



Good News

Together, we seek to know Christ and make him known.

From the Rector

“The human species thinks in metaphors and learns through stories.”

Mary Catherine Bateson

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32

A few weeks ago during my homily I shared the story of one of my ancestors with you; an ancestor who immigrated to Virginia when it was still a British Colony, volunteered to serve in the Continental Army, fought to free the colonies from British tyranny in the American Revolution, and almost certainly, owned slaves. Sharing this family story was hard, in part because I could not and cannot reconcile my ancestor’s demonstrated bravery and thirst for freedom, with his cowardly and sinful enslavement of innocent human beings. My initial pride at having descended from an early-American patriot quickly gave way to shame as I contemplated the ways in which I have benefitted from my ancestor’s sin at the expense of the freedom, security, and well-being of the people he enslaved, and their descendants. White privilege, once merely an intellectual concept that I did not truly own, has become real to me through the telling of my story.

Last Sunday Dawson shared a story from his own family history, a story about growing up in a largely racist southern community, in a racist household that nurtured racism in him, long suppressed but very real. Thankfully, Dawson’s story and my story ultimately speak to the conversion that is possible for all of us white people who have benefitted from sins, recent or historical, arising from the very the pigment of our flesh. But as we all know, conversion, from the Latin *convers-turned about*, filtered through Old French and the Middle English iteration referring to “a turning of sinners toward God,” is not a one-time only thing, but rather, the work of a lifetime.

Continued on page 5



Online Worship Continues

At the June 17th Vestry meeting, Rev. Lisa and Vestry members discussed returning to in-person worship looking closely at what is required by the Diocese of Ohio, the practicality of ensuring a safe space at St. Andrew and most importantly the safety of our congregation. At the conclusion of discussion, all members agreed to suspend in-person worship for an additional month with the goal of returning at such time when the objectives of Phase Three of the *Phased Return to In-Person Parish Life for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio* can be put into practice. Currently The Diocese is in Phase Two of the plan which allows for gathering, but requires masks for all in attendance, social distancing, no congregational participation in communion, and no singing.

Parishes will be permitted to move to Phase Three of the *Phased Return to In-Person Parish Life for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio* when authorized by Bishop Hollingsworth.

The Coronavirus continues to impact Episcopal churches in Ohio and around the world. We thank the Bishop and the Diocesan staff for their leadership during the pandemic. Also a big thank you to the St. Andrew Vestry members and Rev. Lisa for their commitment to making hard decisions and their unwavering care in keeping parishioners safe.

To read the entire *Phased Return to In-Person Parish Life for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio* go to dohio.org.

Join Us!

Virtual Services every Sunday at 10:30 AM on St Andrew Facebook and YouTube. Links are posted each week on our website: www.standrew-mentor.com.



Worship Bags

Worship Bags containing a sanitized prayer book, hymnal and service binder have been assembled and are available to pick up in the Narthex. The bag is labeled with your name. Use them now and then bring them weekly when we return to in-person worship. If you are unable to pick up your bag, it will be delivered to you! Just call the office at 440-255-8842.

July Celebrations

Birthdays

Kim Herczog 02
Ivy Heim 03
Brianna Rotz 03
Diane Smith 08
Margaret Sinclair 22
William Nemeth 22
Joan Lally 23
Vince Sitkowski 24
Ken Cudnik 25
Douglas Dittebrand 27
Norma Pattison 29
Sarah Peshek 31

Anniversaries

Leo & Shirley Poitras 09
Grant & Mary Provins 22
Douglas & Deborah Dittebrand 26

Don't see your Birthday or Anniversary? Contact the Office at 440-255-8842 and let us know!



Garden Update

St. Andrew's Jubilee Garden has been planted and is growing. A total of eight raised beds are full of sprouting beans, sunflowers, kale, eggplant, peppers and tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes!

