



Good News

NOVEMBER 2022

From the Rector: A Future with Hope

Friends,

In the October newsletter we reflected on how rhythms of exile and return, diaspora and homecoming, have always been a part of Christian life. And that's true.

It's also true, though, that the Covid-19 pandemic (and its lingering effects) has been a season of separation like no other we've ever known. Now that we are (almost) post-pandemic, we may never appreciate the power of gathering together in person more than we do today.

The parish of St. Andrew loves wholeheartedly and always seeks to share the gifts of our community face-to-face, and now, online as well: *The beauty of worship — gathering in the midst of a world full of distance. The wonder of music — singing together in the midst of a world full of silence and loneliness. The sweetness of sacraments — celebrating together the waters of baptism and the nourishment of Communion in the midst of a world full of dust and hunger. And the joy of service — working together in the midst of a world full of broken systems and broken hearts.* We at St. Andrew freely share these gifts with one another as a parish and with those outside our doors, and our gathering and sharing truly make a difference -In the quality of our lives and in the lives of all we meet along the way.

In short, if the world is full of exile, St. Andrew is a community of return. A place to come home to, again and again. A community in which we can tangibly



FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

experience God's ancient promise to "bring you back to this place," and "give you a future with hope." Let's keep it that way, together.

And here's one more thing that's true: even when this pandemic is a distant memory, the world will still be full of need. Still longing for home, for community, for reunion, for return.

That's why St. Andrew is here. That's who we are: a waystation of hope along life's way. It's the same reason God chose to be born with us as Jesus of Nazareth, to help us build bridges of connection and companionship — so that everyone might experience a homecoming to God's new world of joy, justice, and love.

So, keep praying and giving thanks for all the ways our faith, our prayers, our worship, our music, our sacraments, our building, our service, and our lives together help bridge the gaps that divide creation. And we'll look forward to seeing you for Giving Sunday on November 20, our grand celebration of God's gift of "a future with hope."

Faithfully,

Rev. Lisa and the Vestry of St. Andrew: Richard Bair, Rick Berlan, Mary Ellen Fecser, Betsy Lee, Sandy Mazellis, Janna Penkowski, and Joe Papaleo, Jr. Warden

ALTAR GUILD

All Altar Guild members: Please plan on attending the All Clean on December 17th at 9:30 am. For more information or to join, contact June Webb.

PANTY MINISTERS NEEDED

On Sunday, November 5th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, please join us in serving our neighbors at the St. Andrew Food Pantry! No experience necessary — just a willing heart.

November Celebrations

Birthdays

- 01 Jeries Bishara
- 01 Alissa Sitkowski
- 04 Susan Zuber
- 05 Ben Herczog
- 10 Don Koehler
- 12 Amy Dittebrand
- 12 Teagon Koehler
- 16 Ann Russell
- 18 Bryson Koehler
- 19 Joseph Sturm
- 21 John Sankal
- 24 Ted Herczog
- 28 Leo Poitras

Anniversaries

- 01 Ryan & Julie Symonds



Holy Spirit Statue – Sherman Memorial Garden

Important Dates in November

- 06 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm
All Saints Day – bring photos
- 06 Food Pantry 1 – 3 pm
- 08 Election Day – Vote!
- 08 Food Panty 1 – 3 pm
- 13 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm
- 16 Vestry Meeting 6:30 pm
- 20 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm
Giving Sunday – Return Pledge Cards
- 27 Avent Begins
- 27 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE RETURNS

Our 12:00 noon contemporary service is returning this month! Beginning on Sunday, November 6th, there will be a service in the Narthex including our excellent contemporary praise band.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING SUNDAY

November is Stewardship Month at St. Andrew. You will receive a stewardship package in the mail in the next few weeks. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give in terms of time, talent and treasure to keep St. Andrew the vibrant parish that it is.

Return your pledge cards on Giving Sunday, November 20th at 10:30 am.

ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Watch for information about our *Journeying the Way of Love* learning curriculum which we will share together during Advent. Together we will explore:

Advent One: The Annunciation: Saying “Yes” to the Journey

Advent Two: Mary and Elizabeth: Journeying with Family and Friends

Advent Three: The Birth of John the Baptist: Journeying with Community

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Advent Four: The Birth of Jesus: Journeying with the World

In addition, there will be an **Advent Stations of the Cross** and potluck on a Saturday evening in December. And on Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30 pm, we will have a **Candlelight Compline in Anticipation of Emmanuel**.

ST. ANDREW SOCIAL CLUB

Announcing the St. Andrew Social Club beginning this December! Join us for an open house on Saturday, December 10th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the home of Rev. Lisa O'Rear, 1412 Ardoon St., Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

The social club will be a monthly social get together of folks in the St. Andrew community. The idea is to create a friendly space in which our St. Andrew family can get better acquainted and enjoy each other's company outside of church.

There will be sign-up sheets for hosts and guests. The host is responsible for selecting a venue (own home, restaurant, event, museum, coffee shop, ice cream shop, park, etc.,) making reservations if needed and communicating these back to the church. Meals can be part of the event however we request that any costs to attendants be modest. Attendees are encouraged to car pool!

