

NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S November—December 2019

Inside this issue:	
<i>Birthdays, Updates</i>	2
<i>Children & Church Together</i>	3-4
<i>Wardens' Words</i>	5
<i>Haiti</i>	6-7
<i>Calendar & Youth</i>	8-9
<i>Last Sunday</i>	10
<i>Voices in Counterpoint</i>	12-13
<i>Parochial Clergy</i>	14-15
<i>Parish Directory</i>	16

The Greek word *kairos* means the right or critical time, and in the New Testament it signifies a God-given moment pregnant with possibility.

This feels to me like a *kairos* moment in the life of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Jay's Say:

St. Andrew's has had a wonderful cadre of Sunday School teachers. Last year my heart sunk on Sundays when teachers who had prepared conscientiously had no children to teach.

Middle-schoolers and high-schoolers attend St. Andrew's and participate in our youth programs. But when it comes to attracting young children and their families, we — like most churches — are struggling.

Older people will continue to retire to our area, but today's 50-year-olds are much less likely to be churchgoers than our 80-year-olds. Unless St. Andrew's engages local families, we are likely to see a continuous decline in attendance.

In July the Vestry commissioned Aaron Jenkyn to undertake a rigorous analysis of our situation and suggest a strategy to engage younger children and their families. A summary of Aaron's excellent report appears on pages 3-4.

Times have changed, and parents and children alike prefer to worship together. Instead of children heading down into the basement during worship, we can learn together how to follow Jesus in the way of love.

In the last issue of the *Network*, as I reflected on *The Spiritual Lives of Children* written by one of my mentors, Robert Coles, I suggested: "As St. Andrew's ponders the need to engage younger generations, we might think less about what we have to teach them and more about what they have to teach us."

Aaron discovered that intergenerational relationships, forged in all-age worship, enrich both young and old. My wise Wilmot neighbor, The Rev'd Caroline Fairless, posed the question two decades ago: "What happens when we dare assume that children have the same claim on the space, ritual, style and content of worship as do adults?"

We are going to find out! And I suspect that the wider church will be interested in the lessons we learn as we embrace this *kairos* moment.



Parish Updates

Marriages

September 7

Megan Pattison & Nicholas Call

September 8

Robin Pollard & Steven Bernier

September 28

Kara LaBarge & Patrick Durkin

Funeral Service

October 25

Ellen Schauff

Parish Birthdays



Don Boxwell	3
Wendy Sloan	3
Gene Venable	3
John MacLeod	5
Ayla Frenkiewich	7
Pat Hall	9
Don Catino	11
Pam Morland	13
Yvonne Kun	14
Clare Bennett	16
Becky Underhill	16
Allen Ivey	19
Mark Kellett	19
Sam Kelly	19
Taffy Beckman	20
Susan Eslick	20
Gingie Halloran	22
Karen Floyd Shepherd	22
Jim Ransom	23
Joanne Schuyler	23
Dot Young	23
Chris Major	29



Devun Jevne	2
Betty Buzby	4
Patrick Jenkyn	5
Betsy Horn	6
Elizabeth Kellett	6
Carolyn Lockhart	6
Marni Eaton	7
Leni Gillespie	7
JoAnn Hicks	7
Ben Greenbaum	10
Bethany Greenbaum	10
Nancy MacLeod	11
Emory Sanders	11
Michael Salo	13
Charlie Tirrell	13
Alice Perry	14
Emmy Potter	15
Mary Eysenbach	19
Marilyn Paradis	19
Pat Harris	24
Judy Ackroyd	25
David Spina	25
Cynthia Marshall	28

The Outreach Commission normally meets the first Thursday of each month at 5 PM to receive and consider suggestions for our *Last Sunday* offering. We have agreed that our efforts should be focused on humanitarian needs, both domestic and international; and we welcome suggestions from parishioners. At our meetings we discuss potential recipients and decide who among us will do the required research and the writing.

Committee members are Elizabeth Lowell, Deb Ransom, Becky Rylander, Greg Vogt and Karen Zurheide. Their contact information is in the 2018 St. Andrew's Parish Directory. See pp. 6-7, 10.

There will be no Last Sunday Outreach Offering in December. Commission members agreed that parishioners respond to so many requests at Christmas that it would be best not to add one more! We'll resume in January, 2020.

Music Director

David Almond's last Sunday as our Music Director will be the Feast of Christ the King (24 November) (see also pp. 12-13). As a tribute to his extraordinary ministry as our Music Director, we'd like to give David an honorarium. Please leave your contribution with Shelly in the church office.

According to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Rector is responsible for worship and hiring, but Jay thinks it important to share this power and responsibility. Becky Rylander has agreed to Chair the Music Director Search Committee, and David Marshall, Billy Kelly and Gingie Halloran have agreed to sit on the Committee alongside Jay. We hope to appoint an interim Music Director soon.



