



The Saltire

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Oregon Hill
October & November 2018

"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."



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Coming Home

by the Rev. Andrew Moore

It was the Friday of my first week here at St. Andrew's. I hadn't even made it to Sunday yet, and it had been a very full week. I was tired, I still had a sermon to write for Sunday, and I was sitting in my office surrounded by unpacked boxes.

For weeks, all summer really, I'd been feeling unmoored. I knew that this exciting new adventure awaited me, but it took what felt like forever to get here! And now that it was here, I didn't feel any more grounded than I had before.

It was a summer of transition. Really, for a number of years, it had felt like I was either entering into or coming out of a time of transition. I knew from the outset that my first job as a parish priest was temporary. I was a curate (a fancy name for a newly ordained priest) at a large parish in Greenwich, CT. The goal was to continue learning, to gain lots of experience in a short period of time. I loved the people and my time there, but I wasn't really able to put down roots because we all knew I wouldn't be there long. It was as though I was just passing through.

I moved to Richmond with an idea of what shape my ministry would take while at St. Mary's. Little did I know what God actually had in store for me! About the time I began to feel settled, my rector announced she was leaving. Transition had snuck up on me again! And this one was a little more

complicated. Rather than hiring an outside interim rector, the vestry asked me to lead the parish through the transition period.

What ensued was ten months of unexpected joys and challenges. I was surrounded by loving and faithful people who assumed leadership in grace-filled ways. Incredible ministry took place in familiar and surprising ways. But underneath it all ran a current of uncertainty. None of us knew what the other side of this transition would look like.

When St. Mary's joyfully called David May to be its rector, I again began to think I knew what shape my ministry was going to take and what my new role would look like. And, once again, the Holy Spirit took me by surprise. Less than a week after we made the announcement, the diocese reached out to me asking if I would be willing to be considered here at St. Andrew's. I'd heard about St. Andrew's in passing, but I knew very little of your story. Still, there was something that began to capture my imagination. And so I agreed to have my name submitted. After all, what could it hurt to have a conversation?

I arrived to meet with the vestry and something happened. I was immediately struck by the church itself. Somehow it managed to be both grand and homey, magnificent and welcoming all at once. It was as

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SURPRISED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT Parishioners join the Rev. Andrew Moore in wearing his favorite Chuck Taylor shoes on his first Sunday worship service with us on Aug. 26.

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though you could feel the prayers of all those who have come before us, just seeped into the walls. And the conversation with the vestry was equally intriguing. I immediately felt at ease with them, as though we were old friends. I asked about their hopes and dreams for St. Andrew's in the next five years. And when I left I knew I was going to have a lot to pray about because it felt like I had just met "my people."

Has that ever happened to you before? You're with a group of people you've just met and you instantly feel comfortable.

Awkward small talk is replaced by easy laughter and understanding. You just know that these are "your people," the ones with whom you belong.

Leaving St. Mary's was not an easy decision. But accepting St. Andrew's call was remarkably simple. Never before has the Holy Spirit been so clear or forceful. And so my series of transitions took another unexpected turn. Saying farewell to the beloved people of St. Mary's was equal parts wonderful and difficult. I packed up my office, preached my last sermon, and moved across town.

Which brings me back to the end of my first week. It had been a whirlwind of a week. I'd met so many people, read so many files,

tried to understand how the liturgy was going to work. I still didn't know what I was going to be saying from the pulpit. But I decided that nothing else was going to get done until I unpacked my office. I just couldn't take the boxes surrounding me any longer. Maybe if the boxes were unpacked and the books were on the shelves, I'd feel more settled.

It certainly helped...a little. It looked more like I belonged here. I could find the books that I needed for my sermon prep. I had a few photos on the wall. The space was slowly becoming mine.

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But it didn't do much to calm my nerves about the coming Sunday. Would I make a good first impression? Would I like the people? Would they like me? I'd decided to go all in and wear my green Chuck Taylors on the first day (the epistle did instruct us to wear the shoes that would help us preach the gospel after all). I was going to be unapologetically me.

