

# The Network

The newsletter for Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

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

October/November 2021

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Above: Church School on the front lawn · Shannon Floyd; Below: Children gather at the altar · Carol Andrews Ferguson

Dear friends:

The following hymn first appeared in “The English Hymnal” in 1906, as a Prayer for the Nation. It entered our hymnal in the 1940 edition and can be found in our current hymnal as #591. Its designation as a Prayer for the Nation continues to apply in 2021.

O God of earth and altar,  
bow down and hear our cry,  
our earthly rulers falter,  
our people drift and die;  
the walls of gold entomb us,  
the swords of scorn divide,  
take not thy thunder from us,  
but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches,  
from lies of tongue and pen,  
from all the easy speeches  
that comfort cruel men,  
from sale and profanation  
of honour and the sword,  
from sleep and from damnation,  
deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether  
the prince and priest and thrall,  
bind all our lives together,  
smite us and save us all;  
in ire and exultation  
afire with faith, and free,  
lift up a living nation,  
a single sword to thee.

-- G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

Sounding like an ancient Hebrew prophet Chesterton warns of dangers that go largely overlooked by a complacent society in a prosperous and deceptively peaceful time. As it was in 1906, we face the same dangers, just in new packaging and modes of delivery: leaders who don't lead; wealth used to isolate; senseless conflicts; falsehoods and easy answers held up as solutions. Chesterton saw these ills, and more, as a type of societal narcotic used to lull us into a self-satisfied 'sleep' that has the potential to destroy us. But despair is not the only option. As with any good prophet, Chesterton's pronouncement of judgment is tempered by hope.

Rarely were the ancient prophets concerned with a single individual. Even when they railed against a wicked ruler that person

was merely a symptom of a larger ill infecting the entire community. Chesterton's words remind us that we all have a part to play in the health of our community and the world around us. We all need God's deliverance and salvation. We all need to respond to the same wake-up call if we ever hope to be free of the sins that will otherwise destroy us.

As hymns go, this one doesn't sugar-coat reality, nor does it collapse under the weight of it. It helps us see the world as it is and reassures us, that with our reliance on God, and each other, our current, unhealthy reality does not have to be our fate.

God bless,  
*Fr. Alan*



## Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, our annual Blessing of the Animals will take place Sunday, October 3 at 4:00 pm on the lawn (weather permitting). All animals (or photos or stuffed toys) are welcome!

## Wednesday Conversations

Join our Seminarian Intern Eric Braun for a two-part discussion on the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament.

Join the conversation on Zoom: Wednesday, October 27 and Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 pm.

Please contact Eric at [ric.conway@gmail.com](mailto:ric.conway@gmail.com) to RSVP or with any questions.

## All Souls' Day Requiem

A requiem will be said in the chapel for All Souls' Day, Tuesday, November 2 at 5:30 pm. As is our tradition, all members of the parish who have died since All Souls' Day 2020 will be remembered at that service. The Covid pandemic made it difficult, if not impossible, to have funeral services for those who died during this time. If you lost a loved one during the pandemic and would like them remembered at the altar on All Souls' Day, please send their name to [kmcperson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:kmcperson@standrewsaa.org) by Thursday, October 28.

## All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, November 7 we will celebrate All Saints' Day. The 10:00 am service will conclude with a procession to the Memorial Garden, where the names of all those interred there will be read.

## Operating Revenue and Expense

January 1 to August 31, 2021

Income	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Over/Under +/-(-) YTD Actual vs. YTS Budget
Plate Offerings	12,958	23,328	-10,370
Pledge Payments	501,390	558,336	-56,946
Other Income	149,628	17,336	132,292
Designated Funds Transfer	0	0	0
Deficit Reduction Withdrawal	0	0	0
Prior Year Surplus	61,085	60,000	1,085
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>725,061</b>	<b>659,000</b>	<b>66,061</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	476,685	489,389	-12,704
Maintenance & Overhead	101,424	96,091	5,333
Office Expense	37,099	25,204	11,895
Stewardship & Miscellaneous	3,637	2,854	783
Church Programs	8,640	19,122	-10,482
Diocesan Pledge	66,100	66,102	-2
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>693,585</b>	<b>698,762</b>	<b>-5,177</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>31,476</b>	<b>-39,762</b>	<b>71,238</b>

## Seeking Home Health Aide

Part-time position available for home care aide for an engaging elderly woman in her 90's residing alone in an independent living apartment in Saline MI. Companionship, food prep, help with self-care, light cleaning. Minimum 8 hours/week; flexible timing; hourly rate based on experience starting at \$13/hour. Age 17 and up. To apply, please send your resume and a note of introduction to: [janellemdiller@gmail.com](mailto:janellemdiller@gmail.com).

