



Good News

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

From the Rector

Conrad Galayda is a parish leader and a blessing. I know I am preaching to the choir in making this statement-anyone who has encountered Conrad in and around the parish has experienced his kindness and can-do attitude. He's always ready to lead or to follow in our parish adventures as the occasion demands. Conrad pays attention to the needs of others and is a ready source of encouragement to me and to many as we seek to follow the Way of Jesus. Recently, Conrad led us toward parish epiphany and collective wisdom by sharing a story about how racism has touched his life. I offer it here in thanksgiving for Conrad. His open-hearted honesty in sharing his story will surely lead others (hint, hint) to share their stories during the month of August. When you choose to share your personal story about racism and privilege, you invite others to learn from you and through you. Learning together by the honest sharing of our experiences helps us gain the insights we need to meet our baptismal covenant to "seek justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." BCP 305. Here's Conrad's story:

We have been charged by our Rector, Rev. Lisa O'Rear, to write our story as it relates to our views and experiences with racism. Most of us realize there needs to be changes. Where do we start, how do we start, what do we do? It starts with looking within, to do some self-examination. What will be revealed. Hopefully, we will see growth from then to now. Or, it will show that we are the same. Either way, it can direct us to change and grow in our daily interactions and lead to acceptance of all as children of God thus to be loved without exception.

I was born, grew up and continue to live in Painesville, Ohio. I had 2 parents, a nice house, clean clothes, food on the table and never really wanted for much. My mom was a working mother but it was at her mother's restaurant. The reality was that day-care was not needed. We came to the restaurant after school and hung out either in the dining room or upstairs with Grandma and Aunt Lena. I went to St. Mary's School for 8 years, Cathedral Latin School for 4 years. St. Mary's because my dad, being Lutheran, had signed the agreement to raise his kids Catholic in order to marry my in the church (a different bone of contention, which really didn't happen because at that time, if your partner was not Catholic, you were married in the rectory). I spent another 4 years in a Catholic school that was my choice. In retrospect, I came to realize my choice had a lot to do with sibling issues (once again, another bone of contention).

Join Us for a Front Lawn Coffee Hour

On Sunday, August 16th at 11:30 AM, we will gather on the front lawn for a safe and socially distanced Coffee Hour. Watch the Sunday service on Facebook or YouTube and then come to the church for some safe together time. Bring your own lawn chair and brunch/beverage. Families may sit together, all others must social distance, and everyone must wear a mask when not drinking or eating. We've not been together for so long, it will be great just to see each other! There will be prayer, catching up, and talk about future in-person gathering and worship. Please consider joining us as we take our first steps toward meeting together.

We miss seeing all your faces - even with masks!



Online Adult Formation

Adult Formation has resumed online Sundays at 9:00 AM. The class meets using the Zoom meeting software. Dawson is once again leading the class and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the class, download the Zoom software to your device and join the study. The meeting ID is 851 4017 8998 and the access code is 280055. Currently, the group is studying the book of James and will begin a study of Romans in the next few weeks. Learn and grow in this friendly adult class!



Survey Says...

By now many of you have responded to the **St. Andrew Return to Church Survey** that was sent last month. 37 replies were received. The results reflect what most of the country is experiencing at the moment - a desire to return to normal, mixed with an abundance of caution. The survey revealed that many who replied (60%) are not ready to rush back to church and are in favor of a cautious return plan.

Over half who completed the survey (54%) would consider attending an outdoor service, Sundays at 10:30 AM. The other half of those responding to that question were almost evenly split between "No" and "Unsure" about attending an outdoor service with safety restrictions. When questioned about the best time to return to in-person worship the top answers (67%) were "when social distancing is lifted," "when a vaccine is available," and "All of the above." We thank everyone who responded. Your input will help guide the Vestry in determining when a return to in-person worship will happen. The conversation will continue at the August 16th Coffee Hour at St. Andrew on the front lawn.

Looking Forward to Harvest

As we enter the dog days of summer, we are looking forward with great anticipation to the first harvest for the St. Andrew Jubilee Garden. We are nearing the time when we can actually pick, and give away to our neighbors at the Food Pantry, fresh tomatoes and peppers, fresh kale, and maybe an eggplant. How do you measure success for this new project? If it's with bushels and pecks, admittedly we may fall short, but this year was never about volume, it was more about learning, growing and getting our feet wet (or dirty!) as gardeners. What plants work? How to fertilize? Are the raised beds adequate? How much watering is necessary? Let me tell you, we have learned a lot! And the harvest from the Jubilee Garden is more than vegetables, it is community. We have nurtured not only plants, but people, relationships, and forged common bonds with folks who are part of the St. Andrew congregation and friends, gardeners and neighbors who are not.

Yes, we are looking forward to this year's harvest, but in some ways we have been harvesting all season long!



