



The Network

The newsletter for Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
306 N. Division, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • standrewsaa.org

April / May 2020
Volume 46, Issue 2

2019 Easter Procession - Photos courtesy of Mike Mouradian

Dear Friends:

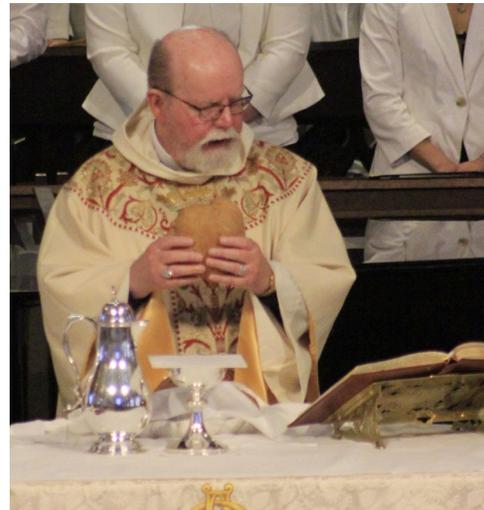
The COVID-19 pandemic and the drastic changes in how we live our daily lives is unlike anything any of us have ever experienced. However I can't help but be drawn back to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I was living and working in a church in New Jersey at that time. My community was a commuter town to New York City. From the hill at the end of my street we had a spectacular view of New York Harbor and Lower Manhattan. Those of us who gathered there that morning saw the Twin Tower collapse and our world change before our eyes.

Some of what is happening now mirrors what happened in the days that followed those attacks. The birdsong was more pronounced and easier to hear, as birds were about the only thing in the skies. People stayed home as many offices and schools closed, for a time. People talked to each other – their neighbors and family far away – face to face or over the phone. (We did not have the e-communication capabilities we have now, but that didn't stop us from reaching out.) People were also fearful – of things possibly getting worse, of losing their jobs and the ripple effect that would have, of not knowing who might have been touched by this tragedy – of anything unknown.



People also turned to their faith. In the days that followed 9/11 we had “Easter-level” crowds in church as people came to mourn, seek solace, and look for ways to cope with what was happening to them. While we can't gather in that fashion, and may not be able to for some time, we can turn to the faith that we share in common – that love can overcome fear, that the truth will make us free, that Christ offers us life that overcomes death, that we will never be alone. That, in a nutshell, is what we preach. They are high maxims to live by; we do the best we can, but not alone, we have each other. Never forget that.

In talking with my New Jersey parishioners back then, what I most distinctively remember is how the attacks served as a wake-up call, how once a “new normal” was established life would have to be different, priorities would have to change. I wish I could say that happened on the level people said they wanted it to. Very quickly the rush to re-establish the “old normal” took hold, where pursuit of the bottom line became all in all. People talked less “to” each other and more “at” each other. The pace of life quickened and seemed even faster than it was before 9/11. The spirit of community that initially brought people together seemed to diminish. No one seemed to notice that the birdsong had been drowned out again. (And I don't think it was just a metro New York phenomenon.) The time frame back then was condensed. The shut-down of New York City only lasted a few days. Airlines were up and running in three. We are facing weeks, perhaps months of severely limited public activity, if not a total shut-down. Again, the unknown. But I hope that once this crisis passes, we will have taken the time and done the interior work to truly examine what is important, what defines our humanity and what we really believe – and hold on to it. This is an incredible opportunity; let us use it wisely.



I leave you with a prayer of Theresa of Avila that has always been very dear to me, now more than ever.

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

God bless, Fr. Alan

St. Andrew's eSERVICE BULLETINS

It's hard not to be "in church" right now, but that doesn't mean you can't still gather in prayer, share the Word, and reflect!

We invite you to use our modified eService Bulletins, available twice weekly via email and online at standrewsaa.org, to worship at home while services are not being held. To be added to the church's email list, please contact Kathy McPherson at kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org.

About eEvensong

Delivered each Wednesday afternoon, this eService Bulletin consists of prayers, hymns, scripture readings, canticles, and information about saints on designated feast days. As Evensong is a participatory service, our eEvensong Bulletin contain YouTube links to musical settings that can be used to enhance your experience.

