

NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S May—June 2016

**Jay's
Say**

Inside this issue:

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|---|-----|
| <i>Birthdays, Register & Novel Theology</i> | 2-3 |
| <i>The Curate Considers</i> | 4 |
| <i>Wardens' Message</i> | 5 |
| <i>Voices in Counterpoint</i> | 6 |
| <i>Calendar</i> | 7 |
| <i>Parish Directory</i> | 8 |

Tom Vaughan gave me his book *The Other Side of Loss*, and I just finished it. It's a door-stopping 567 pages, but it went very quickly. It didn't hurt that the novel is set in a struggling Church of England parish and New London, New Hampshire!

The novel deals with the contradictions of religious faith and doesn't shy away from theological themes of sin, forgiveness and salvation. I enjoyed it.

Ever since Cervantes concocted *Don Quixote*, novels have given us characters who grow spiritually as the plot develops and whose lives become a commentary on the human condition. The human soul struggling with itself is the novelist's great theme.

The novel erupted in popularity out of 18th-century England. As the essayist Joseph Bottum contends, Britain and America have made huge contributions to literature. Take away the paintings and musical compositions of all English-speakers, and art and music would still be standing. But take away novels in English, and literature would be in ruins beyond repair.

All good novels convey psychological insights as characters grapple with emotions, choices and morality. My favorite novelists illuminate the nature of evil and suffering and suggest how goodness, grace and truth can lead to redemption.

As your priest I want you to pray and to read the bible. I want you to read novels too, because in them you might find yourself — and God.



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

March 27

James Bicknell Woodley

Joseph William Glynn

Memorial Service

April 16

Joyce Tawney

Wedding

April 19

Susan Garrity & James Eibner

The **Crafty Critters** craft group of St. Andrew's is busy getting ready for our summer fair to be held July 2. We are working on various project to sell at the craft table and the more hands the merrier.

We meet every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Parish Hall and welcome one and all to join us. Fresh ideas and projects help to increase what we have to offer at the fair. Join us for coffee and goodies and see what we are about. — *Barbara Smith*

Phillips Brooks Partnership 2016

Summer is coming and we will once again host two groups of inner city kids from the Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program of Harvard's Phillips Brooks House. They will be coming on **12-13 July** and **25-26 July** to camp out on Mt. Sunapee and enjoy all the summer activities we have to offer. This is our chance to introduce them to the joys of life in the country! More information will be coming soon, but we thought you'd like to mark your calendars and be thinking about how you would like to help.



| | |
|------------------|----|
| Mary Bayerl | 1 |
| Bill Berger | 2 |
| John Harris | 2 |
| Charlie Giles | 5 |
| Barbara Hinman | 6 |
| Karen Zurheide | 9 |
| Ruth Bodurtha | 13 |
| George Curran | 13 |
| Sheila Mitchell | 14 |
| Lyman Smith | 14 |
| Brenda Akerman | 16 |
| Pamela Curran | 17 |
| Sonya Chiarella | 18 |
| Kathleen Rusnak | 18 |
| Sue Venable | 21 |
| Robert Douty | 22 |
| Gail Goddard | 23 |
| Harvey Best | 24 |
| Erin Berger | 25 |
| Mary Ivey | 27 |
| Nan Vulgamore | 27 |
| Carolyn Wojtczak | 27 |
| Bill Colehower | 28 |
| Jim Oates | 31 |



Parish Birthdays



| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Lizz Shepherd | 1 |
| Brenda Tirrell | 1 |
| Kathy Snaith | 2 |
| Lynn Salo | 3 |
| Linda Potter | 5 |
| Bill Wesson | 5 |
| Nick Eaton | 6 |
| Dick Sawyer | 6 |
| Whit Smith | 6 |
| Jeanine Berger | 10 |
| Connie Appel | 11 |
| Sue Hansen | 13 |
| Susan Bryant | 14 |
| Charles Thompson | 14 |
| Greg Potter | 15 |
| Tanner Boucher | 16 |
| Herb Hansen | 16 |
| Kelby Frenkiewich | 17 |
| Lisa Kelly | 17 |
| Brian Frenkiewich | 18 |
| Christina Helm | 19 |
| Susan Schweizer | 19 |
| Harriet Messer | 20 |
| Peter Messer | 21 |
| Calvin Berger | 22 |
| June Liberman | 23 |
| Susan Olney | 24 |
| Jack Tate | 26 |
| Kent Wheeler | 26 |
| John Clough | 27 |
| Meredith Coogan | 28 |
| Nancy Malm | 28 |
| David Almond | 30 |

