

The Saltire



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**September &
October 2015**

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The Saltire is a bi-monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Through feature stories, photographs and updates on events past and future, *The Saltire* provides a window into the vibrant life of our parish family. Historically, a "saltire" is the X-shaped cross associated with St. Andrew. For us, as for him, it is a symbol of faith and life!

Youth Embark On Successful Mission Trip

By The Rev. Andie Rohrs



On July 12, fourteen energetic teenagers and four adult leaders from St. Andrew's set out for the opposite corner of our state, the town of St. Paul in the Appalachian mountains. Tim Sobol ably drove a Suburban (courtesy of Karen and Doug Mitchell) packed with gear and supplies. Jim Kruger, Genevieve Nelson, and Andie Rohrs followed with team members, and we arrived safely at Grace House on the Mountain that evening.

Grace House is a non-profit sponsored by the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. It is run by Anita and Jerry Boyd, who are from the region. They review applications from local residents who are requesting assistance with much-needed home repairs. Teams like ours come to stay at Grace House and are deployed to work on the selected projects. Those teams also are responsible for paying for the supplies for the projects, as well as for their stay at Grace House.

When we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by clergy and parishioners of churches in the area. They provided a delicious dinner, and after our meal, we had a service of Holy Eucharist in a beautiful outdoor chapel in the woods.

Making Connections

New ministry to foster hospitality and community at St. Andrew's

By The Rev. John Rohrs

Visitors and newcomers often remark about the warm welcome they receive from the people of St. Andrew's. It's not uncommon for them to say that they felt at home the first time they came through the doors. Indeed, hospitality is a gift of this congregation and that is something for us to celebrate. At the same time,

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The next morning, we divided into two work teams and went to our respective sites. One team built a ramp connecting a mobile home to a driveway. The woman who lived in the home is taken by ambulance three times a week for dialysis, and the ramp allows her to be transported more safely and comfortably. The other team built a deck off the back of a mobile home on a hill. Before the deck, there had been a dangerous drop out the door of the trailer. There were families present at both locations, and members of our team enjoyed visiting with the grownups and playing with the children during down times and breaks in our work.

When we weren't working, our team had a great time enjoying the beauty surrounding Grace House. There were countless volleyball and softball games, as well as epic, complex versions of hide-and-seek that involved hiding in the dark woods and lots of screaming. We also had several campfires, evening meetings where we debriefed the events of the day, and nightly worship.

We left Grace House feeling hopeful that we had helped our brothers and sisters by making their lives a little easier and, in the process, revealing the love of Christ. But we also left having experienced Christ in the people we encountered – in their hospitality toward us, in the love and care that they show one another, and in their pride for the beauty of the land and culture of the region. The trip was a blessing for all who went.



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there is always more to be done. We are a growing community with lots of new faces, and it can be hard for folks to get to know each other and make connections. Sometimes visitors fall through the cracks or move elsewhere because they have trouble meeting people and getting involved.

Beginning on Kickoff Sunday, September 13, a new ministry team will aim to facilitate connections and build community among newcomers and oldtimers alike. Each Sunday, two greeters will be assigned to the 10:15 a.m. service. They will assist the ushers in welcoming everyone to worship, and they will be available for anyone who needs special assistance – a visitor looking for the nursery, a parishioner who needs help finding the wheelchair accessible ramp, etc. Then, following the service, the greeters will continue their ministry during our parish coffee hour. They will help distribute name tags to everyone and will facilitate conversations to help people feel welcome.

Of course, everyone has a role to play in building community. To that end, magnetic name badges (no pins!) will be available for all active church members at a table station set up in White Hall. Please find your alphabetized name and put on your name badge either prior to coffee hour or when you arrive. You may take it home with you and bring it back when you come to church, or you may leave it at the station when you leave and we will keep it for you. Visitors and anyone who forgets their name badge will receive stick-on name tags. Thank you for your participation!

A few final words on this effort... Often, people feel hesitant to ask someone if they are new to church. They fear that the person will reply that they've been there for 20 years, with resulting embarrassment for both parties. But there is a simple solution: don't ask that question. Instead, just introduce yourself and say that you can't remember his/her name. That leads into small talk, and typically you will quickly discover whether or not they are new to St. Andrew's. Obviously, we do not want to overwhelm visitors, so we need to be mindful that some people will be glad for the extra attention while others may wish to float below the radar. That's okay, but we want to err on the side of welcome, and let the wonderful warmth of this congregation shine through.

