



# THE MESSENGER

*Growing Together in God's Love*

## MARRIAGE BLESSINGS for SAME-SEX COUPLES

*The following is a letter sent on August 3, 2012*

*from the bishop's office to all the clergy in Connecticut*

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Calendar highlights:

#### Saturday, October 6

Taste of Broadway

6pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Show

#### Sunday, October 7

Blessing of the Animals at 9:15 and 11 am services

CROP Walk at 1:00 pm Madison Green

#### Sunday, October 14

The 8 am service will be followed by a combined 9:15 and 11:00 service at 9:15am. A special parish meeting to elect two new vestry members and then an adult forum on Same Sex Marriages

**Saturday, October 20** U2Charist at 5:30 pm followed by a simple supper

#### Sunday, October 21

Stewardship Sunday

## The Faces of Our Faith - David Mikus

What is it about music? I don't know where to start. As far back as I can remember, music touches something deep inside of me. Music makes me happy, sad, makes me think about life in a deeper way and inspires me. The musical tunes that are rolling around in head often reflect the kind of mood I am in or they are just tunes I have heard repeated over and over again, such as when I am memorizing the tunes for an opera I am in or presently for the "Taste of Broadway" show that is coming up soon. I can remember when I was very young, humming the theme music to old TV shows because I loved the particular music. I suppose music has a similar effect on most everyone. I think singing is one of the most fun things that I do. Now singing and listening to music is great, but when you sing and act in front of an audience, well that sort of "kicks it up a notch". It is one thing to sing in the shower or with a group where you don't stand out much if you make a mistake, however when you are performing, the pressure to do it well goes way up! But you know that is why I like it, because of the challenge of it and it tends to bring out the best in you when you challenge yourself. Come to think of it, that is the way God tends to work with us, by challenging us as well.

How does my relationship with music fit with my relationship with God? Boy, that is a good question and the answer is I don't know. The only answer I have to that, is that music and singing gives me a certain sense of spirituality. When I am singing to myself or with others, I get a sense of our God-given potentials and the kinds of people that we truly are without all the stuff that life is so often about. Music can provide a respite from all that stuff.

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## Connecticut Episcopal Diocesan Highlights

The 228<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is being held in Hartford October 19-20. St. Andrew's will be represented at this gathering by the Rev. Steve Domienik and our two elected delegates: Art Criddle and The Rev. Dr. Linda Smith-Criddle.

There are six resolutions being voted on:

- ☆ Minimum Salary Schedule for Clergy
- ☆ A Program of Action for the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
- ☆ Episcopacy Viability Taskforce
- ☆ Endowment Accountability and Responsibility
- ☆ 2013 Budget of Convention
- ☆ A Circle of Protection: A Statement on Why We Need to Protect Programs for the Poor

We will report back on the action of convention in the weeks following the event.

## Church School Updates and Schedules

The leaves have already begun to fall and everyone is back to their school routines. Hopefully, after school activities aren't making you crazy yet!! Practice deep breathing and saying a prayer to refocus and shift our outlook if things get hectic! May the time spent at St. Andrew's be a welcome respite and help slow down the busy pace of our daily lives for you and your children.

**Nursery:** The nursery is presently available during the 9:15 AM service for children 6 months to 3 years of age. Please come to the nursery and talk with Jordan or Kristina and they would be happy to watch your children during the church service.

**Church School:** We are using a new curriculum this year, Weaving God's Promises. It is a Christian education program for children ages 3 to 11, written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. The building blocks of the program are: Holy Scripture, the Church & Christian Tradition, and Christian Living. These along with three guiding principles: worship, education, and service, will assist in our children's learning about their faith and their God. The Rite 13 program is in place for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as the Journey to Adulthood program for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Our teachers this year are:

Pre-k/K (ages 4-5): Rebecca Rastetter, Megan Sesma, Glenn Stewart

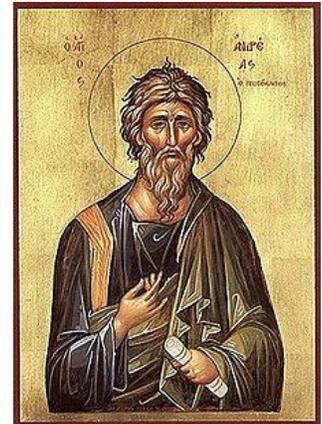
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> (ages 6-7): Susan Wines, Jane Kraus

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (ages 8-9): Sandy Butler, Shelby Auletta

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> (ages 10-11): Beth Hines, Louise Beecher

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>(ages 12-13) Rite 13: Lee Scaros, Kerri & Richard Arena, Ian Scotland

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>(ages 14-15) J2A: Steve Van Ness, Tracy Zachos



**Middle School Youth Group (MSYG):** You will begin to see information for MSYG activities again! Patches Earle is heading up the youth group this year and is in need of another adult (or 2!) that would be interested in assisting during the fun. Please call the church and let us know!

