



XX

February 2014

Rector's Reflections

In the past weeks, a number of people have spoken to me about a book that is getting a lot of buzz right now. It's called *Zealot*, by Reza Aslan, and it's an investigation into the life and times of Jesus. Books aiming to shed light on the historical Jesus are prevalent, but this book has shot up the best-seller lists for a couple of reasons. I have not read it yet, but by all accounts it is a surprisingly gripping narrative for a story so often told. Aslan is not just a religious scholar; he is also a creative writing professor who runs his own media company, so he is bringing some added skills and angles to the endeavor.

The buzz also stems from the fact that Aslan is an Iranian American Muslim. Some in the media have questioned his place and even his motives in writing about Jesus. They seemingly discount his own life story, which included a foray into evangelical Christianity, and his marriage to a devout Roman Catholic.

The biggest cause for debate, however, seems to be the thrust of the book itself. As I understand it, Aslan's argument is that Jesus was part of the Zealot movement – political revolutionaries who sought to overthrow the empire using any and all means necessary. It's an interesting and controversial claim that would presumably be at odds with the common image of Jesus as a peacemaker.

Are you intrigued yet? I hope so. For our Lenten Study and Supper Series this year, we are going to read and discuss this book. We'll gather from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on consecutive Wednesday evenings: March 12, March 19, and March 26. For the first two sessions, we will be in White Hall; for the final session, we'll meet upstairs in Room 207 (because of NEST). If you are interested, pick up the book and plan to join us for dinner and conversation as we dig into the life of Jesus. What better way to kick off the season of Lent?

Faithfully,
John

Sr. Warden's Letter

Over the past year or so, John has had questions from some of us regarding a sensitive issue. It is one that none of us can escape, but most are uncomfortable discussing—planning for the end of life. It may be for ourselves, for parents, or for other loved ones that we must address this issue. And it's not just those "of a certain age" that need to be concerned. Even young families must plan for their children's care if something happened to them.

We talk a great deal about stewardship at St. Andrew's. This brings to mind the financial side, but the most important aspect of stewardship is making sure you have taken care of your own needs and those of your loved ones. Ignoring that need is not being good stewards. Planning for your future and the needs of your family is one of the greatest acts of love. Discussing and learning within the caring community of our Church will make dealing with difficult issues easier and more meaningful.

To help us address end of life planning, the Adult Forum will have a series of programs in February. Topics are

- Feb. 2 Understanding the Options for Care - Pat Hodge & Karen Mitchell
- Feb. 9 Praying Our Goodbyes - The Rev. John Rohrs
- Feb. 16 Planning a Funeral Service - The Rev. John Rohrs & Bryan Graves, H. D. Oliver Funeral Apartments
- Feb. 23 Estate Matters and Planned Giving - Ann Dodson & Sally Kellam

The discussion on planned giving will deal with long-term estate planning for those that wish to ensure the future financial health of St. Andrew's as part of their overall estate plan. It is thanks to generous parishioners like Dorothy Denby, who wanted to leave a legacy at her beloved Church, that we enjoy greater financial stability now.

Please plan to attend this series of conversations that are important to all of us.

Faithfully,
Sally

Stewardship 2014 Campaign Final Report

As of January 15, we have received 154 pledges, for a total of **\$333,266**. This represents an achievement of more than 100 % of our pledge goal of \$330,000. Thank you!

Vestry Nominations for the term 2014-2017

In order to nominate someone to serve on the Vestry for the 2014-2017 term you must complete a Nomination Form. **ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SENIOR WARDEN OR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR NO LATER THAN MARCH 15.** To be considered for the Vestry, the Diocesan Canons require a person to be at least 18 years old and be listed in the parish register as a confirmed communicant in good standing. In addition, a person offering for the Vestry should be aware that Vestry meetings are normally held on the third Monday of each month, and Vestry members typically sit on one standing committee as well. A Vestry member accepts the responsibility of spiritual leadership as well as a business responsibility. Regular church attendance and financial support is expected. You may use the form below to submit a nomination:

To: The Nominating Committee of the Vestry of St. Andrew's Church

From:

I nominate the following person for consideration to serve on the Vestry for the 2014-2017 term. I have discussed the matter with this person and he/she has agreed to serve

PERSON NOMINATED

Sunday School News

The third rotation of Sunday School concluded on January 26th. Thank you so much to our wonderful teachers. Beth Murphy, Liz Minton, and Hunter Benson did a great job with our Pre-K- First Grade class. The Second-Fifth grade class was taught by the amazing team of Ann Dodson, Deane Sobol, and Jackie Scott.