I walked into church on Sunday morning and discovered the Holy Spirit had one more surprise up her sleeve. I noticed one person wearing their Chucks...and then another...and another. I started to get goose bumps. Without my knowledge, many of you had arranged to wear your colored Chucks to make me feel at home. What a gift! If I had any remaining doubts, this truly confirmed that you are my people. I was home.

Throughout this long series of transitions, I met many amazing people and got to be a part of some incredibly beautiful moments in God's service. But running underneath was always a desire to put down roots, to be in a place where I belonged. I longed to be in a place where I felt truly known.

On some level, isn't that what we all desire? A place where we can fully be ourselves. A place where we can set down the burdens of the world for a time. A place where we can share in celebration and sorrow alike.

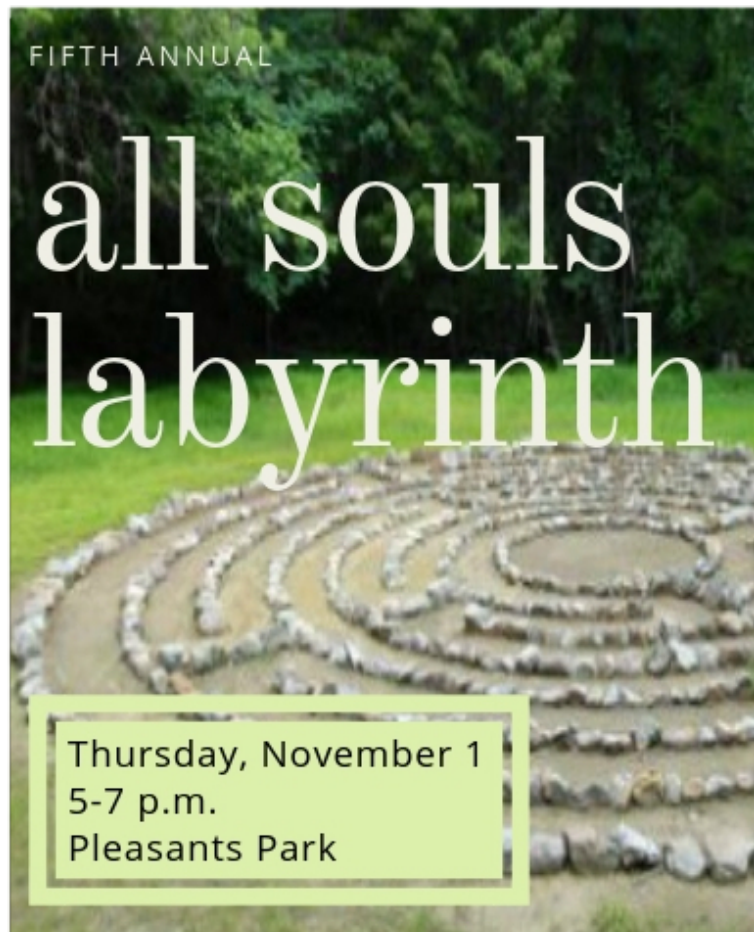
Over the course of the last six weeks, I've heard many of your stories of the first time you came

to St. Andrew's. They have a lot of things in common with my own experience. You immediately felt comfortable. You were greeted warmly. People remembered your name when you came back. You might not be able to fully articulate why, but from the moment you arrived some part of you knew that you belonged here.

I've had so many moments of overwhelming gratitude that in God's infinite wisdom, the Holy Spirit led me to St. Andrew's. They have come at varied and unexpected times. Looking out at the congregation from behind the altar on my first Sunday as we prepared to feast there together for the first time or hearing the prayers of the students at St.

