

*St. Andrew's
United Methodist Church*

2727 SW 119th St. ■ Oklahoma City, OK 73170

Phone: 405-692-4242 ■ Fax: 405-692-4271

www.saokc.org

Mission

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Method

“Helping people know Christ,
grow in Christ, and go in Christ”

Our Motto

I am a MINISTER
Called by God,
Gifted by the Holy Spirit,
Ordained through baptism.

I am a MINISTER
And I will offer my gifts in
service to Christ

Vision

“A loving, caring, and overcoming community
of faith, centered in Jesus Christ”

A Message From Our Pastor

When we stop to consider all the things that Christ has done in our lives, we will find ourselves expressing thankfulness and gratitude. If you are like me, you also can add a healthy amount of unworthiness for God's blessings too. Yes, I am unworthy to be called a child of God, a joint heir with Jesus Christ. Yet my soul overflows with gratitude that God would call and equip me for the work of God's kingdom!

The work of God's kingdom is a priority at St. Andrew's! Whether it is the work of the Holy Spirit transforming us into the image of Christ, or the Holy Spirit working through us to ease the hardship and suffering of those in need, we can trust it is an expression of working for God's kingdom. We seek to fulfill the greatest commission “make disciples” as we know, grow and go in Christ. We must claim our identity as ministers. And we must pursue a vision of becoming a loving, caring, overcoming community of faith that is centered in Jesus Christ.

It is a blessing to be a pastor to such a wonderful group of people. May our lives be shaped in God's word as we seek to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Grace and peace,

D.A. Bennett

Church Contact Information

Church Office..... 692-4242
Church Fax 692-4271
Website..... www.saokc.org

Church Ministry and Administrative Staff

Staff members may be contacted by calling the church office and entering the appropriate extension or by email.

D.A. Bennett - Senior Pastor.....x101
 dabennett@saokc.org
David Johnson - Associate Pastor..... x105
 djohnson@saokc.org
Ginny Pass - Director of Music & Worship..... x102
 gpass@saokc.org
Jeremy Graham - Director of Student Ministry x103
 jgraham@saokc.org
Laura Aldridge - Director of Membership & Care x106
 laldrige@saokc.org
Kim McKinley - Director of Communications.....x114
 kmckinley@saokc.org
Elaine Stults - Finance/Business Manager..... x107
 estults@saokc.org
Samantha Culver - Church Secretary.....x100
 sculver@saokc.org
Lesa Stiger - Website Administrator.....x119
 lstiger@saokc.org
Shain Baldwin - Music Assistantx113
 sbaldwin@saokc.org
Robert Marshall - Facilities Managerx100
 rmarshall@saokc.org
Heather Ward - Blessed Beginnings Preschool Directorx121
 hward@saokc.org

