

THE MESSENGER

Growing Together in God's Love

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MADISON, CONNECTICUT

SEPTEMBER 2010



Church School Resumes

Church School begins September 12 with a combined registration and first class following 9:15 service! (See page 3.)

Blessing of the Animals

Save the date — bring your pets to church on Sunday, October 3 — as we honor St. Francis on this special day.

Crop Walk

The Crop Walk will be held Sunday, October 3, at 1 pm. This 5-mile walk from the Madison Green to the Guilford Green raises money for Church World Services and provides hunger relief at local and global levels. Participants include walkers, sponsors, and shuttle drivers.

Priest-in-Charge Update

“Discernment” is a fascinating, complicated, old-fashioned process. It stands in stark contrast to our modern communication capabilities of email, text messages and “tweets.” It needs to be done mostly in person and is a slow process. As of mid-August, the discernment process continues as we seek to identify a priest who will embrace a “call” to minister to the people of St. Andrew’s.

We all need to be patient during this time of discernment, however long it lasts. One of our two initial candidates withdrew from consideration — so as of this writing, we are looking to begin conversations with additional candidates. It is disappointing that the school year will begin without a priest-in-charge appointment, but we have the skills to carry on.

Our parish has an exceptional ability to work together, support one another, and perform wonderful ministries. We need to continue this work together and to be supportive of one another during this time without clergy leadership. I encourage everyone to reach out to each other and just listen.

We are very fortunate to have Rev. Esther Chuboff with us for many Sunday and Wednesday services, and she is a huge supporter of St. Andrew’s. She told me recently that with all our various ministries, God is looking down and smiling upon us. Rev. Bob Taylor has counseled us to keep praying and searching. He firmly believes we will find the right match, even though this process feels “slower than molasses in January” to use his words!

So our message for September, familiar to all Red Sox fans at this time of year, is “Keep the Faith!”

— Kristen Garnett

On September 12, we will resume our three Sunday services — 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 am.

Parish Party on Sept. 25

We are cooking up fun for the evening of Saturday, September 25. Join us for a pig roast to welcome everyone back, jump start the school year, play games, enjoy fellowship, music, and good food — and have FUN!

Also, we invite everyone to start thinking of homemade items or services that you can donate for a silent auction at this event — such as dinner, babysitting, handyman services, cakes and baked goods, dog walking, biscotti, car washing, or anything else.

Glenn Stewart and Dick Johansen are our “idea men” for this event, and they will hold a meeting on August 26 at 7:30 pm. If you miss the meeting and want to help, call Glenn at 203-245-3220 or Dick at 203-245-6729.

Please note that for this year, the pig roast will take the place of our typical autumn Celebration Dinner.

50th Anniversary News

The Publicity and History Committees have had initial meetings and great enthusiasm and energy is becoming apparent.

The Publicity Committee will soon unveil a logo (thanks Alan Miller and Gordon Lang), slogan and banner (thanks committee). Visual evidence that we are in a very special time will soon be apparent to all who enter our church, parishioners and visitors alike. Additionally, brainstorming is going on about creating a timeline that represents our story and can be followed over the course of our celebration. Wait until you see the very special “keepsake” that will be available this Fall and at the Holiday fair! (thanks Suzie Birks!) Alan Miller and Rachel Carfora have stepped up to co-chair this committee comprised of Suzie Birks, John Fuller, Dick Johanson, *continued on page 2*

Our Mission — To deepen faith and transform the world as Christ calls us through joyful worship, music, study, and service to others.

Highlights of the July 12 Vestry Meeting

■ **50th Anniversary presentation** — Maggie and Charlie Walden presented the overall concept of activities proposed over the next two years; they will serve as “community organizers” and will facilitate these activities.

■ **Preschool presentation** — Leah Ann Portley updated the Vestry on opportunities and challenges of Preschool:

- The State is developing a system for evaluating preschools to assist parents in choosing schools so it is important that we maintain our position as a school of choice. To this end, improvements to the Preschool will be needed including a playground upgrade which is underway and includes the addition of a new playscape; funds have been raised by the Preschool for this purpose.
- Affordable financial software is needed to enhance the Preschool’s business capabilities such as invoicing, monitoring outstanding receivables and managing student enrollment. A software package has been identified and is under consideration.
- All are invited for a tour of the school to learn more!

■ **Fellowship** — Planning is underway for a parish party/fundraiser (pig roast) on September 25; a chairperson and a co-chairperson are needed.

■ **Stewardship** — A successful first “Nine to Dine” event was held to provide parishioners with the opportunity to connect with others in a small-group setting.