Novel Theology Update

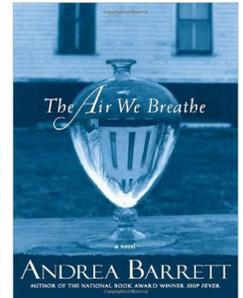
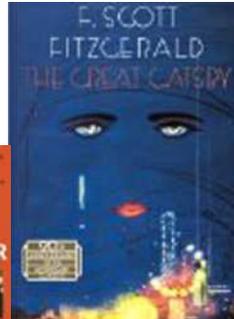
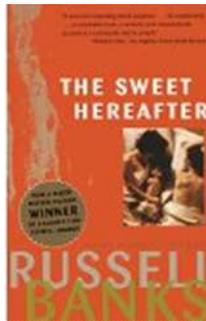
Please join us in reading and discussing the following at 7 PM, in the parish hall, on the dates shown. Your thoughts for next year's reading list are welcome: literature that shapes our understanding of ideas like love, compassion, forgiveness, redemption; in other words, those markers we encounter in following Christ.

May 11: *The Air We Breathe* by Andrea Barrett (Alice Perry)

June 8: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (Nat Davis)

July 13: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
(Ann Lang)

August 10: *The Sweet Hereafter* by Russell Banks
(Jay MacLeod)



Pilgrimage to Taizé 2016

Led by Jay, young pilgrims (including Emilie Major, Austin Brown and Kate MacLeod from St. Andrew's and Josiah and Amber Gove from Wilmot UCC) will be traveling to Taizé this summer, leaving on June 23. The group will tour London and Paris before their Taizé visit and later fly to Dublin, explore Ireland, and be inspired by Saints Alban and Brigid, before returning home on July 6.

Taizé is a Christian community in central France. Young adults between the ages of 15 and 21 from all over the world journey to Taizé to stay for a week. They enter into the rhythm of community life -- gathering together for Taizé's unique worship and joining other young pilgrims for bible study, meals, workshops, practical tasks and relaxation.

Going to Taizé is an opportunity to reach out to the wellsprings of faith through prayer, singing, silence and reflection. People often discover, or rediscover, a new meaning for their life. Each day Brothers of the community introduce a bible reflection followed by a time of sharing in small groups. In the afternoon workshops deepen the relationship between faith and life.

Hospitality is offered by the Brothers who have made a lifelong commitment to follow Christ in community life, in celibacy, and in simplicity. Food and lodging are very basic. Accommodation is in large tents.

On **May 8, Mother's Day**, there will be a special **Pancake Breakfast** after both Eucharists to raise money for the travelers. Emilie has connections to a farm and will provide local eggs and milk but others may sign up to provide batter mix, pre-cooked sausages or orange juice. Mostly we request your attendance at this beautiful breakfast which will include pancakes, farm-fresh scrambled eggs, sausage and yogurt parfait. The suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. The pancake breakfasts replace both coffee hours on Mother's Day.

The Curate Considers: Mission

With St. Andrew and all our companions in faith, we are learning to follow Jesus in the way of love.

St. Andrew's mission statement has been under construction for some time . . . certainly longer than I've been your curate. Our Bishop recently reminded the vestry that it's less a question of God's church having a mission, than that God's mission has a church. The Bishop also made the related point that task forces and vestries often invest a great deal of effort into crafting mission statements, and then promptly forget them.

I have a feeling, though, that St. Andrew's is in a good position to avoid that pitfall. Here's why.

Don't underestimate the power of short and sweet: twenty words, and I'd bet that if you remember how to diagram a sentence, that would be a pretty straightforward task. It's ours (naming our patron St. Andrew, the original Jesus networker); it's humble yet aspirational.

It's worth knowing that the last two words that fell into place as we finalized the statement were "learning" and "companions."

Above and beyond the full rooms for our Lenten course, or the sharp theological minds Jay engaged on the young persons' confirmation retreat, and the insights Sunday School sharers give at the end of the 10 AM service, this parish is learning by doing. We are learning to care pastorally for one another, we are learning to pray, we are learning to connect with all our neighbors. It's good for us to acknowledge that God isn't done forming us yet.

