Upon Entering the Wilderness

On the first Sunday of Lent, as we begin our forty day journey to the cross of Good Friday, we read that Jesus, having been baptized by John in the river Jordan, was led by the spirit into the wilderness. The wilderness… a dry rocky place with no food and little or no water, a place without people, a place where the things that are familiar, the things that give us comfort, the things that make us feel safe do not exist, a place where the landmarks and points of reference that help us to navigate and make sense of our lives are shattered and scattered on the ground, a place where the things that allow us to define ourselves are wiped away by the dry howling wind. This is a place that the people of Israel have referred to as the devastation and this is the place that the spirit led Jesus.

The devastation, we may never set foot on the dry rocky ground where Jesus walked but we know about the wilderness, we know about devastation. We may be driven into the wilderness by change and by loss. It may be the change from one school to another; it may be leaving home, a change in jobs, the sudden loss of a relationship or of a dream. We may be driven into the wilderness by the events over which we have no control. The loss of a sense of security that accompanies a senseless act of terror or the death of a loved one can drive us into the wilderness. All of these events strip away the things and the people that make us feel safe and comfortable. They take away the landmarks and the points of reference that allow us to navigate and make sense of our lives. These events tear away the things that allow us to define ourselves and leave us feeling lost in the wilderness… devastated.

Not exactly the kind of place we are likely to line up for is it? I don’t know about you but I would much rather spend these last weeks of winter at the beach than in that wilderness. And yet, at the beginning of Lent, as we listen to the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, we know that we are being called to join him.

Jesus calls us to join him in the wilderness because when we are stripped down to our core, when all of the things that we use to comfort ourselves, when all of the landmarks, when all of the things we use to define ourselves are gone we find that God is there comforting us, guiding us and helping us to see who we are. Have you ever wondered why you were giving up chocolate or beer for Lent? Have you ever wondered why we take the flowers off of the altar and stop saying alleluia? When we do these things we are taking away the familiar. We are creating an environment in which the things that give us comfort and make us feel secure are hidden or unavailable. We are creating a wilderness where we feel off balance, upset, and maybe even a little threatened.

The wilderness is a dangerous and unpredictable place. Once we are in the wilderness what do we do? How will we find our way out? Jesus was sustained in the wilderness by the relationship with God that gave him his identity. He is the Beloved, the Son of God. That is our identity too. Each and every one of us should hear the story of Jesus’ baptism
in the River Jordan and hear the voice say directly to us, “You are my beloved, my child, with whom I am well pleased.” It is that identity which can sustain and comfort us. It is that identity which can provide the landmarks and the reference points so we can navigate our way through life, attempting to make sense of what happens to us. It is that identity which defines who we are. In the season of Lent, we are called to journey through the wilderness with Jesus so that, with the distractions and the crutches pulled away, we can focus on who we really are. We are the beloved children of God. It is that relationship with God that will pull us through the wilderness.

What about those things that we give up during Lent, the things that are stripped away, the things that are taken away from us as we enter “the devastation”? What is it that we learn about them as we journey through the wilderness? Sometimes the things that give us comfort and make us feel safe are protecting us from changes that we need to make in our lives. They make us so comfortable that we become complacent. Sometimes the landmarks and points of reference that allow us to navigate and make sense of our lives are marking the wrong paths. And often the things that we use to identify ourselves are only shadows of who we are and what we might become. We need to examine the things that we cling to. We need to examine our priorities and our path. Repentance means turning back to God. Are there things that we need to turn away from as we work to live into the identity that we have been given?