## PLEASE JOIN ALTAR GUILD!

*The Altar Guild is currently welcoming new members!*

If you would enjoy working closely with our clergy in preparing the elements and vessels for the Friday and/or Sunday services, please consider joining us. Your time

commitment can be as little as 30 minutes before and after a service. Your help would be needed no more than one or two times per month. If interested please contact Susan Wakefield, Altar Guild Coordinator at [susan.e.wakefield@gmail.com](mailto:susan.e.wakefield@gmail.com).

## Fall Baptism

**Baptism Date** (All Saints')

10:00 am: Sunday, November 7

**Preparation Session**

10:00 am: Saturday, October 30

*Held on Zoom, for parents and godparents*

**Registration Deadline**

Sunday, October 24

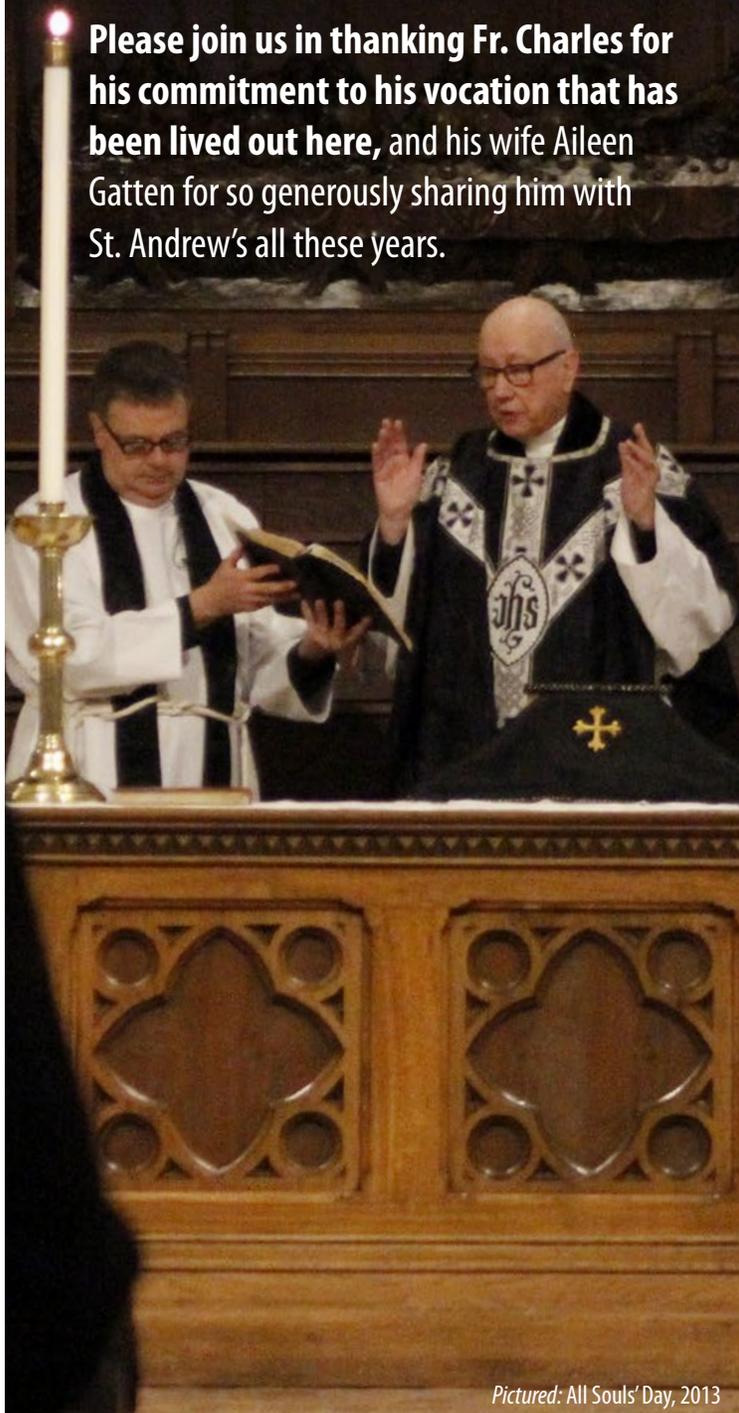
To register contact Kathy McPherson at [kmcperson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:kmcperson@standrewsaa.org).

## A Fond Appreciation of Fr. Charles

After nearly 30 years of service at St. Andrew's Fr. Charles Witke has decided it is time to hang up his cassock and biretta and offer his prayers from a pew rather than at the altar.

While it is not possible to gather for a festive celebration in the best St. Andrew's tradition, **we will honor Fr. Charles' ministry at the 10am service on Sunday, October 17, 2021.**

**Please join us in thanking Fr. Charles for his commitment to his vocation that has been lived out here,** and his wife Aileen Gatten for so generously sharing him with St. Andrew's all these years.



*Pictured: All Souls' Day, 2013*

## 2022 Annual Giving

Dear Friends,

The Annual Giving Campaign continues to roll along, from its start in early September.

