

the Voice  
January, 2009  
is published monthly by  
St. Andrew United  
Methodist Church  
18850 Riegel Rd.  
Homewood, IL 60430

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### Mission Statement

As a community of faith which celebrates diversity,  
St. Andrew welcomes all people who seek to understand  
and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to:

- † proclaim the Good News
- † strengthen the spiritual life of our faith community
- † minister to the needs of our local community and the world
- † seek a more just society

Worship with us at 10:30 am  
Child care provided

# The voice

## JANUARY 2009

Dear Friends,

The time has come to retire the 2008 calendar, and move to the new 2009 calendar.

This transition comes just in time, as the 2008 calendar is fairly ragged, filled to capacity and some of the pages are falling out; somewhat similar to the 2008 year.

Looking back, days overflowed with work and activity, some of the days left us exhausted, and even a few of the days/weeks have conveniently slipped from our memory—and this may be a blessing in disguise!

Now it is time to open the 2009 calendar, look over the blank pages, and ponder our journey forward. And in so doing, offer a prayer of gratitude for time given, and for the opportunities that can be ours in this coming year.

Our Creator offers an awesome gift in keeping tomorrow open for our living.

Live Life Well,  
Pastor Bruce

# From the Pastor's Desk

## “TWEAKING” After-Worship Fellowship

“Tweaking,” a rather new word, a mysteriously defined word—usually meaning once a project has begun, tweaking is the process of improving, clarifying, simplifying or “just getting better at it.”

Beginning in January, we are asking all persons with birthdays in a given month to provide the refreshments, serve the refreshments and put away /clean up following the Fellowship Hour.

This means for example, if your birthday falls in April, you join with all the April birthday people, choose who is responsible for a Sunday in April, to provide, prepare, clean up and put away the refreshments on your Sunday.

The office will send a letter to you before your birthday month listing a coordinator to help organize the fellowship.

“Tweaking,” we’re still at it!

## Wesley Bible Class Announces New Study

February 1 will begin a study of “The Apostle’s Creed: All You Need to Believe,” by David Cole.

The class meets 9:00 a.m. Sundays, and you are welcomed to join in this study.

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## Growing Awareness of Other’s Needs

During troubled times, many are taking the extra effort to respond to the troubles of others.

Our recent food offerings for “Respond Now,” seem much more generous, and that’s reflective of so many more people and their efforts to make things better for someone else.

Jessie Cunningham asked for food donations to celebrate her birthday, and Anita James asked for food offerings at her family & friends Christmas party.

All of this has helped with the growing need of our “Respond Now” food ministry.

Thank you all for your generosity.

## Munch & Learn

Coming Monday, January 26th, there will be another special Munch and Learn with a light supper beginning at 6:30 pm. We will watch a short video of stories about Native Americans throughout the U.S. Native narratives explore faith journeys, ways they have integrated cultural beliefs into faith and life, and issues confronting communities historically and today. There will be time for some discussion about viewing this video that was produced by our General Board of Global Ministries. The event is planned by your Outreach Planning Team and everyone is encouraged to participate. Sign-up will begin the 18th of January.

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## Thank You

To the St. Andrew United Methodist Church:

“Thank you for the love, comfort & support given to our family in the loss of our mother. May the Lord bless each & everyone of you, as you have blessed us in our time of need.”

Sincerely,

Yvonne, Phyllis, Donald  
and Daniel Wilson

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## Respond Now—2009

The need for food at Respond Now has become critical. The food shelves are nearly bare. Please respond by being more generous than you’ve ever been. The need is especially great for foods containing meat, like beef stew, chili, spam, corned beef hash, etc. But, canned foods of all kind are appreciated. Please “Respond Now.”

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1—January Belmont

January 1—Juanita Jarard

January 1—Claudia Barnick

January 2—Marilyn Hochmuth

January 4—Jacqueline Graves

January 5—Barbara Oliver

January 5—Kaila Konecki

January 9—Bonnie Forsthoff

January 22—Michelle Thompson

January 30—Andrew Barnick

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### St. Andrew Sunday School Report

*Our Sunday School has brought offerings totaling \$32.11 to be sent to UMCOR to help others around the world.*

## **MUSIC FOR WORSHIP IN JANUARY**

January 4	Anthem	To Everything There is a Season	Chancel Choir
January 11	Anthem	Down to the River to Pray	Chancel Choir
January 18	Prelude	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	Senior Ringers
	Anthem	Here I Am, Lord	Chancel Choir
January 25	Prelude	Haleluya	Celebration Ringers
	Anthem	Children's Church Choir	
	Anthem	Carol to Beauty	Chancel Choir

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MADRIGAL 2008. A fund-raiser for St. Andrew and a fun-raiser for those who participated or attended resulted in a profit of over \$2,700 for our church. There are so many people to thank that I wouldn't know where to begin! This was truly an all-church activity and I am most grateful to all who helped make this production a memorable beginning to the Advent Season.

Jane Hindsley

# CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Thursday, January 1      New Year's Day  
 Sunday, January 4      NO SUNDAY SCHOOL for K-5  
                                  Holy Communion & Epiphany Sunday  
                                  Leap of Faith Players' Auditions, 2-4:00  
 p.m.  
 Thurs., January 8      Finance Committee meeting, 2:00  
 p.m.  
 Monday, January 12    Outreach Planning Team meeting, 7:00  
 p.m.  
                                  Leap of Faith Players' rehearsals begin, 4-  
 6:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, January 18      Human Relations Day (offering)  
                                  THE VOICE DEADLINE  
 Monday, January 19    Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Obser-  
 vance  
                                  Board of Trustees' meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Friday, January 23      Leap of Faith Players' Performance,  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, January 24    Leap of Faith Performance, 2:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, January 25      Ecumenical Sunday  
 Monday, January 26    Munch & Learn, 6:30 p.m.

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## SPECIAL MOMENTS IN JANUARY WORSHIP

# Final Report on 2008 CROP Hunger Walk

The 2008 South Suburban CROP Walk brought in a total of \$16,850.70 to feed the hungry here at home and around the globe. This total was down from last year's \$17,096.94; and of course, needs are always going up, not down. We must really strive to increase our participation for the coming year. **Congratulations to our walkers and to our donors who raised a total of \$817.00 We had six participants this year.**

The congregation that raised the most was St. Paul Community Church of Homewood with a total of \$1,882.00. The Church with the highest number of walkers was the Hazel Crest Community Church (United Methodist), with 23 walkers.

**The 2009 Walk will be held on Sunday, April 26. Mark your calendar!** The Korean United Methodist Church in Flossmoor will again be the host church. Let's see if we can increase our number of walkers for this worthy cause. In a depressed world economy, more people than ever will be going hungry.

**Jessie Cunningham** will be our CROP Hunger Walk recruiter this year.

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From the Pastor's  
Bookshelf

"It is alright to be excessive: one can't love God too much. It's a relief to finally find the proper object of insatiable desire."

Dr. Sallie McFague  
"Life Abundant"

*With A Grateful Heart.....*

Thank you for your many cards, gifts and warm words of Christmas cheer. Certainly each is a very special treasure, putting the joy in this Christmas for us.

*Pastor Bruce*