Worship Service Schedule

Sunday Worship

8:15am - Traditional Worship
9:30am and 10:50am - Contemporary Worship

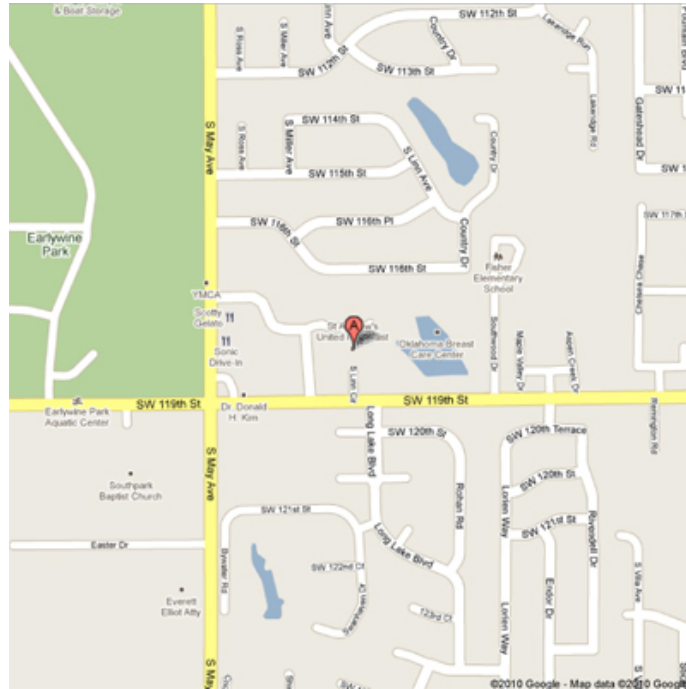
Sunday School

for Adults and Children (Age 3 - 6th grade)
9:30am and 10:50am

for Students (7th - 12th grade)
9:30am

Nursery is provided for children ages 3 and under at all services.

You Can Find Us Here...



Located in South Oklahoma City,
St. Andrew's is easily accessible from I-35, I-44 and I-240.
St. Andrew's sits on the North side of SW 119th Street between
S. May Ave and S. Pennsylvania Ave.

2010 Administrative Council

Chair of Administrative Council	Pete Bein
Lay Delegates to Annual Conference	Sam Aguirre
.....	Loretta Madden
Rep of Evangelism Ministries	(Elect)
Rep of Missions and Outreach Ministries	Margaret Robertson
Rep of Worship Ministries	Betty Fisher
Rep of Congregational Care Ministries.....	Charlotte Apel
Rep of Children's Ministries	Amy Halverson
Rep of Student Ministries	Penny Gay
Rep of Adult Ministries	Dale Bailey
Chair of Finance Committee	Tim Hughes
Chair of Trustee.....	(Elect)
Chair of PPSR.....	Gale Dills
Church Treasurer	Hazel Dodrill
UM Men's Fellowship Rep	Mark McKee
UM Women's Ministries Rep.....	(Elect)
Alternate Lay Delegates	Jan Girdner
.....	Edna Thompson

Facility Use/Rental

The facilities at St. Andrew's can be used and/or rented for Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Celebrations, Meetings, Banquets, Sports Activities, etc. The Worship Center can accommodate approximately 600 people and our Christian Life Center can accommodate approximately 800 people. The Christian Life Center has two full basketball courts and both buildings have a full kitchen. St. Andrew's also has many small and large classrooms, which can be used for more private functions. To find out more information regarding the availability and requirements in obtaining these areas, please contact Sam Culver in the church office at 692-4242.

Useful Websites

www.saokc.org

The official website of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

www.saokc.tv

Website containing video footage of Sunday sermons

www.umc.org

The office website of the United Methodist Church

www.okumc.org

The Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church

new.gbmg-umc.org

Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

www.upperroom.org

Daily devotionals provided by the United Methodist Church

Blessed Beginnings Preschool

Blessed Beginnings Preschool's mission is to make early disciples of Jesus Christ by encouraging the spiritual, academic, social, and physical development of each child in the framework of God's love. Our goal is to provide children with a well rounded education of Christian values, Biblical teaching and academic excellence. For more information regarding the preschool, contact Heather Ward at 692-4242, ext. 121.

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

Blessed Beginnings offers classes for 2-5 year olds. School hours are 9:30am-2:30pm.

ENROLLMENT

Blessed Beginnings open enrollment begins in March. Due to limited class sizes, enrollment will be on a first come first serve basis. There is a \$40 non-refundable enrollment fee for each child. Children must turn two before September 1 to enroll. An enrollment form and tuition agreement must be completed at the time of enrollment. A current copy of each child's immunization record in also required.

TUITION

Tuition for Blessed Beginnings is divided into nine equal payments. This amount is due the first school day of each month beginning in September and ending in May.

DAILY ACTIVITIES AND CURRICULUM

Each day children will participate in a variety of teacher planned and child initiated activities. The curriculum is theme based and includes art, letters, role-playing, outdoor play, math, numbers, Bible, reading, science, shapes, health and safety, and crafts. Our small class sizes are designed to better meet the needs of individual children. The student/teacher ratio is 10:2 (5:1) for our youngest and 16:2 (8:1) for our oldest children.