Look for sign-up sheets soon! Potential Hosts can contact the church office.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for John Spiesman, our beloved organist, who is undergoing knee replacement surgery on Monday, November 7th.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

St. Andrew is once again providing a turkey and all the trimmings to our panty neighbors this Thanksgiving. We were fortunate to be able to buy most of our items from the Cleveland Food Bank and we have an agreement with Heinens to purchase the turkeys. Monetary donations are being accepted to defray the cost. Please send these to the church via mail or place in the collection basket with Thanksgiving Basket in the memo line of your check.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio is electing a new bishop at November's convention. Information on the candidates can be found at: www.dohio.org/bishop-search/candidates-for-the-12th-bishop-of-ohio

VESTRY NOTES

It is now Stewardship Month and your vestry wants to thank you in advance for filling out and returning your pledge cards. This information is vital for us to prepare a budget for the coming year. Did you know that while Rev. Lisa was hired at ¾ hours, we were able to move her up to a full-time position in 2022? This is due to both the parishioners' generosity and to having the financial information in advance via pledge cards. Incoming funds are vital to continuing our ministries, paying our staff and to

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keep our physical building in top notch shape.

Big roof news! Our grant request for repairing the flat roof has been granted and the roof will be repaired soon! Unfortunately, an additional unanticipated repair was identified in the parish hall. We have already received \$3,600 of the \$4,900 needed for this. Thank you for your continuing generosity and gifts to St. Andrew.

A NOTE FROM THE BENCH

Present day composer, Dan Schutte (who we know at St. Andrew as composer of Here I Am, Lord), offers these words in his hymn, Saints and Beloved of God:

*In every place and time,
the blessed walk among us.
There's a mighty throng that
stands at our side,
The saints and beloved of God.*
(Dan Schutte, OCP, 2018)

These words remind us that we are never alone when we walk with God, as we prepare to celebrate the community of the faithful who have come before us – our ancestors, friends, relatives, the saints of the church known and yet to come.

All Saints' Day, November 1, celebrated at the liturgy on the first Sunday in November, coincides with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced SAH-win), which marks the end of the growing season, and the Celtic new year. Christine Valters Paintner, author of *The Soul's Slow Ripening* (Sorin, 2018), reminds us that everything begins in darkness and emerges into light – even from the great womb of our birth. The Celts believed that this was a time of transition – a very liminal time during which they were reminded that they are not alone – and are together with the cloud of witnesses just through the veil. In the 9th Century, the

church began the tradition of celebrating All Saints (honoring the saints and martyrs) on November 1, and All Souls (our faithful departed family and ancestors) on November 2.

*We are joined by a great communion,
here on earth and in heaven above,
for this great feast prepared by Christ
the Lord,
companions in His love.*

*For the saints of the past and present,
for the saints of our family and friends,
they have found their home in Christ
the Lord,
whose kingdom never ends.*
(Dan Schutte, OCP, 2018)

We are invited through scripture to embrace the night, for in the darkness our dreams come as gifts. The darkness brings forth our dream wisdom.

*For God does speak—now one way,
now another—
though no one perceives it.
In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falls on people
as they slumber in their beds. (Job
33:14-15)*

*“But if you tell me the dream and
explain it, you will receive from me gifts
and rewards and great honor. So tell
me the dream and interpret it for me.”
(Daniel 2:6)*

*But after he had considered this, an
angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
dream and said, “Joseph son of David,*

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*do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because what is conceived in her is from the Holy
Spirit.” (Matthew 1:20)*

The Rev. Robert Haden, an Episcopal priest, notes that Hebrews and Christians believed that dreams are the primary way in which God speaks. Haden notes third century Babylonian sage Rabbi Hisda’s teaching – A dream uninterpreted is like a letter (from God) unopened (Unopened Letters from God, Haden Institute Publishing, 2010, p. 1).

Dreams come to us as metaphors, which Haden notes to be the primary language of the Divine. Dreams give us clues about life’s path and how we can re-center. Even nightmares come in the service of healing and wholeness, just like all dreams.

May this time first celebrated by the ancient Celts and by the Church today honoring All Saints and All Souls be a time of great connection with those we love who have gone before. May we be blessed by the Dream maker with many dream gifts – and – may we never leave these gifts unopened.

*In every place and time,
the blessed walk among us.
There’s a mighty throng that
stands at our side,
The saints and beloved of God
(Dan Schutte, OCP, 2018)*

Blessings of All the Saints, and Souls who we remember with Joy in this Holy time,

John Spiesman, Organist



References:

Haden, R.L. (2010). Unopened letters from God: A workbook for individuals and groups. Haden Institute Publishing, NC.

Valters-Paintner, C. (2018). The soul’s slow ripening: 12 Celtic practices for seeking the sacred. Sorin, Notre Dame, IN.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We are celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6th at both services. Bring a photograph or memento of your departed loved ones to share in our prayers and remembrance.

In Mexican households, All Souls Day, or Dia De Los Muertos is celebrated by creating an Ofrenda (Offering) to honor their loved ones.

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*Perez family
Ofrenda –
11/2/2022*

JOIN VESTRY

It is not too early to begin thinking about running for Vestry. There will be three 3-year terms and one 1-year term that will need to be filled in February. As you know, the Vestry is the governing body of the church. They meet 1 time a month on the third Wednesday of at 6:30pm and hopefully attend the spiritual events that occur. It is a great way to learn more about the workings of the church while having fun. Any questions, ask a present vestry member or Rev. Lisa. Please also let Rev. Lisa know if you are interested in running.