**High School Youth Group (HSYG):** Grades 9-12 will be having a kick off event on 9/30 @ 5pm in Farmer Hall. Potluck dinner and assembling college care packages. Please bring a dish to share and some items for the college students.

## Bishops Respond to call for Same-Sex Marriage

(Continued from page 1)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Ordained Ministry:

We are writing with respect to the pastoral needs of gay and lesbian couples seeking to be married in The Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

As expected, the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church engaged deeply with questions related to the blessing for same-sex couples. Holy listening and a generosity of spirit characterized the discussions and decisions of the Convention related to such blessings. In Resolutions A049 and A050 the General Convention provided for a rite of blessing for same-sex couples and called the church to study canonical and liturgical limitations related to marriage equality. Resolution A049 states in part:

*Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention authorize for provisional "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" from "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" beginning the First Sunday of Advent 2012, under the direction and subject to the permission of the exercising ecclesiastical authority; and be it further

*Resolved*, That bishops, particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions where same-sex marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal, may provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church; be it further

*Resolved*, That bishops may authorize adaptation of these materials to meet the needs of members of this Church . . .

As your bishops we commend the entire report of The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music known as "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You will be a Blessing." In the resource you will find both the rite as adopted by the General Convention as well as valuable theological, and legal and canonical discussions related to the blessing of same-sex relationships.

In keeping with Resolution A049 we authorize priests seeking to provide blessing rites for same-sex couples to use, and adapt as appropriate: "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" from "Liturgical Resources I" beginning the First Sunday of Advent 2012.

In addition, beginning the First Sunday in Advent 2012 priests in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut may also officiate at the civil marriage of a same-sex couple as a "generous pastoral response" to lesbian and gay couples seeking to be married.

Priests officiating at such a civil marriage must take care to conform to the specific laws of the State of Connecticut.

We give thanks that The Episcopal Church through the decisions of our General Convention has recognized the love and holiness manifested in life-long committed relationships of lesbian and gay sisters and brothers in Christ and has begun to offer rites of blessing for such relationships. We are pleased that the church's discipline has also begun to change so that priests may offer a generous pastoral response consistent with Connecticut's embrace of marriage equality.

Finally, we are very appreciative of the pastoral care and concern that you provide to the people of the Diocese of Connecticut. And we thank God for the privilege of working alongside each and every one of you in service to God's mission of restoration and reconciliation in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas

The Rt. Rev. James E. Curry

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens



## Alter Guild

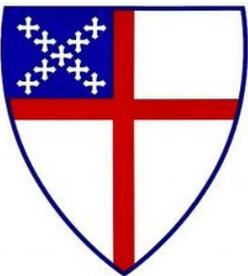
The worship ministry of Altar Guild works behind the scenes, setting up and cleaning up for all celebrations of worship, from Sunday morning Eucharists to our services at the beach and all special services. Altar Guild members are Joan Adams, Judy Albright, Marilyn Barnett, Jocelyne Gallagher, Jenny Gerst, Anne Greene, Claudia Haeckel, Alice Hencir, Margaret Mason, Susan Miller, Lynn Milner, Tori Milner, Jean Moore, Nancy Rankin, Sharon Service, Martha Stewart and Tracy Zachos. They bring friendship, faith and fun to all that we do, and I'm blessed to work with them. We want to thank Maggie Walden, who is taking a leave from Altar Guild after 28 years of service. She has played many roles, from leading Altar Guild to mentoring and teaching many of us as we have joined the group. We have enjoyed working with Maggie very much.



We are always happy to welcome new members to share in our ministry and camaraderie. Please talk with any of us to learn more.

## Thoughts from our Sr. Warden—Geoff Gregory

Welcome back! Not that any of us ever went away, but for me there is always a tangible sense of excitement and renewal as we enter a new season of worship and fellowship. I love seeing all of the children flock to the front of the church and go running off to church school. There is a new beat in our music program and offerings as we welcome our new Director of Music, Grant Underwood. Volunteers and leaders continue to step forward and do amazing things.....think of Dick Johansen chasing down pigs in the parking lot and Don Rankin convincing any passer by that they really do need at least 10 mums. Thank you guys for all that you do. We are gearing up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Taste of Broadway dinner and musical review on Saturday, October 6. This is THE fundraiser which directly supports our music program, so if you want to have a great night, support music at St. Andrew's and see about 20 of your fellow parishioners really step outside of their comfort zone and have some fun.....come on down.



