

NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S March—April 2021

Jay's Say:

I keep coming back to those prayer flags strung up at St. Andrew's Church. Each flag is a prayerful tribute to a life lost in New Hampshire to COVID-19. They are fluttering over the last five stations in our installation of the Way of the Cross: Jesus is nailed to the cross, Jesus dies on the cross, Jesus is taken down from the cross, Jesus is laid in the tomb, and the resurrection.

The prayer flags illustrate everything I want to say in this article. Their creation sprang from the hearts and minds of our youth group. They tell the truth about how devastating these last twelve months have been. And those fluttering flags kindle hope in our hearts because they convey not just the bad news but the Good News.

Very few Episcopal churches in New Hampshire have a youth group, and many have no children at all. In the Episcopal Church (TEC) nationally, there were 46,603 baptisms in 2000 and 17,713 in 2019. That precipitous drop explains the dramatic aging of our denomination.

We are not alone, of course. All of the mainline denominations are struggling. Attendance in the Evangelical Lutheran Church is falling at the same alarming rate as ours (19% between 2008 and 2018), while the United Church of Christ is doing a bit worse (22%) and the Presbyterian Church (USA) much more so (43%).

From the perspective of the institutional church, these numbers pose an existential threat to TEC's future. But what about the threat to the wider community and culture? Appreciation for our memorial prayer flags is

flowing from many different quarters, including people who have always wondered about "that building with the A-frame roof behind the town hall."

The inspiration for the prayer flags came from people who are imaginative, sensitive, empathetic, energetic and visionary. These church kids have learned — and are helping us learn — to view the world through the lens of the cross. If you doubt that, then walk the Way of the Cross at St. Andrew's and pay special attention to the artwork created by young people.

If we are not forming families and raising children in church, the loss will be felt not just at St. Andrew's and Epiphany but in New London and Newport and throughout the Sunapee region. What can be more important for children than to know God and God's love for them?

Almost everyone has been weakened and wounded this last year. Many have lost loved ones. Our nation has had to confront long-standing divisions. Speaking personally, on too many days, it has

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Parish Updates

Memorial Service

22 January

Deborah Lambert



Parish Birthdays



Jay's Say, continued

felt like the gas tank is empty, and many of us are still operating on low reserves of physical and emotional energy. And it's then that we learn to rely less on ourselves and more on God.

The Hebrew Scriptures tell us that Israel's faith was formed through wandering in the wilderness and re-formed through exile. I hope that you have grown spiritually over this past year and learned anew how to turn your home into a house of worship and to encounter the living God in scripture and in prayer.

And I hope that St. Andrew's and Epiphany have learned to be inventive and agile and visionary over this past year. This learning will stand us in good stead as we embrace the "next normal" and figure out how to face the strong headwinds of our secular culture. Over the past years we have made progress in becoming a mission-shaped church. 2020 accelerated that process.

If you're not sure what I'm talking about, visit Epiphany and experience the Lenten Story Walk. Visit St. Andrew's and walk the Way of the Cross. As you enter into the suffering of Jesus with the memorial prayer flags fluttering overhead, you will experience anew the paschal mystery – how God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12.9) and how love has the last word.

Jennifer Giles	1
William Horn	2
Larry Dufault	3
Rosie Best	4
Teddy Jenky	9
Elizabeth Lowell	9
Phil Trussell	12
Anne Kellett	14
Katrina Wagner	15
Ellen Wassell	15
Nicole Densmore	21
Dolores Bausch	23
Deborah Ransom	23
Margaret Greenwood	24
Toby MacLeod	24
Diane Orecchio	24
Emily Jones	25
Missy Carroll	29
Gwen Place	30



**Celebrating the Spring Equinox
on Saturday, 20 March with
Jack Barben & Kathy Lowe
Bloch**

Through music, poetry,
imagery and ritual, we invite
into our hearts the new life
that beckons us every Spring.