Our specialty classes include busy bodies PE program, music, American sign language and chapel.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

We also enjoy celebrating many theme days at school including hat day, beach day, spaghetti day, pajama day, Thanksgiving feast, Jesus' birthday, pumpkin day, dentist day, school spirit day, mis-match day, pancake day, fire safety day, spring party day, valentine exchange and crazy hair day.

Discipleworld Children's Ministries

St. Andrew's Discipleworld is where kids become disciples of Jesus Christ! Our goal is to provide quality programs where the children will have the most success in learning. For more information regarding Discipleworld, contact the Children's Ministry staff at 692-4242, ext. 104.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Currently there are two Sunday School hours, 9:30am and 10:50am. Classes involve music, story time, scripture and discussions.

TODDLER TIME

Toddler Time is for all children ages birth-kindergarten along with their parents, grandparents, and/or caregivers. Toddler Time meets twice a month—once at St. Andrew's for story time and crafts and then again for a special event or fieldtrip.

DISCOVERY 1&2

Discovery 1 & 2 is our ministry designed by 1st-2nd grade girls and boys. Discovery 1 & 2 meets once a quarter for fellowship and to learn more about God's word.

EXPLORE 34

Explore 34 is our ministry especially for 3rd-4th grade boys and girls. Explore 34 meets once a quarter to "explore" God's world and learn more about his love for them.

CLUB 56

Club 56 is our ministry designed for 5th-6th grade boys and girls. Club 56 meets once a month for a fun activity or a mission opportunity. There are also special small group Bible studies throughout the year focusing on subjects for their age group.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is a mid-summer, week-long program that is always a highlight for the Children's Ministry. For VBS 2010, we're planning another amazing week. The kids will learn great Bible lessons, sing fun songs, experience cool dramas and eat delicious snacks. It's an experience you won't want to miss!

SUMMER CAMPS

Each year children entering 1st-6th grades have the opportunity to attend Summer Camp at one of our United Methodist campgrounds. Camp is a wonderful time for children to bond with each other as well as other children from different churches. A parent leader from St. Andrew's attends each camp with the children.

KIDS KLUB

Kids Klub is our Mid-week Bible program that we run at the beginning of the year. The evening includes dinner, music, a Bible lesson and games. This is a great time for kids to learn more about their Savior.

Student Ministry

We believe that in today's world it is very easy for students to get lost. The importance of knowing who Christ is, and what He is about, is imperative for our students. As the result of this, students should realize their call to be a disciple for Jesus Christ. For more information about our Student Ministry, contact Jeremy Graham at 692-4242, ext. 103.

THE JOURNEY SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Andy's Student Ministries offers a great experience each Sunday morning beginning at 9:30am for all students in grades 7-12 who desire a real relationship with God. Our teachers love God and love students. Everyone meets in the Student Union for breakfast, fellowship and announcements. At 9:45am, students break into classes for studies that make God's word relevant for their lives today.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

On Sundays we meet in small groups for more intimate Bible study at various host homes or the church. Groups are divided by age and gender. These small groups provide opportunity for a deeper relationship with God and similar peers. Please contact the Student Ministry office for more specific details as these studies change each semester.

IMPACT - A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

On Wednesday nights, we just got to worship God! It all starts at 6:00pm with free food and games, and then at 7:00pm, we gather in the Worship Room for some intense worship time! Upbeat contemporary music and messages that hit home!

MISSIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, our students are encouraged to participate in many different missions' opportunities. These include working with Habitat for Humanity, Feed the Children, Rio Bravo Orphanages and more. This gives our students the chance to serve others and share God's love while making a real difference in the world.

YOUTH WEBSITE

To stay up to date with Student Ministry activities, view pictures of recent events or send inspiring comments, you can visit our website anytime at www.myspace.com/standysyouth.

College/Career-Aged Young Adult Ministry

CROSSOVER BIBLE STUDY

On Monday nights, the college/career-aged young adult group gets together for small group Bible study at various homes. This is a great opportunity to build relationships, have some awesome fellowship time, and learn relevant stuff for their lives. This group also plans special times together for other fun activities such as skiing, cook-outs, and bike rides.

