

The Saltire



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July & August
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!

Recapping an Eventful Week at General Convention



By The Rev. John Rohrs

From June 28 – July 5, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. General Convention is the triennial gathering of bishops, clergy and lay representatives from all Episcopal dioceses in the United States (and several surrounding territories and countries).

This particular gathering was a momentous one in many ways. Early in the week, the two voting houses elected a new presiding bishop for the church – The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, currently the Bishop of North Carolina and the first African American elected presiding bishop. Bishop Curry is a charismatic preacher and leader who is also outspoken on matters of social justice. He is viewed as someone who can help the church grow faithfully in a changing religious landscape at home, while also building bridges with the church in other parts of the Anglican Communion.

See *General Convention*, page 2

Transitions in Life Group Taking Shape

By The Rev. Andie Rohrs

St. Andrew's new Transitions in Life group is up and running! There have been several meetings, and more are on the calendar. The group is designed to be a forum for fellowship, education, and support around transitions such as caring for elderly parents, grieving the loss of parents and spouses, preparing for and adjusting to retirement, and launching adult children. Clearly, this is a diverse group of topics, and not everyone in the group is experiencing each of them. In general, though, members have found plenty of common ground and are able to support

See *Transitions*, page 2

General Convention, continued

Later in the week, both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies overwhelmingly approved liturgical changes that will ensure marriage equality for gay and lesbian Episcopalians. They first approved a change to the church's canons, eliminating language defining marriage as between a man and a woman, and they then authorized the use of an adapted form of the marriage service in the *Book of Common Prayer*, with this version substituting the language of persons or spouses for husband and wife. This adapted version, along with the recently adopted "Covenant

Blessing" liturgy, would be eligible for use by either heterosexual or homosexual couples. The implementation of these liturgies remains under the discretion of each bishop in his/her own diocese, though the expectation is that they will be made available soon. More information will be forthcoming as we learn more from Bishop Hollerith after his return from the convention.

A large number of participating bishops organized a special walk and prayer service dedicated to overcoming racism, gun violence and poverty, highlighting the tragedy of recent events in

Charleston, S.C. and beyond. A number of resolutions followed that addressed each issue. There was also an important focus on acknowledging the prevalence of addiction in the church, especially alcoholism, and a commitment to taking steps to create a better climate for recovery and support in our congregations. (Hopefully, we have gotten the jump on this at St. Andrew's with our new Recovery Eucharist, and the recent implementation of an alternative chalice at our main services.) For more information about General Convention, visit [and click on the tab for General Convention.](#)

Transitions, continued

one another even if they do not share the same challenges.

The May meeting was particularly inspiring. The group welcomed Dr. Suzan Thompson, a therapist who focuses on helping people through times of transition. Dr. Thompson led several exercises that helped participants think more intentionally about this time when for many, the demands of a career and caring for children have subsided. Judie Belka, one of the facilitators of the group, said, "I found it helpful because I tend to be a big picture thinker, and it was good for me to think about where I am called to be right now and to find value in that."

The June meeting of the group at the home of Ann and Chip Dodson was designated as a time for sharing and fellowship. Mike Whitehurst pointed out that even though people in the group are going through different things, they are still able to relate to and support one another. Sometimes there is collective wisdom in the group that can be helpful as well. "When people start talking about what they are going

through, it can help you identify what you might be going through. Our situations aren't always as unique as we think they are," he said. He is transitioning into retirement, but as a former insurance salesman, he had helpful advice for the group about long term care insurance.

In July, the group will welcome Kelly Good, a parish nurse from Old Donation Episcopal Church, who will speak about caring for elderly loved ones and caring for oneself in the midst of that. A book discussion on *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande is planned for August. After that, the group will consider what meeting times and topics will be most helpful for the fall.

The Transitions in Life group welcomes anyone from St. Andrew's who is interested in attending. New male members in particular would help the gender balance of the group. As Mike said, "Some people may not think they're in transition, but I think that really life is putting us in transition whether we realize it or not!"

Vacation Bible School Was A Huge Success!

For the second year in a row after a long hiatus, St. Andrew's hosted Vacation Bible School this summer from June 22-25. Thirty-five children participated, alongside a large cadre of wonderful volunteers. Under the terrific leadership of Sunday School Coordinator Jessica Chesson and the Rev. Andie Rohrs, children learned about the power of God's love for us using a curriculum entitled "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." They had a blast!



