



The Saltire

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Oregon Hill
February & March 2016

"The mission
of St. Andrew's
is to welcome people
from far and near
to be together
as a family in Christ to share
the faithfulness of God."

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Oregon Hill

(804) 648-7980

www.standrewsoregonhill.org

Rector

The Rev. Abbott Bailey
abailey@standrewsoregonhill.org

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose
cats4cats@comcast.net

Office and Ministry Assistant

Patrick Keyser
pkeyser@standrewsoregonhill.org

Organist and Choirmaster

Nick Stephenson
pob404@aol.com

Bookkeeper

Paula Harper

Sexton

Eddie Griffith

Nursery

Diane Williams

Sunday Worship

Holy Eucharist
at 8:30 & 11 a.m.

Christian Formation at 10 a.m.
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
at 10:50

Nursery

Coffee Hour follows

11 a.m. worship

Vestry

Karen Salter '16, Senior Warden
John Ambrose '16, Junior Warden

Anthony Creech '16, Register

Holly Harris '18

Renee Ferrucci '17

Vance Joyner '17

Erin Bell Kutsko '18

Kay McCall '17

Michael Williams '18

Steve Salter, Treasurer

Strategic Financial Planning and Marketing and Evangelism Receive Focus

by the Rev. Abbott Bailey

Did you all know that we were 140 years old in 2015? The first worship service at St. Andrew's was celebrated on Aug. 8, 1875, and since that day St. Andrew's has been experiencing and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in Oregon Hill and beyond in meaningful and transformational ways. Last year, just like each one of the 139 years that preceded it, has been filled with baptisms and funerals, marriages, confirmations and beginnings and endings of all sorts. God has been powerfully at work through our Christian formation programs, our worship, our fellowship, Grace-on-the-Hill and the healing, welcome and laundry ministries to name just a few. As always what pervades this community is joy, hope, gratitude, celebration and the conviction that



THE OLD CHURCH The original building for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was used from 1875-1901.

we are an integral part of God's mission in the world.

Last year, again just like each of the 139 years that preceded it, there have been lows in addition to the highs and struggles in addition to the celebrations. Because we trust that we are held in the light of Christ, light that cannot be diminished only spread, we take the words of Jesus and just about every

FOCUS

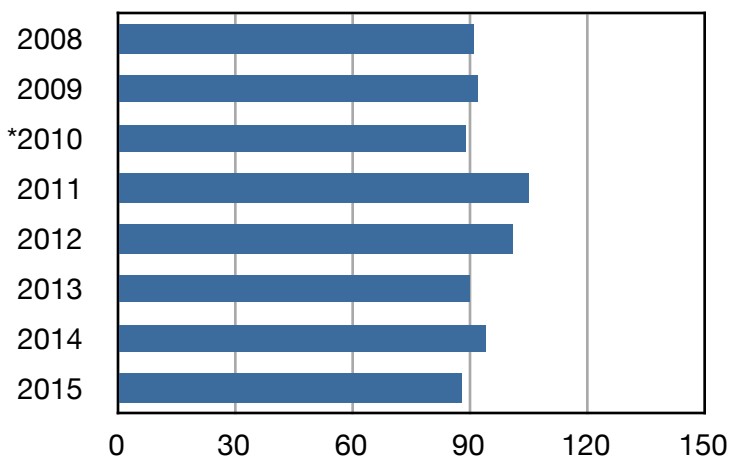
From Page 1

divine messenger that preceded him to heart, “Do not be afraid,” and with those words in our hearts, we face our struggles honestly and openly. This is exactly what we did during our 2015 Annual Meeting in December.

By the numbers, 2015 was a pretty mixed year for us, with some notable lows, though it actually ended better than it looked as though it would even in early December. In the next month you will receive a special edition of *The Saltire* that will present a fulsome picture of our finances, including the 2015 Year-End Statements, the 2016 Budget and the 2015 Annual Campaign results. Stay tuned for that information, while we turn to some other numbers...Average Sunday Attendance.