Children & Church Together

Engaging Families at St. Andrew's

by Aaron Jenkyn 1 November 2019 A Summary

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church is in excellent health. Worship, leadership, pastoral care, education, and outreach are vibrant. But unless we can attract young families, whole generations will miss out on experiencing God's loving, liberating, and life-giving presence in the Episcopal Church.

In July 2019 the Vestry asked Aaron Jenkyn to develop a missional strategy for St. Andrew's to engage children and families. Aaron listened deeply to people inside and outside our church, drew on her experience as Missioner of Newport, consulted with Episcopal and other church leaders, and reviewed current research on faith formation, church vitality, and sustainable youth ministry. The result is a superb report. Read the summary below and the full report. Reflect on its findings. And join us in the joy of connecting a new generation to Christ.

— The Rev'd Jay MacLeod, Rector

**One Body
One Spirit
One Hope
One Lord
One Faith
One Baptism
One God**

Liturgy of Holy Baptism
Book of Common Prayer

All my conversations underlined the importance of intergenerational relationships and the joy and vibrancy of seeing (and supporting) kids and families in church. To support these relationships, and to forge new ones across generations, we need to be sharing the same space — worshiping and learning alongside one another as we learn to follow Jesus in the way of love. Becoming an intergenerational church means cultivating a church culture in which faith is nurtured and relationships are fostered as all ages learn and grow, serve, and worship together. Children learn best in worship when the people around them — parents, grandparents, other adults, teenagers — are modeling authentic and enthusiastic participation in worship, which means that the worship needs to be compelling for all in order for us to support the youngest amongst us.

Research shows that participation in worship is a leading factor in lifelong faith formation. The role modeling, mentoring, and spiritual formation that children need to grow in faith happens best within intergenerational worship. The vibrancy and joy that young people bring to worship will benefit all of us. And ultimately, this is how we will grow as a congregation. Case studies across denominations show that families and those new to church are seeking communities just like ours that offer dynamic, all-age worship where families and children can be in church together.

Offer a vibrant, all-age worship service every Sunday

St. Andrew's 10 o'clock service should be transitioned into an all-age service, all the time. All aspects of the service should be accessible for all ages. Music and sermons should resonate across generations, and young people should share in leadership as greeters, ushers, servers, readers, intercessors, and Eucharistic ministers. Learning should be built into the liturgy with occasional commentary and explanations. Children's bulletins and coloring pages could be provided. Our current All Age Eucharists are almost there! We just need to be more intentional when it comes to creatively engaging children and youth in worship. As the 10 o'clock service shifts to all age, the 8 o'clock service should remain a quiet and contemplative Rite II service. Nursery care should continue to be provided for children under five at both services.

Continued on p. 4

Children & Church Together, continued

Support faith formation at home

Faith formation begins at home — the largest influencer on children's faith is their parents. But for many people today, sharing faith and nurturing the spiritual lives of kids are daunting tasks. St. Andrew's should meet these needs in three ways: 1) Offer a Faith at Home formation program for parents, grandparents, and other adult mentors to support them in their role as spiritual nurturers; 2) Connect parents to online resources; and, 3) Help families come together to read the Bible and talk about faith.

Develop Messy Church to connect with the un-churched

Messy Church is a once-monthly all-age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way for those new to church. Worship typically explores a Bible theme through hands-on creative experiences followed by a story time that connects all the activities to God. Prayer leads into Holy Communion, and Messy Church always ends with a shared meal. Scheduled at a time that works well for families, Messy Church attracts people of all ages who aren't yet ready to try a traditional Sunday worship service.

Create community connections that prioritize youth and families

Offering vibrant, all age services must be matched by creatively engaging the community and building relationships with younger generations. St. Andrew's must reestablish itself as a family-friendly place of worship. Thursday Tots does this, and our St. Nicholas and Summer Fairs can offer (and publicize) more children's activities. Community service and outreach offer opportunities to build relationships and collaborate with others. St. Andrew's should prioritize young people in its existing programs and consider developing additional outreach activities in the community.

Expand welcome ministry to connect newcomers to St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's should build on its existing welcome ministries so that it has a comprehensive program that connects newcomers to St. Andrew's from the moment they first walk through the door. Jesus practiced radical hospitality, and our open table (everyone welcome to receive Holy Communion) means that we can do the same. New people are not only to be welcomed into worship but incorporated into church life. Hospitality is a quality that crosses generations, and every church member needs to be on board. It only takes a single sigh or grimace to put people off and convey a sense that newcomers aren't actually as welcome as we advertise. St. Andrew's is already a welcoming community, but we need to keep working at it.

Improve communications through social media and advertising

Critical to this effort is to have an active social media presence and to improve communication about existing programs. Families and young adults rely on social media for information, events, and staying connected. By improving our use of these platforms we will be able to reach a much larger number of people, more often and for a lot less money than traditional advertising methods.