Welcome Back to Sunday School!

Sunday School News

A New year of Sunday School is right around the corner! We are still looking for a few teachers to complete our amazing group of volunteers. Please e-mail Jessica Chesson at jchesson@standrewsnorfolk.org or call 692-6867 to find out more.

Some important upcoming dates:

September 6 at 9:30 a.m.; Teacher Training and Orientation

September 13 at 9:00 a.m.; Welcome Back Breakfast and Sunday School Registration * along with Activities Fair

September 13 at the 10:15 a.m. service; the Blessing of Backpacks. Bring your backpacks and meet in the Narthex

September 20 at 9:00 a.m.; First Day of Sunday School

September 27 at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School

October 4 at 9:00 a.m. ; Sunday School

October 11; NO Sunday School (Columbus Day Weekend)

October 18: Sunday School

October 25 at 9:00 a.m.; All Hollow's Eve Activity

*Please note, if you cannot come that day you can register your child by contacting Jessica Chesson.

Sunday School Teachers

Thank you so very much for agreeing to teach Sunday School this year. You are truly giving the children here at St. Andrew's a precious gift and it is most appreciated. Please feel free to contact Jessica with any questions.

Please remember that if you have not completed Safe Church Training in the past three years you will need to do so by going on the Diocesan web site: http://www.diosova.org/safe_church and complete the online course .

Also, please mark you calendar for Sunday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m. We will have teacher training and orientation. The different units and other information will be distributed and there will be time left at the end to plan with your co-teachers.

Finally, Sunday School will begin on September 20 for those of you teaching the first cycle.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to St. Andrew's. The children are so fortunate to have such wonderful teachers!

Upcoming Youth Group Events

Let's Hit the Beach! – Sunday, September 13, 12:00-3:30 pm

We'll kick off EYC for the year with an afternoon at East Beach. Meet in White Hall. Bring a towel, boogie board, Frisbee, football, card game...whatever you enjoy doing by the water! Sandwiches, snacks, and drinks will be provided.

Annual Meal Packing for Ghent Area Ministries – Sunday, September 27, 5:30-7:30

We'll share a meal together and then assemble non-perishable meals for Ghent Area Ministries, a local non-profit dedicated to helping our neighbors in need.

AND... Mark your calendar for the **Diocesan Youth Weekends at Chanco!**

October 2-4 – October Weekend for grades 8-12

November 6-8 – Happening for grades 10-12

November 13-15 – November Weekend for grades 6-9

Contact The Rev. Andie Rohrs with questions (arohrs@standrewsnorfolk.org) about any of these events or for more information. It is going to be a great year for our Youth Group!

Adult Forum Fall Schedule

Join us for Adult Forum as we kick off an exciting new season of discussions. All sessions are from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium.

Sept. 20, Sept. 27, and Oct. 4

Saints, Sinners, and Superheroes: Faith and Identity in Popular Cinema

Guest speaker: Dr. Terry Lindvall, C.S. Lewis Professor of Communication and Christian Thought, Virginia Wesleyan University

Oct. 11

Parish Forum: Updates on the Columbarium, future use of the Rectory, marriage liturgies, and more

Guest speaker: Rector, Wardens, and Columbarium Committee

Oct. 18

No Forum due to Annual Stewardship Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 15, and Nov. 22

Meeting Jesus in Our Midst: Images of Matthew 25

Tentative Guest speaker for Oct. 25 ("I was a stranger and you welcomed me"): Dr. Elie Arusi, parishioner and EVMS resident, speaking on Christian persecution in his native Syria.

No Forum on Nov. 1 due to Fall Festival/All Saints

Guest speaker for Nov. 8 ("I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink"):

Guest speaker for Nov. 15 ("I was in prison and you visited me"): Michael Stone, Executive Director of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

Guest speaker for Nov. 22 ("I was sick and you cared for me"): Gregg Smith, Board President, ACCESS AIDS Care

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 13, with Parish Breakfast, Sunday School Registration, Activities Fair and the Blessing of Backpacks at the 10:15 service

Women of St. Andrew's meeting, Sept. 16 at 6:00 p.m. in White Hall

St. Andrew's AIDS Cook-in, Sept. 20 at 8:00 a.m.