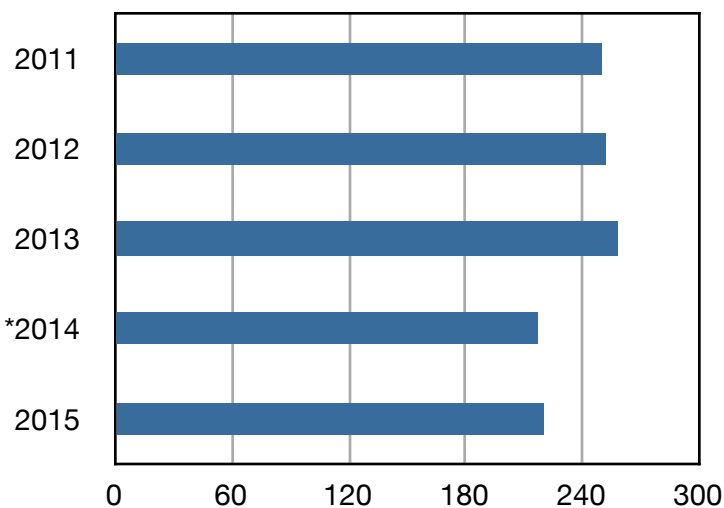
For the past seven years we have hovered around 90-95 people attending church during the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services, with a few years over 100. At 88 in 2015, our Average Sunday Attendance was the lowest it has been since my arrival in 2008 (see ASA graph). Before we jump to the conclusion that this can be attributed to sluggish attendance during my sabbatical, let me confirm that the Average Sunday Attendance this summer was exactly the same – to the number – that it was over each of the past three years during the same time period. Actually, attendance was most sluggish this fall, when our average was off by 10 to 25 people each Sunday from previous years. What this means is that our regulars attended less regularly and that not as many new folks were joining us for worship. This trend does not bode well for 2016, and it is notable because our common worship is one of the most significant ways that we are formed as the body of Christ, strengthen the bonds of our affection and give witness to the vitality of our community.

Average Sunday Attendance



* 2010 would have been 93 without three Sundays of less than 15 due to major snowstorms.

Total Active Members and Attendees



* In 2014 we moved members who no longer participate in the life of the parish (as defined by the canons) to inactive status.

So that's the struggle, and I want to be clear here. I share this information in no way to make us feel bad or to induce shame or guilt – either as a community or as individuals. As I have said, every detail of our individual and common life is held in the context of



FOCUS

From Page 2

the love and compassion of God where shame has no place to run roughshod over our hearts and psyches. I share it because it is helpful information to know about our common life and because, here in this place, we know we can face all things in the light of Christ when they are placed in the light of Christ.

So, in that light, what's the hopeful expectation? As you know, last year we began "Dreaming with God" through a series of gatherings, and as I poured over the transcripts, CDs and artwork, I was again blown away by the vibrancy of this community. We dream as God would have us dream – with the knowledge that God is doing infinitely more than we

"Our common worship is one of the most significant ways that we are formed as the body of Christ, strengthen the bonds of our affection and give witness to the vitality of our community."

can ask or imagine! See Renee's reflection on page 4 for a synopsis of what we discovered.

So where does this lead us? As I announced at the Annual Meeting, it's been a while since we did any significant visioning or strategic planning... if for no other reason than we've been rather occupied doing all the amazing work God has given us to do! Well, we somewhat stumbled into our visioning process this year with our "Dreaming with God"

gatherings, and now it is time to move onto the strategic planning phase that will entail two main areas of focus: Strategic Financial Planning and Marketing and Evangelism. The area of Strategic Financial Planning will again be broken into two particular areas of development: 1) stewardship and 2) alternate income streams. Under stewardship we will be doing an assessment of our internal capacity

and a review of our practices in light of current best practices in church stewardship. Under alternate income streams, we will be focusing on several income generating ideas that have been circulating over the past few years. We will be studying the viability of these proposals and, where feasible, developing plans for implementation.

