

# NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S March—April 2023

## Jay's Say:

When we hear the Old Testament lesson on the First Sunday of Lent, Christians tend to hear a story about “the Fall” as Adam and Eve eat of the forbidden tree. In fact, the focus of the text is on our human vocation. We were not created for ourselves but to “till and keep” the garden. God gives us a purpose: to serve and protect creation.

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I am pleased to announce two pieces of good news for St. Andrew's and our planet. An energy audit recommended that we convert from oil to a propane condensing boiler, better insulate our building, and consider installing a solar array. We've done the first, made a good start on the second, and thanks to a \$61,000 donation from an anonymous church member, we'll be installing solar panels on the parish hall roof! The solar array will reduce our carbon footprint and cut our electricity costs by an estimated fifty percent. Thanks not just to our donor but to our Green Committee: Harvey Best, Woody Canaday, Ed Hoyt, Lisa Kelly, Nonie Reynders and Nancy Rollins.

In addition, the Vestry has decided to offer the parish hall as the site for assembling low-cost storm windows over five days this Fall. Volunteers will each learn a simple step in an assembly process that will turn out 200 low-cost insulating window inserts. Custom-measured and built to order by WindowDressers (a nonprofit that began in a Maine church), the inserts become remarkably effective interior storm windows. Every recipient takes part in the community build which is akin to an old-fashioned barn raising. Win, win, win: for the planet, people's pocketbooks and community spirit.

The Hebrew Scriptures begin with two contrasting accounts of creation; both commission us to be good and caring stewards of our fragile island home. I hope and pray that St. Andrew's will increasingly live into this vocation.





|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Jennifer Giles     | 1  |
| William Horn       | 2  |
| Donald Jefferson   | 2  |
| Larry Dufault      | 3  |
| Rosie Best         | 4  |
| Elizabeth Lowell   | 9  |
| Phil Trussell      | 12 |
| Anne Kellett       | 14 |
| Katrina Wagner     | 15 |
| Jenny Harrington   | 20 |
| Nicole Densmore    | 21 |
| Deborah Ransom     | 23 |
| Margaret Greenwood | 24 |
| Toby MacLeod       | 24 |
| Diane Orecchio     | 24 |
| Missy Carroll      | 29 |
| Gwen Place         | 30 |

### Parish Birthdays



|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Lev Hubbard         | 2  |
| Charlie Forbes      | 3  |
| Jack Feyrer         | 5  |
| Benjamin Greenwood  | 6  |
| Ainsley Frenkiewich | 10 |
| Peter Ruth          | 10 |
| Tim Coogan          | 13 |
| Emily Kelly         | 16 |
| Joseph Kealy        | 21 |
| Christine Kellett   | 23 |
| Ken Miller          | 26 |
| Catee Hubbard       | 29 |



### LEGACY GIFTS TO ST. ANDREW'S

We like to think that tax benefits are a secondary reason for making a legacy gift to St. Andrew's and that your consideration of the future needs of and devotion to the church are the primary reason. Nonetheless, tax considerations do benefit the gift giver and a new change outlined below could be attractive to those who have reached the age of 70 ½ when you are subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your retirement plan.

There have been some important changes in the use of RMD as a result of the Appropriation Act of 2023. You may know that when subject to a RMD from your retirement plan, you can choose to appropriate up to \$100,000 annually for charitable contributions and therefore escape Federal Income Taxes on the amount you choose to donate from your RMD. Under the new law, those subject to the RMD may use up to \$50,000 of this \$100,000 (one time only) to create a charitable gift annuity. This is a benefit to the donor since it allows the contribution to be made, benefits the charitable organization but also gives the donor income on the amount donated for the rest of his or her actuarial life.