St. Andrew's has a rich history as an inclusive, intergenerational church. But as the wider culture drifts further away from its Christian moorings, we need to work hard to welcome and support families and young people. These recommendations are offered in the joyful hope that they will help create companions of all ages who can walk alongside one another as we learn to follow Jesus in the way of love.

The Wardens' Words:

Autumn in her glorious splendor has arrived and is now letting us know that it is time to prepare for the winter and another year. Canning and freezing vegetables from our gardens, stacking firewood, putting storm windows in place are all part of getting ready for that first snowfall.

Autumn also brings the time of preparing budgets, both at St. Andrew's and the diocese, taking stock of the programs that are working well and looking at others that may need to be fine-tuned. Your vestry has been looking at our Mission Action Plan and adjusting it to reflect changes. It is a living document. Our Stewardship Campaign is under way and your pledge in support of our work locally, nationally, and internationally will help us to create a balanced budget and enable us to share God's gifts to us with others.

The **Diocesan Convention** will be held on 9 November in Waterville Valley. Below are the resolutions that will be voted upon that day. Gail Goddard, Sue Eslick, Karen Shepherd and Marni Eaton are your representatives. Speak to any of them if you want more information or go to the diocesan website.

Resolution 1 proposes changes to Canon 3. It reorders portions of Canon 3 related to the re-designation of the status of congregations and changes language to make it clear that being a "mission" is not a stigma or prelude to closure.

Resolution 2 proposes to re-designate the Church of the Holy Spirit in Plymouth as a mission. The wardens, vestry and Rector desire this re-designation.

Resolution 3 affirms our relationship with *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* and encourages ongoing mission encounters between our congregations and the Cuban church.

Resolution 4 intends to encourage all parishes and missions to carry out the "To Tell the Truth" component of the Presiding Officers' invitations in *Becoming Beloved Community* to become more aware and appreciative of the history and contributions of African Americans and Indigenous Peoples in our local communities.

Resolution 5 is a program proposal for the Easter season 2020 and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Resolution 6 is a proposal to reduce the carbon emissions of the parishes in the Episcopal Church of NH 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2035.

Resolution 7 is the budget. Benge Ambrogi explained that the emphasis is on bringing in younger clergy and "how do we do church in a changing cultural climate"? One of the new initiatives planned for 2020 is the *School of Ministry*. The objective is to provide a lower cost means, both in money and time, to form ordained clergy as well as licensed lay ministers. Another initiative related to leadership development is the *Bishop's Curates*, a pool of funds available to help churches hire curates. The third initiative planned for 2020 is a fund for coaching to assist congregations and clergy reach their potential. Lastly, funds have been allocated for the Earth Care Commission.

We are looking forward to celebrating a successful Stewardship Campaign with all of you at our potluck dinner on 22 November.

Blessings, *Marni Eaton and Bruce Avery*

Hold the People of Haiti in Your Prayers

Media reports in the U.S. about Haiti usually focus on violent protests and fail to give the background or context for the protests. The article below helps to address that failing. The situation right now in Haiti is dire. Lack of fuel and 20% inflation mean lack of food and transportation. Classes have been cancelled for a month. People remain in their homes.

For Clinique Saint Esprit, it means that medical staff and patients alike must brave barricades and blockades, so medical services will be spotty at best. It means that the suffering of those already sick increases. It means the deepening of pain for people who already endure more than we can possibly imagine.

It now seems likely that my November trip for St. Vincent's Center (www.stvincentshaiti.org) Board meeting will be cancelled. We send our 200 children to Clinique Saint Esprit for dental care, but Croix des Bouquets is not safe right now. I had planned to visit the Clinique - and will whenever my next trip is scheduled.

In the meantime, please read the letter below for perspective and hold the people of Haiti in your daily prayers. -- Elizabeth M. Lowell

Dear Yolene,

The citizens of Haiti have taken to the streets en masse to demand the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse, and the regular functioning of life throughout the country has come to a near standstill. There are literally hundreds of roadblocks on most days in and around cities and towns, all mounted in an effort to put pressure on the president to resign.

Huge protests have become the norm, with radical elements using these otherwise boisterous but peaceful gatherings as cover to destroy property. Businesses and schools are closed. Government offices are not able to function. And there is a tension so thick and pervasive it seems like a dark otherworldly shadow at the periphery of your vision. Ever present and almost visible, but never quite in focus.

I am sharing my observations with the goal of helping to shed some light on what is happening on the ground in Haiti, while leaving the political commentary to others more qualified.

At the heart of the current situation is how corruption has led to the extraordinary rise in the price of fuel and food, both of which cost more, relative to incomes, than in traditionally expensive cities like New York, London or Paris.

While the full story goes back to 1804 when the world turned its back on the first and only nation to be founded by former slaves, the current cycle of dysfunction can be traced to a 2006 agreement called PetroCaribe. This deal allowed Haiti and several other Caribbean nations to buy fuel from Venezuela and pay 60% up front, with the remaining 40% to be paid back over 25 years at 1% interest.