The area of Marketing and Evangelism will obviously focus on sharing our story and spreading the Gospel through conventional marketing avenues and through the work of evangelism. As Christians, we are called to embody the traits of both disciples and apostles. Disciples are those who are called to follow Jesus and who continually seek to live out their faith in their daily life. Apostles are those who, as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says, "Go." They are sent out into the world to share the light of Christ and the love of God. We have already begun some back-to-basics Christian formation opportunities for individuals and families through both face-to-face and online learning communities, and we will continue to build on those. As you know from the emails and letters that went out last week, we are also undertaking a significant Church Assessment Tool, and I encourage everyone to please participate by completing the survey! My hope is that we all might be even better equipped to share the faith that is in us while welcoming people to experience the live-giving presence of God in and through this community.

I remain deeply expectant for the ways God's Good News is going to be born in us again so that we might continue to be part of sharing God's redeeming love in a world that at times feels so overwhelmingly dark. "The light of Christ cannot be dimmed," as a colleague of mine, Scott Gunn, wrote, "[and] its power to penetrate great, vast darkness is unsurpassed." This light cannot be diminished. It can only spread... through St. Andrew's, through me, through you as we give into the ways that God is always doing infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!

Vestry Member Reflects on “Dreaming with God”

by *Reneé Ferrucci, Vestry '17*

Before and during Abbott's sabbatical last year, over 40 members of our congregation participated in “Dreaming With God” sessions. Abbott and Barbara guided parishioners in meditative prayer inviting them to receive visions of God's dreams for St. Andrew's. After meditation, individuals created art or journaled about their meditation.

Seven months after the last session, I felt called to reflect on the experience. What did we learn as a group about who we are as a church and what we want to become? What images did we see when we closed our eyes? What emotions did we feel as we slowed down and sank into the quiet of our minds? What in our faith stirred awake when we listened to the opening prayer asking God to pour His Spirit into our gathering so we could discern His vision for St. Andrew's? How could we discover and understand God's dreams for us in this place and make them our collective dreams?

As I sifted through the rich material our sessions produced, several themes surfaced over and over. Welcome is one. We are a place of Light and Love. We want everyone to come to experience our space, our worship, our love for Christ. We are an accepting community, which encourages diversity of all kinds. We invite new parishioners into our circle from the moment they walk up our front steps. From the welcome cards in the pews to members introducing

themselves to newcomers, to the fellowship coffee hour following service, Abbott inviting new faces out for coffee and the Newcomer's Social, St. Andrew's has consistently offered a genuine welcome to those who are new.

Belonging is another theme. St. Andrew's has a place for everyone, wherever they are within their journey of faith. We are a loving, neighborhood place to learn. We are encouraged to ask questions to help us grow spiritually. It is a nurturing environment with supportive company. St. Andrew's is a church where anyone who enters can discover a sense of unity amongst people who share belief in God.

Many “Dreaming With God” participants described St. Andrew's as a place they find peace and feel safe, comparing it to a favorite spot in nature. A participant posed a future-thinking question—how do we carry the thought from the park, meaning a person sitting on a park bench looking for peace, to walking through the doors of our church?

Again and again, the word *community* came up. Community encompasses both welcome and belonging. Through the various ways we gather at St. Andrew's in both small and large groups, we increase our connection to each other, which in turn, broadens our connection with God. Our sense of community is strong. Yet most participants pondered on the future—How do we grow our community bigger?

REFLECTION, Page 5

Calendar Highlights

Reminder: To schedule meetings at St. Andrew's House, please check with Patrick pkeyser@standrewsoregonhill.org

Parish Office Closed
Mondays

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 17
& March 16
6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's House

Soup Kitchen Ministry

2nd & 4th Saturdays
Feb. 13 & 27;
March 12 & 26
from 8-10:30 a.m.
at St. Mark's
Episcopal Church
Contact Karen Wittich for
info kwittich@jtcc.edu
233-4215

Salvation Army Outreach

Wednesday, March 16
5:45-6:30 p.m.
Volunteers serve the evening
meal at the Salvation Army
Contact Estela & Chris Smith
etsmith@mac.com

Choir Rehearsal
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Morning Prayer
Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
in the Chapel