We need you... Garden Advisory Committee

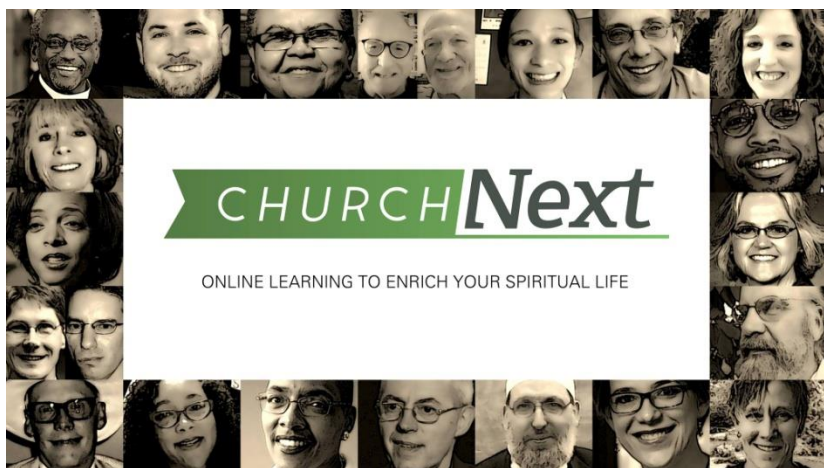
Looking ahead to next year, we'd like to start a Garden Advisory Committee. If you are interested in the Jubilee Garden and would like to be involved in planning for next year's gardening season, please join. Committee members will review how the project has progressed and work together to make recommendations for improvements. Committee members will work to develop a garden plan for the next growing season that includes a review of what crops to grow, location, fencing, raised beds and all other aspects related to the Jubilee Garden. If you are interested, call the St. Andrew Office at 440-255-8842.



Dates to Remember - August

- 2 - Pantry Distribution, 1 - 3 PM
- 11 - Pantry Distribution, 1 - 3 PM
- 16 - Coffee Hour Front Lawn - 11:30 AM
- 19 - Pantry Distribution, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- 19 - Vestry Meeting, 6:30 PM (virtual)
- 26 - Pantry Distribution, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

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



St. Andrew is the recipient of a free subscription to ChurchNext courtesy of the Diocese of Ohio. The online Christian formation website offers hundreds of courses to enrich a congregation's spiritual life. Instructors like David Lose, (respected Lutheran writer, teacher, and seminary president), Anne Kitch, (well-known author and speaker), and our own Presiding Bishop Michael Curry lead classes to enrich and enlighten participants.

Rev. Lisa is looking for two or three people to help plan how St. Andrew will use ChurchNext. We're hoping to start online classes in September. Formation class members will watch the on-line class on their own, and then once every week or two, all members will come together - either in-person (if permissible) or on Zoom - to discuss the teachings. Together we will grow in the Word! Check out what ChurchNext has to offer at www.churchnext.tv. If you are interested in helping plan our ChurchNext learning adventure, contact Lisa.



Prayer Requests:
Jack Semenik,
Jim & Beth Brown,
Conrad Galayda,
and all who are sick.

August Celebrations

Birthdays

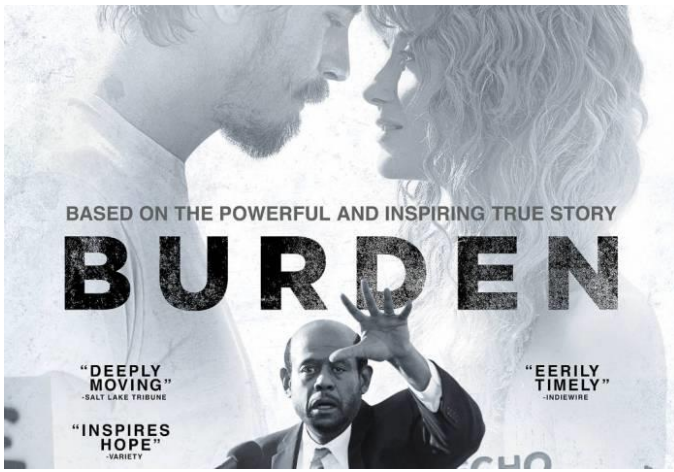
Cory King 02
 Bernadette Sandacz 05
 Helen Sparrow 11
 Michele Miller 13
 Marylou Ezzo 13
 Greg Connel 17
 Tom Lally 18
 Erin Koehler 20
 Rosa Peshek 22
 Pete Sherman 25
 Kathy King 27

Anniversaries

Don & Sharon Koehler 05
 Jim & Beth Brown 09
 Joe & Peggy Sturm 10
 Frank & Mary Ellen Fecser 16
 Greg & Melissa Connel 20
 Steven & Diane Smith 26

Donate Cleaning Supplies

As we start to think about returning to worship, if you're out and about and find Lysol spray or wipes, and name brand hand sanitizer, please consider purchasing an extra to donate to the church. As you know, these items are hard to find and once we return to the church, it will be critical to keep the building clean.



