

The Network

The newsletter for Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

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Above: Detail of the dove of the Holy Spirit in the Johann Sebastian Bach stained glass window at St. Andrew's · K. Riedel

Dear friends:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." -- Hebrews 12:1-2

Recently, as I opened the parish register to record the death of a dear parishioner, this passage from the Letter to the Hebrews kept running through my mind. These verses come at the end of a long recitation of examples of faith in the history of the Jewish people running from Abel through David. With each, the trials they endured, the accomplishments they achieved and the legacies they left behind are extolled. While the author of Hebrews does not attribute perfection to any of these individuals, many named and even more unnamed, they are held up as examples for the new Christian community. The writer encourages his audience to look to these examples in their struggle during difficult times to reorient and pattern their lives based on their faith in Christ.

As I went through the pages of the parish register I was struck with a deep sense of how we, in our time, are equally "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses," dear people whose lives have touched ours and whose absence might be more profoundly and

personally felt right now in this time when human interaction has been so severely disrupted. I looked through these names and could in my mind picture faces and hear the sounds of familiar voices, and I wondered how they would have reacted to what we are going through now. As a group they would have probably acted like any other group, with expressions of fear, concern, frustration, resourcefulness, and boredom, just like we are reacting. I also believe that each of them, in their own individual way, would have drawn on a store of perseverance that would have seen them through these difficult times, not because of some heroic aspect of their nature, but because they were connected to family, community and faith as defining aspects of their lives. That is a legacy that is freely available to us.

"Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed." -- Hebrews 12:12-13

As we look into the summer and beyond, and the challenges ahead, it is important to remember that none of us has to face this alone. While we may each have our own times of individual struggle, even despair, we also have a store of generations of perseverance on which to draw. That is the Holy Gift we have received from a great cloud of witnesses whose love, and faith, and example can sustain us through anything, just as they were sustained in their time.

God bless,
Fr. Alan

Directory Updates Needed

In the last year, did you or members of your household...

- ▶ **Move to a new house, apartment, or condo?**
Let us know your new mailing address!
- ▶ **Disconnect your landline?**
Please be sure to give the office your cell phone number so that we can reach you.
- ▶ **Switch to a new cell phone number?**
Don't forget to tell us whose cell phone it is.
- ▶ **Have a child?**
Congratulations on your new addition!
We'd love to know their name and birth date.
- ▶ **Change your preferred email address?**
If you'd like to be added to our email list please let Kathy know.

If you need to update any part of your directory listing please send email Kathy at kmcperson@standrewsaa.org.



Plans for Reopening

The three Episcopal Bishops of the State of Michigan have prepared a Pastoral Directive to guide us and our churches in a plan for reopening based on recommendations from public health and government officials. You can read the entire Pastoral Directive at <https://www.edomi.org/maybishopsdirective>. This plan was developed in consultation with church leadership throughout the country, state officials, and with the current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The plan for reopening is set out in three phases:

PHASE ONE: We are currently in the Phase One with the church closed to the public and all our services and other activities being conducted electronically, through the mail and over the phone, with the exception of The Breakfast which continues to operate on a take-out basis. ***We will be in Phase One and continue to operate in this manner until further notice.***

To help maintain community contact the Vestry and Fr. Alan invite you to a Zoom Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Log-in information for this Zoom meeting can be found in the Friday emails with the eService Bulletin or send an email to Fr. Alan: agibson@standrewsaa.org.

PHASE TWO: Phase Two will see some of the office staff returning to work on a staggered schedule. Staff members who can work from home will continue to do so and will be available by email and by leaving phone messages, as they are now. During Phase Two we will begin offering a weekly service live-streamed from the church on Sunday morning. Instructions on how to access these on-line services will be sent out when these services become available. Because of the limitations on the number of people who can gather in one place, we will not be able to open the church to the public for Sunday services or Church School.

The eService Bulletins will continue to be made available each week and a paper copy will be mailed to those without home internet service. Other services, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals can resume, but must be limited to fewer than fifty people in attendance while following social distancing practices. Meetings and classes will continue to be held electronically.

PHASE THREE: In Phase Three the church will reopen for regular services throughout the week and in-person meetings and classes will resume with certain provisions in place to minimize the threat to anyone's health and safety. More specifics will be shared when we are preparing to enter Phase Three.