Calendar Highlights

Lenten Bible Study: Meeting God in Paul

Thursday, Feb. 18 & 25,
March 10 & 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.
in St. Andrew's House

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb. 9
5-6:30 p.m.
in Baldwin Hall

Services

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb. 10
*All services include
imposition of ashes*

Noon in the church chapel
2:30 p.m. with St. Andrew's
School in the church
7 p.m. in the church

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m.
in the church
All are invited

Good Friday

Friday, March 25
at noon and 7 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Joint Service with Pine
Street Baptist at Palmer Chapel in
Hollywood Cemetery

9:30 a.m. Breakfast & Easter
Egg Hunt

11 a.m. Feast of the Resurrection

REFLECTION

From Page 4

How do we reach out to the community beyond our doors?

Participants acknowledged the barriers we face in our attempts to grow. Our physical architecture can be intimidating to those who walk past us (the stained glass and iron fence can feel closed), yet many of the visions were about how our building might be a beautiful part of our welcome and belonging and not a hindrance to it. Some want our space to be more open – almost irresistibly porous so that there's no border between outside and inside but dynamic outflow and inflow of spiritual energy connecting us more deeply to each other, to God and to the world around us. The flower boxes and recently the Blessing Fence have softened our appearance. What else can we do to be more inviting? How do we draw in the unchurched?

This leads to another recurring theme—storytelling. How do we tell our story? We need to talk to others passionately about the inspiring work we do like the GotH program, EFM, the laundry ministry and healing prayer. In telling our story, we should keep in mind the legacy of Grace Arents. What can we do to continue her vision and dreams? We need to find ways to honor what we have inherited. Stories inspire action in others, as do artistic expressions. There is a richness of talent in our congregation. We have musicians, painters, writers, photographers, and dancers amongst us. We need to find new ways to share our creative energy, our music, our worship with



ART REFLECTIONS Some parishioners used art to express their vision for St. Andrew's.

each other and our surrounding communities.

"Dreaming With God" sessions kept coming back to the concept that we are a mission church. Outreach. Outreach. Outreach. We have touched the lives of many through our laundry ministry, homes for the homeless project, soup kitchen, prayer shawls, GOTH program—the list is long. There are

REFLECTION, Page 6



REFLECTION

From Page 5

numerous ways our parishioners are involved in outreach programs. We partner with St. Andrew's School, St. Mark's, Pine Street Baptist, ACTS, William Byrd, RVA Clean Sweep and others for the good of the community. Our compassion and desire to help others is consistent in our daily activities.

Some participants provided their vision of potential use of space—a creativity room where the homeless can come for art, a coffee shop, a place for young adults to hang out and listen to music. Others thought of a shared vegetable plot with the school.

Some thought of a meeting place for a writer's group or storytelling. Has God guided you to any new visions?

So where does all of this leave us for the future? St. Andrew's is the place to experience church. Our worship, sermons and music have incredible intention, purpose and meaning. We have so much to share thanks to the gifts God bestowed upon us. We all want to be more involved with the neighborhood. We want it to be easier for those who have never been inside our walls to feel comfortable braving their way through our doors. We want to tell our story with respect for our history. Most of all, we want to grow in numbers and in faith. God's dreams and visions for us will be the path we walk together.



Palm Sunday

March 20

8:30 & 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

March 24

7 p.m.

Good Friday

March 25

Noon & 7 p.m.

The Great Vigil

March 26 at 7 p.m.

Easter Day

March 27

8:30 a.m.

Joint Service

with Pine Street Baptist

at Palmer Chapel

in Hollywood Cemetery

9:30 a.m.

Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m.