Adult Forum/Sunday School begins, Sept. 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Young Adult and Family Potluck, Sept. 20, 5:00—7:00 p.m. in White Hall/Playground

Annual Women of St. Andrew's Bella's Rummage/Book Sale, Sept. 26 at 9:00 a.m. in White Hall/Auditorium

Sandwiches for the Catholic Worker Sandwich Ministry are due by Noon on Sept. 25.

Annual Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Annual Stewardship Breakfast, Oct. 18 at 9:00 a.m., White Hall

Positive Parenting Workshop, Oct. 18, 3:00—5:00 p.m., White Hall

Sandwiches for the Catholic Worker Sandwich Ministry are due by Noon on Oct. 23

Fall Festival begins, Oct. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to our Newcomers!

Please welcome our newcomers and help them feel at home. It helps to remember this rule of thumb for coffee hour and other parish events: spend the first three minutes introducing yourself to someone you don't know!

Yanick Dalhouse

Casey and Chris Harney, Tory

Jamie and Gavin Hemthorn,
Dorian

Bob Parsons

Liza and David Vincent, Jude,
Lilly and Hattie

Vestry Updates

At their July meeting, the Vestry welcomed members of the Columbarium Committee, chaired by Jim Affeldt and Deane Sobol. The Committee members shared a report on their nearly two years of work collecting information, soliciting parishioner input, and forming plans on the possibility of building a columbarium at St. Andrew's. The group had visited many columbarium sites throughout Hampton Roads and had interviewed several columbarium companies to help determine their recommendations.

Jim Affeldt had also drawn up a beautiful preliminary design of the columbarium, to be located in the garden area on the west side of the church (across from the Rectory and diagonal from the playground). Plans would include an enclosed area with room for gathering or quiet meditation, and also a memorial wall to allow for those buried elsewhere to have their names listed as well. Please visit the Columbarium Committee's booth at the Sept. 13 Ministries Fair to learn more, and also attend their presentation at the Adult Forum on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Also at that July meeting, the Vestry gave initial approval to access \$20,000 from the endowment funds to pay for phase one of planned renovations to the Rectory. Phase one projects will include structural repairs, asbestos abatement, a new HVAC system, flooring repairs, and electrical work. Phase two renovations, including roof repairs and painting, will be planned for later this year or 2016. Meanwhile, the Rectory Planning Committee is beginning its work of discerning future possible uses for the Rectory. Stay tuned for more updates as they ramp up their efforts in the fall.

The Vestry did not meet in August, but they did conduct an electronic vote to give secondary approval (per the endowment policy guidelines) to access the \$20,000 for Rectory repairs. Those phase one repairs will now move forward in the weeks ahead.

Parish Prayers and Thanksgivings

Births: Aubrey Grace Curtis, granddaughter of Joann Binford and Stephen Leist, July 9
Sterling Elizabeth Stephenson, daughter of Lindsay and Andy Stephenson, August 6
Jackson Lee Holloway, son of Ashley Holloway and grandson of Hunter Costas, August 15

Deaths: Jean Schauer Peterson, July 17
Michael Hurd, July 18
JoAnn Wigodsky, grandmother of Andie Wigodsky Rohrs, July 31

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Food Bank Backpack Program



The Backpack program is an initiative developed by the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia to address the nutritional needs of children who are at risk of weekend hunger. These children, identified by school personnel, are discreetly provided backpacks filled with non-perishable food, to eat on weekends and school holi-

days. There are 25 children at W. H. Taylor Elementary School that receive these bags. The cost of the program is \$100 per student, per school year, or \$50 each semester. Please consider partnering with The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the PTA of W. H. Taylor Elementary School to provide backpacks for the 2013-2014 academic year. If interested in learning more about this program, please contact Hilarie Dayton, at 615-5802, hilariewakefielddayton@yahoo.com



Mark Your Calendars

Young Adult and Family Potluck, White Hall and Playground - Sunday, September 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

This annual event is always a great chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Blessing of the Animals— Sunday, October 4, 3:00 p.m.

