



## Good News

*Together we seek to know Christ and to make him known.*

### From the Rector

*Last Sunday, Dawson+ preached a sermon straight from the heart about our Lord's power to heal body, mind, and spirit, in this moment, and forever. His words could not have been more timely given the seemingly continuous challenges we all face as individuals, families, and members of the community. Dawson's healing words of hope touched me deeply and I share them here so that you can revisit the sermon and experience the healing power of Christ's unconditional love anew. In Christ, Lisa+*

### **Proper 25, Year B, 2018 – The Rev. Dawson Moorer**

**“What do you want me to do for you?”** Connie was a member of St. Paul's, Norwalk when I was there as a priest in charge. She stopped me one Sunday and asked me to go to Cleveland Clinic to pray for her aunt. She had just been admitted, Connie told me, and was scheduled for surgery on Monday morning. Her situation was dire. She had two brain aneurysms, and had no chance of survival without surgery. Even with surgery her chances to survive were less than fifty percent, and even if she did survive, she would have to live with significant cognitive and motor impairment. So I went and prayed—very quietly, because her nurse threatened to throw me out if I touched her or did anything to wake her up. She had terrible headaches, and had just gotten to sleep. I blessed her, and then I left. The next Sunday, a very excited Connie stopped me to tell me that not only had she survived, she was completely healed; she had no cognitive or motor impairment of any kind.

**“What do you want me to do for you?”** I'm not sure we know what to do with a story like this or even with the story of Bartimaeus's healing in today's gospel. The Gospels are rife, filled to overflowing with stories like this, stories of Jesus healing individuals, and accounts of him healing “everyone who came to him.” Jesus spent more time healing than he did preaching. He commissioned his disciples to heal, and they did, and Acts of the Apostles has many accounts of the apostles doing just that. In its first three centuries, healing by the church, in the Name of Jesus Christ, was considered normative. The Epistle of James says “Are any among the sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up...” But even by the fifth century, Augustine himself was writing that the age of “signs and wonders” was over; it wasn't needed any more because the church had been firmly established. Now this presumes that Jesus and the disciples healed people as signs that Jesus was the real thing, that the Reign of God was here. While it is true that healings were a sign of the Reign of God, I don't think that is why Jesus healed so many who came to him. I think Jesus healed because he came not just to save souls, but to save whole person. Healing, for Jesus meant salvation. He healed out of limitless compassion and mercy. And he still does. Jesus still comes to save whole persona and not just souls. Healing, for Jesus, still means salvation. Jesus can and does heal directly, through the prayers of his church, through us, and I've seen it more than once.

**“What do you want me to do for you?”** I've told this story before, but hopefully, it bears repeating. I was interim at St. Andrew's, Cleveland, back in 2002. We were invited to prepare and serve a meal at the Ronald McDonald House attached to Cleveland Clinic. When I arrived. I was introduced to a couple desperate for prayer for their young daughter. She had a congenital defect in her heart, her parents had just learned that it was worse than anyone had expected, and now her doctors were looking at surgery to repair the defect. She was playing on the floor, and while she was playing, the three of us sat down with her, laid hands on her and prayed for healing. The next day, I got a call from the RMH staff. The parents wanted me to know that they were going home because when they had gone back to the clinic that morning for more tests, they couldn't find anything wrong with her heart at all. I've seen it. Jesus loves, Jesus saves, Jesus heals, and all salvation and healing arise from his love.

There are a couple of things that needs to be said about the healing power of Christ before we go any further. First, illness, disease, and the myriad ways in which we are broken, **are not** God's will, God's first choice for us. God's will for us is wholeness and health of body, mind, and spirit, and God's primary response to our brokenness is compassion. When we suffer, God suffers with us, and works, always works, to bring some degree of good even out of our brokenness. That is redemption, and through Christ, God is always working toward redemption.