Not only did this arrangement save the Haitian government a lot of money, it actually earned a great deal. This is because the government has a monopoly on importing fuel and they sold that 40% at a significant profit. The commitment to Venezuela was that these funds--the combined savings and additional income--were to be used for infrastructure and social programs to improve agriculture, health, and education. But at least \$2 billion of the PetroCaribe windfall was misused, misappropriated and outright stolen by the very officials, in three successive administrations, who were charged with using it to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Continued on p. 7

Haiti, continued

Then last year the PetroCaribe program stopped when Venezuela's oil production tanked. The Haitian government had to start buying fuel elsewhere at market rates and with no subsidies or loans available for its purchase. Since then they have never had enough cash on hand to buy the full amount of fuel the country needs. Shortages have been getting worse and worse. Gas, diesel and kerosene prices have been getting higher and higher, both because of shortages and because the government can't afford to make up for the subsidies that previously helped to keep prices low.

As fuel prices go up, so too does the cost of just about everything. This leads to exports being more expensive and contributing less to the economy. The combined effect of all this has been a gradual but steady devaluation of the Haitian gourde over the past few years. This, in turn, has led to astronomical increases in the price of food, because more than 50% of the food consumed in Haiti is imported.

The details of wrongdoing and exactly which individuals are responsible may not be widely understood or agreed upon, but there is a broad consensus among Haitians from every walk of life that rampant corruption has led to huge increases in the price of fuel and food. President Moïse may be the poster boy for the ills that currently afflict Haiti, but his removal is no guarantee of a significant short-term course correction in the country's governance.

So why am I so committed to a country that, while beautiful and enchanting, is in such a mess?

The answer is that I know so many smart, brave and committed Haitians, particularly young people, who are making tremendous strides in business, education, the arts, agriculture and public service. But like many places in our present world, their voices and the positive advances they are making are often lost in a cacophony of the negative. These powerful change agents have not yet had a chance to come together to form a movement that will transform Haiti, but I believe the time for that coming together is closer than most jaded pundits are even willing to consider.

We need to be fully aware and unflinchingly honest about the many problems that currently beset Haiti. Otherwise we can't begin to navigate the physical and political roadblocks in the process of trying to make a difference. It isn't easy, but I keep hearing echoes of the many voices rising up to form the chorus of Haiti's future. I invite you listen and feel the rhythm.

Regards,

Hugh Locke

President, [Smallholder Farmers Alliance](#) + [Impact Farming](#)

Reel and Novel Theology

We take a break until January when we will discuss the novel *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

Please speak to Shelly in the office if you are interested in leading one of these discussions and/or have suggestions for reading and viewing in the fall and beyond.

Please keep in mind that the titles we choose – book or film – are meant to shape our understanding of ideas like love, compassion, forgiveness, redemption; in other words, those markers we encounter in following Christ.

Calendar of Events

November:

17 (Sunday) - In-gathering of pledges (*see p. 11*)

22 (Friday) - Friendly Kitchen (*below*); Stewardship Banquet (*see p. 11*)

24 (Sunday) - Last Sunday, open plate to benefit the Episcopal Church in Navajoland (*see p. 4*)

30 (Saturday) - St. Andrew's Day Eucharist, 12 Noon

December:

7 (Saturday) - St. Nicholas Fair, 9AM – 2 PM (*see p. 11*)



Please look for announcements by email and in Sunday bulletins – also on our website and on our Facebook page – for the schedule of holiday services at Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.



Monday to Friday 12 Noon Midday Prayer ▼ **Mondays** 6 PM Meditation
Wednesdays 10 AM Music & Memory
Thursdays 10 AM Thursday tots; 7 PM Choir Rehearsal
Saturdays 5 PM Worship at Epiphany, Newport

We have been serving dinner at **Friendly Kitchen** in Concord for about 15 years and are looking to recruit some new volunteers. It's not a big time commitment, just three or four hours on one day every other month. So grab your toque and apron and sign up for a rewarding experience. Our next date is **Friday, 22 November**. The sign up sheet will be on the narthex shelf early in the month. This ministry makes a difference to those in need!



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

November: Cereal and Baked Beans

December: Hearty Soups, Stews and Chili

Paper towels, toilet paper, coffee (regular, decaf and instant), peanut butter and jelly, cake and brownie mixes and monetary donations are always welcome.

High School Youth Group Happenings

Now in its third year, the Youth Group provides a space for high school students to explore their faith and support one another on the journey. We meet on Sundays after church and offer opportunities to put faith into action through monthly service projects in the local community. Various additional programs are offered throughout the year (such as retreats, workshops, service trips) that enhance leadership skills and support spiritual growth. Oh, and we also have lots of fun! At least twice a semester, we try to coordinate field trips and/or social activities like movie nights, lock-ins and outdoor adventures.