As always, we are ready to discuss the basics of such a gift with you and will always advise you to contact your tax adviser and attorney before taking such a step. – George Jamieson, Legacy Fund/Planned Giving

## Braver Angels at St. Andrew's



We embarked on our first broad outreach to the community with invitations to *Skills for Bridging the Divide*, scheduled for 26 February with Jeannie Sperry as our Moderator. The BA Team and Jay, with help from Shelly and Anne Hall, exercised our marketing skills and contacts with letters, fliers posted around town, ads in The Shopper, postings to area towns' Facebook pages and the Valley News, and public service announcements on WSCS and WNTK. Registrations accelerated with about 40 in attendance on a snowy afternoon.

Mark Beckwith, who helped us launch on Palm Sunday in 2022, is our Braver Partner representative to the national organization. He is also working with congregations to develop workshops that are designed around Christian prayer and scripture which we may offer in the future.

Paul Catsos has nearly completed his training as Moderator. This will deepen our bench and increase the range of programs we can offer.

Braver Angels also has a Braver Politics group that is very active in New Hampshire, including with workshops for state legislators. Our Moderators have been invited to help moderate.

We have circled Sunday, 23 April for our next in-person workshop at St. Andrew's, with the topic to be determined.

Meanwhile, if you're looking for more, please consider:

- At [braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org), go to the "Get Involved" tab and click on "Take an eCourse." You'll find short courses you can do on your own schedule, such as *Skills for Social Media* (do you know high-school or college students who might benefit?), and *Managing Difficult Conversations* (this is designed for elected officials).
- At the "Get Involved" tab, click on "Find an Event" and filter it for New Hampshire. You'll find occasional online discussions hosted by the NH Braver Angels Alliance, such as *Your Tax Dollars in Ukraine: NH Speaks*, on 14 March. — Woody Canaday

## United Thank Offering

In past articles I have suggested that you place money in a blue and white UTO box in gratitude for things in your life - friends, family and experiences.

In the fall, the contents of all your boxes is presented at the ingathering during Diocesan Convention. From there it goes to the board of UTO to give grants all over the world — from New Hampshire to the Diocese of Lweru in Tanzania, where a grant was recently given to construct three shallow wells in three villages of Muleba district to reduce the impact of climate change. In a mid-year report, we learned that two wells have been completed and trees from nurseries have been planted around the wells. The communities now have clean and safe water without having to walk long distances.

In New Hampshire nine years ago, a grant called "Just Witness/Remembering Jonathan Daniels" was given to Bishop Rob - To support three events to commemorate the witness of Jonathan Daniels who suffered martyrdom as an Episcopal seminarian working for voting rights in the South in 1965. Your gratitude enables many grants to be given. It is not too late to pick up a UTO box to fill each time you feel gratitude. — Anne Hall, UTO Coordinator



## ***Last Sunday* Looks Ahead — 26 March** **Overcomers Refugee Services**

Imagine the nightmare — all too real for 27.1 million men, women and children — of having to flee **“war, violence, conflict or persecution,” only finding safety by crossing into another country. Imagine leaving behind home, possessions, job and even loved ones, likely with little more than the clothes on your back. This is the plight of a refugee, as defined and protected in international law.** An additional four million people are awaiting being given refugee status. (A much greater total number, 80-plus million, have been forcibly displaced, although the majority remain in their home countries, so are not categorized as refugees.) Refugees can spend years in temporary camps before being resettled.

Since the passage of the Refugee Act in 1980, the U.S. has admitted over 3.1 million refugees (into every state except Wyoming), more than 7,500 of whom have made New Hampshire their home. Refugees have come to our state from at least 30 nations, with most living in Manchester, Concord and Nashua.

Given crises in places such as Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela, we often hear news about refugees, including impacts felt in neighboring countries. While the news of African refugees is less prominent today, they still represent the greatest number of those coming to the U.S. In fiscal 2022, 221 refugees were resettled in New Hampshire, with recent predominant populations from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DCR) and South Sudan. Others have arrived as evacuees from Afghanistan, under a program specific to that situation.