Photo by Valeria Boltneva from Pexels

Lev Hubbard	2
Charlie Forbes	3
Bobbi Travis	5
Benjamin Greenwood	6
Thierry Albertine	7
Ainsley Frenkiewich	10
Peter Ruth	10
Emily Kelly	16
Joan Ward	20
Joseph Kealy	21
Christine Kellett	23
Ken Miller	26
Catee Hubbard	29

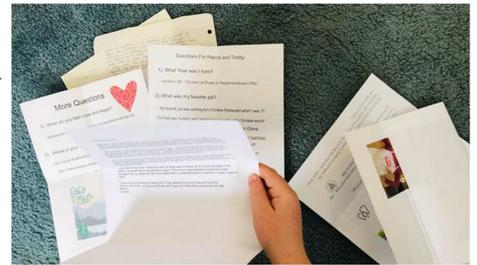


Engaging Families at St. Andrew's —Aaron Jenkyn—

As we mark a year of pandemic, a year of isolation and loss, there is an overwhelming sense of weariness and exhaustion amongst us. A year is a long time without a hug from a grandchild, shared meals with those you love and easy conversation around the table. This year in isolation has left us seeking connection with each other, with our community and with God in a way that we haven't felt so urgently before, yet we can't gather in church to experience this communion.

Many of you will know that our family is homeschooling this year, and this feeling of disconnect has been strong in our house, especially amongst our littles who miss hearing stories of their friends and elders that help them sort out the ways of the world. In an effort to help them reconnect, and learn how to be brave enough to ask the questions in their hearts, we began an interview project which evolved into a beautiful offering of love and learning, of connection and hope. It became an antidote to our weary pandemic hearts.

Together my sons drafted a series of questions; some so simple as "How old are you?" And others so heartfelt as "Where is your favorite place on earth" and "Where do you feel love and hope?" We sent it out to friends and family and we also posted it in on Facebook for far away friends, acquaintances and strangers to answer too. Soon a dozen letters showed up in our mailbox, and more came in over email. We saved them up, and on a cold winter morning when the world felt particularly grey we sat down to read the letters together. Reading these letters with my littles I could quite literally feel my broken heart begin to heal, the balm of words and stories found in each letter filling the cracks of my heart. And the delight and curiosity and wonder on my littles' faces as they read the responses was one of my favorite moments in homeschooling. In those letters we found the antidote to our weary pandemic hearts and found connection in a way we weren't quite expecting. A familiar feeling washed over me, and I realized that reading these letters felt like being at church.



I pray for each of you the same chance to heal, the same chance to experience community (and communion) right where you are. Perhaps on this day, you could take a few minutes and write a letter to a loved one, or better yet, to a stranger and ask the simplest of questions. Write to me, write to my boys, write to someone in the church directory, or let me know and I can match you with someone whose heart is aching for connection. How might you be changed by this experience? How might their stories heal your aching heart, or how might your stories heal theirs?

Painting as Prayer: A Workshop for All Ages

Sunday, 7 March, 5 PM-6:30 PM on Zoom

Join us as we host author, illustrator, and Christian educator Roger Hutchinson for a special all-age Lent workshop. Roger will guide participants through an experience of painting as prayer. Together we will explore the many faces of God using Roger's new book *Faces* as a launching point for our exploration and creativity. No experience necessary, everyone, without exception, is welcome to participate. Please register to receive the Zoom link.

To learn more about Roger Hutchinson, you can visit his website here (<https://www.rogerhutchisonbooks.com>).



Wardens' Words:

It has been almost a year since the "Safer at Home" order changed our lives and how we worship. Now with vaccinations taking place, it is time to look at how we keep those not able to be vaccinated safe. It is most important that if you come to church you remember to stop and sanitize your hands as you enter and that you continue to wear your mask. While we may be protected by our vaccinations, we may be asymptomatic and carry the virus, thus exposing our younger staff members who may then carry the virus home to their families. When we all wear a mask and remember to social distance, we protect each other.

At our February vestry meeting we shared those elements of pre-pandemic church that were most compelling. It was a wonderful discussion and you can read more about it in the vestry minutes published on our website.

Thanks to Joe Daly's hard work, all protocols for in person worship, whether outside or inside, are in place and certainly worked well last fall. We, like you, look forward to the time when we can gather together again.