All of this time spent in the wilderness, all of this work, is leading to a new journey toward growth and fulfillment in Christ Jesus. As we learn more about our identity, about our relationship to God and about ourselves we are better able to live as the beloved children of God. We journey through the wilderness of Lent knowing that at the end of March the sun will shine, the flowers will reappear on the altar and we will cry “alleluia” as we are reborn with the risen Christ in whom our hope lies. But until that time, step into the wilderness, make some changes, give some things up and challenge your comfort level. Create a wilderness where you will be forced to focus your attention on your relationship with God. Spend time thinking, studying and learning about the God who sustains you, about your relationship with the God who calls you “Beloved.” Look for the things that you need to turn away from as you work to turn more fully to God. Now is the time to pay attention because the season of Lent is inviting you into the wilderness where you can strengthen your relationship with God and prepare yourself for the new beginning, the incredible journey that will be offered to you this coming Easter morning.

Peace,
Andy+

Against the Hustle: Learning Rhythms of Grace
How are you doing lately?

How often when we ask or are asked that question do we hear a brief, qualitative response - good, fine, okay, not so great - followed by a pause and that all too common four letter word, BUSY.

How’s work? Good! Just brought on a new client, so busy.
How’s the family? You know - the kids are in soccer; Jane is in four AP classes. They keep us busy.
How’s it going? Busy.
A New York Times Op-Ed from last year asked the pointed question, “When did performative workaholism become a lifestyle?” After naming the rise of the 10-18 hour work day and the rallying cry to hustle harder, the author identifies a new cultural norm where our sense of self and meaning is derived from our ability to be productive. “Perhaps we’ve all gotten a little hungry for meaning. Participation in organized religion is falling, especially among American millennials. In San Francisco, where I live, I’ve noticed that the concept of productivity has taken on an almost spiritual dimension...For congregants of the Cathedral of Perpetual Hustle, spending time on anything that’s nonwork related [might I add anything that is not clearly producing visible output] has become a reason to feel guilty.”

I’m curious as to how many of us might say that we feel this pressure. We sense an overwhelming need to be productive at work, in our homes, in our relationships and even in what we call leisure. We feel the evangelistic efforts of the Cathedral of Perpetual Hustle. Everything, at all times, is busy.

How might we function, dare I say flourish, in this endless, soul-crushing culture of busy? As people seeking to follow Christ, I’ll suggest that our answer be rooted in what we know about God and the life of Jesus. It should shock us that the life of Jesus is marked by anything but busy. In Jesus we see a life that is focused, yet never marked by a hurried pace or a sense of business. He invites us into this life saying, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” One translator phrases this invitation as learning “the unforced rhythms of grace.” The Church Fathers spoke of our busy in terms of desire. We, as people created in God’s image, hold infinite desire that can only be satisfied in an infinite God. Any attempt to feed that desire elsewhere, will always come up short in the end.

If any of this is hitting home, it may be time to sit with that invitation of Jesus. It’s an invitation to examine the busy and hustle in hopes of learning to set it down. As we approach Lent, this will certainly be a part of my self-examination and repentance. It’s time to interrogate the culture of busy and hustle in hopes of living more fully in the culture of the kingdom of God. I can’t give you a how to guide or five easy steps, because this will look different for all of us. Two Lenten offerings that could be a source of support in this journey are the Lenten contemplative prayer group (see p.7) and the invitation to a practice of scripture engagement (see Bible Petting Zoo article on p.4. Both can inform and force us to step away from the hustle and into the unforced rhythms of grace.

Is this easy? No. Living counter culturally never is; it is always swimming against the tide. But perhaps in swimming against the tide we can discover that this is a way of life we were made for. A life not marked by busy and hustle, but by grace and rest.

Will you join me?

Melesa

Mark Your Calendar: The Bible Petting Zoo is Coming!

That’s right, a Bible Petting Zoo! Join us for a Parish-wide formation hour on **Sunday, February 23rd at 9:30am in the Parish Hall.** Through a variety of interactive discussions, self-guided activity stations and plenty of time to explore the petting zoo, we will be asking why we read the Bible and why it can be a catalyst for spiritual formation. We’ll also talk about why it’s hard and provide some tools and resources that may make it easier.

This is an event for all ages, whether you are 6 or 86. All church school and youth group students can plan to join us. And did I mention there will be snacks?