The bishop's office will direct us on movement through the phases based on factors that include state and local government directives such as stay-at-home orders or gatherings with a restricted number of people, as well as benchmarks set by the CDC. Those include: a reduction in documented Covid-19 cases over a two-week period, adequate available testing, sufficient hospital capacity to treat both Covid and non-Covid symptomatic patients, and the ability for tracing contacts of Covid patients. We have already seen that not all of these factors line-up precisely, so our movement from one phase to the next will be slow and deliberate.

We are committed to doing all that we can to promote the health and safety of our parishioners and the larger community. Your understanding and patience as we work through this difficult time is appreciated.

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 every week 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 kmcperson@standrewsaa.org.

About eEvensong

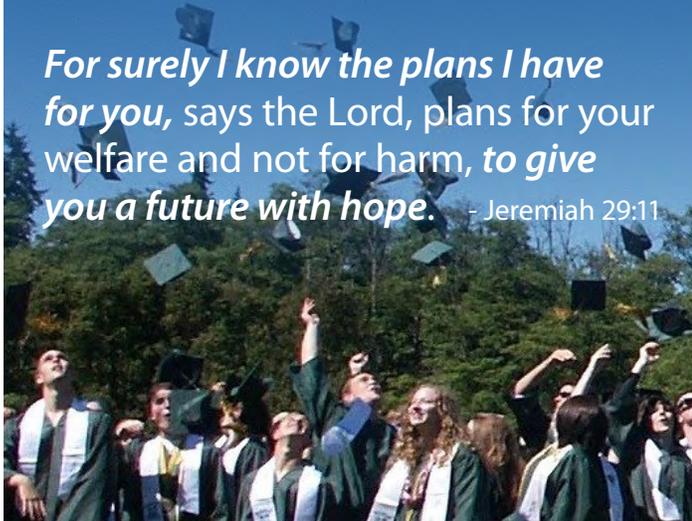
Delivered on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, this eService Bulletin consists of prayers, hymns, scripture readings, canticles, and information about saints on designated feast days.

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.

Congratulations CLASS OF 2020!

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. - Jeremiah 29:11



Starts May 31! **SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM**

Log-in information for this Zoom meeting can be found in the Friday emails with the eService Bulletin or you can send an email to Fr. Alan: agibson@standrewsaa.org

Recognition Sundays

Recognizing our St. Andrew's Community

While we may not be seeing each other face to face every week right now, St. Andrew's still wishes to recognize the hard work, dedication, and achievement of our parish during the past year.

Recognitions will be listed in upcoming eService Bulletins:

MAY 31: 2020 Graduates

JUNE 7: Music at St. Andrew's

JUNE 14: The Church School

JUNE 21: Volunteers

We hope you will join us each week for a special message and recognition.

SAVE THE DATE FOR...

Flu Shots

Sunday, October 18 (Lounge)

The Episcopal Health Ministry @ St. Andrew's will hold their annual Flu Shot event this fall.

Finance

Operating Revenue and Expense

January 1 to April 30, 2020

Income	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Over/Under +/-(-) YTD Actual vs. YTS Budget
Plate Offerings	8,260	20,000	-11,740
Pledge Payments **	312,153	288,332	23,821
Other Income	22,347	14,668	7,679
Designated Funds Transfer	0	0	0
Deficit Reduction Withdrawal	0	0	0
Prior Year Surplus	0	0	0
Total Income	342,760	323,000	19,760
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	233,821	235,359	-1,538
Maintenance & Overhead	39,913	40,719	-806
Office Expense	12,251	12,690	-439
Stewardship & Miscellaneous	79	200	-121
Church Programs	7,123	11,168	-4,045
Diocesan Pledge	32,570	32,572	-2
Total Expenses	325,757	332,708	-6,951
Net	17,003	-9,708	26,711

** Pledge Payments: Includes a 2019 pledge received in 2020

Building Updates

Though we have not been able to gather as a community in St. Andrew's beautiful building since we closed on March 13, much of the work we had scheduled for the spring is now happening.

OBR (Ohio's Best Restoration) continues the massive undertaking of re-tuckpointing [removing deteriorated mortar and filling the joints with new mortar] all the exterior masonry; they have completed much of the work that had to be done on the lower levels of the buildings, and are now, with the help of a lift, continuing work on the upper level of the buildings.