This annual event offers individuals with pets an opportunity to reflect upon the positive impact animals have on our emotional and physical well-being. Individuals are invited to bring their companion animals, properly restrained, to front lawn of the church for the Blessing of the Animals. All are welcome.

Positive Discipline Parenting Workshop - Sunday, October 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Jessica Chesson, our Sunday School Coordinator, has been trained as a facilitator in the Positive Discipline philosophy. She will teach some the basic tenets and techniques that are applicable for children of all ages. Childcare will be provided.

St. Andrew's Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour follows the 10:15 service each Sunday. This is an opportunity to greet one another, learn who is new to the area and to the parish family..While the church provides the coffee and hot tea as well as the paper plates and napkins, it depends upon church members to "host" each event and provide the

snacks. The mantra is "simple goodness. Snacks can include cake, cookies or quick bread, fresh fruit and/or fresh veggies with a dip, chips with dip, pretzels, goldfish crackers or nuts, and some soft drinks or iced tea or lemonade. The "hour" generally does not last past noon. For those who wish to serve as hosts,

there is a sign-up sheet at the "Information Desk" outside of White Hall. Guidance for hosting may be found in the back of the sign-up sheets. You may want to share the pleasure of hosting with a friend.

Time Again for Foyer Groups To Resume!

What today we refer to as foyer dinner groups was born in the Diocese of Coventry, England, in the aftermath of the massive destruction from the German blitz on London during World War II. The fourteenth-century cathedral was destroyed, but a ministry of reconciliation evolved from that destruction; and about 25 years later, in 1967, the staff of Coventry Cathedral began meeting in small groups to bridge differences, eventually giving these gatherings their present name. What they discovered were the strong bonds that formed from this communal experience.

The foyer groups are strictly social events—sometimes dinners, sometimes brunches; sometimes in a home, apartment, or condo; sometimes a meal at a local restaurant. The only constant is the presence of good food and wine! Foyer groups are what the members of each group decide to make them. It is a chance to visit and socialize outside of church with people you already know, but more importantly, with people you do not know. There are no rules,” and there surely is nothing that says you have to host a sit down dinner in your home. Signup sheets are located at the

Information Table in the hallway leading to White Hall. We'll want to know if you can host a meeting in your home. It is not necessary, but we need to know for planning purposes. You can also indicate if you prefer to eat out. If you have any other requests, such as you'll need a ride, please indicate that on the sheet so we can coordinate transportation for you. Feel free to contact Mike Whitehurst, Foyer Groups Coordinator via email: mwhitehurst@aol.com or call 757-374-3829 to sign up if it isn't convenient to attend coffee hour. The deadline is Sunday, September 27.

All Saints' intercessory prayer list requests are due by October 25

All Saints' Sunday is when we remember in intercessions the names of all those who have been buried from this church since the last All Saints' Day. If you would like to list the names of others who have died, please list their FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES (no initials, titles, etc.) on the form below. Place the form in the offering plate or in the parish administrator's box in the library - or you may call the parish office at 622-5530.

Please print clearly, include your name & phone number in case there are questions about spelling, etc.

Your name:

Phone:

Christian Name(s) of deceased:

Women of St. Andrew's

The Women of St. Andrew's send care packages twice a year (at exam time) to our undergraduate college students. **Please call or email the church office with your student's mailing address and email address!** The first mailing will go out right after Thanksgiving. **We don't want to leave anyone out!** Questions, contact Ann Dodson at 627-1353 or ann.dodson@cox.net.



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*A neighborhood church with
a heart for the world.*

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St. Andrew's Mission Statement

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. As a place of hope for all people, we celebrate with joy through grace our oneness in Christ.

St. Andrew's Officers and Vestry

Jay Lassiter, *Sr. Warden*
Greg Murphy, *Jr. Warden*
Larry Brett, *Treasurer*
Dennis Pendleton, *Register*

Mavis Benz
Kristan Burch
Carter Furr
Sally Kellam
Paul Kovalcik
Doug Mitchell
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St. Andrew's Staff

The Rev. John Rohrs, *Rector*

The Rev. Andie W. Rohrs
Priest Associate

Dennis Sipes
Parish Administrator

Stephen Leist
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Jessica Chesson
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