Overcomers Refugee Services (ORS) in Concord is our March Last Sunday Offering recipient. Its Executive Director Clement Kigugu, a native of the DCR who came to New Hampshire from Rwanda as a refugee in 2006, is a new friend of our Warden and Outreach Commission member Karen Zurheide, as the two are classmates in the current cohort of Leadership New Hampshire. ORS is a resource center that serves Concord-area refugees, about 240 families each year, with a wide array of help, such as cultural orientation, resumé building and job interview prep, applications for various forms of economic assistance, preparation for achieving legal permanent residence and citizenship, and conflict-resolution for those who fled countries torn apart by violence.

Clement established ORS in 2013 in response to the fact that refugees have significant ongoing challenges lasting far beyond the three months of initial supports they receive on coming to the U.S. His vision is that settled refugees help new refugees learn the ways of their new home, assisting them to heal and to engage as active, successful citizens of New Hampshire and the U.S.

See [overcomersnh.org](http://overcomersnh.org) to learn more, and hear from Clement himself at either service on Sunday, 12 March, as well as visiting with him at coffee times that morning. Please plan to support the work of ORS as you are able, with a gift designated for Outreach, knowing that your giving will be matched by our generous anonymous donors.





## ***Last Sunday* Looks Ahead – 30 April** **Voorhees University – Scholarships, Stipends**

Our April Outreach recipient will be a student (or two!) at Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina. Voorhees is one of two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that is affiliated with The Episcopal Church. In each of the last two years, St. Andrew's has provided a scholarship for a rising senior. This year, our support will look a bit different. Based on your previous generosity, we intend to help two students who will live and work with us this summer.

Jay visited Voorhees in November and, upon his return, remarked: "Voorhees is a remarkable place: an island of learning and hope in the midst of pervasive rural poverty. I was impressed by the passion of students, teachers, and administrators - and by their faith. Voorhees University and St. Andrew's Church have a lot to offer each other."

As with Navajoland, St. Andrew's seeks a deep relationship, not simply a gift of financial support. Plans call for Jay and Senior Warden Karen Zurheide to visit Voorhees in late March and interview students interested in being with us for July and August. Our *Last Sunday Outreach Offering* provides much-needed scholarships for these students, and they will also receive modest stipends for their work with us. This is thus an opportunity for us to open our homes and our hearts, as well as our wallets, to create life-changing relationships for Voorhees and for St. Andrew's.

We know that our Outreach Offerings make a material difference. Recipients have assured us of that. Our developing relationship with the staff and students at Voorhees means an enrichment beyond that which dollars can provide. So, as you contribute in April with your gift matched by our anonymous donors, please also think ahead to the summer months and how your life may be enriched by sharing it with our Voorhees student interns.



**To respond to Last Sunday appeals on these two pages**, you can place your gift in the offering plate prior to or on the last Sunday of the designated month, send your check marked for Outreach to St. Andrew's Church, P. O. Box 294, New London, NH 03257, or make an online donation at <https://www.standrewsnl.org/giving-on-line.html>. Your generous support will be matched by our anonymous donors. The Outreach Commission and their identified organizations are grateful for your support.

Reminder for 2023: Our Rector's day off is WEDNESDAY.

Help him get that weekly break by avoiding non-urgent calls, texts or emails on a Wednesday. (And don't expect communication from him then either.) Shelly Boucher, Parish Administrator is available to take your call or email and your Wardens may also be available when you have concerns on a Wednesday. Thanks, all!

## Wardens' Words

A word popping up everywhere is “**community**,” often in the context of what humans generally need to feel less loneliness, experience less stress, have higher self-esteem, have a greater sense of purpose and enjoy better physical health – and as something we may have missed out on during the pandemic. You can find countless recent articles on the subject.

In a community people share a sense of belonging. They know and care about each other's well-being, safety and happiness. They work together to improve their own lives and the lives of those around them. A parish is by definition a community – of worship, learning and giving. At its best, it's a place of welcome and of *koinonia*, the Greek word used 20 times in the New Testament referencing “intimate spiritual communion and participative sharing in a common religious commitment and spiritual community.”