Hopefully you have been able to hear the reflections on St. Andrew's and stewardship during the pulpit talks in September and early October. We are hopeful that these moving accounts show how God works in each one of us, and the role St. Andrew's plays. This church community makes a real impact in people's lives, and these reflections are great reminders of that.

Every year, the objective of the Annual Giving Campaign is to appeal to each person's sense of financial stewardship of God's work, in the form of providing the funds necessary to sustain all of St. Andrew's ministries and week-to-week operations – paying the bills and “keeping the lights on”. Quite simply, without this financial stewardship, St. Andrew's wouldn't be able to carry out its mission to the extent that it does today.

But of course for many, financial situations have significantly changed because of the COVID pandemic. Prioritizing your family's financial stability and health is most important. But for those who are still able, we ask that you consider giving as generously as you can to help our church, this community, and the wider world. Please remember and be reassured that pledging is not a financial contract; anyone is free to change or discontinue their pledge at any time if needed.

Any amount of giving, large or small, helps. We are very grateful for your support.

**DAVE MCCREADIE & CHUCK CARLSON**  
*Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs*

### ***Don't forget to send in your Pledge Card!***

#### **On Pledge Sunday:**

Put your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday, October 17, 2021

#### **By Mail:**

Place your pledge card in the included envelope, add a stamp, and mail it

#### **By Email:**

Snap a photo of your pledge card and email it to [pledge@standrewsaa.org](mailto:pledge@standrewsaa.org)

#### **At standrewsaa.org:**

Visit [standrewsaa.org/stewardship.html](https://standrewsaa.org/stewardship.html) to complete a pledge card electronically

The Social Justice Ministry of St. Andrew's works to pursue social justice of all kinds, including inter-racial and inter-cultural understanding, reconciliation, and healing through study, reflection, sharing, prayer, and action. We work with partners in the diocese, in other churches and groups, and in the larger community to strive for change in attitudes, behaviors, and structures that will build a more just society.

We are planning a full slate of activities for the coming year, from small group discussions to parish-wide presentations; musical offerings to projects and field trips. Events will be either virtual or in-person, as pandemic circumstances allow. Details for each event will be posted in the *Network*, the Sunday bulletin, and the SJM page of the parish website: check these resources regularly!

## **A Visit to the George Floyd Memorial**

*A presentation by Fr. Alan*

Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 pm on Zoom

This past summer, Fr. Alan took a road trip that included a visit to the memorial site for George Floyd in Minneapolis; he wrote about that in the September *Network*. Fr. Alan will present slides of his visit and his observations, drawing us into reflections and discussion about the memorial, its meaning, and race in America. The Zoom link will be available by Sunday, October 17.

## **Book discussion:**

*Custer Died for your Sins* by Vine DeLoria, Jr.

Saturday, October 23 & 30 from 10:30 am -12pm on Zoom

Vine DeLoria's *An Indian Manifesto* (as the subtitle calls it) first appeared in 1969 and has remained enormously important and influential ever since. "Indeed," as its publishers say, "it seems that each generation of whites and Indians will have to read and reread Vine DeLoria's *Manifesto* for some time to come, before we absorb his special, ironic Indian point of view and what he tells us, with a great deal of humor, about U.S. race relations, federal bureaucracies, Christian churches, and social scientists. This book continues to be required reading for all Americans, whatever their special interest." The book is available from booksellers, the publisher, and as a PDF download (do an internet search for the title).

Register for the discussion by sending an email to Kathy McPherson ([kmcperson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:kmcperson@standrewsaa.org)) by

Thursday, October 21, and she'll send you the Zoom link. Please plan to have read the first half of the book before the first discussion session.

Interested in helping with planning events and activities? Want to offer your own? Email co-chairs Jackie Doneghy ([jdgail696@aol.com](mailto:jdgail696@aol.com)) or Donna Wessel Walker ([dlww@umich.edu](mailto:dlww@umich.edu)). Have a book, article, or film you want to recommend to other members of the parish? Enter your suggestions [using this form](#). Looking for further resources for your own reading? [See what others have recommended!](#) ✕

# Parish Health

## **Flu Shots Will Be Given Sunday, October 17**

As in previous years, the Huron Visiting Nurses will administer influenza vaccinations on Sunday, October 17, 8:30 to 11:00 am, in the Lounge. Two vaccines will be offered; and, to increase effectiveness, four (4) influenza strains are covered in both. The "regular" vaccine is for anyone age 9 to 64 (9-17 year olds are required to have parent or guardian present). The "high-dose" vaccine also has four (4) influenza strains, all with a higher antigen dose; this will be given to adults age 65 and above. Adults with chronic diseases are especially encouraged to have the flu vaccine.

