



February 2018



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# The Tartan

## A Message to the Parish

by Fr. Martin Yabroff



- St. Andrew's Annual Parish Meeting was held on January 28, 2018. Elected to the Vestry were Hayley Adams, Ken Rhodes and Jessica Richards, who will join Liz Herriges, Don Ramage, Charles Roberts, Susan Rowe and Kristina Younger. The meeting voted to have an 8 member Vestry in 2018 (not filling Kristen Ruscio's unexpired 1 year term.)
- Elected as Alternates to the Diocesan Convention were Virginia Gaub and Colin McDaniel, joining this year's Delegates: Reberta Skinner, Frank Lawler, Pam Tinsley and Don Ramage.
- Angela Barr was elected to the Endowment Committee.
- 2017 Financial Reports and the 2018 Budget were presented and discussed. Their transparency was appreciated.
- Lively discussion was held in small table groups about what was on our hearts as members of St. Andrew's and how we understand the Jesus Movement.
- During the Eucharist upstairs, we dedicated our new Celtic Cross for the Columbarium.
- I announced my appointment of Susan Rowe as Senior Warden. 2018 Vestry members were commissioned with prayer and copies of Following the Way of Jesus by Michael Curry and others. Fr. Ed offered a closing benediction.

### Excerpts from my sermon

Today we gather for our Annual Parish Meeting. This is the 128<sup>th</sup> year of this congregation of St. Andrew's, and my 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting with you. I want to begin with some of our Scriptures today, and to remind us all that our time in this assembly – upstairs and later downstairs – must focus on listening for and seeking God's will and mission. This is not about my words and directions in themselves. We are here today and week by week and in our Vestry to seek God's will and mission. To take that seriously is more than a little scary for me sometimes, but I trust God to guide us, and I trust us together to listen to God and to encourage one another in being God's church with Christ (as we say in Eucharistic Prayer B) as the head of the Church.

Our psalm (#111) begins "Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation" – in the Annual Meeting! We have so much to be thankful for – beginning with God's grace and power, which makes all our ministries possible.

God is good, and St. Andrew's is a wonderful church; an active congregation, as you can see in all the Annual Reports. I am particularly thankful for our staff: Linda Brice, Meghan Mullarkey, Naomi Shiga, Pam Tinsley, Sunshine DeGennaro, Matthew Moravec, Melissa Sousa, Beth Rich, Cyndi Wolfer, Dave Tinsley our webmaster, and of course Fr. Ed. I am thankful for our Vestry – our wardens Colin and Susan, and all our Vestry members. I am thankful for this congregation – for each of you, and the privilege to serve together. As we said in our Psalm (#111), “The Lord is gracious and full of compassion” – that is how I see us also, for we are all God's children, ‘the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.’

We heard in our Epistle lesson (1 Cor.8:1-13) that the Corinthian church was full of different opinions, like our society today, and sometimes like our own congregation. Paul sought to shift their perspective from this opinion or that to God's ways and our love for God. For us, there is one God and one Jesus. No other idols really exist. Therefore all food is acceptable if it is nourishing and good for us. Let us keep our focus on God's mission and purpose, and as Paul emphasizes as well, respect and listen to and care for those of our community who disagree. This applies fully to our divided society and nation. We must listen to and respect all persons even as we seek God's way of love and justice and respect for all human beings.

Our Gospel is the most important lesson for us in this Annual Meeting. Here we see lives being changed and transformed – the man with a demon, and those who witnessed Jesus' authority.

Sometimes we may think sentimentally of Jesus as gentle and welcoming to all. Here we see Jesus with power and authority, an authority that changes lives, makes the world a different place, and offends some so much that they want to kill him.

God created all humankind to live in harmony with God and one another. When that didn't work out, God sent God's son Jesus to reconcile all people with God and one another and all creation. Jesus came to change lives and change this world, to bring about this work of reconciliation.

Our mission as St. Andrew's is “to know Christ and to make Christ known.” That means that we – knowing Jesus – are to be changed, transformed, and that we are to be change agents in this world. Our Presiding Bishop talks a lot about the Jesus Movement. We are part of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement – what God is seeking to do in this world through Jesus. To apply the words of Presiding Bishop Curry to our own congregation, our mission as St. Andrew's and as members of it is **‘to follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with the earth.’** That description of the Jesus Movement means that we are called to be transformed ourselves and to change this world.