In the meantime, thank you all for your support of our church and our outreach programs. You continue to be a most generous group of people *following Jesus in the way of love.* – Joe Daly and Marni Eaton

High School Youth Group Happenings

Our attention has been singularly focused over the past few months on the creation of the COVID-19 Prayer Flag Memorial, which is currently on display by the labyrinth. We are so incredibly grateful to the many members of the congregation who joined us in this labor of love and supported us along the way. This is an ongoing project as it is our deepest hope to decorate and display a flag for every single life lost to COVID-19 in NH. Please reach out to Lisa Kelly if you are interested in helping us meet that goal. – Lisa Kelly



PANDEMIC EFFORTS AND PROTOCOLS

As many of us push up our sleeves to be vaccinated, two of our parishioners are involved behind the scenes in the intense response to COVID-19 that allows us to do that. Charlie Giles is a pilot for UPS and Austin Brown works for the New Hampshire Homeland Security Emergency Management office. When we are asked to wash our hands and to wear a mask even while physically-distanced, it is instructive to learn what else must be done – and is being done on our behalf -- to keep us safe and bring an end to the pandemic.

When Austin was first hired last June he immediately found himself involved in the COVID response as he was given assignments to work with various state agencies, alternate care sites and schools on grant reimbursement. More recently, though, his assignment has been to provide extra help packing kits ancillary to the vaccine rollout. These kits include items like alcohol pads, syringes and vaccine report cards – everything but the vials of vaccine. Putting in 7-day, 70-hour weeks recently, Austin has also been helping to staff state vaccine sites. He expects to continue in this manner for some time to come.

Charlie's efforts involve extended periods of time away from home, flying cargo planes at night and in difficult winter conditions, delivering those vials of vaccine across the continent. Gone for weeks at a time, he gets 48 hours at home before returning to the airport for more deliveries. Because of COVID illnesses, there is a pilot shortage but pilots of passenger planes who may be less busy require additional training before being able to fly for UPS, so people like Charlie are working extra shifts.

Whether involved in professions such as these, or working at grocery stores, in hospitals or in at-home offices, we hope everyone is doing whatever they can to minimize risk to themselves and to others. This involves

- ◆ Wearing masks
- ◆ Using hand sanitizer and/or washing hands frequently
- ◆ Keeping 6-feet physical distance
- ◆ Limiting group interactions indoors and out
- ◆ Getting vaccinated . . . and continuing to observe the above protocols . . . when at St. Andrew's for a quick office visit as well as "out and about" in general.



***Last Sunday* Looks Ahead – St. Vincent's Center, Haiti
28 March**

St. Vincent's Center, Haiti (SVC) is a tri-partite ministry: a school for 200 children who are deaf and/or blind and/or in wheelchairs, a medical center (mostly for children) in downtown Port-au-Prince, and a Brace Shop which fits prostheses to the poorest of the poor in the country. The annual operating budget for all of this is \$600,000.

The SVC school campus comprises some secure 8.6 acres 15 miles outside the capital city. Its **greatest need right now is a potable water system** for the 200 students, 20 adult residents (who have never known another home) and 50 faculty and staff. Currently, SVC pays \$12,000 a year for drinking water. The estimated cost for building its own system is \$15,000. The Diocese of New Hampshire has generously granted the sum of \$3,300 toward this project; and the Outreach Commission hopes that we can move it further along the way.

Safe drinking water is something that we take for granted. We pour ourselves a glass of water, keep our eyes open in the shower, and wash our hands frequently. These students, who study in Braille, sign language, Creole, French and English, have no such luxury. Please visit www.stvincentshaiti.org for more information and follow our weekly articles during March.

***Last Sunday* Looks Ahead – Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy
25 April**

In April, our *Last Sunday Outreach Offering* will benefit the **Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy (EHC) at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center**. Our fellow parishioner, The Rev. Canon James ("Jim") Ransom, visits faithfully three days a week to offer spiritual and pastoral care to all who have registered as Episcopalians upon admission. In a largely unheralded ministry, Jim visits some 300+ different patients in any given year. The number of visits, however, is in multiples of that. This past year, he has often been the only non-medical person many patients have seen, given the COVID-19 ban on family visits.