Update from Josh & Rosanna

Dear St. Andrew's Church,

Rosanna and I wanted to give you an update on how things are going in our lives since another year of seminary and residency has come and gone. We are doing quite well. Rosanna is beginning the final year of her emergency medicine residency and is growing more confident by the day treating patients in the busy Level 1 trauma center at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, which is often so crowded that they have beds in the hallways. My year at Sewanee had the toughest semester yet during the springtime but I still enjoyed the learning and worship. One of the highlights was being able to reconnect with St. Andrew's folks when I visited Norfolk in March, including seeing some college students on the way, visiting the West family in Charlottesville, and staying with the Pickrells in Norfolk.

After the school year ended, I traveled to Costa Rica for a month for a Spanish immersion experience. I was in class four hours per day and I stayed with a woman who did not speak English. Of course, I managed to find time for lots of surfing, exploring, and some kayaking while I was there. Rosanna visited for a week also but she has since made clear that I should not make a habit of lengthy trips abroad without her! Now that I am back, Rosanna and I are beginning to think seriously about where God might be calling us to serve in our respective ministries, beginning in summer 2016. We will certainly need God's help to find a church and hospital close to each other where we would both be excited about working. We are seeking the guidance of Bishop Hollerith throughout this process and, as always, your prayers and support mean so much to us. We hope to see you all soon. Keep in touch.

In Peace,

Josh Stephens

stephj0@sewanee.edu



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Meditative Yoga Class,
Thursdays at noon

St. Andrew's Talent Show,
July 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Deadline for Sept./Oct. *Saltire*
articles, August 18

Kickoff Sunday, with Ministry
Fair and Sunday School
Registration, September 13

Bella's Books, Bargains, and
Bake Sale, September 19

First Day of Children's/Youth
Sunday School and Adult Forum,
September 20, 9:00 a.m.

St. Francis Day/Blessing of the
Animals Service,
October 4

Stewardship Sunday with
Parish Breakfast,
October 18

Fall Festival Weekend,
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1

Newcomers

Stacy and Brian Hennessy; Ethan and Addy

Jamie and Gavin Henthorn; Dorian

Casey and Christopher Harney; Victoria (Tory)

Susan and Bryan Pinckney

Jim Ray

Karen Way

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 five minutes introducing yourself to someone you don't know!

Vestry Updates

At its May meeting, the Vestry welcomed new Director of Music Stephen Leist to share his vision of music ministry and his reflections on his time at St. Andrew's thus far. Since that time Stephen and the choir led an evensong service, and we celebrated our inaugural St. Andrew's Day in early June. We also debuted a volunteer summer choir.

At the June meeting, the Vestry received another update from Junior Warden Greg Murphy about the transition at the Rectory. The tenants have moved out and we are doing some significant cleaning and de-cluttering before moving forward with a list of renovations and repairs. A planning committee continues to meet to discuss possible future uses of the Rectory. At the same meeting, we also heard an update from Sally Kellam about her recent attendance at a planned giving workshop. She shared some ideas about possible ways of building our planned giving opportunities at St. Andrew's, and the Vestry discussed some options including hosting more programs on end of life care and related issues, an annual social event, and developing materials and brochures.

At the July meeting (still a week away at press time), the Vestry will welcome members of the Columbarium Committee to deliver a presentation recapping their research and recommendations about how to move forward on planning and constructing a columbarium in the outside gardens around the church. Stay tuned for more information and details about this important and exciting project.

Parish Prayers and Thanksgivings

Deaths: Anne Carr Powers Boothby, May 11
Michael Jackson Oglesby, father of Melanie Oglesby Soscia, May 18
Irvine B. Hill, May 27

Baptisms: Charles Dahl, Charlotte Filer, and Landon Young, May 31
Emma Rose O'Bryon, June 28

Weddings: Susan Burt and Bob Woolfitt, July 25

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

BELLA'S BOOKS, BARGAINS AND BAKE (B3) SALE RETURNS

Bella's is coming back the weekend of Sept. 19-20. Here is how you can help.

Book Sale: Books must be in good shape (no missing covers, torn spines, loose pages). Children's books are welcome but please do not include text books. Do NOT bring encyclopedias; old travel and financial books; dictionaries or thesauruses; or magazines. We DO want CDs and DVDs in satisfactory condition (no scratches that interfere with playing) and in their original jewel cases. Please, do NOT bring VHS tapes, audiotapes, or home-recorded CDs/DVDs.