This isn't new. Remember the words of one of our Eucharistic prayers, that we come to Communion “not for solace only” but also for strength; we come not only for pardon but also for renewal – transformation. “Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.”

So on this Annual Meeting day, let us consider how we are doing. Lots has been going on, as you can see in our written reports. Last July we welcomed our Curate – Meghan, broadening the gender and age of our clergy and hopefully strengthening and broadening our ministries. Celtic Faire was again successful. We continue to tithe our giving for Community Outreach and make our building available for the community. We continue to support Pam Tinsley and Jeffrey Boyce in their vocational journeys.

We have some challenges this coming year. Our budget for 2018 is out of balance by 11% or about \$35,000. This is due to some unforeseen circumstances.... We continue to have a very lean budget.

Now we have had balanced budgets for the past 8 years, and have accumulated surplus funds that more than cover this deficit, and could cover part of the following year's budget if needed. Our Vestry and Treasurer fully support this budget. This budget challenges us all to move ahead this year in mission.

Another challenge is attendance. Average Sunday Attendance in 2017 was 104 per Sunday, 7% lower than the year before. (The decrease was primarily in the 10 am service.) Now there are changes going on in our society, affecting all churches and denominations. Many households that attended church 3-4 Sundays per month are coming less often – 1 to 2 Sundays – due to travel or other activities or just not getting here.

Younger generations are less active in religious activities, and that trend now applies to evangelical and conservative churches as well as mainline ones. We are in the midst of significant changes in church life and religious and spiritual expressions in our society, not unlike the Protestant Reformation – on that scale. We cannot yet see what these changes will bring. God's mission isn't changing, but a lot of our ministries and assumptions are.

As members of the Jesus Movement – called to know Christ and to make Christ known – and with these two challenges before us as a congregation, there are two themes that I call us to focus on this coming year. **The first is to strengthen our sense of purpose and mission in the Jesus Movement** – that we are here to grow and be transformed and deepened in faith and life – healed like the man in our Gospel. And we are called to be change-agents in this world. To be salt and light and leaven, to impact our community.

I have been researching lately what distinguishes growing and declining congregations. A major factor is a strong sense of mission and purpose as a congregation. So I call us to be talking about and sharing what God is calling us to do. Not just to be comfortable (important as that is) but also to be transformed. Beginning with ourselves and extending to our community, following Jesus' way: *Living like Jesus, loving like Jesus, forgiving like Jesus, doing justice and loving kindness and walking humbly with God, just like Jesus.*

**Second, we need to be more visible as a church.** There are a lot of people around us who reject Christianity because of an understanding of God and the Bible that we also reject, and who would welcome a Bible-centered, Jesus-following, welcoming and loving Christian church like St. Andrew's. Folks who may reject their religious experience of the past but are seeking to grow spiritually in ways that this congregation can help and support. But they don't know we are here. We need to work on this, through personal sharing, and through social media and "marketing" in the best sense of the word, and by reaching out to those spiritually and physically in need.

This, I pray, will be an active year. I am eager to see how God will lead us and where the Jesus Movement will take us. This year's ministries will take the creativity and faithfulness of us all, and of the new folks who may join us along the way. We will build on what is good of our past and present, and claim some new opportunities. And always remembering that this is God's church, with Jesus as the head. And we shall be humble and eager servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Martin+

## ***Vestry Viewpoint—by Don Ramage***

This January, I visited the St. Andrew's columbarium to see the newly-arrived ceramic cross. I expected to see a pretty cross hanging on the wall, but found an extraordinary cross, moving in its beauty. The center of the cross holds a Northwestern scene of Mount Rainier, evergreens and water within the gold ring of its center, then, passing to the other side of the ring, if you stand near enough, the surface begins to move and shimmer with flecks of light that fade to a deep and firm blue at the ends of the arms, a heavenly cross.

This cross evokes layers of meaning for me. The symbol of the cross, as some have noted, suggests the intersection of two planes, the eternal and the temporal. This cross reminds me of the fundamental reasons I come to church, as a seeker of those great questions of God and life after death. We humans are hardwired to raise these questions as we sense an eternal soul within our temporal bodies. Today's society often encourages us to shrug off these questions, but the blue cross in our columbarium reminds me of the beauty we may find if we look upwards and beyond.

