



The Network

The newsletter for Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

306 N. Division, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • standrewsaa.org

February / March 2021

Volume 47, Issue 1

Above: The East Window · K. Riedel

Dear friends:

To quote a meme a parishioner recently shared with me:

I'd like to cancel my subscription to 2021. I've experienced the free two-week trial and I'm not interested.

Oh, if it were only that easy. A month ago, we were all glad to say 'good-bye' to 2020. It was a rough year, to put it mildly, and as we approached the new year, we grabbed onto all the hopes we could muster for better times. But 2021 got off to a rougher start than 2020 ended and jumping ahead to 2022 just isn't an option. This is where we are, and while our situation is far from perfect this is our time. If we don't face it, the "better times" we seek will become even more elusive.

So how are we to approach the realities that are before us? The first step could be to acknowledge what is real and what is not, what is possible and what is not. Most of us are not living as we would prefer, and it is OK to mourn that reality. For one, reopening the church for public worship is still not feasible and is not likely to be for a while. We continue to worship on-line and in print. If you miss a service on the day, you can still join in it anytime on the St. Andrew's YouTube channel which can be reached through the church website. That will continue, even after we fully re-open. (If you haven't seen it, be sure to watch the special Candlemas Service that was posted on January 31). Preparations for virtual Holy Week and Easter services are underway, with much that will be familiar. Likewise, weekly Church School gatherings and Faith at Home educational materials continue to be available.

Once the pandemic is behind us, many of the in-person things we have missed will return. That will certainly be a sign of better times. But life is unlikely to just go back to the way things were. I, for one, sincerely hope it does not. The pandemic has uncovered many deficiencies and injustices throughout our society and the world. Failing to attempt to address those would be tragic for us all, but especially for those who have been hurt the most.

It can be overwhelming, and it will be if we simply rely on our own abilities and vision. To do that is a sure recipe for disappointment and frustration. We need something more. With a vaccine becoming available, now is the time to prepare for how we will emerge individually and as a community from this pandemic. It's time to renew our subscription to 2021.

I leave you with a prayer from an early 20th century Sufi musician and teacher that may help guide us in these next steps for what we hope to be better times in a better world for everyone.

I asked for strength, and God gave me difficulties to make me strong. I asked for wisdom, and God gave me problems to learn to solve. I asked for prosperity, and God gave me a brain and brawn to work. I asked for courage, and God gave me dangers to overcome. I asked for love, and God gave me people to help. I asked for favors, and God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.

I received everything I needed.

- Inayat Khan, 1882-1927

God bless, Fr. Alan



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

February 17

Available starting at 9:00 am on YouTube



Parish Briefs

Thursday Bible Study

Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:00 am on Zoom. Drop-ins welcome. If you would like to join the Bible Study, please send an email to Fr. Alan (agibson@standrewsaa.org) or call him at 734-663-0518, ext. 201 for the meeting link or phone number.

“Forward Day by Day”

The February - April “Forward Day by Day” booklets are available. If you would like one mailed to you, please send a message to agibson@standrewsaa.org or leave a message for Fr. Alan at 734-663-0518, ext. 201. Copies have already been mailed to those who requested a booklet in the past. Let Fr. Alan know if you have not received it.

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14

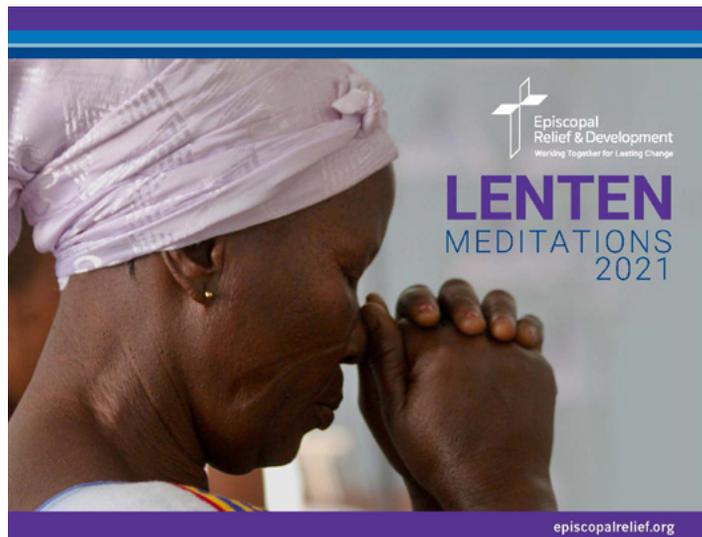
Don't forget to set your clocks forward!