Mark your calendar, and be sure to join us for a petting zoo like no other!

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**Pancake Supper**

*February 25th, 5:00 – 7:30*

Would you eat them in a Church?  
Would you eat them from a perch?  
Would you cook them in a pan?  
Would you cook them ‘til they’re tan?  
Smother them in Syrup?  
So good they’ll make you tear up!  
I would! I would eat pancakes with bacon!  
Not to mention all the sausage we are makin’.

The 2020 Saint Andrew’s Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place on February 25th, between 5 pm and 7:30 pm, in the Parish Hall.

Bring your appetite for sausage, bacon and pancakes, with jam and applesauce!  
Come prepared to have a great time.

The cost is $7 for Adults; $3 for Children; and $15.00 for a family.  
Proceeds will go St. Andrew's Clergy Discretionary Fund!

The Saint Andrew’s Men’s Group has agreed to anchor the Pancake Supper this year and we have plenty of people signed up to help!

Entertainment during the meal will be provided by a six-member instrumental ensemble comprised of Karen Laird and Kevin Crowe, clarinets; Todd Forsythe and Larry Bechler, trumpets; Mary Mixter, trombone and Woody Chastain, piano.
Ash Wednesday Services

When the pancakes are all gone, join us on Wednesday, February 26th as we enter the wilderness of Lent

Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes
7:00 am
12:00 noon
7:00 pm – joint service with our friends from Resurrection Presbyterian Church

Pull out yer Fiddle and Rosin up yer Bow
Let’s git Ready fer the Variety Show!

Saturday evening 5:00 – 8:00 on March 7th!

We will start out with a pot luck in the Parish Hall, then move to the Nave for 45 minutes of entertainment. We’ll move back to the Parish Hall for Dessert, then go back upstairs to finish out the evening with another 45 minutes of amazing talent! So far the evening will feature:

"We will see the return of some old favorites, Devin Connors dazzling us on the Piano, Stephanie Elkins of Wisconsin Public Radio fame sharing her amazing voice and guitar virtuosity, Dorie Turpin tap dancing her way into our hearts, RevRhinoAndy playing and singing a round of blues, and Bonnie Tompkins singing and playing us into that old time religion... We will also have a new performer grace our stage: Leanne “Squeeze Box” Pugl fledi on the accordion.

It’s an impressive list of acts already but there is plenty of room and we still need you! Any Suzuki student out there looking for a moment in the spotlight? How about an aspiring standup comic or two, a magician, a funny pet act…? We need you to come and share your gift and talents with us! Email Fr. Andy right away (rector@standrews-madison.org) to sign up and be sure to reserve the evening to spend with your parish family!
Bishop Miller visits St Andrew’s on The Day of Pentecost

As most of you know, Steven A. Miller, 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, has announced his intention to retire at the end of this year. That means that his next visit with us, scheduled for May 31st, The Day of Pentecost, will be his last official Episcopal Visit with us.

As we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church with the administration of the sacrament of Confirmation, by receiving people into the Episcopal Church, and by bearing witness to those among us who wish to renew their baptismal vows before the Bishop, we will also have an opportunity to thank Bishop Miller for his service, to celebrate his time among us, and to say goodbye.

Bishop Miller will preach and preside at both services that day, will talk with us during the Sunday Forum time, and may, depending on his schedule, be with us for a festive and celebratory reception following the 10:30 service.

Please mark your calendars and look for announcements about how you can help to make this special day one to remember!

The 173rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

Will be held October 2-3, 2020 at All Saints' Cathedral and the Astor Hotel, in Milwaukee.

Why are we telling you this now?

Because Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be with us at this, the last Diocesan Convention at which Bishop Steven A. Miller, 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee will preside.

It will be an important and memorable day in the life of our diocese!

Bishop Curry is an impressive and energizing speaker. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to hear him in person!