This cross also reminds me that we do not travel our faith journeys alone, but walk, in the words of the Apostle's Creed, "in the communion of saints," meaning the continued union of the followers of Jesus, "saints" in the original sense, both living and departed. On this first visit of mine to the columbarium, I saw the photos and mementos of the departed placed by parishioner families whose loved ones rest there, and felt myself among a large parish family, past, present, and future. I could feel their continued presence among us, and I also felt gratitude to now enjoy the fruits of their labors, both tangible and intangible. Among the many names in the columbarium were Polly Hickman, who filled our church with music and laughter, and whose gifts of music continue on through our memorial organ. There were the Camerons, the family of the artist who made our cross, Jean Tudor. I thought also of Albert Puddicombe, who left us with a hall with a delightfully Dickensian name, but, more than this, purchased the land on which the church stands; of Ada Webb, whose gift to St. Andrew's in her will enabled a wing to be added to what was then a small mission church.

St. Andrew's being a down-to-earth and welcoming community, even those of us who, like me, who are relative newcomers to St. Andrew's, can soon feel ourselves on the inside of this extended family. Reflecting on these gifts of those gone before us, we must also reflect on how we will extend our hands across time and generations—a timely meditation, as we finish our annual parish meeting. How will we find and support the saints of the future—remembering, as the apostle Paul noted, that we are all adopted into this family? With God's help, what labors of love will we leave for those saints who come after us?

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## ***Lent 2018—by Matthew Moravec***

Lent is a time of the church year in which Christians have traditionally made special devotions in preparation for Eastertide. For this Lent, St. Andrews will be reading through the Gospel of Mark. For reading convenience, on each day of Lent a portion of the Gospel will be posted on our facebook page. All are welcome to discuss the passage and its applications in the comments section beneath each post. Please consider taking this opportunity to make your Lenten social media engagement spiritually edifying!

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**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** (February 13): 5:00 to 6:30 pm

**Ash Wednesday services** (February 14) at 7:00 am, 12 Noon and 7:00 pm

## ***Celebrating Black History Month***—by Meghan Mullarkey

I am excited to tell you about the ways that St. Andrew's will be celebrating Black History Month. The primary focus of this month is to celebrate the ways that black people have brought so much richness to the world. The hope is that this celebration would expose to the people of St. Andrew's a deeper knowledge of the different ways black people have enriched our country. And that this would lead to a deeper awareness of our own need and desire to learn more about different cultures and different races. We are encouraging parishioners to read books by black authors and watch movies based on black characters this month and throughout the year. The books that have been recommended by black people in our community are The Cross of the Redemption (Non-Fiction) by James Baldwin, Beloved (Fiction) by Toni Morrison, and/or So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. The movie that has been recommended is "The Tuskegee Airmen" which is based on the true story of the first African-American combat pilots in the United States Army Air Corps, that fought in World War II.

Our adult education offerings will also be a time to explore race. And our coffee hour will be a time to explore and discuss people like Benjamin Banneker who invented the first clock in America, Madam C.J Walker the first female self-made millionaire, and Joan Higginbotham a former NASA astronaut and many more.

These are three ways we are marking Black History Month:

1. Each Sunday in February a black person in our community will provide a food item at coffee hour that represents their own upbringing or culture
2. During coffee hour we will also have **black history flash cards** available. Please pick some up and discuss with fellow parishioners. This would be a great way to engage with people who are visiting too!
3. **Adult Ed. @7pm** in the Ada Wed room- **Feb. 5th** Reberta and the Rev. Meghan will lead a discussion from the short essay, "What Price Freedom?" in James Baldwin's book, The Cross of Redemption. (Copies available in the Ada Webb room.) **Feb. 12th** - Sandi Dick will lead a discussion on the book, So you Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo. Reading ahead of time is encouraged but not necessary.

Sandi Dick has also offered a personal story of her own experience of being black in the United States below.

### **Navigating the world of discrimination, bigotry, racism, sexism, and other isms.**

On 20 January 1970 I arrived at JFK Airport in New York. This was my first trip out of my country, Jamaica. The population in Jamaica almost 93.0 percent black so I was surprised at the number of whites at the airport. I was also apprehensive of how I would be treated as it was less than two years since Martin Luther King was murdered. While in New York, I completed high school and one year of college but never encountered any racial or cultural situations.