Throughout the Easter season, we've been hearing readings from the Acts of the Apostles. In Acts, we see the nascent church figuring out how to do this thing they are called to do. We see them taking up the challenge of bringing the good news of Jesus out into the world. And with God's help, they are figuring it out as they go along.

That's resonant and reassuring on several counts. The parish is fully aware by now, I hope, that the Rev. Alice Roberts is stepping down as Rector of Epiphany, Newport, about a year earlier than we had all expected when I began as Curate of Sunapee. Even as Alice leaves parish ministry, I continue to be called to serve the neighborhood through the two parishes. That's not changing. Assisted by the Rev. Hannah Anderson, Canon to the Ordinary, an experienced and wise priest who leads Bishop Rob's team for congregational life and development, Epiphany will be discerning how they are called to be part of God's mission. We don't know what the outcome will be; that is something we're learning, too. And that's okay. God's church has been here before, and we're not in this alone. Far from it.

"Companions" was the very last word that fell into place in our mission statement. I can't imagine a better word for who we are and what we do. Yes, companions are the ones who are with us, but the roots of that word are, in Latin, "with" and "bread": a companion is a person you share your bread with. Could there be a more fitting word for those with whom we seek to follow Jesus?

Our mission statement is shorthand. It'll fit on a T-shirt or a mug. And it's a right-sized reminder of who we are and what (with God's help) we're up to, a framework to support you when the time comes to tell folks what's going on here, and invite them to be a part of it. Learn it and share it.

Peace, *Kelly*

The Wardens' Words

Communications . . . and Communion

A century ago our world was much simpler. Thornton Wilder's play, *Our Town*, set in a fictional small town in Southern New Hampshire in the early 1900s, depicts a time and place where the daily train and the telephone (primitive then, but pretty high-tech now) were the primary means of reaching out beyond "our town." While the Anglican Communion was worldwide, our church communications were local, pretty simple and largely in print. We had the Holy Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the hymnal and great compositions/writings, sermons and so on. But basically we could sing, speak, hear, write, read and not a whole lot more.

Now, a century later, our communications and social media are mind-boggling, with interactive dialogues and "information bombs" from people we know neither from Adam nor Eve! Positive examples of the power of this new connectivity include:

- ◆ A former parishioner held a responsible professional position with a large international company and worked from home. He was trusted to perform his job with little or no in-person supervision. This is a popular practice and growing approach nationwide.
- ◆ Matt Dunne, a Google executive and recent Vermont lawmaker, is running for governor of Vermont in 2016. Until recently, Matt filled his highly responsible position as VP of Community Relations from home and office in White River Junction "electronically." Only occasionally was he required to be physically present at HQ in California. Not surprisingly, he uses social media to the hilt.

These examples describe a world in which relations may be defined by factors that are way beyond geography. The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew continues to focus on our local parish, while its mission reaches far beyond our local geography. And we are also in the modern world with email and a fine website. The not-so-simple question is how we will embrace this powerful "social connectivity" that benefits us, but which also requires considerable effort to use effectively and wisely.

Our need and hope is that we will embrace technology in a sensible manner and use this new and modern media to build upon our ancient faith. — *Becky and Richard*

Outreach Corner

Look for the sign-up list for our next visit to the Friendly Kitchen May 27.



**Help Re-Stock the KLS
Community Food Pantry**



May: Canned fruit

June: Large juice (especially low sugar and 100% juice)

Paper towels, toilet paper, coffee (regular and decaf) and peanut butter are always welcome.

Voices in Counterpoint

Dear Friends,

I am writing in the midst of one of the busiest two weeks in my life. I have been preparing final rehearsals for Kearsarge Chorale's spring concert, celebrating the centennial of one of America's greatest choral conductors, Robert Shaw. We are privileged to be part of that celebration.

In a week's time, we will have Alice Parker as our guest at St. Andrew's. She collaborated with Robert Shaw in the revitalizing of choral music in the 20th century. This year we celebrate Alice Parker's 90th birthday.

All this work and these preparations have much to do with what I write here.

This concert is my last with Kearsarge Chorale. In stepping away from the leadership of this wonderful group of singers, I will now have much more time to devote to my work at Saint Andrew's and to the real work I was meant to do, the work I love doing: composing.

It is because of people like Alice Parker and Robert Shaw that I became a church musician. Many of my teachers studied with Mr. Shaw. I myself have studied composition with Alice Parker. And all three of us studied with another beloved figure in American choral music, Dr. Julius Herford.