Bella's Bargains: The list of items we need include the following items. This is not an all-inclusive list but an example of what is needed. Please do not bring furniture to the church.

Accessories such as jewelry, scarves, purses, ties, belts, etc. (NO clothing or shoes, please).

Household decorative items such as paintings, bric-a-brac, decanters, wreathes, pillows, baskets, vases, etc.

Dishes and flatware such as place settings, casserole dishes, serving plates, cake dishes, soup tureens, dinnerware (complete sets), wine glasses, serving trays, etc.

Christmas items such as tree ornaments, village houses, wreaths and other holiday items.

Beauty items, lotions, etc. that are unused and unopened.

Food gifts that are in-date and unopened.

Paper items such as wrapping paper, ribbons, gift bags, gift boxes, decorated paper plates and napkins, office supplies; and greeting and note cards; all items should be unused and in their original packaging.

Bed, bath and beyond: towels, sheets, bedspreads, curtains, tablecloths, napkins, etc. that are in excellent condition with **no** stains or tears.

Small furniture such as rocking chairs, end tables, or bookcases (**NO couches, buffets, bureaus or the like**)

Games and Jigsaw Puzzles – boxes must be intact and contain all game pieces .

Bake Sale and Volunteers: Volunteers will be needed to bake items for the bake sale. Volunteers will also be needed during August and early September to price and sort items for the sale as well as to set up and tear down the event. Volunteers are needed to help at the sales tables on Saturday, September 19 and to a lesser extent on Sunday, September 20. Sign-up Sheets will be on the table outside of White Hall.

We also need: boxes with tops (particularly the ones that photocopy paper comes in). Please bring them in – they are great for packing the books and small sale items. We can also use paper grocery bags with handles (no plastic bags, please).



Altar Flower Delivery Ministry

Every Sunday (except during Advent, Lent and special occasions) the flowers on the altar are delivered to the sick, the shut-ins, individuals who are hospitalized or those who are celebrating special occasions. After the 10:15 a.m. service, the Altar Guild or Flower Delivery person removes the flowers from the high altar and places them in the Flower Guild Room. The volunteer, who is assigned for that Sunday, picks out various flowers and greenery from the arrangements to deliver to two individuals in vases located in the Flower Guild Room. The volunteer may add a card

which can be found in the Flower Guild Room. The volunteer can then ask John or Andie or anyone on Pastoral Care Committee for names of any parishioners who should receive the flowers that Sunday. There is also a list kept on those who have received flowers in the past and the volunteer can select any two individuals from that list that have not received flowers lately.

The parishioners who receive the flowers enjoy a short visit. The Flower Ministry is an uplifting commitment which brings joy to both the volunteers and to the recipients. It is a fulfillment of the Christian mes-

sage. We can always use more volunteers, so if you are interested in learning more about this ministry or would like to volunteer, please contact John Chappell at jchappellodu@yahoo.com or 935-6180.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

College Graduates

Jonathan Michael Belka, University of Virginia, Tolliver Anne Bell, University of Virginia, Frank Nash Bilisoly V., Lynchburg College, Charles Upton Cook, Virginia Tech, Kathryn Sayre Cook, University of Virginia, Margaret Jones, James Madison University, William Parker, College of William & Mary, Samuel Robotham, Bard College, Bijan Samareh, Columbia University and Zhila Samareh, Virginia Commonwealth University

High School Graduates (with college destination)

Madison Arnesen - Virginia Tech University, Riley Golski - Virginia Tech University, Rowan Miller - Hampden Sydney University, Jimmy Pickrell - College of William and Mary and Maggie Ruffin - Sewanee: the University of the South



Come Join Us

For a Talent Show

On July 22nd

6:30—8:30 p.m.

Have you ever been longing to be on stage? Do you break out into a song in front of strangers? Do you tap dance when no one is looking? We are looking for people of all ages to perform in our talent show. Please see sign up sheets on the information table leading to White Hall if you like to show us your talent.



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

LABEL HERE



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
Wendy Nuzzo
Amber Pickrell
Sheri Searing
Tristan Carter Warren
Mike Whitehurst

St. Andrew's Staff

The Rev. John Rohrs, *Rector*

The Rev. Andie W. Rohrs
Priest Associate

Dennis Sipes
Parish Administrator

Stephen Leist
Director of Music Ministry

Richard Rigg
Associate Director of Music Ministry

Jessica Chesson
Sunday School Coordinator

Ashlee Erestrain
Nursery Coordinator

JonMichel Sipes, *Sexton*