

the CHIMES OF ST. ANDREW'S

December 18, 2019

Advent

DEAR FRIENDS,

The first week of December I participated in a training program offered by the diocese called, "Love God, Love Your Neighbor: Advocacy in Action." It was a full-day training on citizen advocacy and an overview of the many executive orders that have been made by the Trump administration affecting refugees and immigrants. I traveled down to Washington, DC with other members of the Episcopal Province 1 (a regional designation encompassing all of New England). There were about 16 of us, half from our diocese. While I have some experience in advocacy, it was nice to have a refresher course and especially to get an idea of all the ways that the president's office has worked to stem the flow of immigrants and refugees in our country. After hearing this, I was struck by the way that the Trump administration has invested in a policy of cruelty and brutality purposely to discourage people from even attempting to cross our borders.

The second day was one where we were scheduled to meet with our congressional representatives. My purpose in meeting with them was to decry the inhumane treatment of people on our southern border and the policy of placing people in prison and prison-like conditions. Families are still being separated. Children are still being kept in cages and in one specific case, they were denied free flu shots offered by a medical group visiting the detainees.

We also were given lists of current legislation related to immigration and refugee issues and urged to consider asking our congressional representatives to support the ones that we ourselves could support.

You may wonder why I chose to share this with you during this season in our *Chimes* just prior to Christmas. In my office there is a poster. It is a recreation of an original printed in 1938 by the Episcopal Church National Refugee Ministry, now called the Episcopal Migration Ministries. That poster was created to garner support for refugees fleeing the growing threat in Europe. The poster is a drawing of the holy family, Mary and the baby Jesus on a donkey and Joseph walking behind. The caption of that poster says, "In the Name of These Refugees, Aid ALL Refugees Through Interest – Friendship – Gifts."

It's important to understand that our Lord was not welcomed in his home town. According to the Gospel,
cont. p. 2

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please join us for our Christmas worship services.



Sunday, Dec. 22 4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. From Advent to Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

- 3:00 p.m. Pageant "The Angels, the Shepherds, and the Family from Nazareth," by Bob Franke, and Holy Eucharist
5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and musical offerings
10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and musical offerings
(Please note time change)

Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Dec. 29

- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols
There will be no 8:00 a.m. service.

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Holy Family
Alexander Gassel

Dear Friends, cont.

Herod sent soldiers to kill children two years and under to eliminate the perceived threat of a newborn king. The family had to flee to Egypt for some sort of relative safety. Still, they had to cross borders and were strangers in a strange land. How would we treat people fleeing violence in their home countries if we knew that amongst them Jesus was one of the children? Isn't that the case anyway? I, for one, think it is.

I'm sure you see a theme here. My Christmas letter strikes a similar note. It is my hope that as we gather as a community to honor the birth of our Lord, we will be mindful of the many ways that God confronts our blindness toward those who suffer and whose lives are literally at stake on a daily basis. The actions taken by our political leaders matter. It says something about who we are and what we value. I honestly don't expect our current administration to bat an eye at such thinking, but it should really bother us to the point of insisting that whomever we support as a candidate for President or any elected office, they represent our values and morals, at least on some basic level. I'm having a hard time seeing my values being reflected in the policies enacted at our southern border right now or in the many ways that this president conducts himself with a lack of civility generally.

The issue of how we treat people at our border, how we treat our neighbor, how we treat those with little or no real rights in our country, how we treat our fellow citizen . . . that behavior is a direct reflection on what we really hold in our hearts. After all, the political realm is only the reflection of our common life together. So yes, this is a bit on the political side, but the treatment of a people in our name is also a moral reflection of our nation. Do you like what you see when you hold up that mirror? In visits with our elected leaders, I learned that even when the powerful will not listen to our pleas for more humane treatment of our fellow partners on this planet, to offer support for a voice in the wilderness is greatly appreciated by those trying to sound the call against brutality.