Thanks to Jeries and Samia Bishara for their donation of 50 beautiful tomato plants they started from seed. With love and care they will provide a bumper crop to help feed our Pantry neighbors.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Can you volunteer a few times a week to stop by the church in the early morning or late afternoon to water our garden? Lisa is starting a sign-up sheet for garden helpers. Call the office at 440-255-8842

St. Andrew joins TryTank Project

St. Andrew has joined with TryTank, trytank.org, an experimental ministry "lab" of the Episcopal Church to create a crowd-funding video.

This professionally designed information video will tell the story of St. Andrew and why we matter to the larger community we serve. Its purpose will be to draw neighbors to our church and to help fund St. Andrew community projects. At present Lisa+ and Sandy Mazelis are participating with 20 other parishes around the country in ongoing zoom training. This training will culminate later this fall in the production of a first-rate parish video for our ongoing use on the St. Andrew website and other social media outlets. Look for updates on this project in the months to come. At their first training session, Lisa and Sandy brainstormed on a "why" statement- a brief non-theological statement about the purpose of St. Andrew framed like this: St. Andrew exists to "___"so that"___". Sandy and Lisa ultimately came up with this "why" statement for St. Andrew: St. Andrew exists "to nurture reciprocal relationship with friend and stranger" so that "everybody thrives." What do you think?



A Conversation about Racism

In recent weeks, the topic of racial inequality has dominated newscasts, social media and conversations across the country. While protests are being held both locally and nationwide, the road to racial harmony and understanding starts with us listening to each other. In a religious context, no race is above another. God created us. He loves us. Jesus died for all of us. And Jesus commanded us to love one another.

Though these protests and conversations what has become clear is that despite hard won antidiscrimination laws spurred by Martin Luther King, Jr. and similar marches and protests in the 1960s, discrimination still exists in 2020. Black Americans continue to suffer discrimination when seeking employment, in education, policing and in courts.

In the near future the Diocese of Ohio's Diocesan Council will be inviting parishes to participate in book study looking at the causes and effects of racism and how to combat it. But can we do more? What is our understanding of racism and white privilege as a congregation? Where do we stand in the Black Lives Matter movement? In addition to the book study, Rev. Lisa is encouraging folks at St. Andrew to share a racial witness that will spur conversation leading to understanding. All members are invited to submit a statement of their perspective on racism or a personal story of what they have observed, or experienced in regard to racism. How do you understand the concept of while privilege? These witnesses may be anonymous (dropped in a box in the Narthex) or, if anonymity is not important, emailed. Once received, the stories will be compiled and read on video to be used in a group study to start a deeper conversation on the topic. By listening to each other we can begin to heal wounds, understand, and work toward the command to "love one another as I (Jesus) have loved you."



Rev. Lisa participated in the Black Lives Matter Prayer Vigil in Kirtland.

Adult Formation to go Virtual

One of the many things that has been truly missed during our time apart has been the St. Andrew Adult Formation class (also known as Dawson's Class). Weekly bible study and conversation will begin again online in July. A Flocknote email will be sent soon with details. While we'll miss the weekly donuts (thanks Randy and Carol!) it will be great to be together learning and growing as we study. And for all of you who could not make it to the class on Sunday mornings due to participating in the Choir or other time constraints, this is your opportunity to join the class. All are welcome!



From the Rector *(continued from page 1)*

Jesus taught us how to be human, the beloved of God, by telling us stories about sin, forgiveness, repentance, hope, justice, and new life in the context of his family history and our family histories.

In sharing the stories of the people of God Jesus didn't pull any punches; he did not sanitize the ambiguous or contradictory behaviors of his beloved. Rather, by the honest telling of our stories, often in the form of parables, Jesus helps us understand ourselves, even at our worst, in the light of God's justice and his love, which forgives every sin and opens the way of freedom peace to all, by love of neighbor and right action born of gratitude and hope. The love of Jesus opens the way of freedom and peace to each of us. It is up to us, however, to follow that Way and allow ourselves to be transformed by it.