Feast of the Resurrection



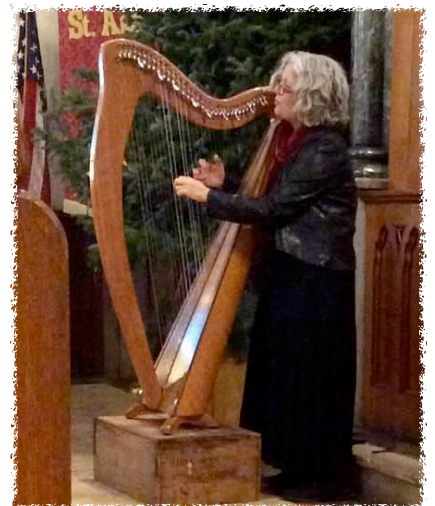
Santa Breakfast and St. Andrew's School Lessons and Carols





Goth Formation and Christmas Pageant

(Top left moving clockwise) the Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff, Bishop Suffragan, with Bernadette Aylward and Hannah Roberts; Lissie Baker and Patrick Keyser; Denise Bennett; (top) Ian Smith, Mikey Williams, Trina Williams and Milo Williams; (bottom) Maria Finch, Thomas Cyrus and Julia Finch.





Belonging and Resourcefulness: Key Values for Our Community of Faith

by the Rev. Abbott Bailey

In my sermon on Sunday, Feb. 31, I invited everyone to remember the truth of who we are in God, what God wrote on our hearts from before we were born because therein lies all that is necessary for God's

creative, generative, life-giving work in our lives. This is something of what the vestry did during our retreat in early January. We spent a lot of time talking about our values, both as individuals and as a community, so that we might be clear about them, when our words, actions and missional endeavors

align with them and when they do not. Values help us stay in touch with what is most true about us and our community, what it looks like when we are living into them and what it looks like when we are not and

are instead being driven, either consciously or unconsciously, by factors that are contrary to what we profess.

After some significant work together, the vestry identified *Belonging* and *Resourcefulness* as two of our core values. At first glance, the emergence of

each and every one of us – born belonging to God in a deeply mysterious and unshakable way, and so here at St. Andrew's we strive to be the type of welcoming community that recognizes and affirms this truth about one another and that makes the space for us to

freely be the wholehearted selves we were created to be.

We are also a community that is – and has been since our founding – characterized by our resourcefulness, trusting that God has given us what we need to do the work we've been given to do. We trust that what we need is here.

We are a community with deep wells of courage and insuppressible

joy. We are a community that cultivates a culture of caring, a spirit of generosity and charisma of love. We enjoy the



VESTRY RETREAT The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose, Michael Williams and Renée Ferrucci participated in activities to identify our values “to help us stay in touch with what is most true about us and our community.”

belonging, and especially *resourcefulness*, was somewhat surprising to us, but after conversation and reflection, we realized how rooted these two values are in our community – and for good reason. We are –



VALUES

From Page 9

riches of our tradition and inspiring worship with the vision of God's kingdom ever before us. We nurture our spiritual lives recognizing that we are all saturated in grace.

We also identified a number of “red flags” that both hinder our ability to live into our values at St. Andrew's and serve as indicators that we have veered from the expression of our truest self as a community. These include operating from a place of fear and/or scarcity, or by being exclusive or closed in some way, whether from being judgmental, shrinking back from who we're called to be, avoiding challenging issues or being parochial or standoffish.

Finally, we explored ways that we would like to live more fully into our values at St. Andrew's. We want to be courageous in taking risks to share our story, to facilitate reconciliation, including racial reconciliation, to invite people to “belong” with us, to increase diversity, to be formed as Christians and to deepen our trust and culture of caring.

We also want to facilitate even greater connection within



CULTURE OF CARING Erin Kutsko and Holly Harris share ideas about how to invite others to “belong” with us.

and beyond our community by facilitating everyone's ability to share their talents and passions, by tapping into the creative energy and gifts that abound here, by getting out in the neighborhood more and more to share who we are in God, by tending all who call St. Andrew's home and by inviting others to join us in experiencing the truth of our belonging through this place.

These values, *Belonging* and *Resourcefulness*, will be our guide over the next year, particularly

as we continue “Dreaming with God.” When we consider the ministry of the church, our strategic planning, the decisions we make and the actions we take, we will return to what is most true about us in God, and we will be alert to what “red flags” might be creeping into our deliberations, our visioning, our planning. We will be courageous in becoming the community that God wrote on the heart of this place before we were born those 140 years ago!



Lent at St. Andrew's

Worship Services

Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday

Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at Noon and 7 p.m.

