



The Saltire

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Oregon Hill
July & August 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."



CONTENTS

1 VOLUNTEERS SHARE WHAT INSPIRES THEM ...

Restored eyesight, a more scenic river, great stories from elders, the transformation of kids at Shrine Mont and more!

4 EFM INVITES NEW PARTICIPANTS

Weekly meetings begin in September.

5 PROPORTIONAL GIVING

What percentage of your income do you give to St. Andrew's?

6-7 PARISH PHOTOS

Easter Vigil, Pentecost, Softball Cookout, Playdate for Families, Barbara and Bill Butler, GotH.

8 OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Looking for a place to serve? St. Andrew's can help you with that.

10 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

"Christ Has No Body But Yours"

by the Rev. Abbott Bailey

The motto of all St. Andrew's outreach work is to be the heart and hands of Jesus in the world.

This phrase is inspired by the Christian saint and mystic Teresa of Avila.

"Christ has no body but yours," Teresa wrote, "no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the

eyes. You are his body... Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

In all that we do, we take Teresa's words to heart, following the example of Jesus whose very life proclaimed over and over again that God most often shows up with skin on.

This edition of "The Saltire" is dedicated to highlighting the ways we try to live into this mission, both as a community and as individuals living the gospel in our daily lives.

If you would like to get involved in some of the activities we do together, please see page 12 for a listing of the ministries and the contact information.

Volunteers Share What Inspires Them to Ministry

Several weeks ago, Abbott asked the congregation to share outreach activities that they perform outside of formal programs at St. Andrew's. Parishioners responded with what inspired them to ministry and how their lives have been impacted.

Brian Bell Keep Virginia Cozy/RVA Cleansweep

Keep Virginia Cozy/RVA Cleansweep is a volunteer program that my friend Dave and I started back in January.

We meet each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at a different section of the James River Park to clean up trash and beautify the area for everyone.

This work is important to me because it allows me to be outside, which is my ultimate passion, and to socialize with people I wouldn't normally cross paths with. People, who no matter their day job, have a desire to keep the outdoors a beautiful place for all. It also lets me show strangers one of the ways that God is moving in my life.

"It lets me show strangers one of the ways that God is moving in my life."
Brian Bell



MINISTRY

From Page 1

I heard a quote once that really helped me get excited about volunteering. Some people find that helping others is pointless especially when others won't even know you were out there trying to make a difference. But the humbling factor is what I like most. This is the quote: "Being humble doesn't mean you think less of yourself. Being humble means you think of yourself less often." Which really helps me get out of my own head and focus on the bigger picture. That's why I love volunteering.

Carolyn Stevens and Renee' Ferrucci OneSight

For the past 12 years, we have volunteered with a non-profit organization called OneSight.

On a local level, we collect and recycle donated glasses, go to schools to conduct vision screenings, visit retirement homes to repair and adjust glasses for the elderly and coordinate vouchers for free eye exams and glasses for people who are in financial need.

We also volunteer as leaders for domestic and international vision clinics which help thousands of people receive the eye care they need. OneSight has taught us that vision is not a privilege but a human right.

We have traveled to vision clinics in Atlanta, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Fishkill, Cleveland, Houston and to the countries of Peru, China and El Salvador, where Renee's most touching



HUMBLING FACTOR Brian Bell cleans up trash in the James River Park to beautify it for others. Volunteering, like being humble, is about "think[ing] of yourself less often."

experience occurred in 2007.

"I met a 90-year-old woman who was a Holocaust survivor," Renee' said.

"Legally blind, she spent her life as a refugee in a convalescence home. I dispensed her first pair of glasses. She looked at me in awe and burst in tears.

She had never seen a face before! She kissed my cheeks and sang me songs and laughed at the sight of color all around her. This moment of shared spiritual joy led me to a path of giving."

Kay McCall The READ Center

I am honored to be a volunteer teacher for The READ Center, a non-profit organization that offers free classes to adults with reading difficulties.

***"This
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spiritual joy
led me to a
path of
giving."
Renee' Ferrucci***

This grassroots group transforms lives. Many students get better jobs than they had when they started with READ. They deepen relationships with children and grandchildren through sharing stories, texts, emails and word games. Many register to vote, and most attain greater self-confidence.

An old friend of one of our students commented on the difference READ had made.

"He ain't shy no more!"

My patient, intentional work has transformed me, too. I have developed greater understanding and compassion for people who have trouble reading, and I am continuing to learn ways to help them honor their gifts, talents and interests. Through teaching these brave and resilient people, I have looked deeply into my own struggles, and I find myself shoulder-to-shoulder with READ students as we all work to live to our greatest potential.