The HVNS accepts BC/BS, Aetna, Cigna and Medicaid/MI-Child; Medicare, Blue Care Network, Priority Health, and HAP are also accepted with no co-pay required. Self-pay? The cost is \$33 for the regular vaccine and \$37.60 for the "high dose" (cash, check and credit cards accepted).

Also: Episcopal Health Ministries @ St. Andrew's will sponsor a collection of expired and unwanted medications on Sunday, October 17, 8:30-11:00 am, in the Chapel Lobby (same time as the Flu Shot event). We will confidentially accept any prescriptions or OTC items except for the following: Narcotics or DEA Controlled Substances, sunscreens, insect repellants, cosmetics, tobacco, hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, aerosol cans, IV bags, needles or sharps. You should leave medications in their original containers. To protect your privacy, remove or black-out any personal information on the label, but make sure the drug name is still visible. There is no fee for this collection, and you are welcome to participate regardless of whether or not you are getting a flu shot!



At the same time, we will accept unused, unopened, and not-expired glucose sticks for donation to the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti.

If you can't take advantage of the October 17 collection at St. Andrew's, please take your unused medications to one of the participating collection sites listed in the [Washtenaw County Medication Disposal Directory](#).

Proper disposal is an important step in preventing medication mix-ups and accidental poisonings, as well as protecting our environment. Flushing medications into our household water systems has resulted in increasing detection of these contaminants in our waterways and groundwater. To avoid this, Washtenaw County has implemented a "take-back" program (see [dontflushdrugs.com](http://dontflushdrugs.com) for more info) where medications are accepted at various pharmacy collection points, and then transported for appropriate disposal.

## Daylight Savings ENDS 2:00 am Sunday, November 7

*Is your emergency preparedness stockpile up-to-date?*

When it's time to change your clocks because of daylight saving time, remember to check your preparedness kit to make sure your emergency stockpile isn't missing any items and that the food hasn't expired. If you haven't created a stockpile yet, now is the time to create one!

Be sure that you have at least a three-day supply of bottled water, non-perishable foods and essential medications set aside for each member of your family. (And as always, don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke alarms!) ✕



*A new railing was installed on the south side of the Chancel in mid-September.*

## Fall Fund Drive for Food Gatherers

Your generous support for Food Gatherers (\$11,516) through the last two St. Andrew's donation drives have provided nearly 35,000 meals during this pandemic. Thank you so much for your tremendous kindness!

***Due to the COVID-19 protocols, we are again limiting our fall drive to financial donations, rather than actually bringing in food items.***

Food insecurity continues to be a huge problem for many families and individuals throughout our county. For those of you unfamiliar with Food Gatherers, they provide food to those in need through 170 local agencies such as food pantries, meal programs and grocery distribution throughout Washtenaw County, including the Breakfast Program at St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's will be sponsoring our fall donation drive for Food Gatherers in October. If your situation permits, there are three ways that you could make a much needed financial contribution to the St. Andrew's Food Gatherers drive during October. You can [make an online donation](#) or you can make a contribution to Food Gatherers at church on October 31 or you can mail a check to Food Gatherers. If you do send them a check, please put St. Andrew's in the memo section and make the check out to:

**Food Gatherers**

and send it to:

PO Box 131037

Ann Arbor, MI 48113.

**Wonderful Bonus:** A kind and generous couple within our congregation will be matching all donations to Food Gatherers from St. Andrew's, up to a total of \$2,000. ✕



## Hat / Glove / Sock Collection

Our stock of winter supplies for the Breakfast guests has been depleted so the Breakfast is once again collecting **new: adult-sized hats, gloves, and socks** for our guests. Please leave donations in the basket outside the church office by Wednesday, December 15. If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Battle at [breakfast@standrewsaa.org](mailto:breakfast@standrewsaa.org). Thank you for your donations! ✕



# Church School Happenings

During the autumn months and throughout the season of Advent, you may not see the breadth of parish hall gatherings as in the past. We will, however, provide our Church School families and learners with a variety of meaningful liturgical lessons that blend both learning and celebration. Details of these occasions will be shared closer to the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, All Saints, St. Andrew, and St. Nicholas.

## “Día de los Muertos” Day of the Dead

October 31

*Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, is celebrated throughout Mexico and other countries around the world. The holiday typically begins the end of October and continues through November 2 but it is not connected to Halloween. It more closely parallels All Souls’ and All Saints’ remembrances in the Christian faith. “Day of the Dead’ is a rare holiday for celebrating death and life. It is unlike any holiday ... mourning is exchanged for celebration.” This celebration similarly parallels our Easter joy in the risen Christ and the celebration of life beyond death. *Día de los Muertos* honors and remembers ancestors who have passed on and now enjoy new life among the “communion of saints.” For this year:

- Children have a special lesson and craft planned on October 31.
- *Ofrenda* in the Chapel: The *Ofrenda* (Spanish for offering) is a collection of offerings dedicated to the person being honored that has died. A photo of the person, a favorite personal item or food, and sugar skulls with the name of the person is placed on a tiered altar. The entire parish is invited to bring a remembrance to the Chapel *Ofrenda*. (Please label items to be returned)
- We also invite remembrances of pets that have died.
- Children are invited to wear costumes. It will be a festive expression as we help to welcome our new organ at the 10:00 am service.