So mark your calendars and come be part of history!
A Contemplative Prayer Offering for Lent

It’s Lent. The Book of Common Prayer invites us to the Observance of a Holy Lent “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (BCP p. 265). There are lots of ways that you could begin this Lenten Journey leaning into the practices named in the prayer book. Indeed, you may have a Lenten Practice that has served you well on many successive journeys. Let us commend a practice to you, one that may be familiar, or relatively new, to you.

On Tuesday nights in Lent: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7 we will be gathered from 7:00 – 8:00 for an hour of Contemplative Prayer. This will be an hour of practice, not instruction but if you have never done this before and would like some help getting started you may come at 6:30 on March 3rd and Mother Lynne will give you an orientation and some helpful advice.

Mother Lynne Carver, Susan Fiore, and Miles McConnell offered a Contemplative Prayer experience during the season of Advent that was very well attended and very well received by everyone who came. Everyone left wanting more. So here is your chance. Come and join us on this Lenten Journey. It is good to have companions on the way!

Want to know more about The Episcopal Church? Join confirmation class!

Didn’t think confirmation class was for you? Think again!

This spring we will be gathering on five Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Hall to discuss, share, learn and explore the Episcopal and Anglican tradition. We’ll be using books from The Church’s Teachings for a Changing World series, which you can take a closer look at in the parish library. While this class is designed for those considering confirmation, reception or the renewal of baptismal vows, there will be insights and learning for all who participate.

The class will meet March 18; April 1, 15, 22; and May 6. If you would like more information or want to sign up, please email Mtr. Melesa.
**Faith Garden in Lent and Easter**

The season of Lent gives us time to prepare for the great Mystery of Easter, the principal feast of the Christian year. Thus the first story in Lent for Faith Garden is *The Mystery of Easter* and not *The Mystery of Lent*. The material for *The Mystery of Easter* is a set of six puzzle pieces which make the shape of a cross. One side of the cross is purple; the other side is white. It is much more than a puzzle with pieces that fit together, as we shall see by the end of the lesson.

Through the rest of Lent we will journey with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. We will be among his followers when he encounters Bartimaeus the blind man, Zacchaeus the tree-climbing tax collector, and the children who were prevented from running to him. We will cheer him on as he rides a donkey into the city. And we will gather with him and his disciples around the Passover table for his last meal, foreshadowing his death and his resurrection.

In the Sundays after Easter Day we'll stand with Mary Magdalene at the tomb when Jesus appears to her, and we'll be on the road to Emmaus with two disciples as they find their hearts warmed in the company of a stranger, the risen Christ. The final Sundays are feasts: the Good Shepherd's sheep pasturing on the good green grass, the people of God around the communion table, and the kids of Saint Andrew's hosting Coffee Hour.

**Coolios in Lent and Easter: Learning to Use the Bible, and Communion Reflection**

The Coolios class is in the middle of a unit on the Bible, our library of sacred scripture. We're learning about the different sections of our sacred library and where to find what. More important, though, we're learning how to follow the thread of God's love letters to us that is woven through these 66 books spanning 1300 years. Our unit will wrap up before Easter.

After Easter we turn to a four-week exploration of communion. We offer a communion unit in Coolios every two years to give children a couple of chances to reflect deeply on this sacrament as they grow. This year we'll dramatize the Last Supper, tour the sacristies, make patens, and bake communion bread. The sacrament of Baptism provides full inclusion in all the rites of the Episcopal Church. In the Episcopal tradition, all baptized members of Christ's body are welcome to receive communion. Communion instruction is not a prerequisite for participation.