A Virtual Visit with the Bishop

Sunday, March 21

10:00 am Morning Prayer 10:45 am Coffee Hour

Bishop Perry will join Fr. Alan to celebrate Morning Prayer on Sunday, March 21 and then join the parish for Coffee Hour on Zoom at 10:45 am. The service link and Zoom meeting info will be sent to the parish on Saturday, March 20. Please save the date and be sure to join us at Coffee Hour.



Lenten Meditations

This Lent, join Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) for daily Lenten Meditations on the theme of ‘Lament’.

A [free PDF](#) of the meditation booklet for 2021 is available from ERD.

To learn more or subscribe to their daily meditation, please visit episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent.

Coming Soon!

The Social Justice Ministry is planning several events, activities, and initiatives for the spring. Check the weekly bulletin for up-to-date details!

Join Us Online

MORNING PRAYER

Sundays · 10 AM · YouTube





Church School Happenings

“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that we could have hope.

That hope comes from the patience and encouragement that the Scriptures give us.”

Romans 15:4 (International Children’ Bible ICB)

Our traditions provide a certain comfort in most times, but especially in this past unique year. We gladly welcomed the season with hopeful resolve to keep true the spirit of the season. As we enter the new year and anticipate many more months of not seeing each other in person, it is befitting that we look to the children’s version of this scripture. Children are consummate people of faith and hope. We witness this each week in their faces, their responses and willingness to adapt. Even though neighbors and our friends at church seemed so far away, we managed to be together in such special ways:

- The Christmas Pageant warmed our hearts with so much love, joy and memories of the tradition and an abundance of enthusiasm from the cast in this uplifting virtual presentation. Bravo!
- The Christmas Story “On the Way to Bethlehem” in three parts was a virtual Chapel presentation by Fr. Alan and Rev. Sally. They invited children and families to journey with the prophet Isaiah, Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and Magi to witness the birth of Jesus, the Messiah whose divine manifestation came for all people.
- Families and children participated in a Church School service project. They made mitten ornaments with cheerful messages that were included in special packages prepared by the Altar Guild for our homebound parishioners. A big thank you to our families for returning the mitten ornaments and for all your support especially during this busy time of year.
- Children and youth received Christmas activity packets that included hot chocolate, a craft, and the mitten service project. The virtual Church School classes celebrated Christmas with a fun lesson, online games and funny videos before winter break began. Thank you to Sarah and Lucy for helping to assemble the packages for mailing.
- We are hoping there will be an opportunity to host an outdoor activity. It may be quite spontaneous if we have a nice snowfall or perhaps the youth groups might try a parking lot gathering before Lent begins.

In the Virtual Classroom ...

We continue to refine our virtual classroom format for remote Church School with Sunday morning lessons for children and Wednesday evening youth group meetings. We have worked

to use of a variety of resources for the virtual online classes in our pursuit of a relaxed atmosphere, while promoting a more gratifying learning opportunity. Mid-winter/early spring lessons for early, primary, and intermediate learners signify the last Sundays in Epiphany, reflection of the season of Lent and an occasion to spiritually travel together throughout the events of Holy Week. In late spring we’ll explore the mystery of Easter.

During mid-winter and early spring children explore the New Testament with Jesus’ parables, miracles, Baptism and Lent. Our youngest children in preschool learn many wonderful stories of the mustard seed, the great pearl and the good Samaritan. Primary learners through 2nd grade explore Jesus as the healer, a living being who we can turn to in prayer, knowing he is always with us. Stories of Jesus making Lazarus alive again, the gift of the poor widow and the most “important commandment” are shared in the Worship and Wonder format. Intermediate learners explore the message of the Gospel in the weekly lectionary, helping older children to see, listen and experience Jesus as their friend.

The middle school and high school youth groups cover both thematic and scripture lessons that build upon creating a personal relationship with God. Emphasizing Christ as a living presence in their lives helps to instill a growing faith. The “middles” discussed the ways Angel’s are messengers of God, learned about the ancient chalking of the door for Epiphany and Jesus’ Baptism. They’ll continue to consider how they choose to respond and embrace the message of the Gospel in their daily lives. The high school class began a reflection on



Be Our Valentine!