About the Sunday eService

Delivered on Friday afternoons, this eService Bulletin includes a weekly message from Fr. Alan, the RCL scripture readings, musical selections, prayers and a sermon. Our Sunday eService Bulletin may contain YouTube links to musical settings that can be used to enhance your experience.

Holy Week eServices

While we must remain apart during our observance of Holy Week, we look forward to providing you with a series of special eServices for the following Holy Days:

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 10: Good Friday

Sunday, April 12: Easter Day

HELPFUL RESOURCES ON...

Memory Loss

From the affected person's point of view:

On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's
by Greg O'Brien (2nd Edition)

Still Alice
by Lisa Genova

For caretakers:

The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for People Who Have Alzheimer Disease, Other Dementias, and Memory Loss

by Nancy L. Mace and Peter V. Rabins (6th edition)

The Leisure Seeker
by Michael Zadoorian (fiction)

Curated by the Episcopal Health Ministry @ St. Andrew's

Director's Chair

Peter Pan Postponed

With great regret, we were required to cancel the production of *Peter Pan* in the spring. The circumstances of the response to COVID-19 created an impossible situation with regard to the rehearsal and staging. My hope is that we will be able to stage *Peter Pan* in May 2021, but this is contingent on the publisher's approval. At the time of this writing, it is not possible to predict how that will play out.

On a brighter note, I plan to do a Saint Andrew's Players dramatic play in the fall, and revive *Our Scottish ConneXion*, rubber raft and all, for actors of all ages in November. (So that you don't jump to the thought of an egregious typo, the capitalized "X" represents the cross of St. Andrew, significant in the history of the Episcopal Church in America!)

Faithfully, Norm Richert
Co-Director of Theatre Ministries



Online Giving Tutorial

Have you ever used our online giving portal, WeShare?

It's a safe, easy, and secure way to make recurring or one-time donations to St. Andrew's. Here's how to get started:



Go to St. Andrew's website:
<https://www.standrewsaa.org>
and **click on the Online Donation tab** in the menu

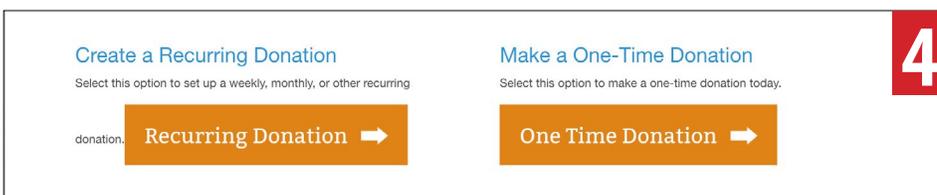


Once at our Online Donation page, **click the gray 'Give Online with WeShare' button**

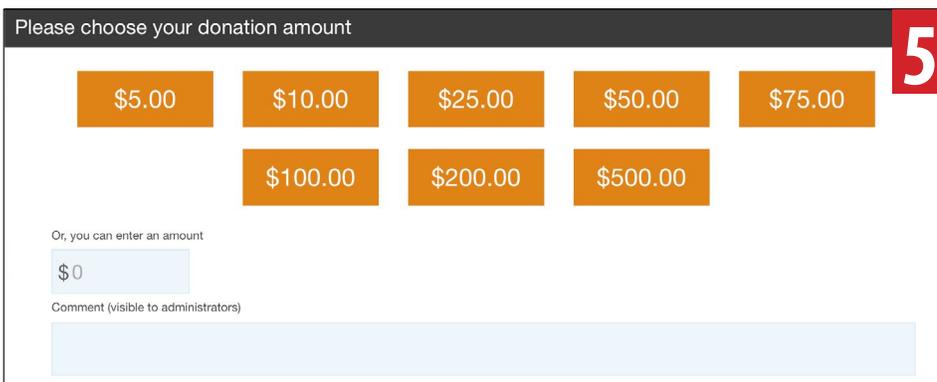


On St. Andrew's WeShare page, **select the Giving Opportunity you would like to participate in:**

- Pledge Payments
- Memorials, Honorariums
- Organ Campaign
- Breakfast Program
- Holy Days/Holiday
- Operating + Gifts



Choose to either:
'Create a Recurring Donation' or
'Make a One-Time Donation'



Choose your donation amount, and payment type, then **enter your payment details and contact information** to complete your donation.