■ **Outreach** — Recently, Outreach partnered with Call to Care Uganda to

provide hospitality to a group of visitors from Uganda; the purpose of the trip was to help a woman obtain prosthetic hands. The trip and care were arranged by Call to Care Uganda. (See page 5.)

■ **Buildings & Grounds** —

The parish administrator’s office will be moved to provide better visibility to increase safety.

■ **Newcomers** — The Greeter program has been reinvigorated by Martha Stewart who is reaching out to identify those who wish to serve as greeters to welcome newcomers.

■ **Memorial Garden** — Chris Abbott will be the new Vestry liaison.

■ **Priest in Charge update** — The interview committee has met two candidates, one woman and one man. They have attended a service conducted by the woman and plan to hear the man preach on August 1. The process is progressing as quickly as the candidates’ schedules will permit.

■ **Pastoral Care** — To ensure that we have adequate pastoral care in place, we will reestablish a pastoral care group of trained lay ministers.

■ **Liturgical** — David Mikus has resumed his lay ministry role as Verger. This position is shared with Luke Scaros and Demi Zachos.

■ **New business** — Joan Fisler has proposed teaching a yoga class at the beach to benefit St. Andrew’s. The cost is \$30 session for 4 classes. (See page 4.)

■ **Next Vestry meeting** — Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 pm.

— Brenda Naegel

Youth Mission Work

On September 19, Anne-Claire Merkle-Scotland and Denali Dahl will share a presentation during services about their summer trip to the Dominican Republic. The students took part in a diocesan-sponsored mission trip to help staff a children’s vacation bible school for a week. St. Andrew’s provided financial support for the mission trip.

50th Anniversary News

continued from page 1

Glenn Stewart and Terry Sinclair.

A suggestion was made to rename the Historicizing Committee to the **Historiography Committee**; stay tuned! Committee members have taken on various research tasks including what’s in the attic (thanks Alwyn Thorpe and Bea Fortin), the office (thanks Helen Kitzman and Laura Downes) and Diocesan and local archives (thanks Linda Smith-Criddle). Additionally, work has begun to create a document of all Memorials both in the church and on church grounds (thanks Priscilla Rensis and Jean Moore). Dave and Margaret Mason have offered to co-chair this committee comprised of Bea Fortin, Laura Downes, Nancy Farnan, David Karas, Helen Kitzman, Jean Moore, Priscilla Rensis, The Rev. Linda Smith-Criddle and Alwyn Thorpe.

There is certainly room for more helping hands on both of these committees. Please contact the respective co-chairs and continue to watch what’s happening through our web site link (thanks Terry) and E-news (thanks Rachel).

Remember: There’s a celebration going on!

Many thanks,

- Charlie and Maggie Walden mccwalden@yahoo.com, 203-318-5045
- Alan Miller milleralan@comcast.net
- Rachel Carfora Rachel_e_carfora@sbcglobal.net
- Dave Mason dave@yankeecontainers.com
- Margaret Mason mmason52@aol.com



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Church School and Youth Ministry

■ Church School

● **Church School kicks off on Sunday, September 12 with a combined registration and first class!**

Refreshments will be provided in the classroom!

Parents come and meet your child's church school teacher. As always, church school is held immediately following the 9:15 am service. Class is dismissed at 10:50 am. Registration forms are available at our web site or outside my office in the folder holder. For safety reasons, all children must be registered.

Get ready for another wonderful year of fun, faith and friendship on Sunday mornings — what a great way to start your week — and the school year! All are welcome so bring your friends.

● **Nursery care and babysitting resumes on Sunday, September 12.**

So bring the whole family to church — there is something for everyone at St. Andrew's.

■ Teachers Needed

Is God calling you? Currently, teachers are needed for our pre-K/Kindergarten class, the class of 5th/6th Graders, and older high school students (YAC). We need a minimum of two teachers per class, but adding a third person truly lightens the load for all.

For more information, please send an e-mail to Mary at themsgroup@snet.net.

Many thanks to returning teachers and to those who have signed on already for this fall. What a gift you are! Teachers meet bimonthly and teach an average of two Sundays per month. All training and resources provided.

■ High School Youth Group

● **Adult leaders are needed for the high school youth group** (Grades 9-12).

Want to get involved at St. Andrew's but not sure how? Did you hear about the mission trip to Maine and think you might like to get on the list for next year? Do you have a special skill, talent, volunteer activity or idea that you have always wanted to share with a high-energy group of adolescents? Be part of a life-changing ministry that offers young people a safe and adventurous place to

have fun, let off some steam, make friends and to grow in their faith. The first adult leader meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 1 at 7:30-9:00 pm. Find out about what is on the calendar and help create the plan for the rest of the year! For information, please send an e-mail to Mary at themsgroup@snet.net.