**Family Walk Through Holy Week**

On April 4 9:30-12:00 we will offer *Family Walk Through Holy Week*. As adults we experience Jesus' last days through a series of services during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. *Family Walk Through Holy Week* condenses this week-long pilgrimage into an interactive storytelling event accessible to all ages. We sing "Hosanna!" as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Jesus shares bread and grape juice with us and washes our feet. As he withdraws to the Garden, we hear of his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. And we rejoice at his resurrection!! We will also have a couple of seasonal crafts. We will close with a light lunch. Please register by March 15 by emailing me.
**Dates for your family calendar**

Every Sunday, 9:15-9:30: Grace Notes  
Every Sunday, 9:30-10:15: Church school  
February 23, 9:30-10:15: All-parish event - Why read the Bible? with Bible petting zoo!  
February 25, 5:00-7:30: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
February 26: Ash Wednesday (service times listed elsewhere in the newsletter)  
March 7, 5:00-8:00: Variety Show and Potluck (see article elsewhere in the newsletter)  
March 14, 6:00-7:30: Organ concert, potluck supper, and sung compline  
April 4, 9:30-noon: Family Walk Through Holy Week  
April 12 after 11:00 service: Easter Egg hunt (no church school)  
May 1, 6:00-8:00 Family Movie Night  
May 3, 9:30-10:15 Church school classes prepare and host coffee hour  
May 16, 9:30-10:45 Grace Notes rehearsal  
May 17: Last day of Grace Notes and church school  
May 17, 10:30 Grace Notes worship offering  
May 17, 10:30 Communion class recognition during worship  

*Ruth Kearley  
Children’s Ministries*

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**A Safe Church for All**

We are hard at work to continue to ensure that St. Andrew’s is a safe place for all who enter our doors. There are many strategies and policies in place to make this possible, and this winter we have given particular attention to those that are in place for the safety children and youth who are a part of and visiting our parish.

Our staff recently met to review and update our Safe Church Procedures. As a part of this process all individuals who volunteer and work with minors at St. Andrew’s have received notice of the updated procedures. Additionally, the Safe Church Procedures are now posted in all classrooms, in the Parish Hall and youth group room.

Individuals who volunteer or work with minors are also required to participate in a training provided by The Episcopal Church titled, *Safeguarding God’s Children*. **The next training will be happening on Saturday, February 22nd, at St. Dunstan’s in Middleton from 9am-12pm.** If you would be interested in attending this training, please contact Mtr. Melesa.

Thank you for helping us make St. Andrew’s a safe church for all God’s people!
Organ Recital, Meal and Compline  
Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 5:45pm

Join us at 5:45 pm for a mini lecture on one of the recital pieces. Don Horisberger, our guest performer will speak on J. S. Bach's, Passacaglia in C minor, one of the master's monumental and most popular works. A simple meal follows the recital and at 7:00 p.m. members of the choir sing Compline in the candlelit sanctuary. Join us for part or all of the evening for music, fellowship and worship.

The Feast of the Ascension - Choral Evensong  
Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00pm

We will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension with a service of Choral Evensong. The service will be presided by Fr. Andy and the Chancel Choir will sing several portions of the liturgy. The congregation joins in the singing of the psalm, hymns and the Apostles' Creed. Evensong is another opportunity to both experience worship in the evening and to introduce a friend to the Episcopal Church. A pie reception will be held in the Parish Hall following the service.

Bach Around the Clock  
Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 10am to 10pm

For the 4th year, St. Andrew's will be the venue for the Bach Around the Clock Festival; a 12 hour marathon of performances of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The event is Saturday, March 28th from 10 am to 10 pm. For a complete description of the event and to see the schedule of performers, go to (www.bachclock.com). St. Andrew's Chancel Choir with the resident ensemble, Sonata a Quatro will open the day. We are in need of 12 volunteers from St. Andrew's who will serve for 2 hours as greeters, kitchen monitors and help with other tasks to help the day move smoothly. Please contact Ken Stancer, music director (music@standrews-madison.org) if you can help.
Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church
2020 Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday: April 5

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday: April 9

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy w/Foot Washing,
          Stripping of the Altar & Vigil at the Altar of Repose

*The Watch at the Altar of Repose will be kept in the Chapel at
Saint Andrew’s from the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday
service the evening of April 9th, until 9:00 a.m. on Good Friday.
We sign up to keep the Vigil in one-hour blocks of time. The sign-
up sheet will be on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. Many of
us value this time each year to keep silence and to pray, to recall
the events of Jesus’ arrest and trial during that dark night, and to
experience his absence in a very present way.*