The fourth and final rotation of classes begins on February 2nd. Below are some other important upcoming dates and activities.

February 9th: Valentine's Day Activity at 9:00 in White Hall (This takes place in lieu of Sunday School).

February 16th: President's Day Weekend (No Sunday School)

February 23rd: Reaching Out to Our Neighbors (This takes place in lieu of Sunday School).

March 2nd: Preparing for Lent Activity (This takes place in lieu of Sunday School).

February Youth Group Events

Feb. 9 - Norfolk Convocation Valentine's Party - 4:00-5:30--Join friends from other local churches as we host a Valentine's party for the residents of Tucker House, an apartment facility for low-income seniors. Contact Andie with how you can contribute - bringing baked goods, playing your musical instrument, coordinating a game or craft...

Feb. 23 - Stop Hunger Now - We will join the congregation at 2:00 pm to pack meals to be shipped to hungry people throughout the world. We'll have some fellowship time either before or after the event - watch your email for details!

Outreach Ministries

This year again around the Lenten Season, the Outreach Ministry Committee will highlight the parish hunger ministries. During this time, there will be opportunities for the parish community to donate time, food and funds to help those in our community and around the world who are less fortunate. Volunteers can sign up for work on sheets on the table in White Hall; food donations can be brought to church and placed in the red wagon in the Narthex or left in the basket outside of the parish office; and financial gifts can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office with a notation for which ministry the donation is to be designated.

The first volunteer opportunity will come on Sunday, February 23, 2014 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. when the parish will host its 3rd annual **Stop Hunger Now Meal Packing Party**. The hope is to package 10,000+ meals to benefit hungry families around the world.

Soon after on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 (Ash Wednesday), the parish week to host the **Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST)** will begin. For that week White Hall will become a temporary evening homeless shelter for the community. Volunteers will be needed to prepare and serve meals and to staff overnight shifts.

During Lent, the parish will conduct a drive to donate a ton of food (either by way of cash or kind) to the **Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia**. If money is donated to the Food Bank, record Food Bank in the memo section of the check made out to St. Andrew's.

Two year-round parish food ministries are the **AIDS Cook-In** and the **Catholic Worker Sandwich Ministry**.

- The **Cook-In** is a project that prepares and freezes hundreds of nutritious dinners for shut-ins in the community and parish. Volunteers gather one Sunday every other month at the church to cook. Information and sign-ups for Cook-In donations can be found on the Outreach Ministry Bulletin Board. Scheduled 2014 Cook-In dates are May 18, July 13, September 21, and November 16.
- People who would like to donate to the **Catholic Worker Sandwich Ministry** should get sandwiches to the church on the Friday prior to the 4th Saturday of the month. Those who would like more information or who would like to volunteer to help with the food distribution on the 4th Saturday should contact Robin Kruger at 757-470-9882.

The Outreach Committee will be hosting the coffee hour on Sunday, February 2nd and the various food ministries of the parish will be highlighted. Committee members will also be available at that time to answer questions and to sign-up volunteers. At the Coffee Hour, a table will be set up for those who want to participate in the parish's annual letter writing campaign to Congress on behalf of Bread for the World. Bread for the World provides a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. For more information go to <http://www.bread.org/>

NEST is coming to St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's is a member of the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST), a coalition of churches and synagogues that provide an overnight homeless shelter during the winter months. The shelter moves each week to a different location. Our week starts Wednesday, March 5, and runs through Tuesday, March 11. For those seven nights, St. Andrew's will host 50-60 homeless men and women sleeping on the floor in White Hall.

NEST is a barebones shelter. Our guests are admitted at 7:30 pm. We give them a hot supper, and a mat and a blanket on the floor. They get a light breakfast before they leave at 7:00 am.

It takes at least 15-20 volunteers to staff the shelter each night. There are plenty of jobs for everyone: registration desk, chefs and assistant cooks, evening helpers and overnight watch keepers. Stop by the signup desk in White Hall to see the schedule.

In the meantime, I invite you to take a minute in church to ponder the messages in the stained glass windows depicting the six Corporal Works of Mercy from Matthew 25: 34-40. The Gospel is clear on this. Jesus states

unambiguously that we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, give shelter to strangers, minister to the sick and prisoners. He goes even further. He says that when we fail to do these acts to the least of our fellow humans we are failing Him personally.