In the name of the Holy Family, once refugees escaping violence, let us hold the message of Christmas closer to our hearts and be inspired to make our voices heard. I'll be in touch with opportunities for you to speak your mind to our elected leaders. I invite your thoughts and reflections on this topic. I understand that I have pushed the envelope a bit regarding speaking "politically." I hope that you hear the message here is not about partisanship but about basic decency. I hope to see you in church.

-Clyde+



MUSIC NOTES



December is the busiest month for church musicians! By musicians I am referring to choir members: the adult and youth choirs of St Andrew's.

Both choirs have been busy learning new music for Christmas and Advent. There have been many extra rehearsals, new Anglican chants, and many hymns. During the month of December I increase the rehearsal time and work both choirs harder so that we will be ready to sing beautiful music to enhance our worship services.

What we do is, and isn't, a performance. Yes, we are singing in front of the congregation, but we are there to uplift the psalm with singing, and add to the readings and Gospels of the day with carefully chosen anthems and hymns. A little choir-speak: anthems are music that just the choir sings, hymns are what we sing together!

Ultimately, the gift of the choir singing is for the Glory of God.

When we rehearse Sunday morning, you will see some of us in just black cassocks. Once we put on the white surplice, we have dedicated ourselves to singing the service for God, with all the gravitas and beauty we can muster.

Thank a choir member this month, they have worked hard to make sure our services are beautiful and uplifting!

Merry Christmas!
Soli Deo Gloria!

-Mary



Please note that the office will be closed
December 24 through January 1.



SHOULDERING ON

Hello, Neighbors!

Since this is probably the last *Chimes* I'll be able to write before my shoulder surgery in early January, I thought I'd take a moment to explain how I became the fist-/peace-bumping priest.

When I was three, I was in a car accident that broke the growth plate in my shoulder (it was the early 80s; I was in the front seat because that's what we did back then, but was wearing my seatbelt). But we didn't discover the break until 2000, when I went to see an orthopedist after a fall while playing field hockey in college. The fall caused a lot of damage and revealed the break.

I had surgery to fix all of the broken bits in 2001, and in that surgery I had a bone graft to close the hole caused from the growth plate break. The graft required two screws to hold it in place. And on one of the screws, there was one single cell of staph.

The problems I have today are because it took nearly 18 years to find the staph infection and as a result, my shoulder is very arthritic, and has almost no cartilage.

On January 9, I'll have surgery number five on my right shoulder. This surgery isn't going to fix me, but, it will hopefully reduce my pain a lot.

I'll say that this has been a humbling experience because that's the closest language can come to expressing what this feels like. I need help with a lot of things, and there are things that seem quite easy, but are very hard or scary for me.

Shaking hands or being touched on the right arm/shoulder. Pushing fluffy snow off my car. Carrying a light bag of groceries. Sitting in a chair without arms. Walking on wet or slippery surfaces. All of these are quite hard now.

I'm grateful that the St. Andrew's community has so kindly embraced my peace bumps. The up and down motion of a handshake is one that requires using tendons in my shoulder that are no longer fully attached (because of the arthritis). Seeing the children rush up to me to give me a peace bump is something that gives me a lot of joy. But not nearly as much as seeing people who could be their grandparents doing the same with a glint in their eyes.

Y'all are wonderful. And while you may not realize it, by offering me a bump instead of a handshake, what you are saying to me is "I accept you in your brokenness."

And there is nothing more Christ-like than that.

Because I am broken, and it is truly a wonderful thing to be loved and accepted as I am.

Thank you all for your love and kindness.

I'll be out from January 9th (that's my surgery date) until probably the 21st (earlier, if I can). I would truly appreciate your prayers on the 9th (for me; for my doctor/medical team; my partner, Amy, who will be caring for me; and my anxious mother in Maryland who will be worried sick), and maybe for a few weeks after.

Until then though, I'll be here! And it's Christmas (and my birthday), so I'll probably be extra joyful!