At St. Andrew's, we extend the offer of community to any and all, regardless of . . . whatever. We are being more intentional in our efforts to be community – to those living alone through monthly Lunch Bunch gatherings started by a parishioner who recognized that need, to younger families through Messy Church and to the oldest among us through a variety of initiatives. And we go beyond, attempting to be community to those in need outside our walls, including through our Last Sunday Outreach learning and funding.

Considering that communities are about giving *and* receiving, the more we do of both, the more likely we are to build meaningful relationships with each other. This is beautifully expressed in the words of *The Servant Song* by Richard Gillard (one rendition at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIhxxhPOwfc&list=RDSIhxxhPOwfc>):

Will you let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are trav'lers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
'Til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.

Consider these simple suggestions for enhancing community at St. Andrew's:

- Show up – for worship services and more
- Make welcoming physical space in the pews (meaning, slide over!)
- Wear name tags (please request if you don't yet have one)
- Introduce ourselves to anyone we don't yet know (and reintroduce as necessary)
- Share our own needs with rector, office, others
- When aware of needs of others, share with rector, and try to help as appropriate

Grateful for community shared with you, *Karen Zurheide and Claire Pace*

## Calendar of Events

### March:

**5, 12, 19, 26** (Sundays) - Discussions of *The Chosen* led by Jay and Kathleen Rusnak, 11:30-12:30.  
(Please watch episodes in advance.)

**5** (Sunday) - Messy Church, 4 PM (see p. 9)

**6, 13, 20, 27** (Mondays) - View episodes of *The Chosen* on the TV in the parish hall.

**12** (Sunday) - ORS Executive Director Clement Kigugu speaks, 8 and 10 AM services

**24** (Friday) - Friendly Kitchen (see below)

**26** (Sunday) - Last Sunday to benefit Overcomers Refugee Services (ORS) (see p. 4)

### April:

**2, 16, 23, 30** (Sundays) - Discussions of *The Chosen* led by Jay and Kathleen Rusnak, 11:30-12:30.  
(Please watch episodes in advance.) **NOTE:** No discussion on Easter Sunday

**2** (Sunday) - Palm Sunday, 8 & 10 AM; Messy Church, 4 PM

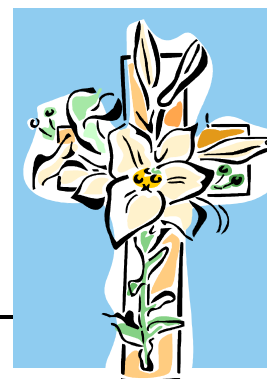
**10, 17, 24** (Mondays) - View episodes of *The Chosen* on the TV in the parish hall.

**6** (Thursday) - Maundy Thursday observance, time to be announced

**7** (Friday) - Good Friday ecumenical service, Noon

**9** (Sunday) - Easter Sunday, 5:30, 8 & 10 AM

**30** (Sunday) - Last Sunday to benefit Voorhees University (see p. 5)



**Monday to Friday** 12 Noon Midday Prayer (Healing Eucharist **Thursday**)

**Mondays** 6 PM Meditation

**Tuesdays** 10 AM Craft Group

**Thursdays** 7 PM, Choir Rehearsal (in choir room downstairs)

*NOTE: We continue to recommend masks and physical distancing regardless of vaccination status for indoor activities. Doors and windows will be open.*

Tied up on a Sunday morning?

Epiphany Church in Newport meets at 5 PM on Saturdays!

### 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.



Our next visit to the **Friendly Kitchen** is Friday, 24 March. Friendly Kitchen is one of St. Andrew's longest running outreach projects. The kitchen has one purpose -- to feed the hungry. Everyone is welcome, no questions or qualifications.

Let Janet Heyl know if you would like to help.



## ***Parish Updates***

### **Funeral**

*21 January*

***Bill Berger***

*19 February*

***George Green***



*The Outreach Commission* meets in person on the first Thursday of even-numbered months 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, Janet Heyl, Christine Kellett, Russ Potter, Tom Rubin, Becky Rylander and Karen Zurheide. Their contact information is in the 2022 St. Andrew's Parish Directory.