● **Fun and games with High School Youth Group** (Grades 9-12) — kicks off the year with whiffle and kick ball games, and create care packages for our college freshman. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 8, 6 - 7:30 pm — with a possible group movie expedition following (if we have enough adults to drive, no school the next day!) We will serve FREE PIZZA! Please bring five items to fill the care packages for our college freshmen, we have at least eight boxes to send!

● **Special volunteer opportunity for those who like horses** — Saturday, September 11, we will have a "go-on-your-own event" (or go with a friend) to High Hopes Therapeutic Riding — a facility that works with the differently abled. More information to follow.

● **Hooverville on the Green** returns to Madison on September 24, 7:30 pm to 10 am on September 25. This is a homeless-immersion project, for Grades 9-12, done in conjunction with the Madison Interfaith Youth Coalition. You will sleep overnight in your own cardboard shack that you build (no construction experience necessary!) and then panhandle in town with youth group teens from area churches on Saturday morning. Last year, we raised almost \$2000 for Youth Continuum teen shelter in New Haven, Madison Community Services, and The Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry. Cost for this event is \$10. Permission and release forms available on the church web site or outside my office.

● Get ready for a great year with youth group! Friends are ALWAYS welcome and scholarships are always available. Join us!

— Mary Merkle-Scotland
themsgroup@snet.net

Shopping Cards Help St Andrew's

Help support the many missions and ministries at St. Andrew's while you buy your groceries. Just by using Stop & Shop cards — **5% of all purchases go directly to St. Andrew's!** These cards are convenient and easy to use.

Buy Stop & Shop cards after each service or during the week in the church office. Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are accepted.

Treasurer's Notes

There were no additional pledges in the month of July, the number remains at \$276,822 — still short of what is needed to take us through the balance of the year. We are grateful that we received several nice one-time gifts. Pledge income for July was \$13,846.50 with loose offerings of \$650.

I will need to withdraw money from the Endowment Fund to get us through the month of August.

Vacation Bible School was a success and brought in a small profit to Operations.

I hope everyone had a good summer.
— Helen Van Antwerp, Treasurer

Green Matters

Now that school is back in session, it is appropriate to turn to academic experts for their thoughts on ecology.

In a short "YouTube" video, Professors Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim discuss "Religion and a New Environmental Ethic." Here they describe how science and religion, along with other disciplines, are finding common ground in facing the climate crisis. Go online to www.religionandecology.org and click on Yale web site. (Note: Libraries are a great place to go online, and help is available.)

— John Fuller

Theatrical Tidbits: Musical Auditions

I am happy to say that the three summer theater camps at St. Andrew's drew record numbers in both the participants of the camps and the audiences. We had 67 happy campers involved in the three camps, and all gave stellar performances. Thank you to all the parents for encouraging their children to become involved and help them practice at home. It showed in every performance. It was exciting to have so many of our "St. Andrew's regulars" involved. It was terrific to have so many first timers this summer and welcome so many new families to St. Andrew's. It was particularly exciting to have Matt Gregory serve as our Musical Director before he went to college and to have the help of Aimee Merkle-Scotland, Cassandra Kolstad, and Cory Zachos. It was truly a group effort all summer and a successful one at that!

For those of you who had SO MUCH FUN this summer, or are wishing you had been able to attend one of our camps,

I have good news. The fall brings auditions for both the Junior and Senior Musicals at St. Andrews.

Auditions for "**State Road 47**" will be held on Sunday, September 12th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. All students in Grades 7–12 are eligible to audition. This is a musical similar to *Godspell*, but set in current times. Three parables of Jesus (from the Gospel of Luke) that happened "along the road" are retold with hilarious characters and memorable music.

Auditions for "**The Adventures of Andrew and Simon**," an original musical, will be held on Sunday, September 19 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. This musical will tell the story of the brothers, Simon and Andrew, how they became disciples of Jesus and what led Andrew to Sainthood. It will tell the story of St. Andrew's Day with lively music and a delightful story. All students in Grades 1–6 are eligible to audition.

There is no cost to participate in either one of these productions. All shows produced at St. Andrew's are non-competitive. The audition simply helps me determine which role the child is best suited for, no one will be turned away. Fun parts are guaranteed for everyone who wants to participate. No preparation needed for these auditions. Each group will be taught a musical number from the show to sing for their audition and given scenes and scene partners to read with. No previous experience is necessary to participate and all are welcome. You do not need to be a member of St. Andrew's.