EHC began as a program of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Hanover, but became a separate tax-exempt entity in 1996, making 2021 its 25th year of ministry. Last year, Episcopalians from 62 New Hampshire towns and 57 in Vermont were served by EHC, as well as those from much further afield, such as Florida, South Carolina, and Canada. Support for the modest \$22,000 annual budget comes from parishes and individuals in Vermont and New Hampshire.



The Outreach Commission currently meets via Zoom 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, Becky Rylander, Greg Vogt, Janet Heyl, Christine Kellett and Karen Zurheide. Their contact information is in the 2018 St. Andrew's Parish Directory.

Pandemic Diaries: The Episcopal Martyrs of Memphis

By Edward "Chip" Ordman

I'm usually in Memphis, Tennessee, in the winters, but this year I've stayed in New London due to the pandemic. At the request of the archivist at the University of Memphis, I've been keeping a diary during the pandemic. Such diaries have a history in Memphis. In the late 1800s, Memphis and some other southern cities suffered several major yellow fever epidemics. In July 1878, the city had a population of 47,000 people; 25,000 of them fled and of those who stayed, a large majority contracted yellow fever. The city was quarantined, and food and medicine became scarce. At least 5000 died in the first months of the epidemic.

Among those who stayed were many of the Episcopal nuns of St. Mary's Convent, who acted as nurses for the afflicted. Four of the nuns and two priests who worked with them died before the epidemic was over. The Episcopal nuns' superior, Sister Constance, and the others who died are known as "Constance and Her Companions" or the "Martyrs of Memphis." Added to the Episcopal Church's Lesser Feasts and Fasts in 1981, their feast day (9 September) commemorates their sacrifices. Some more information is at

<http://www.stmarysmemphis.org/about/history/bishop-oteys-paten/>

A number of the nuns kept diaries, which are among the best sources for a vivid history of the period. Sister Constance wrote in her diary, "Yesterday I found two young girls in a two-room house who had spent two days with the unburied bodies of their dead parents, their uncle in the utmost suffering and delirium and no one near them but a rough Negro drayman who held the sick man in his bed. . . ." Among those praised in the nuns' diaries was Annie Cook, the madam of the city's largest bordello -- who stayed in the city, converted her establishment to a hospital, and trained her employees to act as nurses. Annie Cook also died, and Memphis has memorials to her as well as the nuns.

The Episcopal St. Mary's Cathedral in Memphis has a permanent museum-quality exhibit about the epidemic and the efforts of the nuns. St. Mary's School for Girls, has occasionally done a wonderful play based on the diaries.

We are in a time of rapid change, as anyone trying to get a vaccination knows well. The situation changes day to day and even hour to hour. It can be a time of great frustration on any given day. I recently spent over 95 minutes on hold on the 211 phone line to confirm that the email I had received, saying that my appointment had been cancelled, was in error. But looking at what the situation was a week or two ago, or a month or two ago, the progress has been remarkable. The world is facing a situation it has not faced before, as an entire world, and we don't know what things will be like in a year, or how what we are going through today will be remembered.

The archivist I work with in Memphis has explained to me that people studying life a century or so ago can learn how people lived by studying their diaries and their piles of collected letters. In this computer age, most people no longer keep letters or even old emails. And few of us write diaries. If you want your young children, or your grandchildren or great-grandchildren, to know what your life was like or what this pandemic was like, write it down and preserve it.

My university's archive prefers to keep computer files, in pdf form. You may be able to find a school or other organization that would like your diary. And of course, there is also the archivist of New London, who will get a copy of mine. The New London Town Archives is collecting written and photographic materials related to New London during COVID-19 as part of its ongoing effort to document the town's history. Contact via email at info@nlarchives.org.

Faith and Issues

The current *Faith and Issues* book under discussion is *Papal Sins – Structures of Deceit* by the Pulitzer Prize winning author Garry Wills. It is a powerful book that offers an “acutely insightful - and occasionally stinging - critique of the Catholic Church and its hierarchy from the 19th century to the present.” It is an important book that highlights the inter-play of faith-based claims with various issues; as well as how these issues have also impacted our ability to live our lives faithfully.

Our next book discussion on *The Lost Art of Scripture -Rescuing the Sacred Texts* by Karen Armstrong will begin on 20 March. The New York Times Book Review calls the book "A dazzling accomplishment, a reflection of an encyclopedic knowledge of comparative religion and of a wisdom about our spirituality in the human species."