Despite their busy schedules filled with school work and tons of extra-curricular activities, these amazing students always make time to serve others. Earlier this fall, they spent a Sunday afternoon gleaning veggies at Spring Ledge Farm – all of which went to local food pantries and community service centers in Merrimack County (including New London, Wilmot and Bradford). They also participated in the CROP Walk to help end hunger locally and world-wide, and helped to sponsor the Kids4Peace Compassion in Action Conference at St. Andrew's. On top of all this, the students take a very active role in our church family, where they help out in the nursery and thrift shop, at Epiphany with Messy Church, and during our Sunday services at St. Andrew's as acolytes and readers.

Looking ahead, we've got even more great things coming up: community service projects such as helping with the assembly of Thanksgiving Baskets and organizing a warm clothing drive in advance of our participation in the Homeless Vigil in Newport, putting on the highly anticipated (and very fun) Thrift Shop Fashion Show, and supporting the First Congregational Church of Wilmot in their production of Las Posadas this December. If schedules allow (and I hope they do!), we're hoping to start a new tradition of having a Christmas -break sledding/ice skating party and lock-in.

If you are interested in learning more or just chatting about the wonderful things going on with this amazing bunch of young folks, please feel free to contact Lisa or Billy Kelly.



Last Sunday Looks Ahead

The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, 24 November

Last November, we welcomed Bishop David Bailey of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland and his lovely wife Anne to St. Andrew's. The \$4,559 offering that last Sunday, then matched by our anonymous donor, made a significant difference in the completion of the construction of the Hozho (wellness) Center for Navajo women, traumatized by a history of oppression and abuse. The Hozho Center in Farmington, New Mexico is now complete. In addition to the healing work for women, it houses Cheii, who are newly-minted Navajo website developers and coders, and the Navajoland offices.

Farmington is one of three principal sites of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland. All of them have suffered from years of serious neglect. Under Bishop Bailey, there has been a spirit of renewal and rebirth. There are now four seminary-trained Navajo priests. Churches are being rebuilt, repaired, and re-opened. While The Episcopal Church has shown a decline in national membership over the past decade, Navajoland has grown by 11%.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Fort Defiance, Arizona, the only building in Arizona designed by noted Southwest architect John Gaw Meems, is one of the other principal sites.

It has recently re-opened for year-round services but due to a broken heating system, it has been unusable in the colder months. This exquisite adobe structure has been the center of Navajo worship for years.

St. Christopher's in Bluff, Utah is the third principal site. Lisa Kelly, Becky Rylander and Greg Vogt visited here in September (via the breathtaking Monument Valley!) and will be talking with us about their visit, as St. Andrew's hopes to send a group to Bluff in 2020. (*See photos, p. 11.*)

After being forced from their homeland, having watched their children taken away to be "cleansed" of everything Navajo in boarding schools, and then, having their livestock slaughtered by government decree, the Navajo have endured much. For many years they have been forgotten, neglected or ill-used. Unemployment and substance abuse are high. In 1978, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church established Navajoland, which is coterminous with the 27,000 square mile reservation itself. Such an establishment did not necessarily bring attention; and indeed, it wasn't really until Bishop Dave was consecrated in 2010, that there was even a vision for sustainability. That walk has now begun in earnest; and it is St. Andrew's Church's privilege to partner in this journey of rebirth. — *Elizabeth Lowell*

Additional information will follow in November bulletins and announcements. You may also visit www.ecofnavajoland.org or contact a member of the Outreach Commission to learn more.

Did you know?

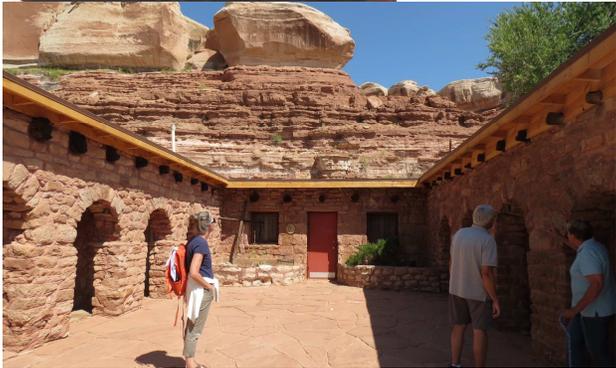
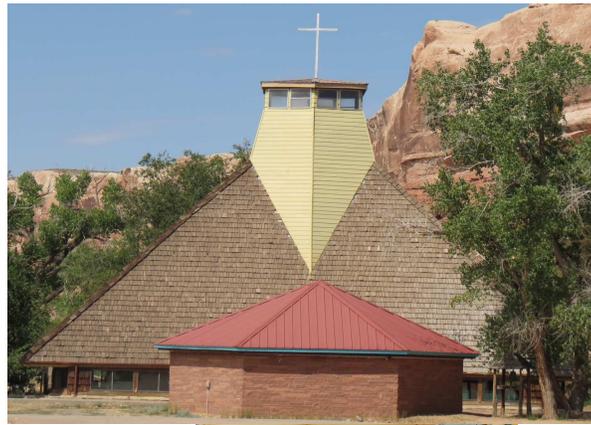
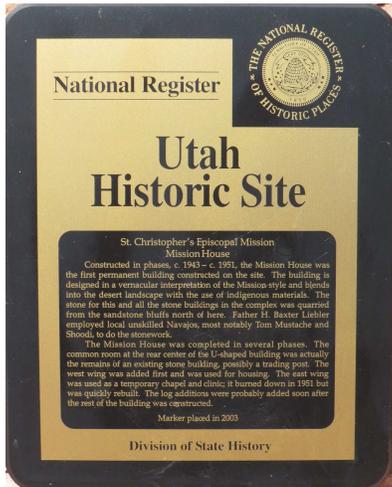
There is a link to our Soundcloud site where you can access our sermons:

[St. Andrew's Episcopal Church | Free Listening on SoundCloud](#)

Check it out whether you missed a sermon or want to review what you heard!

Sermons and other items can also be found on **our Facebook page.**

Visit us, share us and "like" us!



In Gratitude

Stewardship Campaign Update

Our 2020 Stewardship Campaign has enjoyed a strong start with pledges in the first two weeks totaling \$100,041, one-quarter of our goal of \$400,000. Half the pledges were for higher amounts than the previous year, resulting in an average pledge of \$2,778. Two pledges were from new members.

We would like to thank Joe Daly and Elizabeth Lowell for recently sharing what stewardship means to them at the 8 and 10 AM services, respectively. They are an inspiration to us all.

Our short campaign will conclude with the in-gathering of pledges at the 8 and 10 AM Sunday services on 17 November and a celebratory dinner on Friday, 22 November.

Thank you, in advance, for helping to sustain our church in the coming year and for supporting the many ministries and programs that make St. Andrew's such a vibrant and vital church. All those whose lives will be touched by these ministries and programs also thank you for your generous giving. -- *Jeanne and Morris Edwards*

St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) visits our Fair Saturday 7 December from 9 AM to 2 PM

The St. Nicholas Fair offers activities and events for all ages: Bake and food table, hand-made crafts for adults and children, Vermont cheese, delicious luncheon, Santa's workshop of activities and crafts for youngsters, a visit with Santa and Santa's treasure table of seasonal gifts to purchase. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a day of "Fun, Food, Fellowship" and Christmas shopping.



Calling all creative cooks! Your help is needed to fill the fair's bake table with goodies. In addition to cookies, breads, cakes and pies we are encouraging donation of jams, jellies, pickles, snack crackers and spiced nuts. Bake and freeze for the fair and sign up to help on the day of the Fair.

Voices in Counterpoint

Dear Friends,

In the last issue of *Network News*, I wrote about the Book of Psalms. Quoting Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, I suggested that this "little Bible," as Luther calls it, is a primary devotional resource. I also mentioned that on our recent trip abroad, Kathi and I visited several wonderful places along the way. In this installment of *Voices in Counterpoint* – my last as your Director of Music – I would like to bring these two topics together.

Early in our trip we stayed with our exchange-student daughter, Kirsten ("Kiki"), and her family in Hamburg. Kiki had prepared a very special birthday present for me: tickets to a wonderful organ recital at St. Michael's Church. The church has four organs, all of which were played in the recital. In 1768, Johann Sebastian Bach's son Carl Phillip Emanuel succeeded Georg Philipp Telemann as Kapellmeister. Music of both composers was featured in the program.

A few days later we traveled by train to Wittenberg to spend a few days. It was here in 1517 that Luther posted his "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church, setting into motion the Lutheran Reformation. There is a door on the north side of the church commemorating the event. Luther's 95 statements are etched in bronze on the door. Above the door is a painting by Lucas Cranach showing Luther and his friend and fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon kneeling at the foot of the Cross.

We arrived at the church shortly before noon and noticed that there was to be a Midday Prayer service in English. As we gathered with others in the chancel, the American pastor who was to lead the service greeted us. When he heard that I was an organist, he introduced me to the young woman who was intern as Assistant Organist for the summer. She is a graduate student from the Cleveland Institute. She invited me to play the final hymn at the service.

So here I was, in the most famous Lutheran church in the world with the tombs of Luther and Melanchthon on either side of the chancel, at the foot of the Cross. And I was getting the chance to play in Luther's own church. The hymn I was to accompany? Luther's own paraphrase and expansion of Psalm 46, "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott," "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."¹ Was this place heaven? I was feeling truly blessed.

I'm often asked how and when I became a Lutheran. I was raised in a Methodist parsonage, so how did I find my way to Wittenberg? I went off to college in Baldwin City, Kansas in 1961. Both mom and dad had graduated from Baker University there, a Methodist school. While there, I worked as Assistant Organist at First United Methodist Church, my second "bench." In the spring of my freshman year, the campus Methodist Student Organization sponsored a week of study and prayer. The study text that week was *Life Together*, a powerful little book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in which he explores daily meditation and devotion. I was so taken by the ideas in this book that I began further study of Bonhoeffer's life. That study continues.