Charles Joy, Rector of St. Andrew's for over 25 years, used to tell the story of a rich society lady who went to the midnight Christmas mass at a very wealthy parish in New York. She was wearing her finest Christmas outfit. The church was crowded, and to her chagrin she found herself sitting next to a homeless woman in smelly dirty clothes. The rich lady was so offended that she found herself praying, "God, please make this foul stinky person move to a different pew." God answered her prayer. He said, "I AM that old woman."

Jim Rhodes
NEST Chairman

Women's Retreat in March

The Women of St. Andrew's will sponsor a Women's Retreat on March 8 for all women of the church. Our guest speaker this year will be Reverend John Rohrs who will present an interactive workshop which will address the journey of Holy Week from a feminist perspective. This retreat promises to be an excellent beginning to the Lenten Season so plan on joining us. The retreat will be held in Auditorium from 10:00 – 2:00. Tickets for the Retreat are \$10.00 and will include lunch. If you will need babysitting services, please email Deane Sobol at sobold43@gmail.com or text her at 635-6339 by February 22nd. There will be a nominal fee of \$5 for babysitting services. As they are developed, you will find additional details in the church bulletin, Happenings, on the web site and Facebook.

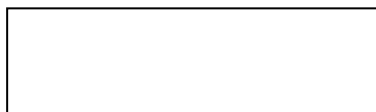
Parish Life Breakfast and Sunday School Valentines - On Sunday, February 9th at 9:00 am we will host a Parish breakfast before the 10:15 service. Sunday school classes will also be making Valentines for our home bound parishioners and college students. Please sign up on the sheet outside White Hall if you plan to attend.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1004 Graydon Ave
Office: 1009 W. Princess Anne Road
Norfolk, VA 23507

Vestry

Sally Kellam, **Senior Warden**
Dean Rogis, **Junior Warden**
Charlotte Zito, **Register**
Jim Affeldt
Hunter Benson
Mavis Benz
Elizabeth Evans
Carter Furr
Paul Kovalcik
Jay Lassiter
Greg Murphy
Wendy Nuzzo
Dennis Pendleton
Deane Sobol
Tristan Carter Warren

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St. Andrew's is a parish of worship, spiritual growth, acceptance and healing centered in the Eucharist. We reach beyond ourselves, striving to allow God to work through our hands as Christ's own. In our role as stewards of God's gifts we embrace a comprehensive concept of stewardship as central to our ministry. As a place of hope for all people, we celebrate with joy through grace our oneness in Christ.

Saint Andrew's SALTIRE

The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Norfolk, Virginia
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The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia
The Reverend John Rohrs, Rector
The Reverend Andie Wigodsky Rohrs, Associate Priest for Family Ministry
Larry Brett, Treasurer
Dennis Sipes, Parish Administrator
Dr. James Kosnik, Organist/Choir Dir
Richard Rigg, Youth Choir Dir
Jessica Chesson, Christian Ed Director
Ashlee Erestrain, Nursery Coordinator
Taylor Lloyd, Nursery Worker
JonMichel Sipes, Sexton
Steve Blevins & John Hudson, & Pat Garris, Assistants to the Treasurer

St. Andrew's Flower Guild: Flowers at St. Andrew's are provided by the talented and devoted volunteers of the Flower Guild. Their work is a partnership between the donors who contribute money for flower memorials and thanksgivings, and members of the Guild who give their time and considerable talent to create the arrangements. The Guild provides floral arrangements in the church for all Sundays except during Lent and Advent, with extensive floral decorations of the sanctuary and narthex at Christmas and Easter. Flowers for baptisms, funerals and church receptions are also provided by the Flower Guild. Flower Guild volunteers expect to serve once every 6- 8 weeks, and everyone helps with Easter and Christmas. New members are welcome and no experience is necessary. All you need is a desire to learn and a love of beauty. Contact Lee Snyder for more information at flrguru@cox.net or Elizabeth at eliz.snyder@gmail.com.

Be a Blessing From Heaven: You can help support the publication of the St. Andrew's Cookbook, *Blessings From Heaven*, in two ways. One is by making a donation of \$10.00. All those who give their support in this manner would be listed in the cookbook. The second way to support us is to make a dedication to a chef in your life, either from your past or present. Give their name, their relationship to you and say something about them (using about 200 characters). There will be a dedication section in the cookbook for these individuals. The donation for the dedication is \$25.00. The financial support that is donated will be used to offset the publishing costs of the book so that all money made from the sale of the cookbook can go directly into the WSA outreach programs. Forms for making the donations can be found in White Hall on, what is now, the cookbook bureau.