For a complete list of reading dates please check the Church website under **Learn** or contact Katrina Wagner if you have questions, suggestions or wish to be added to our mailing list. – *Katrina Wagner*

Weekly Bulletin

A few weeks ago, a parishioner during coffee hour said, “I miss the Weekly Bulletin.” I told everyone present that the bulletin is available on the church’s website (standrewsni.org). It is the first item on the “Inform” menu. The “Weekly Calendar” for the current week can also be accessed there. I enter the most up-to-date information on both and retain some bulletin items for several weeks. The current Prayer List and Birthdays for the week are also included. So, if you have lost an all-parish email, remember that you can find much of the same information in the Weekly Bulletin and Calendar on St. Andrew’s website. -- *Anne Hall, Verger*



Reel and Novel Theology

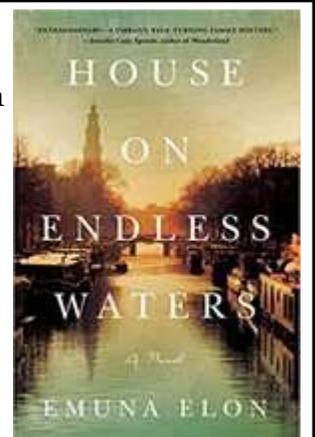
We will discuss the novel *House on Endless Waters* by Emuna Elon on 10 March at 7 PM via Zoom.



The film *The Best of Enemies* is the topic for our “reel theology” discussion on 14 April at 7 PM via Zoom.

Be on the lookout for an email reminder with the Zoom link after you have read the book or watched the film.

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.



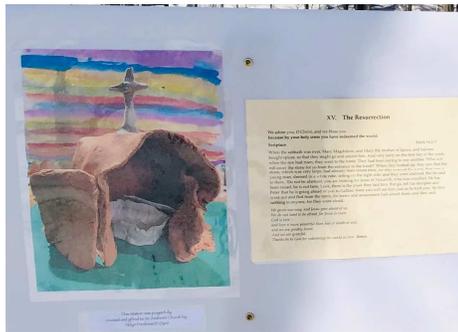
Calendar of Events

March

- 5, 12, 19, 26 (Friday) – Stations of the Cross (masked & physically distanced), 2:30 PM (or at your convenience any time) (*here and p. 10*)
- 7 (Sunday) – Painting as Prayer workshop, 5 PM (*see p. 3*)
- 10 (Wednesday) – Novel Theology, 7 PM (*see p. 8*)
- 20 (Saturday) – Celebrate Spring Equinox (*see p. 2*)
- 26 (Friday) – Friendly Kitchen (*below*)
- 28 (Sunday) – Last Sunday, benefits St. Vincent Center, Haiti (*see p. 6*)

April:

- 2 (Friday) – Good Friday online service
- 4 (Sunday) – Easter Sunday service TBA
- 14 (Wednesday) – Reel Theology, 7 PM (*see p. 8*)
- 25 (Sunday) – Last Sunday, benefits Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy (*see p. 6*)



Stations of the Cross Outdoor Cross Walk

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows or the Via Crucis, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion.

The images you will find at each of the fifteen stations along the way have been prayerfully illustrated by members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, gifts given to the community as an offering for our Lenten journey. At each of the stations you will find scripture, a reflection and a prayer to be read aloud, or in the silence of your heart.

An opening prayer for your journey:

Lord Jesus Christ,
take me along that holy way
you once took to your death.
Take my mind,
my memory,
above all my reluctant heart,
and let me see what once you did
for love of me and all the world.
Amen.



Artwork by James Wassell

Rotation of our own pre-recorded services with in-person worship when feasible, and with alternate sites, continues on Sundays. Please look for parish emails to inform you of links to your worship options, including midweek offerings, each week.

Our next visit to **Friendly Kitchen** will be Friday, 26 March. Details of how you can help will be forthcoming.