We hope through our cultural event, this can be an especially meaningful way to help children learn to celebrate a special person’s life. We’ll share a beautiful festive event and symbolic outward expression of how our ancestors are loved and remembered. ...triumphant life over death.

(Reference: [dayofthedead.holiday](#))

## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>October 3</b>	9:45 am: Church School Fire Drill 2:00 pm: CROP Walk ( <i>Bethlehem UCC</i> ) 4:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals ( <i>Lawn</i> )
<b>October 10</b>	1:00 pm: Out of the Darkness Walk
<b>November 21</b>	Rite 13 Celebration

## Church School Teachers 2021-2022

**Nursery:** Eleanor Niman

**Preschool - Grade 1:** Jessica Beemsterboer, Liz Halgren

**Grades 2 / 3:** Steve Guest, Kyle Halgren

**Grades 4 / 5 / 6:** Linda Hastings, Melissa Atienza, Sandra Murchison, Michelle Evans

**Grades 7 / 8 / 9:** Sarah Inwood, Britt Elder-Tennyson, Mil Taylor

**Grades 10 / 11 / 12:** Steve Hastings



## Church School for Children

Worship and Wonder, for our early childhood class, shares Bible stories and parables in an interactive approach that encourages children to explore their thoughts, ideas and feelings about the story. Teachers engage children in a sensory process of visual, tactile, auditory and emotional wonderment. Simple prayers, songs and imagination draws children into playful worship and wonder. We’ve developed a two-year cycle of weekly lesson plans from Sonya Stewart’s books “Young Children and Worship” and “Following Jesus” ©

Primary learners’ emphasis is on stories with particular attention to people and their relationships, with the goal of making the people of the Bible and the Church come alive in wonderful ways for young learners. Old Testament sessions focus on specific people, their families, their actions, and the events in their lives. In the New Testament we look to Jesus’ life among us, and the people he taught, preached to, and healed.

Intermediate learners are ready to explore the scriptures in greater depth; the symbolic and spiritual meaning of the parables and sacraments, how God has called people to stand firm in their faith and go forth in response to the message of scripture. Children are encouraged through discussion and shared wonderings to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings about the stories and themes.

ECC is a thematic curriculum designed to follow the overall Biblical narrative with Bible based and liturgically oriented lessons over a 3-year cycle. Lessons are seasonably compatible with the Sunday Lectionary but are not based on the weekly readings and inspire age-appropriate Bible Literacy. The curriculum is arranged on four foundations, Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments and History of the Church. It incorporates and highlights Episcopal customs and practices. ECC® from the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.



# Tales from the Journey

We are thrilled to circle back to the Journey to Adulthood curriculum that has been overhauled over the past 3 years and is now fully revised. It is a wonderful complement to our youth program. It is centered on inclusive, relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, and outreach ministries arranged within three categories of Self, Society, and Spirituality. Middle school and high school youth groups cover both thematic and scripture lessons that build upon and shape an evolving personal relationship with God. Discernment and discussion emphasize Christ as a living presence in their lives to help instill a growing faith.

Our youth and young adults in 7th-12th grades will have an opportunity to participate in fun activities, reflection and discussion. They'll develop critical thinking skills, responsibility, discover new ways to engage in scripture and prayer, and explore service/ministry in the church and community. Highlights include the Rite 13 ceremony with Words of Wisdom from our parishioners, Confirmation Preparation & Ceremony, Pilgrimage and a variety of social outings.

## Rite 13 Celebration

*Sunday, November 21*

The transformation from childhood to adulthood marks one of God's great gifts. This journey from childhood to adulthood begins with adolescence, a time in which youth take on the gifts and challenges of physical maturity as they continue to learn and grow emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually. The Rite 13 ceremony planned for Sunday, November 21 celebrates the beginning of this journey. As in the past, we'll be asking parishioners to share their words of wisdom to be a part of the celebrants memory book. Information on how to submit will be provided at a later date. Thank you for your gracious support.

## Outreach

We have participated in the CROP Walk for many years and it is a wonderful family event that even young children can participate in. It is a great opportunity to introduce and take action in an outreach initiative that has both local and global reach. We'll also be supporting another critical outreach initiative by walking in the Ann Arbor chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Walk. Help support our teens' efforts with your donation. Visit their donation table after the 10:00 am worship service or donate online.

Join the 47th Ann Arbor CROP Walk on Sunday, October 3. Participate in-person at 2:00 pm from Bethlehem United Church of Christ or virtually for this event. Funds help the hungry including the Breakfast at St. Andrew's. Many small gifts make a substantial difference - and save lives!