Andrew's School in our weekly chapel service. Getting to hear each of your stories as we broke bread at the welcome meals or hearing the reflections being offered in the Adult Forum. Visiting parishioners in the hospital or their homes or getting high fives from some of our youngest members as they leave the church. All have been moments when I have experienced God's grace in profound ways.

It really is true of St. Andrew's. No matter who you are, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you belong. Thanks be to God for this remarkable community and for helping us each find our way here!



Theme for Stewardship: You Belong!

by Chris Catanzaro, Stewardship Chair

You belong!

This short but powerful statement is the theme for our stewardship campaign. The theme aligns beautifully with St. Andrew's new rose window logo, which conveys this idea: No matter who you are or where you are in your spiritual journey, at St. Andrew's you belong.

Belonging and stewardship are foundational, as they relate to identity, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. Each of us probably feels differently about what it means to belong at St. Andrew's. Personally, I have felt like I belonged here even before I was formally welcomed into the church.

After I suffered a deep personal loss ten years ago, I occasionally attended events here with my dear friend, neighbor and church member Anne Snyder. I felt a peaceful reverence here—something I had not experienced in the 40 something

years of worship in my previous religious denomination.

As a result of the love and reverence I've experienced here, I feel valued and more whole. I



feel loved as a member of the congregation and for whom I am as an individual. I've developed caring relationships with others

who worship here. I see others giving of themselves, and I feel called to do the same. And I often hear expressions of gratitude from others. All of these positive experiences contribute to my sense of belonging as I strive to improve my relationships with God and with others.

Through the love of God working in us, we at St. Andrew's do so much to give of ourselves. The outcomes are truly inspiring. Our personal calls to service may include our time, our efforts, our talents and our monetary annual pledges and offerings.

As we look forward to a new church year together, please prayerfully consider how your belonging will be expressed. How will your belonging enable you to increase the impact of St. Andrew's? How will you express your gratitude for what you've been given? How will you do your part in claiming our collective responsibility for shaping the future and well-being of St. Andrew's?

Donations Needed for Outreach to Our College Students

It's that time of year when we begin collecting names, addresses and contact numbers for our St. Andrew's college students.

We send a package of snacks, candy and hot chocolate to each student just in time for first semester exams. Everything must

fit in a medium (15"x10") overnight express package. Please consider sending a personalized note or donating snacks.

If you would like to make a donation of snacks or money to defray the cost of sending packages, please contact Chuck

or Elaine Baur before Monday, Nov. 12. Also, please contribute personal notes to our students.

The packages will be mailed to students during the week of Nov. 26.

Blessings to you all from the Hospitality Commission.

Director of Music Joins Our Parish Life

We are thrilled to welcome Demas Boudreaux as our Director of Music.

The search committee - Mike Culver, Ally Getlein, Tracey Miles and Andrew Moore - are enthusiastic about extending the invitation to Demas to serve in our community. His energy, the breadth of his musical experience and his warm personality are all excellent fits for St. Andrew's.

Demas has served as a church musician since his childhood in Boones Mill, Va., in the Church of the Brethren. After graduating from Hampden-Sydney College, he earned an MA in political science at Virginia Tech. In 2017, he completed the four-summer MA in music at Lynchburg College where he focused on



Demas Boudreaux

choral conducting. Most recently, he served Southminster Presbyterian Church in Chesterfield County for eight years as Director of Worship Music and Organist. He was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 2012 and is a member

at St. Michael's in Bon Air.

In addition to church music, Demas plays jazz in The River Trio, piano for the Country Club of Virginia and the carillon for the City of Richmond.


Outside of music, Demas is the Government Relations Manager for the Virginia Housing Development Authority, where he represents VHDA before the General Assembly, Governor's Office and Congress. In his precious spare time, he enjoys canoeing on the James River and working on his Manchester home constructed in 1765.

Demas is excited about joining parish life at St. Andrew's and looks forward to getting to know all of you.

save THE DATE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29

6 P.M.



**feast of st. andrew
& advent wreath making**

Parish Applauds Transition Leaders

A huge thank you to everyone who served in ways large and small during our transition.