All rehearsals will be held on Sunday afternoons: Junior Musical 1 – 2:00 pm; and Senior Musical 2 – 4:00 pm. Detailed rehearsal schedules are available by e-mail and at the auditions.

"**The Adventures of Andrew and Simon**" will be performed on Sunday, November 21 at the 9:15 am service. "**State Road 47**" will be performed on Friday and Saturday, January 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm. For more information, call Joy at 203-230-8264, or send an e-mail to joyann228@yahoo.com.

I look forward to seeing my old friends and making some new ones this fall!

– Joy Weaver



Spirit Choir News

I am so excited to welcome back the Spirit Choir as we prepare for a new year at St. Andrew's. Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 9 from 5:15 – 6:15 pm. We will begin singing at the 9:15 am Service the following Sunday, September 12.

You too, can be a part of our music program. The Spirit Choir is for everyone – age 6 through adult. We meet regularly on Thursday evenings from 5:15 – 6:15 pm and on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am to rehearse for the 9:15 service. It is a "come when you can" choir! We will have music and CDs available in the choir office and at our first rehearsal – so you can rehearse at home when you can't make it on a Thursday night.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to me at joyann228@yahoo.com, or call me at home at 203-230-8264.

– Joy Weaver

Join Our Yoga Class

During August, Joan Fisler taught yoga classes on the Surf Club deck on Wednesdays and Fridays, 7-8 am. In the fall, she will move the classes to St. Andrew's.

Yoga is a wonderful combination of exercise for the mind, body and spirit. It is a spiritual practice that helps people quiet the chatter of the mind and experience a calm peace. All levels are welcome, including those who have never tried yoga. Suggested donation is \$30 per month, proceeds go to St. Andrew's and the Outreach Fund. Bring a mat and water.

Joan Fisler began learning yoga 8 years ago and has taught this past year. Even if you've never tried yoga, the classes are fun, energizing and will be as challenging or relaxing as you want them to be. Joan can modify yoga positions based on your ability. For questions, call Joan at 203-421-8647 (home) or 203-494-1619 (cell).

Celebrate Happy Occasions

If you want to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other happy occasion with St. Andrew's Church, please tell Barb Gibbons or me. I will compile a master list of parishioners' occasions, and these will be posted in the weekly bulletin. Specific parishioners might carry the elements at that Sunday service. Please call me at 203-421-3682, or send an e-mail to jrgerst@snet.net.

Thank you.

Peace, Jenny Gerst

Helping Hands in Madison

You may have had the opportunity to meet Jonas Tumuhebwe and Jolly Kabigumira at St. Andrew's when they were here in June and July. But if not, you missed an incredible experience — being a witness to amazing faith, strength, great humor and inspiration to all around them.

Jonas was a victim of a brutal attack in Uganda that left her widowed and without either of her hands. She is a mother of six children, ranging in age from 17 to 2. Can you even imagine that scenario?

When I was in Uganda in November 2008 with fellow parishioners, Mike Maguire and Rich Fisler, we met Jonas at a school we visited. At the time, she was severely traumatized since the attack happened only 8 months prior. We experienced extreme sadness — sadness that you could actually feel in Jonas' presence.

We prayed with her, gave her some shillings, and drove her back to her village when we left the school.

When back in Madison, Call To Care Uganda was able to make a "chance" connection with a nurse named Kathy Wargo who was interested in helping people get prosthetic limbs. After months of searching, Kathy found a donor — Hanger Prosthetics of North Haven — and the "Helping Hands Project" was put in motion.

Call To Care Uganda, a grassroots nonprofit based here in Madison founded in 2007, connected with the Faith School in Bushenyi where they met Jonas. Through the help of dear friend, Dr. Rev. Canon John Kateeba, Jonas was able to get a passport, airline tickets and a visa. Jolly, her traveling companion, would assist her in the United States and translate everything for her. Jonas does not speak any English; but Jolly, who is a principal at a school in Uganda, is fluent.

A huge THANK YOU and round of APPLAUSE goes to the FISLER FAMILY! The Fislers opened their home and their guest room to Jonas and Jolly during their stay. What an amazing gift. Jonas cut their anniversary cake and signed a card

for them using her new prosthetic limbs!

Jonas was able to experience so many "firsts." She saw an airport, flew on a plane; saw a train and rode on one; ate many unusual foods(!); saw the ocean and kayaked in it; wore a bathing suit and went in the water; went to the dentist; and the list goes on and on....