Our sexton, Matt Marsh, continues to mow the grounds each week, mask and gloves and all, while Julie Ritter, who has taken over for Kay Kendall and her trusty assistant and husband, Rudy Haertl, has begun to plant annuals in the Memorial Garden. When conditions allow, we look forward to Angie continuing her work in our children's play yard as she has for innumerable years.

Thompson Art Glass has boarded the two southeast chancel windows, and removed the two northeast chancel windows, to the east of the north door. These latter two windows will be repaired and will replace the two painted glass windows on the northwest side of the nave.

The painted windows will be retrofitted to be reinstalled on the north side of the chancel where the stained-glass windows were removed.

Work will begin in the next few weeks, when we have drier weather, on repairing and replacing exterior wood on the frames of the clerestory windows [the pink and green flower-shaped windows along the roof-line on the north and south sides of the nave].

Breakfast continues to operate on a daily basis as a take-out service. A new keypad lock has been installed on the red entry door to make it easier for our dedicated Breakfast openers to enter the kitchen.

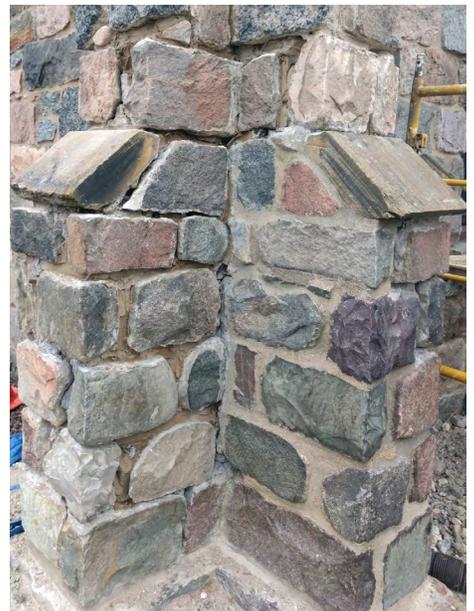
Our annual Spring Clean-Up has happened and the parking lot has been cleaned of all the remaining salt, etc.

The architects continue to prepare bid documents for work in the church to prepare for the installation of the new organ.

At some point, when staff is allowed to return to the building, Matt will replace the tile flooring in the Morning Glories Room.

When we return to the building it will certainly be in good shape!

-- Kathy McPherson





Church School Happenings

Dear families,

What is your silver lining?

Most profoundly for me, it is the little lad who said he was glad for the virus because he was able to spend more time with his mom. I've heard from many families and parishioners during the past couple of months well beyond how their lives have changed, traditions put on hold or even canceled, and creative ways they have stayed connected with friends and families. By far the most endearing news they've shared has been especially enriching to me. It reflects on the simplest of thoughts, desires, experiences and silver linings that I have come to see as great faith during a tumultuous time in humankind's history. Life is a journey and our stories are important. I hope in time we will seek to understand, accept and forgive but mostly embrace this time for the beauty of silver linings.

Summer Faith At Home

Preparation is underway to offer a variety of Faith At Home opportunities and possibilities for children's faith ministry during the summer months. We are exploring resources, sharing means and gathering input from families to help shape faith formation moving forward. Weekly updates and lessons will continue to be provided along with extracurricular and virtual online activities. The Church School Fall restart is contingent on the Diocesan directive which is regularly reassessed. Please stay tuned and check weekly Church School Announcements as we prepare for the next phase.

Diocesan Children's Ministry Survey

You've already received many surveys from your school, but I would greatly appreciate it if you would take two minutes to complete the four question Children's Ministry Survey from the Diocese. It will help us in our endeavor to format and shape future options in children's faith ministry. [SURVEY LINK](#)

Thank You to all of our Church School Teachers, Families and Friends!

Thank you only begins to convey our gratitude and appreciation for the volunteer teachers that so generously share their time and talent nurturing the children and youth of St. Andrew's. You are a blessing! Thank you to all of our families and friends for your presence, participation and fundraising support of Church School activities, outreach initiatives, youth fundraising events and the many seasonal happenings. Most of all, we thank you for your faith in our teachers and for the opportunity to share in this wonderful ministry with your children and teens. We hope the summer months bring a renewed spirit, a time to reflect on silver linings and opens your heart to the joy of God's creation.