In this spirit of transformation, born of honesty, confession, self-acceptance, conversion, and hope, I invite you to share your stories of racism and white privilege, in whatever way you understand these words. No two stories are alike. Our histories and life experiences are as individual as fingerprints. Short or long, every life story is important, and every experience honestly shared is a vehicle to understanding, insight, and conversion for all.

I leave you with this question to ponder and respond to in writing during the month of July:

Considering your family history as well as your current circumstances, please reflect on how racism against black people has affected your life.

Responses can be shared with me in whatever communication medium works best for you (letter, note, video, e-mail, text). You may respond anonymously if you need to do so by leaving your response in the message box which will soon be set up in the narthex. I will compile and share all the responses with the parish in the hope that our stories will help us start a conversation about race and how we, together as the community of St. Andrew and followers of Jesus Christ, can help end racism in this time and place.

Thank you for your honesty and your faithfulness. We're all in this life together and Jesus Christ is in the midst of us.

Lisa+

Rev. Denis Paul, Pastor of the Eastshore Unitarian Universalist Church wrote and delivered this prayer at the recent Kirtland Black Lives Matter gathering on June 23. Thank you, Rev. Denis for sharing it with us.

Eternal Spirit, Creative Force of the Universe, Companion in Sorrow and Celebration, Source of Life, Parent and Ancestor of us all, Force of Love that many call God:

Be with us now, as we are profoundly aware of our discomfort; even in a world and a time when so many of us live with the privileges of being white, male, cis-gender, heterosexual, or able-bodied, and living and working in communities that are far removed from the challenges and risks that come with urban density and diversity.

May those of us who live in a place of safety and comfort be constantly reminded that there are so many people who do not have the luxury of choice, and that our understanding of how we perceive the truth is a construct of the bubbles we live in, whether we choose those bubbles or not.

And may those of us who live every day with direct experience of the specter of racism, with its hurtful, violent and even deadly stereotypes-constantly reminded that we cannot change who we are or the perceptions of others-be comforted now, if only a little bit, by this gathering of the hopeful, the peaceful, the people wishing to make positive change.

May we all support one another, putting at our center the experiences of people of color, especially the experiences of Black People.

May those of us who are white be mindful of our privileges, not so that we feel the kind of shame that makes our faces burn and our egos lash out in self-protection, but so that we may be better allies, better defenders of peace, better demanders of justice, better demonstrators that Black Lives Matter.

May we show up. May we listen. May we ask "how can I help?" and actually follow through. May we believe the life stories of others, even when it is hard to face, even when there is no video to prove it.

May it be so. Amen. Blessed be.

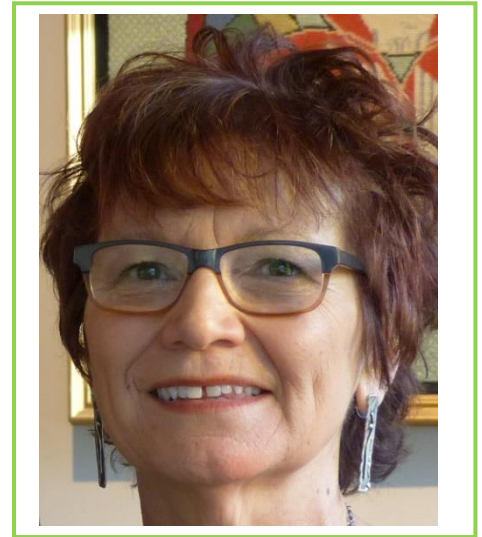
Dear Church Family,
Thank you all for the tremendous outpouring of prayers and support during my recent illness and the passing of my dad.

As most of you know, despite following all of the social distancing guidelines, I contracted the coronavirus in May, along with my son, Steve, my brother Wm C. Pevec, and my dad, Wm J. Pevec. Steve and my brother Bill, were only sick for a few days, which meant they were able to care for me and my dad, who were very ill.

We were overwhelmed by the number of cards, notes and calls from you all! We were blanketed in prayer and comforted by all of your caring thoughts.