For more information about our College Ministries, contact Jeremy Graham at 692-4242, ext. 103.

Adult Small Group Ministries

SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUPS

If you attend Sunday Worship services and are not part of a Sunday morning group, then we encourage you to consider attending one of the groups meeting at 9:30am or 10:50am. Our groups expect first-time visitors and they will welcome you with open arms. For more information regarding our Adult Ministries, contact David Johnson at 692-4242, ext. 105.

9:30am Small Groups
Discovery (Room B1)
Eagles (Room B6)
F.R.O.G. 24/7 (Room B3)
Koinonia (Room B10)
The Vine (Room B5)
Voyagers (Room B8)

10:50am Small Groups
Agape (Room B8)
Stronghold (Room B1)
Seekers (Room B10)

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Men of St. Andrew's have a large, active ministry with many enriching opportunities. There is a Men's Bible Study every Wednesday morning at 6:30am where lively fellowship and discussions always abound. On the third Saturday of each month, the Men's Fellowship gathers for breakfast at 8:00am in the Christian Life Center. In addition to sharing

breakfast and a message of encouragement, the men often work together on service or mission projects in the church or throughout the community. The UMM also hosts special events throughout the year like their annual Golf Tournament, a Valentine's Dinner and much more!

Special Adult Small Group Ministries

The means by which we help people to mature in their faith and become better Disciples of Christ is through small group ministry. Small group ministry is evident in the New Testament as well as a part of our United Methodist heritage, when John Wesley organized the early Methodists into classes. At St. Andrews we encourage every member to be a part of a small group whether it is on Sunday mornings or one of our other small group offerings. Our main small group emphasis is on Disciple Bible study. These groups begin in mid August and run in conjunction with the school year, ending in May. Disciple classes one through four, Christian Believer and Jesus in The Gospels comprise a well balanced, informative way to learn more about the Bible and at the same time be in fellowship with others who help us grow stronger in faith. Throughout the year we offer other short term Bible study classes such as Alpha and several women's Bible study groups and a men's morning group where those who don't have the chance to start Disciple can also be in a small group. Additionally, we offer small groups at various times during the year that help disciples in areas such as marriage, finance and parenting. To be in a small group contact David Johnson at 692-4242.

Recreational Ministries

St. Andrew's offers many opportunities to become involved in ministry, not only with your mind and spirit, but with your physical body as well! We offer these ministries as a way to meet people where they're at and bring them closer to our Lord. For more information on these Recreational Ministries, contact David Johnson at 692-4242, ext. 105.

UPWARD BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADING

St. Andrew's hosts Upward Basketball and Cheerleading during the winter months (November - February). Upward is a non-competitive program that teaches children basketball and cheerleading skills while sharing God's love and promoting character and self-esteem. The program is open to boys and girls in grades 1-6.

ADULT SOFTBALL

St. Andrew's offers two adult softball teams—one Men's team and one Co-ed team. Games are played during the summer months, usually one night a week. Games begin and end with prayer and provide fun, physical activity with fellow Christians.

BOWLING LEAGUE

St. Andrew's also has a Men's Bowling team, which plays in a 32-week league that begins the week after Labor Day. Games are played at the Penn 44 Bowling Lanes.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S BASKETBALL

During January and February, men of all ages get together on Wednesday nights to play pick up basketball in the Christian Life Center. Anyone is welcome to show up and play!

TAMIYA CAR RACES

The United Methodist Men host a monthly Tamiya Car Race, where adults and children can come and race in a fun, Christian atmosphere. There are different levels of racing with awards in each level. The cars are fast and the crashes are big. Fun for the entire family.

SCRAPBOOKING PARTIES

Occasionally, St. Andrew's offers a time for scrap bookers to get together to do their scrapbooking, share ideas, and enjoy each other's company. Everyone brings their own supplies and a snack to share. Whether you are a scrapbooking pro or just getting started, these parties are a great way to meet new people and share God's love while creating lasting memories in your scrapbook!