I'm really glad to be here with you all. You're great. It's been three months, and I'm already learning an incredible amount. Thank you! You're the best!

-Cara+

HOLIDAY THANK YOU'S

We hosted close to 120 people at **St. Nicholas Night!** Thank you to Deanna Karwowski for arranging the dinner, Mary Jodice for musical accompaniment, Soraida Martinez for her invaluable assistance, the actors who helped with the skit . . . and to all the elves who helped in any way, from bringing food, to leading singing, to providing hay for St. Nick's donkey.

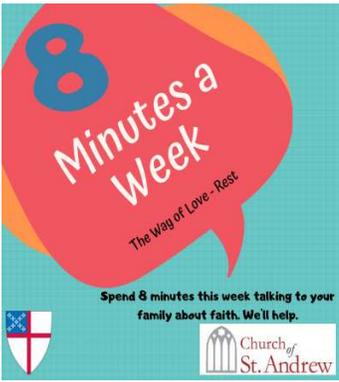
The *A Christmas Carol Trolley Tour* in Salem was a blast! We filled the entire trolley and hope to have two next year. Thank you to Hannah Diozzi for arranging it.

Thank you to Bobbie Wayne for **Greensleeves**, her magical musical tour of the origins of Christmas in many countries as performed in poetry, lore, songs, and beautifully haunting Celtic harps. Bobbie was accompanied by husband Dan Mozell on a few selections

The Cole family coordinated the annual **Giving Tree** and we thank them for this vital ministry. It was gratifying to see that all ornaments were taken the day that the tree was first up.

Annual Coat Drive: Thank you to Margaret Eckman and the Tuesday-morning Bible study group for their **annual coat, gloves, scarves, and hat collection for My Brother's Table guests. Sunday, December 22 is the deadline** for donating these items in the entry to the Parish Hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped with these efforts, those who contributed to them, and those who attended the events!



8 MIN. A WEEK

The Way of Love—Rest

I don't know if there is anything that brings dread into the hearts of modern Americans as the idea of "Rest." But, rest isn't just an important part of being human, it's critical.

We need to rest our bodies, so we sleep. And if we don't rest enough, our bodies will force us to, with exhaustion and illness.

Our minds need to rest, often wandering into daydreams that we snap ourselves out of. We attempt to numb this need with caffeine and energy drinks.

Our souls need to rest, or else we end up exhausted and unable to continue on the difficult path we call life.

I wasn't in the room, but I've heard that Bishop Curry added Rest to the list of the Way of Love after the group thought they were finished with the other 6 (Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, and Go). Since rest is often an afterthought in this world, it makes sense that it was in that room, as well!

This is the holiday season, when many of us have time off from work. And we've somehow crammed as much into these few days as possible. The same goes for our regular weeks and weekends. We put so much into our lives that there simply isn't enough time to rest.

But the thing about rest is that we really, really, need to. We need to find a few moments here and there to be quiet with ourselves, to ground ourselves, and to reconnect with ourselves.

This world is distracting. And loud! Rest allows us to be present in the moment we are in, with ourselves, and to escape the noise for an instant or two.

Two Scriptures come to mind. The first is Genesis 2, where God rests after creating the world. The other is Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God." Even Jesus was intentional about prayer because it was how he was able to rest and reconnect.

God needed moments of rest. And God wants us to know that God is with us in our time of rest, not just in times of need or activity.

Resting time is holy time.

day, and rest. Put your phone away. Take a few deep breaths, and just breathe. Don't think about the groceries or your to-do list. One minute, every day to truly settle yourself, and be in the moment you are in.

It'll be hard, but you can do it! If this becomes meaningful to you, keep doing it. Just a minute.

Questions:

- What do you think it means to rest?
- What are the ways that help you rest?
- Why do you think Jesus needed to rest?

Think about things you do that help you recharge (hiking, walking the beach, museums, meals with good friends, going to church, reading a favorite book). Are there any of these that you'd like to share with your family? Not just that you enjoy this behavior, but why you enjoy it. And how it helps your soul to recharge.