Let's Watch a Movie Together

Rev. Lisa would like us to watch the 2018 movie *Burden* (R) before Sunday, September 6th and discuss the film in the Zoom Coffee Hour. *Burden* is the story of a black minister who is striving to keep the peace and combat racism in a small South Carolina town. You can watch the movie for free on YouTube - just search for the film *Burden*. It is also available on Amazon to rent or purchase. The movie stars Forest Whitaker and Garrett Hedlund and will be a great conversation starter.

Help Wanted: Looking for people to join our video team. No experience necessary, just a desire to learn. Once in-person worship begins, we'd like to continue to offer our worship service via Facebook, but we will need help. Contact Lisa if you are interested!

THANK YOU PARISH AUDIT TEAM

A big thank you to Betsy Lee, Kate Wells, and Sandy Mazelis, who together completed our parish audit this year. The Internal audit process requires 3 hours of tedious effort, which this stellar team completed quickly, quietly, and without complaint. As always, thank you to our treasurer Barb Sopko who, by her ongoing dedication, insures that we have a clean audit every year, thanks be to God!

From the Rector (continued from page 1)

We were not wealthy or well-to-do by any means. I can't tell you what financial issues there were because they were never discussed when I was around. When I asked to go to a private school that would cost money as opposed to the free public high school, their answer was an immediate yes.

I started working for money at 16 (working for family was expected and was free labor) as was expected by my parents. I also wanted a pair of loafers that my dad said I would have to buy for myself. This concludes a brief overview of my life from birth to age 18.

Growing up in Painesville for me was idyllic. We played outside until the street lights came on, my mom knew what I had done before I came home, and she was at home. There was not an area of Painesville that I was afraid to walk in. Walking or biking was the way we got around. I knew where the African-American and the Puerto Rican/Hispanic people lived. I didn't think about that, I was just on my way through. They were just there. **JUST THERE** has become the crux of my white privilege upbringing. I don't recall my mom or dad using any racial slurs during my growing years but I know a lot of my aunts and uncles did. So, why my indifference? I think because they were **JUST THERE**. In sight but out of mind. All I had to do was acknowledge their existence with a smile, wave or just 'hello' which I did not. Maybe and probably, contrary to what I said earlier, I was afraid of the people who were not the same color as me. Was this a part of my white privilege and/or my racism? Probably! I hope I have grown some from the person that I was. I think I have. Some people scare the hell out of me but it has nothing to do with their skin color. It is more about what is going on in their heads and hearts. It is about hurting others. It is about a lack of acceptance and a lack of love for each other. I know I am a work in progress. That I have a long ways to go and challenges up ahead. All I ask is your compassion and forgiveness for my transgressions along the way. I will continue to work to eliminate **JUST THERE**.



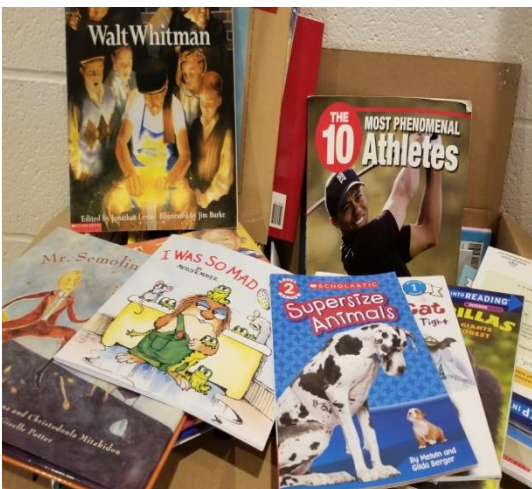
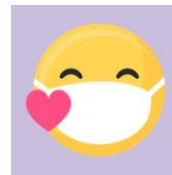


Mask-maker, Mask-maker, Make Me A Mask!

Thank you to our dedicated group of St. Andrew volunteer sewers who have made masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have given away masks to our Food Pantry neighbors and we are also keeping a supply at the church to have on hand when in-person worship resumes. It is most likely that masks will still be required at that time, and so we will have masks to distribute should someone forget their mask, or we have a guest arrive that need a mask. If you are interested in helping, and have a sewing machine, we have mask making kits available! They include everything necessary to make 25 cloth masks. Call the office at 440-255-8842 if you can help.

Sanctuary Family Update

Over the last year and a half, much has changed, and much has also stayed the same for Laura, Jose and Joshua. The family continues to wait for their U-visa to be processed and remains grateful to the people of St. Andrew for their time with us, and the help they received in having a secure place to live and the assistance in filing the visa application. Meanwhile, the boys are growing up! Jose graduated from High School this year and Joshua finished Middle School and is looking forward to being a freshman in High School. Laura remains focused on her family and working hard to provide a better life for them all. We are proud of the boys and happy we were able to help our friends!



Thank You Cleveland Kids' Book Bank!

The Cleveland Kids' Book Banks mission is to foster improved literacy and a love of reading by providing free books to children in need. The organization has generously donated two large boxes of children's books for us to give away at the monthly Food Pantry distributions. The group gives away tens of thousands of books every month and we are so grateful that they have included the St. Andrew Food Pantry in their efforts to impact children one book at a time!

For more information on the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank, visit www.kidsbookbank.org