You’re invited for a special
Valentine’s Day Chapel Service

Join Fr. Alan and Rev. Sally as they share the message of Jesus’ love for all humankind.

Sunday, February 14
♥ 9:15 am on YouTube ♥

Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church ♥ standrewsaa.org

the Lord's Prayer. The young adults will spend time in quiet reflection, meditation and group discussion in an evolving foundation of faith, seeking to create a more personal as well as a communal understanding of the words shared in the liturgy.

Outreach

**"For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."**

Matthew 6:21 NRSV

During Lent we ask children to save their coins to make an Easter offering for our foster brother Kalid Nazif Abajehad in Ethiopia. Here are a few ideas for activities to earn extra money or do "good deeds." Help elderly neighbors with outdoor chores or springtime yard cleanup (safely distanced), make a card for homebound parishioners (Carol can provide a name and address), make a card for Kalid for his 15th birthday in May, plant seeds in a pot and when it begins to grow or blossoms, give to a friend.

As it will be some time before we can gather in-person again, virtual Church School will likely continue through the end of the school year. We recognize our children and youth spend much of their time in structured online learning already. We remain committed to fulfill this ministry through virtual learning that is engaging, interesting and comprehensive. Please join us in this endeavor with your input, feedback and participation.

In faith, hope and love,
CAROL ANDREWS-FERGUSON



Director's Chair

Christmas Pageant Success!

Theater at St. Andrew's goes on in these crazy times! I hope you were all able to "attend" the Christmas Pageant, *Outside the Inn*, released on Christmas Eve. If not, you still can: <https://youtu.be/GYJEnUgsax4>. There were 390 views, as of writing, but that number may not include you. All the actors worked very hard to make the Pageant a success. It is a funny, heartwarming play that adds some humor to the events in Bethlehem, while staying focused on the significance and grandeur of the core story. Even with almost everyone having too much Zoom in their life, the actors spent another hour each week rehearsing. They were very patient. There were technical issues to deal with. Everyone had their own computing device, with all of its quirks, and several households used 2 or 3 devices. But we forged ahead. Thank you for watching and thank you for all your kind comments.

Upcoming Projects

The next project is *Spoon River Anthology*. This was last done at St. Andrew's for Lent in 2009 as reader's theater, meaning each actor used a notebook to hold the script. The staging was minimalist, which is a plus in virtual theater. The actors did dramatic readings of poems from the collection of the same title by Edgar Lee Masters, published in 1915. The town of Spoon River is fictional, but the people described in the poems have strong resemblances to real people in Master's home town, Lewistown, Illinois. The characters speak from beyond the grave, talking of all the highs and lows and strangeness of life. It will be released during Lent and will be a fundraiser for the new organ. It is very appropriate to Lent, and Lent in time of COVID in particular, as we all have had more opportunity than usual to contemplate the fragility of our lives and customs and social structures.

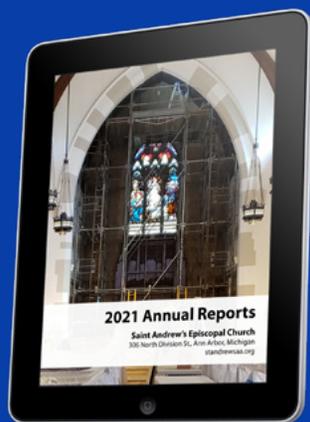
Last year in March, May 2021 seemed far in the future when our May, 2020 performance of *Peter Pan* was rescheduled, due to the nationwide implications of COVID-19. As we near a year of living with the pandemic, a normal, live performance in May seems unlikely. My hope is to create a virtual performance, building on our experience with *Our Scottish ConneXion* and *Outside the Inn*. Musicals raise the bar in technology, as the Zoom model for creating theater does not allow simultaneous audio. In particular, actors can neither speak nor sing together. But there are paths around this. The virtual choir that Deborah Friauff creates illustrates one path, and the singing of "We Three Kings" by the Magi in the Christmas Pageant illustrates another path. If the pandemic has taught us nothing else, it is that the show must go on!

NORM RICHERT,
Co-Director of Theatre Ministries

2021

St. Andrew's Annual Reports

► [READ IT NOW!](#)





Virtual Service Schedule

Holy Week & Easter

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday Liturgy

Wednesday, March 31

Service of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Friday, April 2

Good Friday Liturgy

Sunday, April 4

Easter Day Liturgy

**All services will be
available starting
at 9:00 am on YouTube**