating in the Sunday School. The Acolytes received certificates and a gift in appreciation for their service all year. Haydyn Webster and Vincent LaTulippe received Bibles, which are given to children in grade 3 or higher who have not received one. The adults who made our Sunday School program so successful were acknowledged with a gift and certificate also. We thank the following volunteers for making it possible to offer a religious education program at St. Andrew's: Brenda Burgos, Carol Tripp, Joan Gans, Ross Grippen, Briannah Morales, Nicole Morales, Crystalene Tobias, Diana Grippen, Patricia Hubbard, and Brenda Herrmann. A special thanks to Janet Dey, who shared her musical talents with the children every month and accompanied them on Children's Day.



<sup>12</sup> Just as a body is one whole made up of many different parts, and all the different parts comprise the one body, so it is with the Anointed One. <sup>13</sup> We were all ceremonially washed through baptism together into one body by one Spirit. *No matter our heritage—Jew or Greek, insider or outsider—no matter our status—oppressed or free—we were all given the one Spirit to drink.* <sup>14</sup> *Here's what I mean:* the body is not made of one large part but of many *different parts*.

Our church functions well when all the parts do their job, the vitality of the church lays on Disciples of Christ, like yourselves, willingness to share your gifts given by The Holy Spirit for the transformation of our community in Jesus's Name.

We have several jobs open in our community. My hope is that you will consider sharing your time and your talents with us.

- Nursery Teacher and Assistant: provides care for children under 4 years of age during worship. The nursery teacher and assistant need to follow our Safe Sanctuary policies
- Altar Care: People who will be in charge to decorate the altar depending on the season and theme of worship, change the colors of the altar, buy and set the communion elements weekly.
- Administrative Assistant, Assist the pastor with administrative tasks like printing bulletins, inserts and other office duties.
- Adult formation group leaders, Leaders willing to organize and facilitate small faith group formations that would meet at different places and times during the week

If there is another gift that you possess that is not in this list, we invite you to talk to the pastor. We are all needed to make St. Andrew's a vital congregation that makes disciples in Jesus name.



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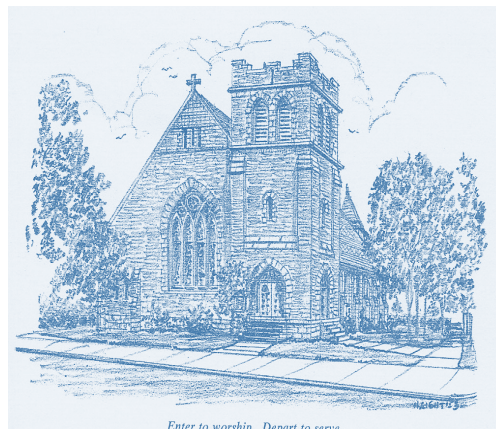
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**July/August 2018**