Also, over the next 6 weeks or so various parishioners are hosting dinners in their homes, which will no doubt be opportunities for fellowship, but also an opportunity to talk as a group about a wide array of topics that make up the opportunities, challenges and dreams of our church. If you haven't yet signed up for one of these dinners, please do so. And if for whatever reason you can't make a dinner, please be sure to pencil in on your calendar the morning of Saturday, November 3, where we will come together as a parish and share all of the input and common themes from

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## Preschool



St. Andrew's Preschool and Kindergarten is in full swing for the school year. We are very excited about our kindergarten program which runs from 9am-1:45pm. We also have some fun things planned for the fall such as a fall dance, a trip to the apple orchard and a trip to a local farm. If anyone has a talent they would like to share with the school please contact Judy at 203-245-1308. You can also be a mystery reader. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities at the school to work with our wonderful group of children!

## Holy Water - Grace Filled Act

Holy water is used at times in our worship. This is water that has typically been collected from a sacred place and then blessed for religious and devotional use. A drop of holy water is added to a pitcher of tap water and poured into the baptismal font for baptisms. Water prepared in this way is used for the blessing of the palms on Palm Sunday and sprinkled over our pets for the blessing of the animals when we honor the feast day of St. Francis. The congregation is sprinkled with holy water at the Renewal of Baptismal Vows at the Easter Vigil. We are very grateful to Sue and George Morriss for replenishing our supply of holy water following their trip to the Holy Lands. They shared their story of collecting the water:



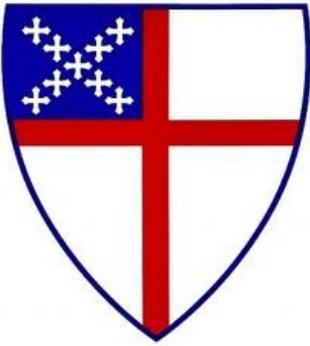
“In February of this year, we had the wonderful opportunity go to on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands with members of our second church family, St. John’s Episcopal Church, located in Grand Haven, Michigan.

On our way to the River Jordan, we turned off the highway, following a sign leading us to the “Baptismal Site”. Winding down a dusty dirt road, our small tour bus had to stop first at an Israeli military checkpoint. After passing through, we saw large warning signs posted on the barb wired fences alerting us to the fact that there are still many live land mines in this area. For our safety, the signs emphatically stated that we must not stray from the designated areas at any time.

Pulling up to the River Jordan, we were surprised at how narrow and muddy the river actually is. And, that standing on the other side of the river in clear view was a uniformed soldier guarding the Jordanian side of the water with his automatic weapon casually slung over his shoulder.

Nevertheless, we walked down to water’s edge with our group and several of us pulled out empty water bottles to be filled with water for our home parishes. On site, the Rev. Jared Cramer read passages from the Bible telling the story of The Baptism of Jesus, and then he consecrated our bottles of Holy Water.

After retuning home to Connecticut, we felt privileged to deliver the water to Rev. Steve, and it has now been placed in the Sacristy at St. Andrew’s for future use.”



*“Give, and it shall be given to you. For whatever measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt to you in return.”*

## Treasurer's Report October 2012

	August 2012 Income	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Pledges	\$19,089.50	\$180,766.34	\$217,267.28	\$325,900.95
Other Income	\$3,648.33	\$28,974.25	\$30,925.92	\$46,389.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$22,737.83</b>	<b>\$209,740.59</b>	<b>\$248,193.20</b>	<b>\$372,289.95</b>
Expenses	\$27,008.38	\$225,770.22	\$247,975.15	\$372,289.95
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ (4,270.55)</b>	<b>\$ (16,029.63)</b>	<b>\$218.05</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>				
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Monthly Transfer</b>	<b>Loan Payments</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>\$378,596.58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1,286.58*</b>	<b>\$2,010.80**</b>	<b>\$375,299.20</b>

\* 4% of Endowment Balance is transferred into the operations budget each year to cover expenses (1286.58 per month)

\*\* Loan Payments are for 2003 Church Renovations and 2008 Rectory Renovation. This money is transferred from the Endowment each month to cover this expense.

### Financial Update:

#### Joint Statement from the Vestry and the Finance Committee

To continue in the spirit of being transparent with St. Andrew's finances, we are offering a brief summary of our current financial situation.