Continued on p. 13

Voices in Counterpoint, continued

His *Letters and Papers from Prison* was my next book. Here I saw that Bonhoeffer's devotion to prayer and study manifested itself in a life of service to Christ and his Body, the Church. Indeed, in Bonhoeffer's case, his witness led to martyrdom: he was executed by the Nazis in 1945, just days before the end of WW II. Bonhoeffer, like Luther, held the Psalms to be basic to life in Christ. In 1964 I was confirmed a Lutheran.

On my last Sunday as your Director of Music, Christ the King on 24 November, I hope to bring Luther, Bonhoeffer and the Book of Psalms together in the music at Eucharist. It has been my joy to serve you for the last five years. It has always been one of the joys of my work to plan music that relates to the scriptural themes each week.

The Psalm of the Day for Christ the King is Psalm 46. We will sing "A Mighty Fortress" that day as we gather at the foot of the Cross. The Choir will sing an anthem by one of my teachers, John Ferguson, recently retired professor and chapel organist at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Dr. Ferguson taught me how to improvise at the organ. The anthem features a lovely flute part, and once more I will have the joy of making music with Nicole Densmore. She is a treasured gift to this community.

The text of John's anthem is "By Gracious Powers So Wonderfully Sheltered,"² a paraphrase by English hymnwriter Fred Pratt Green of a poem by Bonhoeffer. He composed this poem in his Berlin prison cell in December 1944. One of the last things he wrote, this poem was a birthday present for his mother. As I take my leave from you, I want to share these lines with you.

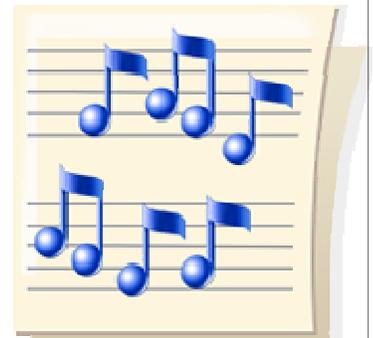
*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, / and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning / and never fails to greet us each new day.*

Be well, Friends. God is with us. Wage Peace with your Song.

Peace, Love, Hope, Joy, and Harmony,
David

¹Hymnal 1982, No. 687, 688

²Hymnal 1982, No. 695, 696



Have you noticed the good things in life? Have you given thanks to God for them? Have you started a daily discipline of gratitude? The Blue Boxes have arrived and are available so that you can make daily offerings for your blessings and the good things in life.

Thanks be to God!

*We continue in this issue a series of **Parochial Clergy** biographical sketches. We expect that bios from additional parochial clergy listed on the back page will appear in a future issue.*

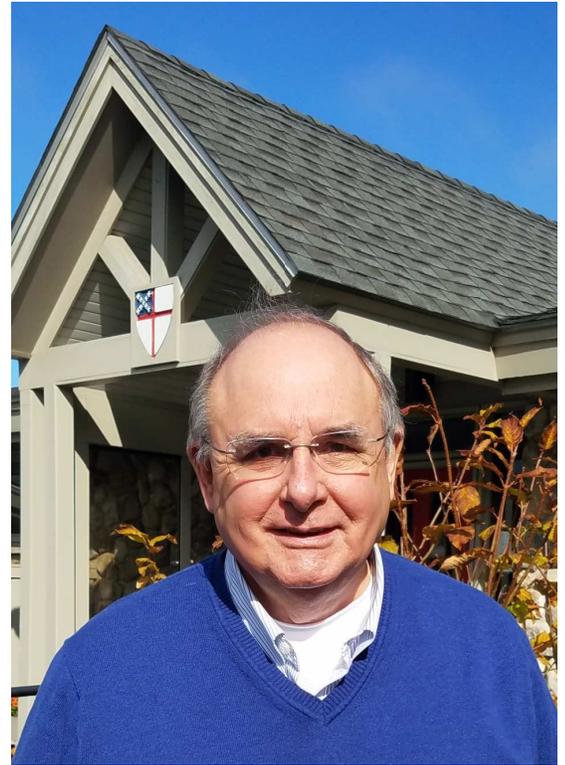


The Rev. James C. (Jim) Ransom was rector of Trinity Church in Towson, Maryland before his retirement in 2009, making Wilmot his permanent home. With his family he had been a summer resident in Wilmot for many years before that. Besides an occasional turn as guest preacher or presider at St. Andrew's, and often leading midday prayer services here, Jim has been very active in the Diocese in retirement.

Deb and I started coming to Wilmot with our children in the late 1980s to escape the heat of Baltimore in August, staying in a refurbished schoolhouse on Mount Kearsarge owned by the Cleveland family. In the early 1990s we bought a farmhouse in North Wilmot that had been in the Atwood family since the early 1800s. Atwood House became our summer refuge, and St. Andrew's our summer worship home.