Second, all healing, regardless of the means, all healing comes from the healing power of Jesus Christ. And he is an opportunist, who will use any means available to bring about healing. I believe that he heals directly in response to our prayers, **and**, He heals through physicians, and nurses, and medical support staff, through physical, speech, and occupational therapists, through psychiatrist and psychotherapists, and on, and on, and on. Jesus heals through any combination of these means, like he did in the first healing story I told you, where Jesus uses healing prayer and a talented array of medical professionals to save a woman's life and to make her whole.

Finally, I'm really not sure any more that there is such a thing as a failed healing prayer. The faithful prayer of a loving community of Christ always brings the healing power of Christ to bear upon the person who is the object of prayer, and that healing power will not be denied. Whenever the healing power of Christ is brought to bear on a person, Grace happens. It may be subtle, internal, hidden; it may happen over time, it may take repeated prayer; what happens may not even be what we prayed for, but Grace happens, and I believe that the person for whom we pray is changed, somehow transformed, brought closer to Christ. But all this does beg the question, because healing through prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, simply isn't normative in the church any more. The kinds of healing that are recounted so frequently in scripture and the early church have become not normative, but rare, infrequent, extraordinary. And I, for one, have to wonder why?

The healing power of Christ experienced in the early church is still the same. God's desire for our wholeness and well-being has not changed, but our experience sure has. There's a whole history behind this that I won't go into, but healing in the life of the church has gone from normative to being extraordinary and reserved to the prayers of only the holiest among us, the Saints. I think what I would call our modern world-view has a lot to do with this. The emergence of scientific methods and a scientific world view have been a Godsend. They have been a source of healing and wholeness and an easier way of life for billions of people. They are a Godsend because, as I have said, all that is good comes from God. But the same way of looking at the world has left us skeptical, questioning the reality of anything that we can't verify through our senses. The problem is that the healing power of Christ is, at its heart, a mystery. We simply cannot explain it, quantify it, or describe how it works. It simply exists beyond the realm of scientific inquiry. The healing power of Christ is not opposed to scientific inquiry; Christ uses it, too, as a means of healing. It is simply not within the realm of things we can know through that way of looking at the world. What we Christians can do is to recognize and accept the mystery of the power of Christ's healing and, as a community, affirm its reality through faith, and begin to pray for healing with expectancy and hope-**expectancy and hope**. Because I think it takes a community of faith, empowered by the Spirit, Who is always with us, a community of love, a community that works to make Christ's love known in our world, to create a space, a habitat in which the healing power of Christ can be manifest. It takes the whole community of believers, believing in the healing power of Christ, praying with expectancy and hope, to bring that power to bear in the lives of the people for whom we pray. The healing power of Christ is real and very available, but again, I believe it is more likely to be seen in the context of a community that engenders love among its members and hope in Christ's power to heal I want to tell you some of my own more recent experiences of Christ's healing power.

You know I've dealt with depression all my adult life, and the episodes I have experienced across time have gotten more and more frequent, and more serious. I'm going to skip a lot of history, but about 13 years ago, some things began to change for the better. For one thing, that's when I started coming here. When I came, I was seriously depressed and really very afraid of being in public. During services I used to hide behind that last pillar on the choir side of the church. But you and Harper welcomed me in very gently and patiently, and I began to feel like I was a part of this community, and that meant a lot. Yes, it's true that I first came here because of Harper, but I stayed because of the rest of you. Through this whole time I've been very aware of your prayers, and you need to know that they've made a difference. A couple of things have happened in the past eight years. First, I found the best psychiatrist I have ever had, and Jesus has used him to pull me out of every depressive episode I've had during this time. He seems to know just the right tweak to make in my medication, and he makes it look easy. He is also a kind and compassionate man who responded to the news of Pamela's death by giving me a big hug. Psychiatrists don't usually hug their patients.