Anthony Creech Virginia Blood Service

Since the late 1980s, I have made monthly donations of blood platelets to the Virginia Blood Service. What gratifies me about this is the anonymity. It is a way of helping people I don't know and will never meet.

I was once called in the middle of the night because my blood type matched an infant in critical

***"...I feel
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Anthony Creech***

MINISTRY

From Page 2

condition. I don't know what happened, but I feel blessed to have been given an opportunity to offer something possibly lifesaving to complete strangers.

Denise Bennett Chaplain at the Hermitage

I have served as chaplain at the Hermitage, a small retirement community on Richmond's Northside, for about 15 years.

My ministry, which I share with another chaplain, includes pastoral care with residents and their families, leading and sometimes preaching for worship and leading Bible studies and devotions for residents in independent, assisted living and nursing care. We also attend care-planning meetings with residents, their families and the medical, dietary, social services and recreation therapy staff.

Working with "God's oldest friends" has been a gift. I have learned a lot from people who despite multiple losses choose to live fully and often with great joy until the end of their earthly life. And I have been honored to be with some as they died. This ministry convinces me daily that our elders are one of the richest and overlooked resources in this society. And they have the best stories!

***"Working
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friends has
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gift."***

Denise Bennett

Sue Barrett Fan Free Clinic

I first learned about the Fan Free Clinic two years ago after becoming involved in outreach at St. Andrew's. I discovered that I really found meaning in serving the homeless and underprivileged, so I decided that with my nursing background I might have some use there.

The Fan Free Clinic provides medical treatment, health education and social services in a compassionate and nonjudgmental environment to those in the Richmond area with limited access to care. As part of their mission, the clinic relies on a volunteer staff of qualified professionals and community members, especially volunteers recruited from among clients.

I feel fortunate to work in many different areas of the clinic and have never worked with so many compassionate and caring people. Providing care to these least served is my little way of doing God's work in this life.

Lorne Field Committee on Stewardship of Creation and Shrine Mont Camps

I am the incoming chairperson of the Diocesan Committee on Stewardship of Creation.

The committee facilitates partnerships and provides resources for churches and parishioners interested in implementing environmental/creation care projects.

My call to serve in ways that protect and preserve the beauty and splendor of God's creation

was first kindled at Shrine Mont. My family have been regular visitors and proponents of Shrine Mont for over 40 years, and I have been a regular traveler to this "place apart" all my life.

When I was six, I remember my dad taking me up to the cross for the first time. The cross was cool but also scary as the wooden stairs swayed as we climbed to the platform. While the view was amazing, I was more impressed by what I saw under the cross – countless rocks shaped like sea shells. Huh?

My dad explained that the mountains were formed when North America and Africa collided millions of years ago. The ocean floor between the continents was thrust upward and the layers of sediment and the all stuff in them rose with it. Today you can find the fossilized remains of ancient marine scallops, worms and snails on top of the mountain. My six-year-old mind was blown.

The lasting impact of my childhood experiences at Shrine Mont led me to volunteer at Shrine Mont Camps leading environmental education programs and service projects with Explorers Camp. Shrine Mont transforms kids in innumerable ways. Every camper probably has a flash bulb memory that stands out from his or her experience on the mountain.

Just as God's awesome power was revealed to me through the mystery and discovery of his creation, Saint George's teaches kids that they are part of the Body of Christ and bound by God's love to everything he created. That lesson still resonates with me today in my professional and family life.

EfM Invites New Participants



MINISTERING IN PLACE The EfM group at St. Andrew's during the past year included leader Cynthia Schmitz, Margaret Woody, Wendy Ellis, Megan Graber, Patrick Keyser, Cindi Hanayik, Howard Wells and leader Kay McCall. They prepared to minister right where they are - at home or at work or wherever they spend time.

by Kay McCall, Vestry '17

Registration for Education for Ministry is open for the group that meets weekly at St. Andrew's on Thursday evenings starting in September.

EfM helps lay people better understand how they are called to relationship with God, neighbor and creation and to minister right where they are – at home, at work, in all the places they spend time.

EfM participants study scripture and Christian

history and traditions. They worship together. They talk, and they listen. They get serious, and they have fun.

Developed 40 years ago by the School of Theology, University of the South in Sewanee, TN, the course is divided into four years; however, individuals commit to one year at a time. At weekly meetings, they reflect on readings, their questions and the events of their lives. Books are supplied with tuition. There are no tests and no papers, but food is usually

involved.