Without your excellent service, and without each and every one in the parish, we could never have enjoyed such a smooth and joyful transition.

Thank you all for your faithful service to the St. Andrew's community.

We are especially grateful for...

Our supply clergy

Haywood Spangler, Bruce Birdsey, Bob Friend, Nik Forti and Andy Kunz, as well as Mary Thorpe and Bishop Johnston



THANK YOU The Rev. Haywood Spangler receives a parish gift from senior warden Pat Bridgewater.

Our interim school chaplain
Molly Bosscher

Our supply organists

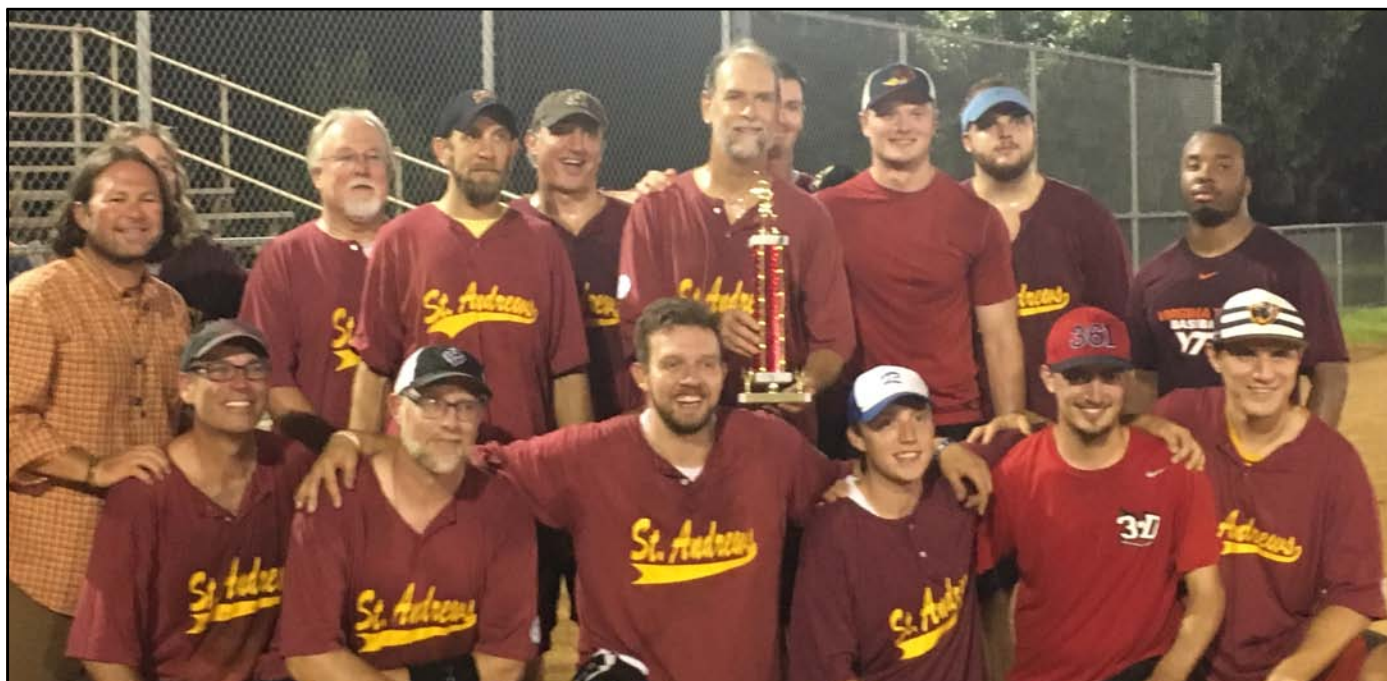
Susan Beck, Matthew Little, David McCormick, Donald Moro, Adella Nowowieski, Estela Smith and Donald Traser