*Please note that if you pay by credit or debit card, your transaction will appear on your bank statement as 'LP *StAndrew's48104'.*

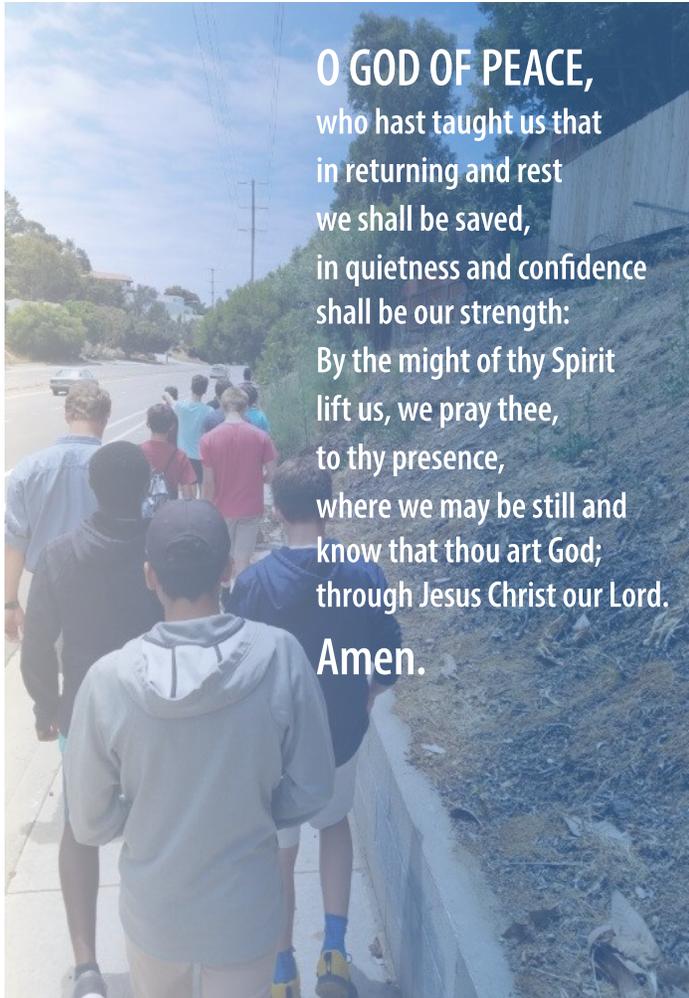
If you have any questions please contact Kim or Kathy, we are happy to walk you through this process!

Kim Tucker-Gray (ktuckergray@standrewsaa.org) Kathy McPherson (kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org)



Church School Happenings

Our prayers and blessings for our Church School family and friends:



O GOD OF PEACE,
who hast taught us that
in returning and rest
we shall be saved,
in quietness and confidence
shall be our strength:
By the might of thy Spirit
lift us, we pray thee,
to thy presence,
where we may be still and
know that thou art God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer for Quiet Confidence, Book of Common Prayer page 832
Photo courtesy of members of the 2018 J2A Pilgrimage

Dear families,

Many of our planned lessons and faith formation activities structured for the classroom and Sunday worship services have changed to adapt to remote learning.

We are still navigating this change and are assessing different materials and remote resources to provide a meaningful faith learning experience for our Church School families and learners of all ages. We'll continue to provide at-home curriculum materials via email, online, and virtual resources. As options for families to complement their at-home faith practices, we've offered a combination of 'worship and wonder' for our youngest learners, lectionary-based lessons for our intermediate learners, and a Gospel reflection discussion platform for our youth. Your feedback is greatly appreciated - please feel free to share your ideas and thoughts.