-Cara+

A QUICK NOTE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

At this time of year we are grateful for so many things. It is the season to kindle joy and make time to come together with those we care about. I'm grateful for our fellowship and for the ministry that we share here at St. Andrews. As we look forward to the beginning of a new year, our budget process is underway and I would simply ask that if you haven't made your 2020 Pledge to St. Andrews, please consider getting your pledge in before the New Year arrives.

The majority of our budget comes from your pledging support and we rely on pledges to create a responsible budget. Pledge income not only provides funding for our work and worship, you are literally supporting the livelihood of our staff. Please consider as you are able, a moderate increase this year. As ever, St. Andrews is on the top of my list of thanksgiving for the work that we do and the friendship we enjoy throughout the year. I've increased my pledge and I hope that you will join me in some meaningful increase so that we can continue to build and strengthen the viability of our parish community. Thanks so much!

Clyde+

WEDNESDAY NOON EUCHARISTS

Please join us in the sanctuary for a quiet mid-week service and reflection every Wednesday at noon.

NOTE: There will be no noon service on December 25. However, there will be a 10 a.m. service.



NEWS FROM THE *GROWING INTO OUR FUTURE* CAMPAIGN

Peg Howard and Charlie Milner, co-chairs

We're almost there! Your generosity has already begun funding our new Assistant Rector and many maintenance and capital improvements, including recent work on stained-glass windows.

Here are the figures as of November 30:

- Campaign goal: \$760,000
- Total pledged to date: \$740,359
- Number of donors: 108
- Number of donors who have already paid all or part of their pledge: 89
- Cash received so far: \$405,428
- Amount spent so far: \$157,714

In development:

- Plans to revitalize the South/East transept, along with other improvements in the sanctuary and nave
- Ongoing planning for parking lot/grounds
- Safety features, such as "panic bars" on exits that need them



Thank you to Bobbie Wayne for the amazing Greensleeves concert.

What lovely music and lore from a talented performer!

Proceeds benefit the campaign.

Next...



Dance into the New Year!

Dinner Dance Fundraiser for the *Growing Into Our Future* Campaign



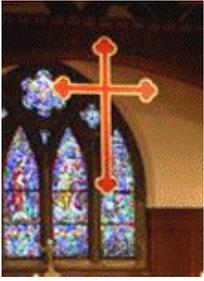
Saturday, January 11

6:00 p.m

Paella dinner, wine tasting, dance lessons by Greg Coles

\$75 donation per person

Call the office to reserve, then pay at the door. Numbers are limited.



A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOURSELF

The Christmas holiday has special meaning for all of us. We remember fondly our family traditions; we laugh at stories of Christmases past; look forward to Christmas present; and give no thought at all to future Christmases. We shop 'til we drop finding the perfect gifts for those we love. We cook; we bake; we raise a glass of cheer to toast those present and those no longer among us.

I'm just finishing my first year on the Vestry. It seems so long ago that I made this commitment to serve St. Andrew's. The learning curve has not been difficult. I have had many mentors in the Vestry who were serving when I got here; and I am looking forward to meeting new Vestry members and learning from them in the New Year.

In this season of giving, perhaps the greatest gift we can give is one of service. Service to our church community; service to our family; and, most of all service to ourselves. As we ponder the power of the birth of Christ and the effect it has had on the world—and on us—we should serve ourselves a heaping plate of His love and then share that love with all we see in our daily lives.

One way to do that is to give your time and service as a Vestry member. Answer the call and let Clyde know that you are willing to take on this responsibility. Your talents are needed. YOU are needed. It will be the most precious gift you can give yourself. The return will be more than you imagine.

May the holiday season and the New Year bring you joy, peace, and laughter.