Then God gave me Pamela and I realized that the prayers for healing that I had been making had been answered. And I was being healed, continuously and deeply in the context of that relationship, continuously being made whole through her patient and affirming love. And then she died, and it broke me, and I ended up in some very dark places. To my surprise, I continued to heal. Jesus found me in those dark places and made sure that I knew he was there. Over and over, during the worst times, he revealed his presence with me tangibly, leaving me in no doubt that he was with me. He sustained me during the worst times of my life. He kept me alive. That near continuous experience of Christ's presence has continued, and in the last few months, things have begun to change again. I still carry a lot of grief, and I miss Pamela all the time. But from time to time that grief has been marked by gratitude for our life together instead of sadness. I've also been able to look around it, and, thanks mostly to Alice Worman, I've been able to look ahead and think with hope about the ways I want to live for the rest of my life, and, threaded through all of this has been Christ.

I know the healing power of Christ because I have felt it, and I can tell you two things because of it: You cannot **not** be in the presence of Christ, and Jesus heals; he truly heals. Jesus loves, Jesus saves, Jesus heals. **“What do you want me to do for you?”** I want you to imagine Bartimaeus standing before Jesus, who is there with all his compassion and power radiating over you like the sun. Imagine he is asking **you** that question. What part of your own brokenness are you going to offer up? What are you going to ask him to heal? I want you to imagine the scene as vividly as you can, because he is here now, and he is asking you that simple question. **“What do you want me to do for you?”** All he is waiting for is your answer. +++

### **Halleluiah!**

#### **The Bible and Handel’s Messiah**

Beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent, I will be offering a new Kerygma study focusing on Handel’s Messiah. It will run for the four weeks of Advent, and then pick up again for the six Sundays in Lent. As usual, we will meet each Sunday at 9AM in the Worman Room or parish hall.

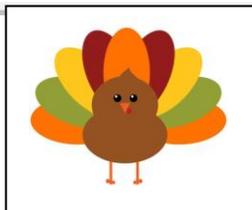
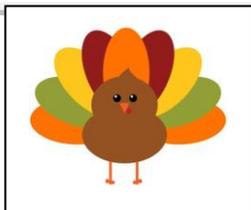
The Messiah is beloved by many, including myself, and this will give us time to listen to it and study the scripture that it contains. Books for the program are \$19, and cover both the Advent and Lent portions of the course. I will have a sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning this Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. You can pay for the books by giving money to Barb Sopko. If you write a check, make it out to St. Andrew, and write “bible study” on the memo line. –

### **Fill a Bag for Thanksgiving**

**Share some love this Thanksgiving by donating a bag filled with food items that will add to our Food Pantry neighbor's Thanksgiving feast.**

**St. Andrew is partnering with Advent Lutheran Church to distribute 50 bags of food items, along with roasting chickens, during the Thanksgiving week Food Pantry on Tuesday November 20th. All the chickens have been purchased, but we need your help to provide the side dishes. Items needed include stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, jars of gravy, cans of fruits and vegetables and jello.**

**Empty bags with an attached list are available in the Narthex. Please help our neighbors have a Happy Thanksgiving. by filling a bag and bringing it back by Sunday, November 18th.**



## **House Church**

House Church is defined as "a group of Christians who regularly gather for worship in private homes." St. Andrew has had a House Church ministry that has met for many years. Recently, the group has been on a break, but are making plans to begin meeting for study and worship again. Traditionally the St. Andrew House Church gets together once a month to share a meal, followed by discussion and prayer.

Joining the House Church is a great way to connect with St. Andrew folks on a more personal scale. The small group dynamic fosters deeper relationships and a sense of community.