A German-born conductor and musicologist, Dr. Herford came to America during World War II. He taught conducting and music theory at Westminster Choir College, the Juilliard School – where Mr. Shaw and Alice Parker met – and finally at Indiana University. In Germany, Herford had built a reputation as a conductor of choral masterpieces such as the cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach.

It was Dr. Herford who, in 1977, posed a question to his music analysis class at that summer's Aspen Music Festival. I was in that class. At the time I had been a church musician for almost twenty years. I had been in and out of college - and back in again and out again, quite unsure about life's direction.

I went to Aspen, Colorado that summer to sing with the Aspen Chamber Choir, a select group of two dozen singers, all conductors. We studied conducting and sang in many of the concerts at the Aspen Festival. We also had classes like this one with Dr. Herford. Many of the members of the Chamber Choir were graduate students at Juilliard and Indiana University, where Dr. Herford taught. I was not one of these.

Dr. Herford's question that day was one to which I was sure almost everyone in the class knew the answer. There was a great Silence. No one raised a hand to answer. I knew the answer, but hesitated. Finally I raised my hand and spoke. Herford looked at me – no, he looked *through* me, penetrating to my heart with his gaze. I will never forget his "Well done." That moment was like

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John Wesley's "heartwarming" in Aldersgate Chapel. My life was changed. I knew what God wanted me to do, and singing and making music with God's people - *all* God's creation - was my vocation.

Many of you know that after all these years composing, I have finally had a piece published. Augsburg Fortress Press released my anthem, "Lord of Our Life," in March of this year. The Parish Choir has already sung the anthem at St. Andrew's. We will sing it again soon. I hope many of my pieces will follow this one.

It is one of the great blessings of my life to serve you here at St. Andrew's. I have composed more in my time with you than I had in the last quarter century. God has put me in a happy place. Thank you.

Peace, Love, Hope, Joy, and Harmony,

david



Calendar of Events

May:

- 8 (Sunday) - Pancake breakfasts following each service (*see Taizé, p. 3*)
- 10 (Tuesday) - Bishop Rob's confirmation visit, 7 PM
- 11 (Wednesday) - Novel Theology, 7 PM: *The Air We Breathe* (*see p. 3*)
- 27 (Friday) - Friendly Kitchen

June:

- 8 (Wednesday) - Novel Theology, 7 PM: *Heart of Darkness* (*see p. 3*)
- 18 & 19 (Father's Day weekend) - OSA opens for 5 PM Saturday and 8 AM Sunday services
- 22 (Wednesday) - First cookout of the summer on the patio at Gould Road, 5:30 PM

... More Events ...

Monday to Friday 12 Noon Midday Prayer ▼ **Mondays** 6 PM Meditation
First Tuesdays 8 AM Pastoral Care Coordinating Team ▼ **Tuesdays** 9:30 AM Craft Group
Wednesdays 10 AM Music & Memory
Thursdays 10 AM Thursday Tots, 7 PM Choir Rehearsal

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New London, NH

P.O. Box 294

52 Gould Road,

New London, NH 03257

Parish Office

Office 603-526-6344

Fax 603-526-8623

Email standrews-church@tds.net



Rector

The Rev. Jay MacLeod

Curate

The Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman

Director of Music

David Almond

Director of Music for Children and Youth

Nicole Densmore

Verger

Anne Hall

Parish Administrator

Shelly Boucher

Resident Clergy

The Rev. Patricia Harris

The Rev. Canon Jim Ransom

The Rev. Kathleen Rusnak

The Rev. Charlie Tirrell

The Vestry

Wardens

Richard Haines (through 2016)

Becky Rylander (through 2017)

Vestry Members

Term Expires Jan. 2017

Martha Barron

Harvey Best

Nancy Rollins

Term Expires Jan. 2018

Marni Eaton, Clerk

Peter Ruth, Treasurer

Judy Wallace

Ellen Yenawine

Term Expires Jan. 2019

Bruce Avery

Mark Kellett

Lisa Kelly

Committee Chairpersons

Altar Guild

Judy Ackroyd

Rosie Best

Buildings & Grounds

Lyman Smith

Craft Group

Rosie Best

Barbara Smith

Communications

Coordinator

Marni Eaton

Eucharistic Ministers

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Nancy Rollins

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Rink and Nonie Reynders