When Janet and Chris Heyl delivered our recent "Last Sunday" donation, the Friendly Kitchen staff expressed both surprise and thanks. — *Judy Ackroyd*



Help Re-Stock the KLS Community Food Pantry

March: Cereal

April: Hearty Soups and Stews

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

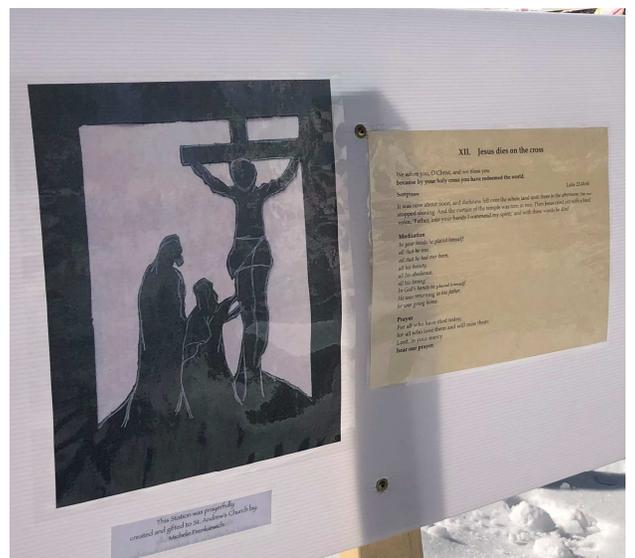
Stations of the Cross

You are invited to visit St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to pray the Stations of the Cross. The images you will find at each of the fifteen stations along the way were prayerfully illustrated by members of St. Andrew's, gifts given to the community as an offering for your Lenten journey. At each of the stations you will find scripture, a reflection and a prayer to be read aloud, or in the silence of your heart.

The outdoor Stations of the Cross walk is free and open to the public to walk at your convenience, or join us on Friday afternoons at 2:30pm to walk the Way of the Cross together. We will also offer a Good Friday service online that features the Stations of the Cross and the lovely artwork so that those who are unable to join in person can access it.



*Lord Jesus Christ,
take me along that holy way
you once took to your death.
Take my mind,
my memory,
above all my reluctant heart,
and let me see what once you did
for love of me and all the world.
Amen.*



United Thank Offering



The United Thank Offering (UTO), a ministry of the Episcopal Church, has existed since 1874 when the Women's Auxiliary started raising money for mission work. Since then, grants have been given throughout the world. New Hampshire has received 34 grants. The president of the UTO board reminds us that UTO is about gratitude first, money

second. I am thankful for many things as I am sure you are too. We are encouraged to practice gratitude by putting some money in the UTO blue boxes or envelopes, which are available on the table in the hallway at church. If you can't make it in to get either, just put your change in a saucer or a mug until called for in the fall.

UTO grants this year will focus on recovery efforts from the impact of COVID-19. The UTO in-gathering in New Hampshire is held during convention. I will remind everyone at that time so you can send or bring your "gratitude" savings in. We will send one check from all of us at St. Andrew's. THANK YOU! -- *Anne Hall, Diocesan UTO Coordinator*

Art Committee Update

The art committee is grateful to Becky Rylander for her gift of a cross-stitched "tree of life" in Navajo design. Having already chosen the tree of life as a theme for some wall art, we welcome this item with its connection to St. Andrew's outreach involvement with Navajoland. We are also grateful to committee member Alison Vernon for painting two other tree of life canvases along with a Picasso dove for rotation on bathroom walls.

We have researched correct approaches for cleaning the banners, the Madonna and Child and St. Andrew, that currently hang behind the altar. We are in the early stages of considering short-term, seasonally-appropriate alternate items in their places, with the expectation that we would return to those banners for parts of the church year.

We are also laying the groundwork for a rotating art display for the parish hall. We anticipate space for about four items at a time, to be loaned to us for a period of three or four months at a time. You will be invited to submit original art work designed specifically for an announced theme or much-loved photos, prints or paintings by any artist from your living room wall or attic that speak to the theme. Given the stress we have all felt during the pandemic we are proposing that our first theme will be "hope." We will share more details with you once we know that the building will be open for regular use.

Please remember your input is welcome at any time. We hope you will share with us at any time your comments and concerns about art works throughout the church building you like or don't like, do or don't want changed. — *Alice Perry*



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