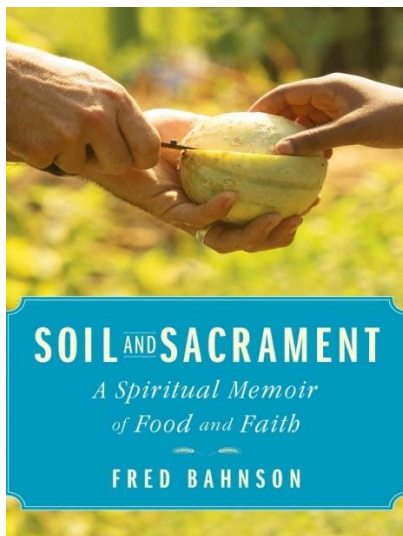
My dad was already in failing health with heart and kidney failure before the virus struck. We were blessed to be able to arrange a face to face visit for my mom, Jackie, and my dad on May 21st. My mom has been in a memory care facility for 4 1/2 years, and my folks would have celebrated 65 years of marriage on July 2nd, so the worst part of lockdown was for my dad not to see my mom every day. I was also blessed to recover enough to visit my dad for several hours on June 3rd, the day he passed. I was able to kiss him and hold his hand one last time. Dad was ready to go, and I know he is at peace in heaven.

I wish I could give each of you a big hug and a big thank you for being there for me and my family. I look forward to the day we can all worship together again at St Andrew.
Love & prayers always,
Mb Primeau



At a "Crossroads"

When you enter the St. Francis Outdoor Chapel you can't help but notice the rustic cross that stands firmly in place behind the stone altar. The cross was given in memory of Francis Lyden and Jean Grisdale by Mr. & Mrs. G. William Grisdale in 1988. Recently we have discovered that there has been extensive insect damage to the cross beam posing a potential hazard to those standing beneath. Junior Warden, Kim Herczog is evaluating the next steps in removing the cross and the cost and process of replacing it. Look for an update in next month's Good News on the project.



Join, Read, Learn!

Bellwether Book Club

What do you do when a pandemic limits people visiting and experiencing firsthand? You take the message online of course! Hence the creation of the Bellwether Book Club. Bellwether Farm remains committed to its vocation to teach about environmental fidelity, physical and spiritual wellness, nutrition, local food sourcing, and social justice. This is an opportunity to come together intellectually and spiritually, and further grow the Bellwether community. The first book club book is *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith* by Fred Bahnson. Pick up a copy at your local bookseller and read it during July. The book club will meet on **July 28** at 7:00 p.m. for a Zoom conversation with the author. Please [register](#) for that conversation by **July 21**. More information is available at bellwetherfarm.com/book-club.

HEALING SERVICE TO RESUME

Our Wednesday Healing service will resume in July either via Zoom or on Facebook Live. Look for details soon via Flocknote. The service will be every Wednesday at 11 AM.

We Want to Hear From You!

Check your mailbox for a survey from St. Andrew in the next several weeks. What do you think about returning to in-person worship? Would an outdoor service pose a problem? Would you be amenable to meeting at a different time due to full sun in the St. Francis Chapel at 10:30 AM? Do you have concerns or needs not being met due to the pandemic? We want to know! The mailing will also be a chance to update your contact information, including email and phone numbers for you and family members. You can respond via email, phone, mail or request a socially distanced visit. Watch the mail for this important communication!

Dates to Remember - July

- 5- Pantry Distribution, 1 - 3 PM
- 14 - Pantry Distribution, 1 - 3 PM
- 15 - Vestry Meeting (Virtual), 6:30 PM
- 15 - Pantry Distribution, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- 22 - Pantry Distribution, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Thank You for Your Support!

During the pandemic we ask if you are able, to continue to honor your pledge, or please make a donation to the church to continue our mission and ministries.. You may mail a check, pay through the church's PayPal account via www.standrew-mentor, or through the Diocese of Ohio's website - www.dohio.org Click on the "Designate a Gift to Your Parish" box and select "Mentor- St. Andrew Church" from the drop down menu. Thank You!