In the Virtual Classroom

Preschool through Intermediate Learners

Lessons for early, primary, and intermediate learners reflect on the season of Lent, the Easter Story and rejoice in the life and resurrection of Jesus. When we return to in-person Church School classes (hopefully in mid-May!), we invite all our Church School families to visit the classrooms.

A special invitation is extended to families currently attending the 9:15 am Family Service. Come experience our Worship and Wonder format that is designed with our youngest learners in mind. Liz Halgren, lead teacher for Early Learners explains, "Our PS/K/1 classroom meets each week to grow in faith and worship together. Each week we gather, listen and respond to the Word of God, share a feast (snack), and then go out into the world. The main focus of our lessons is the story that we tell on the floor as the children sit in a circle together. The class builds on what children experience in the Family Service and provides a foundation for a life of faith."

Caring & Sharing

Please continue to save your coins for our foster brother Kalid Nazif Abajehad of Ethiopia as we will have a special offering when we return to worship services. There are many opportunities for children to earn coins while you "Stay Home, Stay Safe:" chores around the house, spring yard cleanup, or play games where the winner donates to the mite box.

The season of Lent is also a time for good deeds. With maintaining safe physical distance in mind, consider helping elderly neighbors with outdoor chores, making a card for homebound parishioners (email Carol at caferguson@standrewsaa.org for more information), making a card for Kalid's upcoming 14th birthday, or planting flower seeds and to give to a friend.

An Overdue Baby Shower!

At the start of Lent, the Church School began a collection of baby items for Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. It is still our plan to have a Church School Baby Shower to ready the donations for delivery, enjoy snacks, and play Biblical baby games, however we have not scheduled the event yet.

If you are able, your continued support for this collection is appreciated! We will continue to collect items through the end of the Church School year. Donations of diapers and pull ups (all sizes), baby food, formula, wipes and laundry detergent are needed to stock the clinic's pantry for families. Once church is underway again, please bring your unwrapped donations to the bins outside of the church office and library by Sunday, June 14.

Celebrate Pentecost!

Sunday, May 31

The “sound of the rushing, mighty wind,” pinwheels, balloons, and lots of cake will abound as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church. Please join us for this festive event is fun for all ages!



Marketplace 49 A.D.: Travels with Paul

June 16, 17 & 18 from 9:30 am - 12:15 pm

REGISTRATION DUE: June 1

This year's Vacation Bible School theme of “Travels with Paul” guides children as they travel back in time to 49 A.D. in the days of the early Christian Church. They journey as people of the great cities, Antioch, Corinth, Philippi, Tarsus, and others learning about St. Paul's conversion and travels as a missionary in the Roman world.

Enjoy crafts in the Agora Marketplace, Olympic games, synagogue school, storyteller, engaging drama vignettes, song, dance, and Bible-time foods are all the ways children enjoy an engaging and fun Bible time experience.

Bring a friend to this free event. They will have an amazing time! We partner with our friends from St. Clare's Episcopal Church, First Baptist, Blue Ocean Faith and our wonderful hosts for over 30 years, First Presbyterian Church.

Open to children young fives through 5th grade complete. Brochure and registration materials will be emailed early April. Register online at <http://tiny.cc/mplace17>. (VBS dates are subject to change and/or cancellation)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Marketplace depends on volunteers to bring this memorable event to life. Opportunities are available for middle/high school youth and adults as shopkeepers and crafters, family group leader, games, food preparation, childcare, setup/tear down, drama and more! Childcare provided for volunteers. Contact Carol to sign up.



Tales from the Journey

Our Middle School youth group is such a delightful and energetic youth group. They had planned to tackle two large projects during Lent: the creation of an Easter Story Alleluia video and an art project exploring the essential elements of earth, air, water, and fire. We look forward to regrouping and finding new ways to pursue these endeavors as well as their canceled bowling outing.

The High School youth group has spent much of this year exploring the Gospel and applying the message to current events in the world. Fr. Alan has met with these young adults over the past two years discussing the essential pilgrimage element of spirituality from his own personal experience. The group is eager to finalize their Pilgrimage itinerary and we all hope and pray the work of the past four years comes to fruition as planned in June.