Donate online for Team St. Andrew's Youth Group at <https://bit.ly/21-StA-CropWalk>

A first-time fundraiser and community walk is planned by the Youth/Young Adults for the Out of the Darkness Ann Arbor Walk on October 10. This event supports life-saving research, education, advocacy, and support for those impacted by suicide. Sponsored by the local AFSP. Registration is at 11:00 am and the walk begins at Hudson Mills Metropark at 1:00 pm. Please support our St. Andrew's Youth Group team with your donation at <https://bit.ly/21-StA-AFSP>

We'll be partnering with the Episcopal Health Ministry at St. Andrew's (EHM) to bring other resources, information for students, families and parish wide events throughout the Church School year. The local chapter of AFSP offers many dates to attend several online/virtual programs on Suicide Prevention Education for Parents and Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to LGBT Suicide Prevention. You will also find other dates for *Out of the Darkness* Walks and events throughout the region at this website. [Learn More](#)

## Thanksgiving Pies

We hope to work with Grand Traverse Pie Company to again offer Thanksgiving Pies this year. Orders will be placed in early November and pies will be distributed in time for the Thanksgiving. The pies come frozen giving you the opportunity to freshly bake at your convenience for your Thanksgiving feast or keep frozen as needed for another time.

## Be a Part of the Story!

We invite you to share your faith journey with our teens. As our youth mature, responsibility for spiritual growth gradually shifts more to the young adults and less on the leaders. Hearing from parishioners about their passions, faith journey, an epiphany, or outreach initiatives provides an expanded view of the experiences and life-long spiritual journey of others. Be a part of the story with your encouragement and guidance as our young adults, as full members of the church, take greater responsibility for their own spiritual development. Please [contact Carol](#) for more information on how your faith experience can provide a meaningful message for our teens.

We've faced many challenges, but we can give our children courage and reassure them in the knowledge that God is always there for them. Thank you for your prayers as we begin this new year. ✕

*In faith, hope and love,*  
**CAROL ANDREWS FERGUSON**  
*Director of Children and Youth Ministries*



## The Necessity of Compassion

If you had asked me a year ago where we would be now, I could not have guessed.

**ERIC BRAUN**  
*Seminarian Intern*

I'm not particularly gifted with prophecy, and I don't consider myself to be terribly wise or insightful. I'm certainly not privy to any sort of secret knowledge that isn't available to anyone else. So when I say that I truly could not have imagined the state of the world as it is today, I hope that you will take me at my word.

As I reflect on where my life is, the situations that my friends, family and colleagues find themselves in, I'm torn. On one hand I'm truly blessed. My wife and I, my family, and hers are all healthy and safe. My studies are going well, she is happy at work... all through what we've come to know as Covidtide, we've been truly fortunate, and I pray those conditions continue. I'm genuinely excited for the coming year. The chance to learn, worship and spend time with all of you again, to try new things, and adapt the best of what has been to what comes next. Part of me is most definitely looking to the future. And yet, I look at all the fear, anger and uncertainty that seems to be all around us, and wonder if I have any right to be excited or hopeful. I've sat with this unease for a while, and as near as I can tell, what I'm reacting to is the tension between two core concepts of the culture of the United States, and those two concepts, at least for the moment, seem incomparable.

At one end of this ideological spectrum is the concept of the rugged individualist. This might be the most lasting and influential character in the American mind. It represents the idea that, no matter who you are, no matter where you've come from, success in the United States is yours for the taking. All one has to do is be willing to work a little harder, a little smarter, and unlike other places on earth; with their preoccupation with class and other stifling social structures, your success is your own. Many have come to equate this notion of limitless potential with freedom itself. We believe, sometimes in spite of ourselves, that freedom... specifically, the notion that we, as citizens of the United States, means that should be allowed to live as we like, and no one can tell us otherwise. This can be seen as a natural consequence of the Rugged Individualist. If I've been successful, then what I've done, on my own, is right, and good, and the very notion that anyone can tell me what to do with my own life diminishes the freedom that has served me so well.

The problem is, it's killing us.

On the other hand, we also tell ourselves that, when times are tough, we pull together. Neighbors help each other, long absent friends appear when they're needed most to lend a hand here, there, and everywhere, because it's the decent thing to do. To put an even finer point on it, it's what Jesus tells us to do.

In three of the four Gospels, (Matthew 22: 35-40, Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:25-28) we're given the Great Commandment: That we shall "... love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Whatever else it might be, this is an invitation to compassion. To see to the needs of the other as if they were our own, because in fact, they are.

Love in this sense is not just for ourselves, but for those we live among, and is at the core of who God calls us to be. In fact, it's been that way since Genesis.