Feb. 14

Great Litany and Holy Eucharist: 11 a.m.

Feb. 28

Friends and Family Celebration, 11 a.m. followed by Sunday Fellowship with special musical offerings by the St. Andrew's School Violin Ensemble

Morning Prayer: Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Penitential Order and Holy Eucharist

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

See page 6

Outreach

Blessing Fence

We will continue to offer gloves, scarves, hats and mittens to those who need them this Winter. We are collecting gently used or knitted items.

Christian Formation for Children

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Sundays at 10:50 a.m. during the Service of the Word

During Lent the children learn all about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who loves them unconditionally, knows them by name and cares for them even when they stray.

Lent for Families

See description under Self-Study and Reflection

Christian Formation for Adults Group Study and Reflection

Adult Forum, Sundays at 10 a.m.

• Growing a Rule of Life (Feb. 14, 21, 28)

This series will focus on God as the Chief Gardener of our souls and how to use a tool from monastic spirituality called a 'Rule of Life' to explore and cultivate our relationships with God, self, others and creation. Just as stakes and lattices nurture the growth of young plants, so too

can spiritual disciplines support the flourishing of our whole being.

• Sacred Conversations on Racial Justice: A Lenten Series based on the Trinity Institute's 2016 Conference (March 6, 13, 20)

This series will feature presentations by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, PhD., Kelly Brown Douglas, MDiv, PhD., Jennifer Harvey, and J. Kameron Carter, PhD.

Thursday Bible Study, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. (Feb. 18, 25 & March 10, 17)

Meeting God in Paul This study will explore themes in Paul's letter with a fresh lens, including insiders and outsiders, universal welcome and the new creation. Each week's discussion will be based mostly on readings from Acts 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans and Galatians. It will be informed by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams' book of the same name (though that book is not required reading). A scriptural reading guide is available.

Grace and Holy Trinity Lenten Supper Series, Feb. 17, 24 and March 2 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Dr. Lidia Radi will lead discussion of Dante's *Inferno*.

Stumbling into Redemption: A Lenten Retreat for Women at St. Andrew's in Norfolk, VA, Feb. 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"Stumbling into Redemption" is based on the research of Dr. Brené Brown and her latest book, *Rising Strong*TM. When we dare to live faithfully, when we dare to be "all in" with the work we've been given to do, when we dare to express the fullness of who we were created to be, we will stumble. Jesus' first followers all stumbled along the Way, often over and over and over again, and yet those who persisted in Christ found this to be the way of life. In this retreat we will enter into some of these stories so that we might explore the redemptive connections between stumbling and living faithfully, being "all in" and daring to express the fullness of who we were created to be. Contact Abbott for registration details.



LENT

From Page 11

Self-Study and Reflection

Daily Readings and Meditations with St. Andrew's Lenten Devotional

ChurchNext Online Learning (email Patrick for access)

- **Introduction to Lent with Maggie Dawn**

Lent is the Christian tith, 40 days which we give back to God by intentionally drawing near to the Lord. The season of Lent is an opportunity for life-change, as we are invited to participate in special rituals and activities centered on Christ's

own preparation for death and resurrection. This course is an inspiring introduction to this holy season and is appropriate for those who are new or have spent years commemorating Lent.

- **Sacred Conversations on Racial Justice**

(See description under "Adult Forum" page 11)

This series is available for self-study to review at your own time and pace.

- **Lent for Families**

Lent is a great opportunity not only for personal spiritual growth, but also for the growth of the spirituality of families. This course is filled with practical tips for how to grow in Christ in Lent by understanding it as a one of the cycles of life that involves wilderness time.

FOR THE RECORD

Transferred in **LAURA BOUCHER** December 31
Baptized **AIMEE JOHNSON, HENRY JOHNSON**
& **ROBERT MARTIN** January 10

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

In memory of **TOM CULLISON** by Phyllis & George Madix
In memory of **WALTER TINSLEY** by Marilyn Winn
In memory of **CHARLIE WHITE** by Earlean Didlake

God the Giver

The Saltire
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Richmond, VA 23220