If you're interested in joining the St. Andrew House Church, contact Erin Garlock at 440-263-3561 or [ohiorenaissance@gmail.com](mailto:ohiorenaissance@gmail.com)

## *November Celebrations*

### **Anniversaries**

Ryan & Julie Symonds 01  
Basil & Kay Wolfe 21

### **Birthdays**

Jeries Bishara 01  
Susan Zuber 04  
Ben Herczog 05  
Don Koehler 10  
Amy Dittebrand 12  
Ann Russell 16  
Joseph Sturm 19  
Ted Herczog 24  
Jeanne Griffith 27  
Leo Poitras 28

## *The Sherman Memorial Scattering Garden*

Have you noticed the construction activity in the wooded area beyond the large cross in the St. Francis Outdoor Chapel? What's being constructed is a Scattering Garden where ashes of loved ones can be scattered and become part of this sacred place. Kolbelt Landscaping has completed construction of Phase One which included installation of a winding path leading to a circle with a small water feature. In the next few weeks an arbor at the path's entrance will be constructed, and two large arborvitae shrubs will be planted. Benches will be added, along with a granite marker. Finally, Daffodil bulbs will be planted to naturalize the area. Please take a moment to walk back and look at this beautiful space. Major Funding for this project is being provided by the Sherman family with additional funds donated from the David Pulman Memorial Gift. We appreciate their contributions to this project.



### **Dates to Remember: November**

- 3 - Day of Service Window Washing, 10 AM
- 3 - Harvest Blessing Festival, 5 - 8 PM
- 4 - All Saints Sunday, 8 & 10:30 AM, Noon
- 6 - Election Day Bake Sale, 6 AM - Sold Out
- 13 - We Make the Road By Walking book study, 6 PM
- 18 - Turn in Thanksgiving Bags
- 18 - Vestry Meeting, 9 AM
- 18 - Sanctuary Concert, 4 to 6 PM
- 20 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 12 PM Trinity Cathedral
- 20 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 7:30pm Kirtland Temple
- 22 - Thanksgiving: Church Office Closed

# Sanctuary Update

Laura and her sons will be moving into housing in the community in late November. Their U-VISA application is in process with the Federal Government, but they will most likely not receive their visas for 1-3 (or more) years. In the meantime they have the written receipt of their application, which, when produced, has historically insulated U-VISA applicants from deportation. Laura is thrilled with the prospect of again having her own place and the opportunity for more independence. She is so grateful to St. Andrew for their support and help in keeping her family safe and together.

Two final concerts in the Sanctuary Series Concert will take place on November 18 from 4-6 pm and December 16 from, 4-6pm. Your presence at these last two concerts would be a special blessing to Laura, Jose, and Joshua (who will again be cooking for all comers and selling their homemade chocolate), and to the performing artists, who so generously share their talents to support the family. Please join us and celebrate how far we have come, together, by love, determination, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!



***All Welcome!  
Come as you are, give  
what you can,  
your presence is gift!***



## *Special Thanks*

A special thank you to our friend and fellow parishioner Sue Corbett for her many years of offering a Saturday Aerobics class at St. Andrew and donating the proceeds from the class to our Food Pantry. Over the years, food purchased with those donations has provided hundreds of meals for our neighbors who come to the pantry. Recently Sue had to give up teaching Aerobics after a knee replacement. We thank her for gifts to the pantry and for using her talent to help feed the hungry in Lake and Geauga Counties.

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS**

Don't forget about the Election Day Bake Sale at St. Andrew on November 6th!

Please plan to bake and donate pies, cookies, cakes, dessert breads or anything to tempt hungry voters! If you'd like to volunteer for the bake sale, contact Michele Miller at [mgkmiller@yahoo.com](mailto:mgkmiller@yahoo.com) or sign up in the Narthex. And don't forget to stop by and see what's for sale on Election Day.

We have some wonderful bakers at St. Andrew who make delicious treats!

# Connected Through Christ

Thanks to everyone who made a pledge of Time, Talent and Treasure for 2019. If you indicated interest in a new ministry, you will be contacted soon by the ministry leader to talk about how to volunteer your service. If you requested printed envelopes for your financial pledge, they should arrive sometime in November. We are on this Christian journey together - **connected**. I'm certain that by embracing that connection, the coming year will bring a deeper relationship with each other and with God. The Stewardship Committee and Vestry and Lisa appreciate everyone's support in building community at St. Andrew and spreading the love of Jesus in the greater community.