Jonas also received new prosthetic hands! She learned how to use them in record time — with beautiful courage, determination and humor — and Jolly never left her side.

So many lives have been touched by this experience. So many things could have gone wrong. Jonas could have required surgery when she arrived, the prosthetics might not have worked out, and so on. But, by the Grace of God, all the pieces fell into place, perfectly. Amen!

To read more about this amazing story, go to the following links:

- http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/new_haven_cty/North-Haven-victim-of-brutal-attack-gets-help-in-ct
 - <http://www.ctnow.com/videobeta/c3741182-b247-483f-aafc-48a184087b5b/News/Ugandan-Woman-Prosthetic-Recipient-7-15>
 - <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/CT-Doctors-Give-Woman-From-Uganda-Life-Changing-Gift-98576094.html>
 - http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/07/15/news/shoreline/aa1_new_haven_uganda071510.txt
 - <http://www.theday.com/article/20100721/NWS01/100729919/-1/zip06&town=north-haven&template=zip06ar>
- Martha Hoffman

Stay Current with eNews

Our weekly **eNews** is an electronic update that contains scripture lessons for the coming Sunday, announcements, and a short reflection by clergy and/or lay members. To receive **eNews**, go to www.standrewsmadison.org — and sign up on the home page.

Team Uganda Party on September 18

How about tea, hors d'oeuvres, a wine tasting, silent auction, and entertainment? All at one event? All to benefit the orphans in Uganda?

That's the plan. Team Uganda's party will be held on Saturday, September 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Savvy Tea Gourmet, 28 Durham Road in Madison.

Savvy Tea has been named one of the five best teahouses in New England by *Yankee Magazine*. In addition to tea served all evening, guests will partake in gourmet appetizers and a wine tasting led by a local expert. All the while, you can participate in an exciting silent auction featuring unique shoreline products and services. A brief slideshow will feature the orphans assisted and sponsored by St. Andrew's, and light musical entertainments are on the schedule.

Tickets to the party are \$25 per person. Please save the date and consider donating an item or service. Send a e-mail to Kris Kolstad at kriskolstad@sbcglobal.net.

Be Part of Serendipity

We are always looking for more volunteers — we need help during regular store hours, but also with behind-the-scenes tasks such as sorting and tagging items, which can be done in the evenings or early morning hours.

Please contact Kristen Garnett, Nancy Karas, Laura Downes, Doreen Sproule or Sue Morriss to get started. Serendipity has an answering machine, so call 203-245-4731 anytime.

Our regular business hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 - 4. The store is located at 200 Boston Post Road in Madison. Donations are welcome anytime. Please visit our web site at Serendipitymadison.org.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

232 Durham Road, Madison, Connecticut 06443
Telephone: 203-245-2584 • Fax: 203-245-2601
E-mail: welcome@standrewsmadison.org
Web site: www.standrewsmadison.org
Parish Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

The Parish Staff

Parish Administrator	Barbara Gibbons
Preschool Director	Leah Ann Portley
Director of Children's and Youth Ministry	Mary Merkle-Scotland
Organist & Chancel Choir Director	Paul Jordan
Director of Spirit Choir & Musicals	Joy Weaver
Guitarist	Jim Olden
Sexton and Verger	David Mikus

The Parish Vestry

Senior Warden	David Karas
Junior Warden	Kristen Garnett
Treasurer	Helen Van Antwerp
Clerk of the Vestry	Brenda Naegel

Chris Abbott, Charles Albright, Sandra Butler, Art Criddle, Jenny Gerst, John Paulson, Terry Sinclair, Martha Stewart, Robert Stimpson

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

■ **Spirit Choir** — Thursday Rehearsal 5:15-6:15 pm
Sunday Rehearsal at 8:30 am

This choir is for everyone — age 6 through adult — and sings each Sunday morning at the 9:15 am service during the school year. The selections include a varied palette of musical styles, including gospel, jazz, folk, and contemporary music.

■ **Chancel Choir** — Thursday Rehearsal 6:15-7:45 pm
Sunday Rehearsal at 10:15 am

Open to all high school and adult singers, this choir sings each Sunday morning at the 11:00 am service during the school year. The Chancel Choir sings a wide variety of music — traditional literature, gospel, jazz, folk, and music of the great composers, including their Masterworks.

THE MESSENGER is a monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Contributions are always welcome. The deadline is the 15th of the preceding month. Please send an e-mail to messenger@standrewsmadison.org. All articles may be edited for space, style, and content. Editor: Denise Forrest



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