In the story of Cain and Abel, Cain is jealous of his brother's favor with the Lord, and in an effort to hide what he'd done, asks the most infamous of questions: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9) It's not explicit in the text, but the answer is pretty clear:

"Am I my Brother's Keeper?"  
"Yes, *you are!*"

Cain acted out of fear. Fear that he was being cheated out of praise and favor that should have been his, and in acting out of that fear, in not trusting that he was loved by God, and that there was enough for all, in a moment of anger and selfishness, he lost everything.

Theologically speaking, the path forward is pretty clear. Loving your neighbor sometimes means considering their safety as well as your own. It may seem counter-intuitive, but freedom also means making the free choice to serve others.

I sat and thought about that connection for a long time before deciding to write it down here, and then I realized why it felt so familiar; because St. Francis said it



far better than I ever could:

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that we may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*Amen. ✕*

## Director's Chair

This time of pandemic has been a time of reflection for all of us. Some of the societal inequities that have always been around us suddenly became much harder to ignore. At the same time, many of us have found ourselves watching a lot of shows and movies, many of them focused on these inequities. We all love stories. We love to hear stories and we love to tell stories. Our Scripture is full of stories that exemplify love, fear, courage, bravery, betrayal, hope, perfidy; you name it, there is a story for it. Many of the messy and lurid stories of the Old Testament that were part of my Baptist upbringing were left out of the lectionary, but there is plenty of good material left. In these stories we find connections and shape for thinking about the big questions of our lives.

**NORM RICHTER**

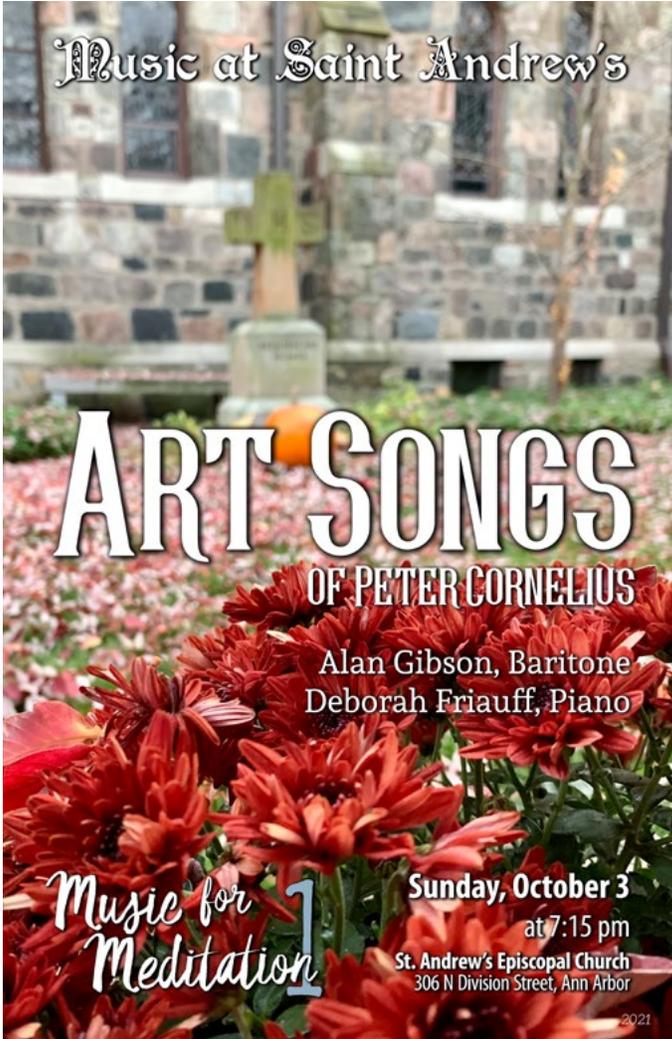
*Co-Director, Theater Ministries*

Theater is one form of storytelling. What I find attractive in a theatrical ministry is the gift it gives to all involved to participate in storytelling. At the best moments, the stories we tell in theater tie to our own stories, allowing us to express our inner selves in new ways. Just as childhood music lessons can enrich the understanding of musical performance, for those of us who don't make a career of music; participation in theater brings a greater respect and understanding for all the various storytelling vehicles that surround us.

A tradition in our choirs is to recognize St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, at the end of each rehearsal. It is a nice acknowledgment that whatever we are able to do in the musical sphere at church has a broader context. In our theatrical productions we have started a tradition of also recognizing St. Genesius, the patron saint of actors (and others). Now, mind you, my entire knowledge of Genesius is found in Wikipedia, so I am ready for brickbats. Like St. Paul, Genesius began as a hater of all things Christian. In the third century he staged plays ridiculing Christian ideas. Part of storytelling is satirizing "bad" stories, so in his mind he was doing something very good. Like Paul, Genesius had a life-changing experience, during a performance, that caused a 180 degree shift in his thinking about the beliefs he was ridiculing. He converted to Christianity and refused to be dissuaded, even when threatened by the Emperor. As a result he was beheaded. Talk about a bad review. He is a good reminder that while we all can be entrapped by the stories we have been told and then re-tell, it is possible to rise above and tell (and live) new stories.