*Her Royal Highness Charlotte, known to her friends as Charlie, received a blessing at the St. Andrew Blessing of the Animals on October 14th. This princess pooch who does not enjoy car rides was remarkably calm and well-behaved while receiving her blessing!*

## Thanksgiving is Coming...don't Forget the Pie

Bakers Square pie gift cards will be on sale each Sunday following the 10:30 AM service. Cards cost for \$13 each and St. Andrew receives \$3 from each card sold! Everyone loves pie to finish off their Thanksgiving meal! Get a delicious Bakers Square pumpkin, or cherry, or apple, or French Silk and make it a Thanksgiving to remember!



## Worship Times

### Sundays:

8:00 AM

Quiet Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist with Choir

12:00 PM

Contemporary Eucharist  
with Celebration Band

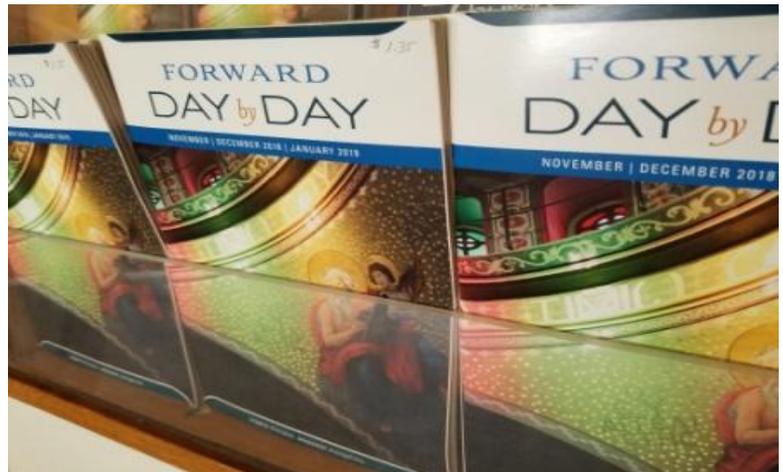
### Wednesdays:

9 :00 AM

Centering Prayer

9:30 AM

Healing & Eucharist



Forward Day by Day is a daily devotion providing meditations on scripture readings designed to encourage discipleship and evangelism. Starting each day with a short reflection on scripture provides an opportunity for spiritual growth and is an easy way to begin a daily bible study. The devotional magazine is available in the St. Andrew Narthex in both a handy pocket size edition and a large print version for a small fee. Each Forward Day by Day covers a three month period and the latest copy is available right now. Pick up a copy today and start your spiritual adventure.



## Follow Us On Social Media

Did you know that St. Andrew is on both Facebook and Twitter? Now you can get news about church activities, pictures, as well as inspirational tweets delivered right to your home computer, mobile device, or smart phone. Be in the know about what's going on at St. Andrew as we post and tweet the good news!

Like St. Andrew on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/StAndrewsEpiscopalChurchMentor](http://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsEpiscopalChurchMentor)  
and follow us on Twitter at:  
[@StAndrew\\_Mentor](https://twitter.com/StAndrew_Mentor).

## Maintenance Issues - Let Us Know

If you are at the church and notice a maintenance issue, please take the time to let the Building & Grounds Committee know. Burnt out light bulbs, stopped up drains, broken chairs, or any other problem can be fixed if we are aware of them.

The best way to let the Committee know about a problem is to fill out a Maintenance Request Form and place it in the Building & Grounds mailbox (the last box nearest the entrance by the church office). A clipboard with blank Maintenance Request Forms is available in the mailbox. We want to keep St. Andrew in tip-top shape, so let us know when you see an issue that needs fixed.