Our transition facilitator
Cindy Barnes

Our emergency pastoral care coverage
Harrison Higgins, Rock Higgins and Andrew Terry

Our amazing Transition Team

Barbara Ambrose, Chuck Baur, Pat Bridgewater, Kay McCall and Karen Salter



WINNING SEASON Kneeling, l to r: John Peroutka, Adam White, Thomas Rowe, Ian Morey, Ike Fleckenstein, Sam Irwin. Back row: Jerry Allen (street clothes), Coach Russell Rowe (obscured), Tim Raabe (retired), Matt Coleman, Danny Saggese, Steve Salter, Conor Salter (obscured), Ben Cline, Nick Wright, Jovon Brooks.

Our team won second place in the West Richmond Church softball league. This same league has been in existence over 70 years, and St. Andrew's has always fielded a team. There was a time when the entire infield was made up of four Rowe brothers. This year's team won 12 games, lost 6 and tied one. We hope we did St. Andrew's proud. We're looking forward to doing it again next spring and summer!

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Oregon Hill

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Sexton

Eddie Griffith

Nursery

Diane Williams

Vestry

Pat Bridgewater '19,

Senior Warden

Chuck Baur '19

Junior Warden

Ally Getlein '19

Holly Harris '18

Maura Higginbotham '20

Dale Holcomb '20

Erin Bell Kutsko '18

Paige Trivett '20

Michael Williams '18

Steve Salter

Treasurer

Christian Formation for Youth Offered During Worship Services

by Laura Boucher

During the summer, I felt a "holy nudge" to lead a class on Sunday mornings for the middle schoolers at St. Andrew's.

With the arrival of the Marunde family, we have eight young people in that age group. I gave the idea considerable thought and prayer and consistently felt called to offer something that would provide meaningful learning and discussion about our faith, our worship and our beliefs as Christians. The class may also help the students to build friendships with one another.

I spent 18 years as a Montessori teacher and 18 years as a Director of Christian Education, which gave me a bit of expertise and a bit of confidence that I could do this. It is somewhat of a challenge to engage pre-teens in religious education! But it is important for us to offer

something to these young people who are full of questions, as they should be. Their questions will help shape the curriculum.

Our tentative schedule between now and Christmas will include the eucharist, key stories of the Old Testament, the prophets (with an emphasis on Isaiah) and the birth of the Messiah.

In the new year we will explore the catechism in the Book of Common Prayer, the key stories in the Gospels, the meaning of Good Friday, Easter and baptism. We will also explore what it means to be sent into the world to love and serve others.

I look forward to getting to know our young people. I hope that I can convey to them the deep satisfaction of making a journey of faith, and most importantly, share with them the amazing love of God. Please keep us in your prayers.

Shalom, Laura

FOR THE RECORD

Married August 11

**Jennifer Lee Milne
& Zachary Andrew Williams**

New Ministry Begun August 26

The Rev. Andrew Y. Moore

Calendar Highlights

Sunday Worship Services

Holy Eucharist
at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Nursery at 11 a.m.
Coffee Hour follows
11 a.m. worship
in St. Andrew's House

All Souls Labyrinth

Thursday, Nov. 1

All Saints Sunday & Baptism

Sunday, Nov. 4

Stewardship Ingathering

Sunday, Nov. 18

Feast of St. Andrew & Advent Wreath-making

Thursday, Nov. 29

First Sunday of Advent & Annual Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 2
Combined 10 a.m. service

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday
Oct. 17 & Nov. 21
at 6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's House

Soup Kitchen Ministry

2nd & 4th Saturdays
from 8-10:30 a.m.

at St. Mark's
Episcopal Church
Contact
Karen Wittich for info
kwittich@jtcc.edu

Laundry Ministry

Wednesdays
1:30 - 3 p.m.
at BP Station Laundromat
1920 West Cary Street

YOU
BELONG!

The Saltire
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
236 South Laurel Street
Richmond, VA 23220