BUNKO NIGHTS

Bunko is an easy to learn, fast-paced dice game that keeps you moving and is loads of fun. St. Andrew's hosts a Bunko Night once a month and provides an evening of fellowship and enjoyment to all those that attend. Everyone brings a snack to share and the evening ends with lots of awards!

Music and Worship Fine Arts Ministries

St. Andrew's Worship Ministry combines the best of traditional hymns with contemporary praise & worship music. Our desire is that the Worship Ministry will be a catalyst for helping people to enter into the joy and fullness of worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information regarding the Music and Worship Ministry, contact Ginny Pass at 692-4242, ext. 102.

WORSHIP MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAMS

Ministry opportunities are available in Sound, Media, Computer (Media Shout and PPT), Ushering, Acolyting, Pew-Pocket Stuffers and Decorating.

VOCAL MINISTRIES

The Worship Choir meets on Wednesday evenings. The choir is an extension of the worship leaders, all pointing to Christ through song! They minister through a variety of styles, from "praise and worship" to "gospel" and "jazz and classics." During the Easter and Christmas seasons, the choir expands to greater numbers as we prepare concerts or musical dramas to share with the community.

From time to time, we hear great harmonies of diverse styles from the Mens' Ensemble and the Ladies' Ensemble. Other ensembles and soloists prepare music for Sunday worship, variety shows, banquets and other church activities.

We have multiple Worship Vocal Teams that join the Worship Band to lead Sunday morning worship once a month at a time. The Team is made up of specially selected singers, youth and adult, who love the Lord and have voices that lead.

INSTRUMENTAL MINISTRIES

The Worship Band meets on Wednesday evenings to prepare for Sunday worship. Most of these players are experienced musicians.

The Worship Orchestra is made up of the Worship Band plus brass, wind and string instruments for the Worship Orchestra must have had at least two years experience. The Orchestra plays every 2nd Sunday of the month plus special celebration times like Easter and Christmas.

The Hand-Bell Ministry is made up of two adult teams and one children's team that meet once a week to prepare for worship. Whether you are able to read music or not, we will teach you! This ministry calls for a strong time commitment because each individual plays an integral role in achieving a group sound.

DRAMA MINISTRY

Drama teams of all ages prepare scripts to enhance worship and provide insight into Christian living. St. Andrew's produces musical dramas throughout the year where all the creative gifts are given opportunity to be expressed. Areas of ministry include writing, directing, acting, sewing, painting, and more!

DANCE MINISTRY

Liturgical dancers of all ages perform from time to time at St. Andrew's. Through this ministry, we hope to teach the principles and use of liturgical dance in worship through a variety of styles. This special ministry is a way to allow those who have a heart and gift for dance and movement to use their gifts in honor and praise to the Lord!

KIDS IN MINISTRY

"Kids in Ministry" is a Sunday evening Fine Arts Program that includes music, drama, dance, games, food, fellowship and ministry! The K.I.M. program is made up of Elementary students, grades 1-6, and is led by Director Ginny Pass. The children produce a Christmas musical drama, which is usually performed on the first Sunday evening in December. The kids learn motions and dance under the instruction of Angie Martin. The kids learn songs that are also sung at Sunday morning worship services and area nursing homes, so that they can use their gifts in the Church as well as outside the walls in ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP

Preschoolers and Elementary kids meet weekly during the Sunday School hour to worship Christ through song. These children then have the opportunity to sing these songs in special worship services throughout the year.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

St. Andrew's is blessed with trained professionals who teach private lessons at the church and at their homes. Lessons are available for piano, violin, and voice by calling the Music office at 692-4242, ext. 102.

Evangelism Ministries

There are many opportunities for evangelism throughout St. Andrew's. It is our hope and prayer that you find one to become a part of. For more information regarding the Evangelism Ministries, contact Laura Aldridge at 692-4242, ext. 106.

GREETER MINISTRY

Greeters warmly welcome individuals as they arrive and take visitors to the Welcome Center. They offer help to visitors in locating a class or guide them to the Worship Center.