High School Senior Recognitions

As of late March, state and local school administrators are assessing plans for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Regardless of the outcome, it is with great respect and admiration we honor our high school seniors as they have forged ahead throughout this challenging time.

Our recognition is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 31 at the 10:00 am Holy Eucharist. We pray for both our high school seniors and college students for continued strength, courage and wisdom as they continue their studies and await graduation: *Ira Bennett, Laura Edwards, Andrew Hastings, Sophia Jackson, Natasha Loomis, Nico McCurrach, Stephanie McCurrach, Elizabeth Merz, James Murphy, Claire Robinson, Carolyn Sackett, Charlie Slone, Sam Slone*. If you have a son or daughter who is part of the high school class of 2020 and is not listed above, please let me know.

... ♥ ...

We are blessed to have a wonderful team of teachers and we are all especially looking forward to seeing your beautiful faces, being together again and sharing in this glorious journey of faith as God's children.

Eastertide Blessings - in faith, hope and love,
Carol Andrews-Ferguson,
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

At A Glance: Breakfast Volunteer Dates

High School: June 14
Grades 8/9/10

The Youth Groups are still encouraged to volunteer on the scheduled youth dates.

Capstone: May 17
Grades 11/12 July 19

Currently, only substitute volunteers are needed due to the new carry-out model. **To be a substitute**, email Susette at standrewsbreakfast@gmail.com.

Event Calendar: *May*

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

While the Bishop has directed that worship can resume on May 10, a lot can happen between now and then. Below is a tentative listing of events at St. Andrew's and is subject to change and/or cancellation.

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)
9:15 am Family Service (Cpl)
9:45 am Church School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)

Wednesday, May 13

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (Cpl)
6:00 pm Evensong (C)

Thursday, May 14

10:00 am Bible Study (L)
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist/
Healing (C)

Friday, May 15

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist (C)

Sunday, May 17

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)
9:15 am Family Service (Cpl)
9:45 am Church School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)

Tuesday, May 19

6:00 pm Finance (L)

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (Cpl)
6:00 pm Evensong (C)

Thursday, May 21

10:00 am Bible Study (L)
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist/
Healing (C)

Friday, May 22

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist (C)

Sunday, May 24

No Church School

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)
9:15 am Family Service (Cpl)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

6:30 pm Vestry (L)

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (Cpl)
6:00 pm Evensong (C)

Thursday, May 28

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist/
Healing (C)

Friday, May 29

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist (C)

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)
9:15 am Family Service (Cpl)
9:45 am Church School
10:00 am Holy Eucharist +
HS Graduate
Recognition (C)

Please stay home and stay healthy!

COVID-19 Updates

From Bishop Perry: Due to concern about the COVID-19 virus, the Bishop has directed that **ALL WORSHIP be CANCELED until May 10.**

This includes all weekday and Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and memorial services. *You can read Bishop Perry's latest directive [HERE](#)*

From Fr. Alan: All events and activities at St. Andrew's have been **CANCELED until May 10.**

If you are one of the many people whose income has been affected by closures and layoffs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and need to adjust your pledge, please contact the finance office (ktuckergray@standrewsaa.org or ext. 207) and your records will be adjusted.

You can always pay your pledge online at standrewsaa.org/donate.html (see the tutorial on page 3 for more information).

At the Breakfast: The Breakfast continues to operate but is now carry-out only. We are still serving hot oatmeal, hard boiled eggs, cereal bars, fruit, juice, and coffee; however, these items are packaged for each guest and is handed out at the door. Food will continue to be available from 7:30 – 8:30 am daily.

The Church Office is closed until May 11: Our staff is working remotely to ensure that St. Andrew's is able to maintain it's ministry to the parish as best we are able. Any news or updates will be communicated via email and at standrewsaa.org.

Please note that our mail carrier has a key to the building and will continue to deliver our mail to a secure site.

If you have questions or need assistance, we urge you to connect with our staff via email or by leaving them a voicemail at (734) 663-0518.

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STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!

To be added to the church's email list, please contact Kathy McPherson at kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org.

Please know that your privacy is important to us. We do not add anyone to our email list until they have specifically requested it.

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