**2019
2020**
Church
School
Teachers

Nursery & Childcare: Eleanor Niman & Carolyn Sackett
P / K / 1: Liz Halgren, Steve Guest, Kyle Halgren
Grades 2 / 3: Melissa Atienza, Mandy Davis, Sandra Murchison
Grades 4 / 5: Linda Hastings, Jean McKim, Michelle Evans
Middle School: Sarah Inwood, Mil Taylor, Britt Elder Tennyson
High School: Steve Hastings, Sue McCreadie
Capstone: Monica Dering, Jeanine Diller
Assistants: Roshayne Jaimon, Daphne Matthews, Phoebe Matthews, Georgiana Siehl



The Journey

High School Senior Recognitions

It has been a wonderful journey with God's guidance that has brought you this far and a privilege and honor for all of us to share in this with you. As you graduate, continue to trust in God to help shape and direct your future. Don't be afraid to fail, it's God's way of saying: "Excuse me, you're moving in the wrong direction."

Wherever your path may lead you, know that St. Andrew's is your home and we will always be here for you. We wish you hope and happiness this day and pray that God's goodness will follow you throughout the promising years ahead.

Congratulations to our 2020 Senior High School Graduates: *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.*

Our customary recognition celebration for May 31 has not been abandoned - we've relocated it to the parking lot! Our high school grads and their families plan to gather for Fr. Alan's blessing and a few memorable words from Mentors Jeanine and Monica for our cherished grads. We also have gift bags for each graduate including prayer shawls from our ever gracious and kind prayer shawl makers. Look to our website for a brief summary of post high school plans as shared by our graduates and a video synopsis of this safely distant but close to our hearts ceremony. Also, please see the May 31 eService Bulletin for a special reflection for our dear graduates.

Prayer Shawl Thank you

Thank you to our prayer shawl makers Rachel Baird, Julie Case, Lorraine Field, Linda Hastings, Julie Lewis, Patricia Lyndale, Betty Mogensen, Elaine Mouradian, Lucy Richert, JoAn Wetzal, and Carole Wortley. Our knitters have spent the last year creating the shawls and their ever gracious and generous work are fulfilled in the warmth, care and prayers interwoven into this personal gift. Especially for this year, the shawls are made with a labor of love that extends well beyond the usual prayer of comfort. We hope you treasure the shawl and shawl makers whose hearts reflect great love from the whole of St. Andrew's for our beloved our graduates.

... ♥ ...

Until we meet again ... Blessings and much thanks to the staff, teachers, families, and parishioners for being a vital part of the faith community and creating an environment where children and youth come to know God's love. Thank you for all that you do. We lovingly await seeing your beautiful faces, being together again and sharing in this glorious journey of faith.

In faith, hope, love and huge hug,
Carol Andrews-Ferguson
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Website Maintenance

June 24 - 25 - 26

The church website, standrewsaa.org, will be undergoing a major (mobile friendly!) update June 24 - 26. While we hope that this is a seamless transition, please be aware that the website may be periodically unavailable during this time.

Director's Chair

Re-printed below is a letter from Norm Richert, Co-Director of Theatrical Ministries, to the cast of Peter Pan on what was scheduled to be the show's opening night.

Dear Peter Pan family,

In a parallel universe, tonight [May 16] would be the opening production of Peter Pan. Last night would have been dress rehearsal, which I am sure would have been great. We would have rehearsed, played, sewed, constructed, and arranged--all those evenings and afternoons. No matter how weary we had become of the process, on Saturday everything would change and we would all be excited. We would be assembling soon for warm-up and run-through. An always appreciative audience would before long be arriving in the Parish Hall. To all of you, "break a leg!"

It is oddly appropriate that Peter Pan was to be the play for this strange year. Neverland is a place that is both very far away and very close, like our parallel universe. I hope you can find a way to be a little theatrical today. Spend a little time in Neverland. Recite some lines from an old play, do a little dance, put on a costume and parade around the house, read a favorite book out loud. Find your own vehicle.

If I could I would wrap a little fairy dust in this message to help you fly towards whatever "normal" becomes. Theater will someday resume at St. Andrew's. I can't wait to see you all.

Norm Richert
Saint Andrew's Players

Event Calendar: Summer

St. Andrew's is currently in PHASE ONE, with the church closed to the public and all our services and other activities being conducted electronically.

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am:

Join us for a Zoom Coffee Hour. (See page 2!)

Please stay home, join us online, and stay healthy!

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

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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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