DOORSTEP MINISTRY

Doorstep Ministers take information packets and "home-made" cookies to our first time visitors on Sunday afternoon. They are willing to answer any questions the visitors might have.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

If you want to learn more about St. Andrew's or are interested in membership, you are encouraged to sign up for our monthly "Coffee with the Pastor." During this informal time, Pastor D.A. will tell the story of St. Andrew's, share about our mission, method and vision, and lift up our five membership expectations. After a question and answer time, inquirers are free to go. Those interested in membership are invited to remain for a time of commitment and prayer. Membership at St. Andrew's is a great way to "Get Connected!"

Congregational Care Ministries

There are many ways to care for our congregation and our community. The following are some examples of how you can become involved in this very worthwhile ministry. Find one that is comfortable for you. For more information regarding these ministries, contact Laura Aldridge at 692-4242, ext. 106.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that equips lay people to provide distinctively Christian, one-to-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in our congregation, and in our community. Training classes to become a Stephen Minister are given throughout the year.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

You can become a member of an organized prayer chain to respond in prayer whenever a need arises.

MEAL ASSIST MINISTRY

This ministry provides meals to families and individuals when circumstances warrant, usually after returning home from a hospital stay or after a death in the family.

NOTE WRITING MINISTRY

Utilizing pre-printed stationary, as well as hand-made cards, members of this ministry write notes for all occasions to persons within and outside our church.

COMMUNION OUTREACH MINISTRY

Members of this ministry provide communion elements to homebound members as needed.

COOKIE BAKER MINISTRY

This ministry shows care and concern through the gift of "home-made" cookies, either delivered to the church and distributed from there, or delivered directly to a home.

Missions and Outreach

St. Andrew's people are actively involved in missions throughout the Oklahoma City community and the world. We consider this as our "Go" ministry from our mission statement to "Know, Grow and Go In Christ Jesus." As United Methodists we are connected to missions through our "apportionment" giving that goes to UM missions such as Circle of Care, and CJAMM prison ministry, as well as Skyline Urban ministry. In addition, we also have missions outside of this connection that include working with Grace Fellowship, feeding the homeless, and medical missions to Africa and Mexico. Below is a list of team members who represent various missions for St. Andrew's. We strongly encourage members to involve themselves in mission as we believe that it is a Biblical mandate to help the poor and bring the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

Missions and Outreach Coordinator: Margaret Robertson

Blood Drive: Debbie Meyers

St. Andrew's becomes a mobile site for a blood drive in conjunction with the Oklahoma Blood Institute. St. Andrew's hosts several blood drives per year.

Christmas Missions: Bill Lester

Each year at Christmas time, St. Andrew's participates in various missions to provide Christmas goodies for needy individuals and families. St. Andrew's has been involved with Skyline Ministry, Grace Fellowship, Santa's Cause and Samaritan's Purse.

Circle of Care: Carolyn Davis

Circle of Care is a not-for-profit agency whose mission is to provide help, healing, and wholeness to children, youth, and families who are hurting or are in need. They serve the children and families from across Oklahoma with a Children's Home in Tahlequah, a Boy's Ranch in Gore, the Holsinger Home in Enid, the Frances E. Willard Ministry Center in Tulsa, and the Child S.H.A.R.E. foster and adoptive program currently serving the Greater Oklahoma City and Tulsa Areas.

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CJAMM): Lesa Stiger

CJAMM is the prison ministry of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church providing opportunities for Christian outreach to incarcerated people and ex-offenders and their families. CJAMM brings wholeness to individuals and families through the following ministries: Redemption Church, Exodus House, Angel Tree, New Day Camp, Kairos, John Wesley Charter School, and the Juvenile Facilities Programs.

Habitat for Humanity:

St. Andrew's schedules work dates with the Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity chapter to help build simple, decent, affordable housing, and to provide hope for responsible, hard-working, limited income families living in substandard condition.