Good Friday: April 10

9:00 a.m. Closing of the Watch
12:30 p.m. The Proper Liturgy for Good Friday *(childcare provided)*
2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday: April 11

8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
          *(please bring bells to ring;
            note that incense will be used at this service)*

Easter Day: April 12

9:00 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist with Special Music
11:00 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist with Special Music
12:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt
           *(childcare available between 8:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)*
An Invitation to the Rite of Reconciliation

When we cause a rift in a relationship through our words or actions, it may be enough for us to apologize to the person we have hurt, receive forgiveness from them, forgive ourselves for causing such pain, and move forward with a clean conscience. Often, this is enough, but not always. Occasionally, our fault feels so overwhelming that we cannot move past it; we cannot forgive ourselves even if others have forgiven us, or we need help restoring right relationship with another person or with God.

For those occasions, the church has a rite called “The Reconciliation of a Penitent.” Unlike the prayer of confession that we pray every Sunday during Eucharist, the rite of reconciliation is a private conversation in which the penitent person can share what is troubling their conscience with another Christian, most commonly a priest who can pronounce absolution. The purpose of this rite is not to earn God’s forgiveness (for God has already given it to us), but rather to give the penitent permission to let go of the guilt and to begin a process of reconciling, or restoring right relationship. The rite of reconciliation cannot undo our mistakes, but it gives us an opportunity to name our pain, express our remorse, and experience God’s grace and mercy.

In the Episcopal Church, the informal motto about the rite of reconciliation is that “All may, none must, and some should.” There is no requirement that you participate in this rite before Easter, sometime this year, or ever. But should the need for the rite ever arise, it is here for you. And so is your clergy. Father Andy and Mother Melesa invite you to call, email, or speak with them if you would like to explore participating in the Rite of Reconciliation.

Youth Happenings

All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to join the St. Andrew’s Youth Group on Sundays from 9:30-10:15am in the basement of the Newell House. This semester we will be exploring the Old Testament through story, art and discussion. In addition to our time together on Sunday mornings, we will also hold various social outings and service projects throughout the year. To stay in the loop on the latest youth happenings, please email Mtr. Melesa to be sure you are on the parents distribution list.
St. Andrew’s Endowment Grants

The parish annual budget provides for our normal activities subject to the limits of our annual pledges. St. Andrews has at least 25 ministries and not every good idea for doing Parish work can be funded by the Parish annual budget. Fortunately, the inspirational examples of John Peterson and Jessie Crane led to the establishment of endowment funds that provide modest annual returns. This money can be used to fund parish work and outreach not covered by the budget for normal operations.

These endowments exist for the purpose of furthering our mission of growing as the Body of Christ in worship, fellowship, learning, outreach, and service.

The more-substantial Peterson endowment supports activities at St. Andrews by St. Andrews parish members in support of ministries that involve Worship, Fellowship, and Learning. The Crane endowment is more outreach oriented.

Who Can Request a Grant?
Any member of the parish can request funds to support good ideas that are constrained by the limits of our annual pledges. When any member of the parish, (that's all of you), sees a need for hiring help, buying equipment or materials, to expand the work of the parish, then you can request a grant to do so. Any group of more than one member of the parish can request a grant also.

The Parish website has a link to an Endowment Page -- on it is a form you can fill out and submit or, if you so choose, links to a PDF document or a Microsoft Work document of the same form. If you use the PDF/Word version, return it to Dorie in the Parish Office.