At the end of August, we were running \$38,000 behind our plan for income (i.e., pledges and other giving). However, due to decreases in our spending, our budget deficit is only \$16,000 for the year through the end of August.

Because of this financial shortfall, Outreach spending has been substantially curtailed, Buildings and Grounds has put a hold on projects and other discretionary spending has been stopped until further notice.

If we are unable to increase our income, programs will continue to be reduced significantly, put on hold or cancelled altogether. This is obviously concerning to all and does not allow St. Andrew's to meet some of our com-

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A LINK TO OUR WEB SITE CALENDAR**

Or go to our web site <http://www.standrewsmadison.org/ncalendar.html>

### **Musical Tidbits—Grant Underwood**

Our music is blessed with such talented and committed leaders, and we saw that often throughout September. October is looking to be just as promising for worship and fellowship in music.

#### *A few October updates:*

**The 8am Service:** all of the hymns in October will be by the direct suggestion of the congregation, worshipping with the songs we know best and most passionately.

The **9:15 am Service** will continue to be led by our wonderful Spirit Choir and Spirit Band, and in October they will vary their anthems a bit to include more blended and soulful pieces.

The **11am Service** maintains its increased focus on congregational song as a center for worship, particularly with resources from our hymnal as well as others from Taize (much like our Sequence Hymn, “Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace.”) The Chancel Choir continues to lead us in worship on October 14, October 21, and October 28, and we will continue hearing the wonderful sounds of flutes, clarinets, and other talented musicians.

#### *Mark your Calendars:*

**Taste of Broadway Dinner** is 6pm with the show to follow at 7:30pm October 6. Contact Joy Weaver ([joyweaver228@gmail.com](mailto:joyweaver228@gmail.com)) for questions about this lively and fun event for adults. Tickets are \$50 per person with dinner or \$25 per person for just the show.

**Youth Choir Info Session** is 6-7 pm Friday, October 12 (K-8), includes a parent meeting and group auditions. Please RSVP to Grant Underwood at [grant.underwood@yale.edu](mailto:grant.underwood@yale.edu).

**U2Charist** is 5:30pm October 20, and will be such an inspiring way to do good for our world. Contact Rich Fisler ([rfisler@beachhead.net](mailto:rfisler@beachhead.net)) to get involved.



St. Andrew's Church

[www.standrewsmadison.org](http://www.standrewsmadison.org)



The National Church

[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

The Diocese of

Connecticut

[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)



[www.standrewsmadison.org/ncalendar.html](http://www.standrewsmadison.org/ncalendar.html)



Worldwide Anglican

Communion

[www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org)



PRESCHOOL

[www.standrewsschoolct.org](http://www.standrewsschoolct.org)

## Financial Joint Statement (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

mitments and fulfill our mission –

*“To deepen faith and transform the world as Christ calls us through joyful worship, music, study and service to others”.*

In addition, the Finance Committee is concerned that the current level of cash transferred from the Endowment Fund to pay for day-to-day operating and loan expenses (currently 12% per year) is not sustainable. At this rate, it is estimated that the fund would be depleted in roughly 6-10 years. We must work toward reducing the amount we rely on from the endowment to cover operating expenses.

This situation clearly calls for all of us at St. Andrew’s to prayerfully consider increasing our individual giving. In addition, for those that have not been able to give previously, please consider giving at this time – any amount certainly helps!

Respectfully, The Finance Committee and Vestry

## CROP WALK – Sunday, October 7th

This year’s CROP walk takes place on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 1:00 PM and the 5 mile walk from the Madison Green to the Guilford Green will start at 1:30 PM. Participating in this event will not only raise funds but promote awareness of the issue of hunger and starvation around the world.

Every 5 seconds a child dies of starvation which is approximately 16,000 per day. CROP began in 1946 and was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. While funds raised from CROP walks across the country help overseas endeavors, last year almost \$4 million was donated to food banks, pantries, community gardens, and other local efforts across the U.S.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs.

While registration forms will be available on the day of the CROP walk, you can get a head start on fundraising by picking up registration forms in Farmer Hall. Make a fun day of it by joining with friends, family and others from St. Andrew’s. There is a shuttle to bring participants back to Madison after the walk. If you have questions, contact Carrie Nye at [carrieknye@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieknye@yahoo.com).

## Warden’s Update

(Continued from page 4)

these dinners. We will be talking about how we have changed over the last 18 months as well as where we are going in areas such as outreach, stewardship, music and education. And of course, any other topic that anyone wants to raise that is integral to the health and growth of St. Andrews. As we go on this journey together, I want to encourage you to think about your role in the church, your purpose and where God is calling you to lead others. Together, let’s move mountains.



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