Leadership for Life (formerly Medics, Intl): Bill Lester

Although not an official mission project of the UMC, Bill Lester, a member of St. Andrew's is a full time missionary at Leadership for Life. Bill journeys to Africa and has many interesting and amazing true stories he can relate about his travels. Bill is always interested in having you and your group accompany him on one of his trips.

Project Transformation and Kelly Elementary Tutors

St. Andrew's is involved in Project Transformation after-school and summer program at Hillcrest United Methodist Church. It is a ministry that helps elementary school age children with their homework and with reading.

Skyline Ministries Alive on Saturday Night: Paula McAdams

Alive on Saturday Night meets every Saturday at 6:30pm for a worship service in the church located at 701 NW 8th Street. After the service, visiting churches provide a hot meal for the area's congregation. St. Andrew's usually provides the meal twice a year.

Skyline Ministries McKee Center

St. Andrew's regularly provides donations for the Skyline McKee Center clothes closet. There is a drop off spot at the church for your donations of clothing, household items, non-perishable food items, toys, linens, etc. The McKee Center also provides lunch and activities for local senior citizens on a fixed income. Lunches are donated by our United Methodist Churches, St. Andrew's being one of them.

Volunteers in Mission:

St. Andrew's joins Volunteers in Mission and takes a Medical Mission to Rio Bravo, Mexico, every year. Those with medical experience and those without are welcome to attend. There is also a need for Construction Missions where you have the opportunity to build small houses, improve church facilities, or assist in the rebuilding efforts devastated by natural disasters. International Mission tasks include construction, Mission Bible schools, medical, educational, and HIV/AIDS outreach. You can expect a great welcome and deep appreciation by serving in any of these areas.

What We Believe

As United Methodists, we have an obligation to bear a faithful Christian witness to Jesus Christ, the living reality at the center of the Church's life and witness. To fulfill this obligation, we reflect critically on our biblical and theological inheritance, striving to express faithfully the witness we make in our own time. Two considerations are central to this endeavor: the sources from which we derive our theological affirmations and the criteria by which we assess the adequacy of our understanding and witness. Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason.

Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task

United Methodists profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. Living in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God's coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven.

The Ministry of All Christians

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. Every believer in Christ is a minister.

Social Principles

The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.

A Brief History of the United Methodist Church

On April 23, 1968, The United Methodist Church was created when Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, representing The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of The Methodist Church joined hands at the constituting General Conference in Dallas, Texas. With the words, "Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church," the new denomination was given birth by two churches that had distinguished histories and influential ministries in various parts of the world. Theological traditions steeped in the Protestant Reformation and Wesleyanism, similar ecclesiastical structures, and relationships that dated back almost two hundred years facilitated the union. In the Evangelical United Brethren heritage, for example, Philip William Otterbein, the principal founder of the United Brethren in Christ, assisted in the ordination of Francis Asbury to the superintendency of American Methodist work. Jacob Albright, through whose religious experience and leadership the Evangelical Association was begun, was nurtured in a Methodist class meeting following his conversion.

Where to Look in the Bible

When You . . .

need rest and peace . . . Matthew 11:25-30
worry . . . Matthew 6:19-34
are lonely or fearful . . . Psalm 23
need peace of mind . . . John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-8
are disappointed by people . . . Psalm 27
grow bitter or critical . . . 1 Corinthians 13
have sinned . . . Psalm 51; 1 John 1
are discouraged . . . Psalm 34
feel God seems far away . . . Psalm 139
think the world seems bigger than God . . . Psalm 90
are sick . . . Psalm 41
feel sorrowful . . . John 14; Psalm 46
are in danger . . . Psalm 91
want courage . . . Joshua 1:1-9
need assurance . . . Romans 8
forget your blessings . . . Psalm 103
are looking for joy . . . Colossians 3
leave home to travel . . . Psalm 121
think of investments . . . Mark 10:17-31
need guidelines for living . . . Matthew 5-7; Romans 12
need rules of conduct . . . Exodus 20:1-17
need to know God's will for your life . . . Proverbs 3:1-6