How Large Are these Grants?
- Micro-grants — less than $250
- Mini-grants—$251-$500
- Grants—over $500

Historical Use of the Endowments

Peterson Endowment
- Centennial Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Catering
- Newcomers Committee Gift Bags to welcome newcomers and visitors
- Chancel Choir Choral Scholars (3x)
- Annual Meeting Church School Kids Programming (2x)
- Renovation Remodeling Furnishings for Fellowship Space
- Certified counselor/teacher for Love and Logic parenting course.
- Saturday Breakfast to foster community among families of young and school-age children
- Fund an honorarium for Dr. Damon Sajnani, Assistant Professor of African Cultural Studies at UW

Crane Endowment
- Cherokee Heights Middle School Food Pantry
- West High MEGA for SEGA trip to Tanzania
- Cherokee Middle School Cougar Snack Club (2x)
- Diocesan Outreach Partnership at St. Marc’s Parish in Jeannette, Haiti for Helyn Luisi-Mills travel costs (1x)
- Becca Hennen's work with the Haitian staff at the Jeanette Health Clinic, for travel costs (2x)
- Sponsorship of Celebration of Leadership for Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (2x)
Welcome to The Saint Andrew’s Social Justice Alert Email List:
A Way for Members of St Andrew's To Share Calls to Action Around Issues of Social Justice.

You have surely noticed that the Outreach Committee has experienced something of a renaissance this year. We are working hard to support members of the parish and their ministries in the community. We are working with Beth Bookland, a St. Andrew’s parishioner to support her work at the Cherokee Heights Middle School Food Pantry. We featured Matt Wayland and his work at Bridges for Families and the Birth to Three program as the recipient of the October Outreach InGathering. And we brought back parishioner Penelope Johnson and her colleagues from the West High School MEGA for SEGA program in November. We are proud of the work that members of the St Andrew’s Family are doing in the community near and far!

As the Outreach Community has done this work, we have been looking for a way to engage, or to offer people an opportunity to engage in policy level work. The money and food that we send to Cherokee, the funds we gave to Bridges for Families and MEGA for SEGA address the symptoms of poverty, the need for education, and needs of families whose children have special needs. But those gifts don’t address the policies that create or perpetuate those deficits in the lives of the people around us. We have been working to pull the drowning people out of the river. We now have something to offer to people who would like to go upstream and stop those people being thrown into the river in the first place.

This month we have launched a simple email list serve whose entire purpose is to alert its members to opportunities to speak up and take action around issues of social justice and the need to go beyond addressing the symptoms and change the system.

SocialJustice@standrews-madison.org is the address of our new email group. We will alert you to bills in the legislature around incarceration, homelessness, shelter for the homeless in Madison; moments when you can call your legislators and ask them to vote on the side of the marginalized, oppressed, the poor, and the homeless; times when your presence might make a difference in the lives of the people Jesus called us to lift up.

This is a pilot project and we need your help. If you would like to participate please email Fr. Andy at rector@standrews-madison.org and he will add you to the list!
The Saint Andrew’s Men’s Group is on a roll!

Since our organizing meeting back in September, we have gathered three times for Fellowship, Friendship, and Breakfast! We have averaged 14 guys at each gathering and have seen new members of Saint Andrew’s, old members of Saint Andrew’s who have been invited to come back and give us a new look, and friends and coworkers of our members who are looking for a place build friendships and relationships.

At our last gathering we decided that we would anchor the Pancake Supper. This past Sunday Pete Holtz told me that we have enough people signed up and that if we get more volunteers we risk not having enough for people to do! That's huge!

We talked at our last gathering about going to Tom Mosgaller's farm to plant Oak saplings when the county delivers them... breakfast, a chance to work together to rebuild a Wisconsin Oak Savanna, and then more food! We are standing by until Tom gets word on the delivery date for the saplings.

We also talked about branching out and meeting for coffee and... wait for it... PIE on a weekday night. A doodle poll has gone out to the guys who have attended or expressed interest. As soon as we settle on a date we will publish it and invite you to join us. But you don’t have to wait for the date to be decided to join up! Send Fr. Andy an email at rector@standrews-madison.org and he will add you to the email list so that you get advance notice and can participate in the selection of our gathering dates and activities!

We are on a roll! Come join us!

Andy +
Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church
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