When Barbara sends parishioners into the world to love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, what does that look like and how do they do that in the places they live and work? EfM provides the time and space to ponder those questions.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Schmitz at cynssch@verizon.net or 804-356-3330 or Kay McCall at kay.mccall@comcast.net or 804-836-6191.

Bishop Encourages Proportional Giving

by Kay McCall, Vestry '17

"Can parishioners cyberplate at your church?"

This question swirled around a recent diocesan conference on stewardship. I thought it was at once charming and hilarious.

Feeling very cutting edge, I was pleased to say, "Yes, we at St. Andrew's do have the option to cyberplate! We can pledge and give online, thanks to our wonderful treasurer, Steve Salter, and forward-thinking finance committee."

There was more to that conference than cyberplating, of course, but I walked out with fresh appreciation for the imaginative ways our clergy and parishioners keep us growing, moving and exploring ways of inviting people to be family in Christ and to share in God's generosity. And I was excited about ways we can continue to grow.

As a Christian family that appreciates and honors diversity, our broad mission in the community and in the world is

clear. The challenge is figuring out how, exactly, to do it. How do we use the gifts God has given us to best service, and how do we make the foundations (literally and figuratively) sure? How do we support God's imaginative vision for us?

Bishop Shannon is asking all

sounds like a good challenge to me!

In the coming months, we will offer ways of thinking about proportional giving, including a video expected next month of Bishop Shannon talking about his own journey with proportional giving.

That is one tool we will use to help us think about how we grow. With the strategic plan the clergy and vestry are developing, we will continue to expand our thinking. We will dig further into the work of discerning God's vision of ministry for St.

Andrew's. And with that vision in our hearts and minds, we will work on how to get it done. It will likely include doing actual math with our checking accounts and sorting out our calendars, but what a joy to walk together in love toward a shared vision of mission and ministry!

Meanwhile, don't forget that you can keep up your financial gifts to the church by cyberplating this summer!



parishioners in the diocese to ponder proportional giving, that is, he is inviting us to examine what percentage of our income we give to our churches. Since we already have the results of the congregational assessment from Holy Cow Consulting, we know that our average percent of household income given to St. Andrew's was less than 2%. The national average is 3%, and the diocesan average is 3.6%. That

FOR THE RECORD

Married **Sarah Hechler & Brent Farber** May 14

Baptized **Benjamin Hubbel, Hannah Raggi & Dalton Stevens** May 15

Died **Adam Rowe** May 19

Transferred in **Sue Barrett** June 7



PARISH PHOTOS

EASTER VIGIL

(top left moving clockwise) Karen Evans, the Rev. Abbott Bailey, Elaine, Nayeli and Chuck Baur

EASTER VIGIL BAPTISM

Milo Williams and his parents Michael and Katrina

PENTECOST BAPTISM

Benjamin Hubbel and his parents Judy Seibel and Pete Hubbel

INDUCTEES

Barbara and Bill Butler were inducted into the Hall of Fame at Freeman High School in May. With them is the Rev. Abbott Bailey.





PARISH PHOTOS

TEAM

(top) Our softball team with the Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose and the Rev. Abbott Bailey

GOTH SEND OFF

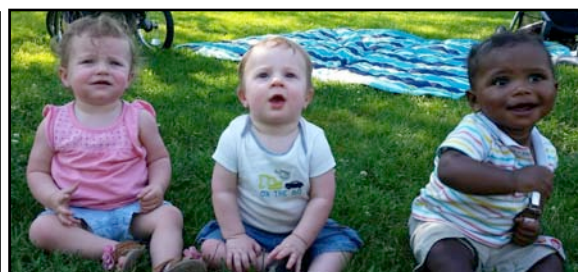
(center) Lissie Baker, Patrick Keyser and Hannah Roberts

COOKOUT

The Rev. Abbott Bailey and Russell A. Rowe

FAMILY PLAYDATE

Hannah Raggi, Dalton Stevens, Milo Williams



Love and Service

Define Outreach Ministries

by Renee Ferrucci, Vestry '17

Our outreach ministries are extensive, which is gratifying in light of our relatively small community.

Outreach offerings include our Laundry Ministry, Soup Kitchen, Christmas Baskets, Blessings Fence, Adult Literacy Program, Girl Scouts at St. Andrews School, and Grace-on-the-Hill. Also, a part of our budget supports ACTS and Circle of Peace School. For 20 years, members faithfully participated in the Freedom House meals program for homeless individuals until this program ended earlier this year.