In 1974, I enlisted in the U.S. Army and was transferred to Fort McClellan, Alabama for Basic Training. From October, the month I arrived, until the day I graduated in mid- December, I never left the Post. The black soldiers were advised to remain on base as there had been assaults on military women, but especially black women. For the first time I began to understand what it was to be afraid because I was black. It's been 48 years since I arrived in the U.S. and I am an American. I have encountered many incidents of racism and other "isms, not only in the military, but also in the Episcopal Church.

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# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  7pm Choir	2	3 7am SA Meeting
4 8/10 Holy Eucharist	5 1pm Bible Study  7pm Adult Ed 8pm Men's Al-Anon	6 10:30am AA  7:45pm AA	7 Noon Eucharist	8  7pm Glory and Praise Choir	9 10am Weaver's Guild	10 7am SA Meeting
11 8/10 Holy Eucharist 8:45-9:45am Parish Nurse on Duty  2pm PEO event in sanctuary/Ada Webb Room	12 1pm Bible Study  7pm Adult Ed 8pm Men's Al-Anon	13 Shrove Tuesday 10:30am AA  5pm Pancake Supper 7:45pm AA	14 Ash Wednesday 7am Ashes & communion  Noon Ashes & Communion 1pm Finance Comm. 7pm Ashes & communion	15  7pm Choir	16	17 7am SA Meeting  9:15am Come & See (Cursillo) Secretariat
18 8/10 Holy Eucharist	19 1pm Bible Study  8pm Men's Al-Anon	20 10:30am AA  7pm Vestry 7:45pm AA	21 Noon Eucharist	22  7pm Choir	23	24 7am SA Meeting
25 8/10 Holy Eucharist	26 1pm Bible Study  8pm Men's Al-Anon	27 10:30am AA  7:45pm AA	28 Noon Eucharist  5-7pm Jackson Street Food Bank			

## February Birthdays

2	Charlie McDaniel Carola von Wrangel
3	Michelle Beckham
6	Nolan Roberts
9	Jim Backus Derek Strausbaugh
11	Connie Sharp
13	Kenneth Dick
14	Rena Girard Fran Hurlow Don White
16	Joe Wilhite
17	Bill Howe Becky Gregg
23	Kristen Ruscio
27	Mary Lowenberg
28	Peggy Nelson
29	Marcos Glass



## February Anniversaries

2-6-1988	Michael and Diann Rainer
2-6-1999	Tim and Stephanie Gallagher

### ***One Conversation can Change a Life***—by Cyndi Wolfer, RN, MSN, Parish Nurse

On January 16, 2018 Tyler Hilinski, 21, a quarterback for the Washington State football team, killed himself. I would like to use his suicide to help prevent any others from happening. Any time anyone takes their own life many are left wondering why. Suicide is complex. There are almost always multiple causes, including mental health conditions, that may not have been recognized or treated. However, these illnesses are treatable. According to the Center for Disease Control, suicide is the second leading cause of death in men between the ages of 10-34. In Washington State, it is the second leading cause of death in men age 15-34. If you are concerned that someone close to you is suicidal, do not leave them alone, take away anything that can be used to harm themselves (sharp objects such as knives, scissors) and seek help from a medical professional by calling 911 or taking them to the nearest emergency department. Some people may be afraid that they could worsen the situation if they bring up the topic of suicide with their loved one. While this is a common concern, scientific studies show that asking about suicide—and encouraging their loved one to get help—does not increase the risk of suicide. Rather, addressing concerns about suicide is helpful in preventing suicide. This is one conversation that can change someone's life. Anyone interested in learning more about suicide prevention can use the following internet resources:

#### **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

**Website:** [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

The National **Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

**Website:** [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

**Phone:** 1 (800) 273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK)

A free, 24/7 service that can provide suicidal persons or those around them with support, information and local resources.

\* **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

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## **ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



**St. Andrew's**

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The Mission of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is  
to know Christ and to make Christ known.

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Liz Herriges

Don Ramage

Ken Rhodes

Jessica Richards

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Susan Rowe

Kristina Younger

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Beth Rich, Bookkeeper

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The Rev. Martin Yabroff, Rector

The Rev. Edward A. Sterling, Associate

The Rev. Meghan Mullarkey, Associate

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Sunshine DeGennaro, Youth Pastor

Matthew Moravec, Sunday School Admin.

Pam Tinsley, Ministry Coordinator

### **Tartan Editor**

Linda Brice

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