Warm regards,
Jone Sienkiewicz

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Communications Team is looking for help communicating St. Andrew's news both within and outside the parish:

- Assembling and sending the weekly parish email via Constant Contact. Requires comfort working with online templates. Knowledge of html helpful but not essential.
- Helping update the website, which uses the WordPress platform. Also requires comfort with online templates.
- Writing and sending press releases announcing special services, events, and programs, using our standard press release format and an existing list of news outlets.
- Taking photographs to be used for publicity.
- Helping update the Facebook page.

If you are interested in, and have the requisite skills for, any of these tasks, please email the team via communication@standrewsmhd.org, or speak with Peg Howard or Penny Stratton.



CLOISTER GALLERY

Group Show through January 9

The Cloister Gallery features a group art show with Marcelino Herrera Vegas, Juliana Roy, and parishioners Judy Beals and Chuck Nyren. Plan to visit and spend some time with the beautiful and varied artwork.

Coming Soon
"B205"

Photography Exhibit of Marblehead High School Students

In mid-January, the Cloister Gallery will feature a photography exhibit entitled "B205" that will feature the work of eight students at Marblehead High School: Sadie Clark, Hadley Kaeyer, Hannah Kao, Sofie Kaavik, Margaret Mancusi-Ungaro, Carter Murray, Maya Nyberg, and Frances Paik. They make up the Advanced Photography 3 and 4 classes. Each student will display work that they have produced as they learn about photography and develop their specific styles. The show will open Sunday, January 12, 2020, with an opening reception at 11:15 a.m.

ONE MORE THANK YOU



Sunday's "Build a Bed" event that partnered the youth groups of Old North and St. Andrew's was a great afternoon! Several beds were constructed for local children that have none and a productive time was had by all. Thank you to Summer Moore and the youth and adults who participated.

MY BROTHER'S TABLE

Come be part of a team to help serve dinner the first Tuesday of every month at My Brother's Table, Lynn. **January 7 is the next date.**



**If you can help, please contact
Tim Parker at 781-631-5335.**

DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

**Gospel Reflections: Exploring the Gospel
in Today's World
Tuesday morning Bible study, 9:00 a.m.**



All are welcome to gather in the Guild Room.
If you have questions, please contact Margaret Eckman
at margareteckman@comcast.net.

APOCALYPSE NOW? NOT YET?

**Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Church**

Join us for the last in the series of exploring passages from the lectionary for this Advent and discuss how wider culture ponders apocalyptic themes through media.

6:30 Refreshments
7:00 Discussion

PASTORAL CARE

We are looking to expand our pastoral care team. Please let us know if you can offer an occasional meal or ride or visit a parishioner in need. Contact Pat Hahn in the office (781-631-4951) or Spencer Moore (781-771-4350).

For a pastoral visit, please contact the rector, Clyde Elledge, directly at rector@standrewsmhd.org or at his cell phone (see below).

In case of pastoral emergency, please call Clyde's cell phone, 781-576-0329.

LOTIONS AND POTIONS



Please save your hotel-sized containers of shampoo, toothpaste, and other toiletries and drop them in the basket in the Guild Room. Diana Isbrandtsen will be making holiday gift baskets of these items to deliver to local shelters, such as Inn Between, Inn Transition, HAWC, and Lifebridge. Thank you.

CHIMES SCHEDULE

The Chimes is published monthly.

(Please e-mail articles to lakeloreyn@aol.com. Articles submitted after the deadline will be included on a space-available basis.)

**January 17
February 21**



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Spencer Moore, Vestry.....	781-631-6733
Billie Phillips, Vestry	941-504-0835
Jone Sienkiewicz, Vestry.....	856-803-8940
Richard Stratton, Vestry	781-581-3032

Mission Statement

God calls us at St. Andrew's to grow spiritually and personally and to reach out to others as part of the global family. We will strive to respond to this challenge every day of our lives through:

- Worship that strengthens and inspires
- Love, mutual care, nurture, and fellowship
- Christian formation and teaching Christian discipleship at all stages of life
- Mission and outreach into the community and the world
- Faithful stewardship in gratitude for God's creation and gifts