GotH residents began our **Laundry Ministry** three years ago to engage with the homeless in Oregon Hill. They formed the ministry after meetings with Jennifer Turner, Community/Missionary Director from Pine Street Baptist Church. Initially the GotHs washed bags of laundry in their apartment. As demand for this service increased, parishioners volunteered to help at Wash

We have served over 150 clients, laundered around 400 loads of drop-off laundry and provided funding for over 800 loads for our voucher clients.



SOUP KITCHEN Parishioner Karen Wittich (in blue) worked with Malinda Collier at St. Mark's to create the Soup Kitchen eight years ago.

Happening, a nearby laundromat. Currently, the ministry has shifted entirely to parishioners and has been converted to a self-serve system. Volunteers meet the clients each week at Wash Happening and provide quarters and laundry supplies so that they can launder their own clothing.

Since this ministry began, we have served over 150 clients, laundered around 400 loads of drop-off laundry and provided funding for over 800 loads for our voucher clients. Sue Barrett spends most Wednesday afternoons at Wash Happening

signing clients in and handing out supplies.

"One of the things that I try to do with our clients is to always look in their faces and use their given names," Sue said. "It is so wonderful to see the surprise in their eyes that I remembered their names. They are all God's children and are special in His eyes."

Karen Wittich in conjunction with Malinda Collier at St. Mark's Church began the **Soup Kitchen Ministry** eight years ago. The Soup Kitchen serves an average

OUTREACH

From Page 8

of 75 homeless people on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Karen makes a huge pot of nutritious soup, our volunteers donate fruit and Panera Bread donates bread and pastries. In addition to our volunteers from St. Andrew's and Grace and Holy Trinity, we have a whole contingency of teens who show up to set tables, wash dishes and man the food pantry.

Sue Barrett said that she sees some of the same folks who do Laundry on Wednesdays come for a meal at St. Mark's.

"I have been a volunteer at the Soup Kitchen for two years," Sue said. "Because I have been blessed with food, clothing and shelter, I am so grateful to offer food to those who have so little."

The Soup Kitchen Ministry recently received a note with a \$50 bill in it.

"When I was down and out," the note read, "your food pantry helped me survive. It was a blessing from God, so I want to give something back to you for helping me. Thankfully yours, John R."

Every December, parishioners donate turkeys, stuffing, potatoes and all the other fixings for **Holiday Baskets**. A few volunteers assemble the baskets for families from St. Andrew's

"When I was down and out, your food pantry helped me survive. It was a blessing from God."
John R.



BLESSINGS FENCE Several hundred scarves, mittens and hats arrived and departed during Epiphany. Most items were knit or donated by parishioners.

School, the church and Oregon Hill. Last year, to receive a basket, families provided a small donation. This allowed us to help 25 families--a record number--to enjoy a blessed holiday meal.

Barbara Ambrose volunteered to meet family members who were unable to pick up their baskets at the designated time. One woman apologized for having to postpone her pickup because her son had been in an automobile accident.

Fortunately, her son was recovering from his minor injuries, but it had been a difficult few days for the family. She said that having the food basket was a double

blessing.

During Epiphany, we transformed our churchyard fence into a **Blessings Fence** with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. We encouraged passersby to take an item or leave an item. Over the course of Epiphany, several hundred items arrived and departed our Blessings Fence. One Oregon Hill resident, who lives about a block from the church, stopped by the church as a volunteer placed new items on the fence. He expressed gratitude for the fence because he had found a couple of knit hats that helped keep him warm during the winter months. He offered to donate yarn to express his gratitude for the hats. While most of the items placed on the fence were knitted and donated by members of our congregation, some items just appeared on the Blessings Fence, likely placed there by other caring

Over the course of Epiphany, several hundred items arrived and departed our Blessings Fence.



POWER IN EVERY GIRL Scouts in the troop sponsored by St. Andrew's learned financial literacy during their cookie sales.

OUTREACH

From Page 9

individuals in our community.

This was the first year St. Andrew's Church sponsored a **Girl Scout troop**.

Eighteen girls participated in Daisies, Brownies and Juniors.

Katherine Forti-Vargas, a member of St. Andrew's Church, led the Daisies. They learned to value the words of the Girl Scout Promise including, "To serve God and my country." The Girl Scouts planted a garden in the backyard of the parish house, invited grandparents

"I had a lot of fun and really enjoyed spending the time to get to know each of the girls."

Katherine Forti-

to help make a gingerbread house and ran a successful cookie booth luau sale in which they learned financial literacy. The whole troop took part in World Thinking Day and joined other troops in the area to celebrate friendship and sisterhood and to learn about different cultures and traditions.