The magic vaccine bullet that we prayed for has not been quite as magical as we had hoped. Virtual theater offered many challenges and I was looking forward to "normal" theater by this time. We are going to try the concept of theater with masks, which has its own set of challenges. But it will be good to be together in one place without worrying about syncing, internet connections, and camera quality.

On November 21, when we celebrate St. Andrew's Day, we will present *Our Scottish ConneXion*, a St. Andrew's theater standard which ties together Andrew and church history. We did it virtually last year. At last we will have live theater. I will put out a cast call later in October. I hope many of the theater faithful will join us. It has been hard to recruit the next generation of actors in the last year and a half, so I am especially hoping that parents can encourage their younger children to consider taking part. It is good to be able to read, but not necessary. ✕



## Music for Meditation, Program 1

### Art Songs of Peter Cornelius

Sunday, October 3 at 7:15 pm

Alan Gibson, Baritone  
Deborah Friauff, piano

Alan Gibson (Rector of St. Andrew's) and Deborah Friauff (Director of Music, St. Andrew's) collaborate to present a recital of *Art Songs* by German composer Peter Cornelius (1824-1874).

## Program 2

### REQUIEM

Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber (1644-1704)

Sunday, November 7 at 7:15 pm

The St. Andrew's Adult Choir and Chamber Orchestra

The St. Andrew's Adult Choir and Chamber Orchestra join together to present Heinrich Biber's *Requiem*. The Chamber Orchestra will also perform Biber's *Balletti Lamentabili á 4*. Deborah Friauff, Director



## Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

At all the weekday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist during the month of November, prayers will be offered for our departed loved ones.

If you would like to have someone remembered at one of these services, please print their names at right and return this form in the offering plate or to the church office (306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104) by Sunday, October 24, 2021.

While it is not required, if you would like to make a donation to the St. Andrew's Memorial Fund these gifts are greatly appreciated and assist in carrying our special projects around the church.

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Your Name

# Calendar of Events

## Weekly Events

Get Involved!

### Sundays

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)
- 9:15 am Family Eucharist (Cpl)
- 9:45 am Church School
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C / YouTube)
- 8:00 pm Compline (C, 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

### Wednesdays

- 7:00 am Holy Eucharist (Cpl)
- 4:30 pm Cherub Choir (CL)
- 4:30 pm Junior Handbell Choir (C)
- 5:15 pm Junior Choir (CL)
- 6:00 pm Evensong (Cpl)
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir (C)

### Thursdays

- 10:00 am Bible Study (Zoom)
- 7:15 pm Adult Choir (CL)

### Fridays

- 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist (C)

ROOM LEGEND	(C) Church	(L) Lounge
	(CL) Choir Loft	(Lib) Library
	(Cpl) Chapel	(PH) Parish Hall

## October 2021

### Sunday, October 3

- 2:00 pm CROP Walk
- 4:00 pm Animal Blessing (Lawn)
- 7:15 pm Music for Meditation 1 (C)
- 8:00 pm Compline (C)

### Sunday, October 10

- 1:00 pm Out of the Darkness Walk

### Saturday, October 16

- 10:00 am Funeral Service for Steve Jones (C)

### Sunday, October 17

- 8:30 am Flu Shots/Drug Dump (L)
- 8:00 pm Compline (C)

### Tuesday, October 19

- 6:00 pm Finance (Zoom)

### Wednesday, October 20

- 7:30 pm SJM Presentation with Fr. Alan (Zoom)

### Saturday, October 23

- 10:30 am SJM Book Discussion (Zoom)

### Tuesday, October 26

- 6:30 pm Vestry (Zoom)

### Wednesday, October 27

- 7:00 pm Wednesday Conversations (Zoom)

### Saturday, October 30

- 10:00 am Baptism Preparation (Zoom)
- 10:30 am SJM Book Discussion (Zoom)

## November 2021

### ALL SOULS' DAY

### Tuesday, November 2

- 5:30 pm Requiem for All Souls' (Cpl)

### Wednesday, November 3

- 7:00 pm Wednesday Conversations (Zoom)

### ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

### Sunday, November 7

#### Daylight Savings Time Ends

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist + Baptism (C)
- 7:15 pm Music for Meditation 2 (C)
- 8:00 pm Compline (C)

### Tuesday, November 16

- 6:00 pm Finance (Zoom)

### Sunday, November 21

- 8:00 pm Compline (C)

### Tuesday, November 23

- 6:30 pm Vestry (Zoom)

### THANKSGIVING DAY

### Thursday, November 25

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)

### November 25-26

Church Office Closed

### Sunday, November 28

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist + O Antiphons (C)

Masks are required for all in-person events at St. Andrew's