Western Convocation is one of six regional associations within the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire and includes churches from Charlestown, Claremont, Hanover, Keene, New London, Newport and Walpole.

Susan Langle, "Priest in Partnership" at Epiphany in Newport, spoke about the recent changes at Epiphany at the January meeting of the convocation on Zoom. Once a church and then a mission (in partnership with St. Andrew's), Epiphany is now a Gospel Centered Community. The congregation, which may range from 12 to 20, meets as before at 5 PM on Saturdays, with our own Lucretia Jevne often present serving communion. While some projects that had been begun by Aaron Jenkyn are not currently active, the Sunshine Diner continues, although with more take-out and less interaction. Given the building's location, though, regular story walks continue as a means of engaging the community. Although not offering a weekly music program for youngsters (where several St. Andrew's members volunteered in the past), Susan said that she hopes to hold a summer music camp with a drum circle for children. Elsa Worth, rector at St. James, Keene, noted that Epiphany, Newport is showing movement in spirit and can teach larger churches how to do things to motivate growth.

The meeting also discussed "land declaration," something each parish is being encouraged to design that is specific to their own location, to acknowledge the history of the land the church sits on. Developing and then regularly using a local land declaration is a way to go beyond learning to making reparations, Elsa noted.

Convocation meets next (on Zoom) in March with St. Andrew's as host, offering opening and closing prayer and taking notes. Delegates JoAnn Hicks, Barbara Smith, Marni Eaton and Alice Perry and alternate Susan Schweizer are all invited to attend.



*What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance and Hope in an American City* by Mona Hanna-Attisha is the next issue book to be considered by *Faith and Issues*. Discussion begins on 4 March. The schedule of readings can be found on St. Andrew's website under the Learn tab.

We meet each Saturday morning from 9-10:30 via Zoom and allow approximately a month to discuss each book. Feel free to join us for one book or all of them!

Questions? Please contact Katrina Wagner via the church office. -- Katrina Wagner

Our Messy Church event that took place on 5 February, and pictured here, had the theme "Jesus Our Light" in keeping with the celebration of Candlemas (Presentation of Jesus in the Temple) the Sunday before. Messy Church on 5 March from 4 to 6 PM has the theme "Making good choices in hard times," and is based on Jesus being tested in the desert.



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New London, NH****P.O. Box 294****52 Gould Road,****New London, NH 03257****The Vestry****Wardens****Karen Zurheide** (expires Jan. 2024)**Claire Pace** (expires Jan. 2025)**Treasurer****Mike Quinn** (expires Jan. 2026)**Vestry Members***Term Expires Jan. 2024***Morris Edwards****Alice Perry, Clerk****Linda Potter***Term Expires Jan. 2026***Fifi Mitchell****Nonie Reynders****Nancy Rollins***Term Expires Jan. 2025***Billy Kelly****Russ Potter****Russ Register****Parish Office****Office 603-526-6344****Fax 603-526-8623****Email [office@standrewsnl.org](mailto:office@standrewsnl.org)****Rector****The Rev. Jay MacLeod****Director Of Music****William Ögmundson****Dir. of Music for Children and Youth****Nicole Densmore****Verger****Anne Hall****Parish Administrator****Shelly Boucher****Resident Clergy****The Rev. Lucretia Jevne****The Rev. Canon Jim Ransom****The Rev. Alice Roberts****The Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak****The Rev. Leslie Smith****The Rev. Charlie Tirrell****The Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner****Western Convocation Delegates***Term Expires Jan. 2024***JoAnn Hicks****Barbara Smith****Susan Schweizer, alter-**  
*nate**Term Expires Jan. 2025***Marni Eaton****Alice Perry****Committee Chairpersons****Eucharistic Ministers****Anne Hall****Altar Guild****Judy Ackroyd****JoAnn Hicks****Finance & Investments****Mike Quinn****Buildings & Grounds****Harvey Best****Newsletter****Alice Perry – Editor****Craft Group****Rosie Best****Barbara Smith****Outreach****Becky Rylander****Stewardship****TBA**