Katherine had a rewarding experience as a troop leader.

"I had a lot of fun and really enjoyed spending the time to get to know each of the girls."

In the fall, more volunteers are needed to share their talents as troop leaders.

A portion of our budget supports **Area Congregations Together in Service**, a Richmond interfaith mission providing support and resources during periods of financial crisis to prevent homelessness. Since opening its pilot program in 2006,

OUTREACH, Page 11

Calendar Highlights

Parish Office Closed

Mondays

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, July 20
& Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's House

Soup Kitchen Ministry

2nd & 4th Saturdays
July 9 & 23;
Aug. 13 & 27
from 8-10:30 a.m.
at St. Mark's

Episcopal Church
Contact Karen Wittich
for info kwittich@jtcc.edu
233-4215

Morning Prayer

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

Summer Sunday Worship

Holy Eucharist
at 8:30 & 10 a.m.
Lemonade on the Lawn
follows 10 a.m. worship



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Oregon Hill

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Staff

Rector

The Rev. Abbott Bailey
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The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose
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Patrick Keyser
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Nick Stephenson
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Bookkeeper

Paula Harper

Sexton

Eddie Griffith

Nursery

Diane Williams

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

OUTREACH

From Page 10

the ACTS center has served hundreds of people by dispensing thousands of dollars in financial assistance as well as providing case management support services. This part of the program has kept most of these individuals and families (nearly half of them children) from falling into the destructive and devastating cycle of homelessness.

Circle of Peace School in Uganda is another special cause that we support. The school serves over 300 students, many of whom commute from home to receive an education, which is not free in their country. Forty of the children are orphans who receive housing, food, clothing, medical care and emotional support. Approximately one third of these pupils have one parent who is deceased or ill from HIV or AIDS. Without the school, they would have no home, food or education.

The **Bible Literacy Ministry** began this year after our Grace-on-the-Hill Intern, Patrick Keyser, received a grant from the Forum for Theological Exploration. He learned of grant opportunities while attending a conference and began to connect his call to address some of the real systemic issues that lead to poverty and homelessness with some adult literacy work he had done while at William and Mary.

"I knew the importance of adult literacy, and the ways that it can truly transform lives," Patrick said. "I knew there were

programs in the City of Richmond to help adults with low literacy skills, but I did not think there was a program that used scripture as the main source for teaching literacy skills."

Patrick enlisted the assistance of Kay McCall who is active in the READ Center's adult literacy programs. The READ Center provided tutor training, and St. Phillip's Church offered their space for tutors and students to meet each week. During the initial phase, there were ten students and eight tutors. The READ Center will continue offering this class with Kay McCall taking the lead in the upcoming program year.

The Bible Literacy Ministry taught Patrick that hearing a call from God requires action.

"If you feel God is calling you to a particular

ministry, say yes and go for it! It is so easy to come up with reasons why we can't do something, but God is always inviting us to action.

Becoming involved with a ministry that you are passionate about is an incredibly life giving experience. It won't always be easy, but it will certainly be an opportunity for transformation and spiritual growth."

Freedom House was one of Richmond's largest homeless

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Patrick Keyser



OUTREACH

From Page 11

shelters for the past 30 years, and our outreach ministry has supported this organization at various sites for over 20 years with volunteers and donations. Located at the Conrad Center and the Salvation Army on Grace Street, the community shelter offered 40 beds and served 50,000 meals last year to our city's homeless population. Due to complex and unforeseeable reasons, our visits to Freedom House have been suspended since January. The Salvation Army will notify our church and volunteer groups if any future programs to provide meals to the homeless will begin again.

Estela Smith is a longtime volunteer at Freedom House.

"This program occupies a very special place in my heart," Estella said. "At age seven, a street man showed up in my house asking for anything I could give him. I ran to my room and gave him \$1. The man thanked me, turned away and left our door kissing the dollar bill. The action created an uproar between my parents, each one having a diametrically different reaction, and inevitably creating an overwhelming sense of confusion and sadness in me. One of them sat me down and explained to me that I should have talked to them, and perhaps we could have given him \$2 or \$5 or \$10 if needed."

The homeless are an anonymous group of society, but each one has a story to tell and a life they have lived. I dream of the day that we can tell their stories and bring each of the forgotten back to humanity."

CONTACTS ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRIES

BIBLE LITERACY

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BLESSING FENCE

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GIRL SCOUTS

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HOLIDAY BASKETS

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LAUNDRY MINISTRY

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SOUP KITCHEN

Karen Wittich

kwittich@jtcc.edu

God the Giver

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