When I retired from active ministry in 2009, Deborah and I made Atwood House our year-round home. We have since sold the house and moved to Hilltop Place in New London. In retirement I was appointed by Bishop Robinson as Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's Church in Ashland, was Interim Rector of St. Andrew's Church in Hopkinton, and for the past three years I have had the privilege to serve as Episcopal Chaplain at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy is a stand-alone organization affiliated with the dioceses of Vermont and New Hampshire dedicated to serving the pastoral needs of Episcopal patients at DHMC and to being a presence of the Episcopal Church in the hospital. EHC is supported by parishes and generous individual donors. In this rewarding ministry I have met nearly 400 Episcopal patients in the last year, making some 700 visits.

I also serve on the Mission Resources Commission of the Diocese of New Hampshire, and am one of the Priests-in-Residence at St. James' Summer Chapel on Lake Sunapee while also serving on the chapel's Board. Deb received her ten-year pin recently, having worked in various nursing positions at New London Hospital for the past decade. She is a long-time member of the Friends Board of the Wilmot Public Library, serves on St. Andrew's Outreach Committee, and has recently joined the Board of the New London Historical Society. Our children now have children of their own, and Deb and I enjoy introducing them to the same slopes, lakes and mountain trails that we have enjoyed with their parents over the past thirty years. It is a privilege to be a colleague in ministry with Jay and with the other retired clergy who attend St. Andrew's, and to rejoice in the life and mission of St. Andrew's to walk with Christ in the way of love.



The Rev. Patricia Harris was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America after 25 years working for AT&T. She has served as pastor at several Lutheran congregations in New Hampshire and, now mostly retired, continues to serve as a supply preacher in both Lutheran and Episcopal churches here in New Hampshire and in Florida.

My husband John and I have lived in New London for the past 16 years. We moved here in 2003, as we were both “re-tooling” into new careers. John, who had been a medical librarian, enrolled at Keene State to obtain his NH Teacher certification in Special Education. He has taught at both Kearsarge Regional High School, and at Newport Middle-Senior High School. Our son Michael finished his senior year at Kearsarge and went on to graduate from Plymouth State University with a degree in philosophy. He is now the UNH Extension Services Program Director for 4H in Rockingham County. Our daughter Kristin was a rising junior at UNH when we moved here. She graduated with a degree in English, and was later admitted to medical school. She is now a Captain in the U. S. Air Force and a second-year resident in Internal Medicine at San Antonio Military Medical Hospital.

During our married life, we moved up and down the East Coast several times, as well as resided in Germany for about two years. After graduating from the University of Maryland, with a B.S. in chemistry, and from the University of Pennsylvania with a Ph.D. in chemistry, I worked for AT&T for 25 years. My jobs varied from an entry-level member of the Technical Staff to executive positions managing the engineering of the AT&T Long Distance Network and then leading the engineering organizations in two AT&T international joint ventures.



After 25 years, and shutting down two international joint ventures because of changes in AT&T strategy, I “retired” at the age of 49. Although I considered several post-retirement options, I felt very strongly called to ministry, and entered the candidacy process in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Simultaneously I applied to and enrolled at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. We moved to New Hampshire while I was in the middle of my M. Div. studies, which created a logistical nightmare, but somehow -- with God’s help -- I finished my studies, was called as Pastor to Community Lutheran Church (CLC) in Enfield, and was ordained in September 2005. I served CLC through 2012, and attempted to retire yet one more time.

I failed retirement several more times, and subsequently I was called to serve at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Claremont and then at Nativity Lutheran Church in North Conway. Although now I am mostly retired, I continue to serve the church by “supply preaching” in both the ELCA and the Episcopal churches in New Hampshire and in Florida, where we now spend winters. I consider myself a “Lutherpalian,” who is called to serve the Church, as it struggles in an increasingly secular world.

John retired from Special Education in 2017, and we both are enjoying the opportunity to travel, and to relish the beauty of both New Hampshire and Florida.

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 office@standrewsnl.org****Rector****The Rev. Jay MacLeod****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. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak****The Rev. Leslie Smith****The Rev. Charlie Tirrell****The Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner****The Vestry****Wardens****Marni Eaton (expires Jan. 2020)****Bruce Avery (expires Jan. 2021)****Treasurer****Becky Forbes (expires Jan. 2020)****Vestry Members****Term Expires Jan. 2020****Harvey Best****Joe Daly****Greg Vogt****Term Expires Jan. 2021****Morris Edwards****Alice Perry, Clerk****Linda Potter****Term Expires Jan. 2022****Lisa Kelly****Russ Register****Barbara Smith****Committee Chairpersons****Altar Guild****Judy Ackroyd****Rosie Best****Buildings & Grounds****Harvey Best****Craft Group****Rosie Best****Barbara Smith****Eucharistic Ministers****Anne Hall****Finance & Investments****Becky Forbes****Newsletter****Alice Perry – Editor****Outreach****Becky Rylander****Stewardship****Morris and Jeanne Edwards**