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A Mulberry Tree
Luke 17:5-10 :: Proper 22, Year C

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the lovely early fall weather we've been having. May it continue, as it lets the Main Street sidewalk replacement project move along at a brisk pace!

This Sunday brings one of my favorite events of the year: the Blessing of the Animals. The actual Blessing will be on the south lawn, beginning at 11:40 or so. But everyone is welcome to attend Eucharist with their animals outside, too. The service will be 'broadcast' over a speaker (thank you, *George Potts*), chairs and bulletins will be provided, and we'll bring the Bread and Wine out to you.

There is something warm and delightful—and also, just slightly naughty (like Mary and her little lamb?)—about bringing your pets to church with you. The breaking of a convention ... their loving companionship (and goofy distraction) during worship ... the grace of their participating, as members of our families, with us in something sacred and deeply meaningful. It is the Peaceable

Kingdom ([Isaiah 11:1-9](#)) come to life, at least for a morning.

As I was reflecting on this earlier today, I realized that for Jim and me, each of these annual Blessings has been different. In 2020, we brought Joe Joe, our faithful companion of eighteen years. He had, by then, grown stiff of joint, deaf of ear and cloudy of eye, but even though he now slowly walked up the stairs rather than taking them like lightning, he was a beloved member of our household—the *éminence grise* of the rectory!

Last year was more difficult. We said goodbye to Joe in June, and we came to the Blessing alone. We were surrounded by the love and energy of everyone else's critters, and this buoyed us. But no matter what, we couldn't help thinking of the wonderful dog we'd only recently lost.

And this year, as many of you know, we'll be bringing Cooper, our not-quite-one-year-old Cavapoo puppy: a bundle of fur, energy and love. The rectory now rings with his dashing up and down the stairs ... his flying from one end of the hallway to the other, whether to fetch a toy or 'just because' ... and the funny little voice he uses—whines, growls, squeals and songs—to let us know what's on his mind.

I'm reminded, in writing this, that the liturgical day begins in the evening and runs through the following afternoon. We begin in the lengthening shadows, struggle through the long dark night and emerge into the glory and brightness of the new day. Each segment of the day is essential, *and* all of them, together, constitute life. This is the pattern of faith.

Whatever 'time of day' you may be in, vis-à-vis a pet or anything else in your life, I hope you will join us on Sunday for this special time ... and please invite a friend or neighbor to come along with you, as well!

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,
Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

860-592-0171 (*rectory, and also rings on mobile*)

P S Also on Sunday, we'll be welcoming some students, faculty and staff from Kent School. They will be joining us in worship about once-a-month or so during the school year: a wonderful way to celebrate and deepen our common Episcopal roots. Be sure to greet them warmly and introduce yourself!

P P S Here are photos of Joe Joe and Cooper, respectively, in case you didn't meet them:



This Week at St Andrew's

Saturday, 01 October :: 1:00 pm
Nancy Weidner's Funeral

Sunday, 02 October :: 8:30 am
Holy Eucharist: *The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost* (spoken)

Sunday, 02 October :: 9:15 am
Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 02 October :: 10:30 am
Church School

Sunday, 02 October :: 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost* (with music) (*in-person and live-streamed; outdoor seating available for pets and their owners*)

Sunday, 02 October :: 11:40 am

Blessing of the Animals (south lawn) / Coffee Hour

Monday, 03 October :: 11:00 am

Bible Study: *The Gospel of Luke*

Monday, 03 October :: 8:00 pm

LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Tuesday, 04 October :: 11:00 am

Class: *Introduction to the BCP*

Wednesday, 05 October :: 6:00 pm

Mid-week Evening Prayer (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Wednesday, 05 October :: 7:00 pm

A.A. for Women (*Zoom meeting; email us for info*)

Thursday, 06 October :: 7:00 pm

A.A. meeting

Thursday, 06 October :: 7:00 pm

Al-Anon meeting (Old Vestry Room)

Friday, 07 October :: 8:00 pm

Music in the Nave: *Livingston Taylor*

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

**Details about many of these events can be found later
in this issue of the *Epistle***

This Sunday, 02 October, 11:40 am

Annual Blessing of the Animals

on the South Lawn

Friday, 07 October, 8:00 pm

Music in the Nave presents Livingston Taylor

Sunday, 09 October

Visit to St Andrew's by the Rev Canon Tim Hodapp of ECCT

Tim will preach at both Eucharists and then meet with the parish during coffee hour to talk about the priest-in-charge transition process we're in the midst of; he'll meet with the Vestry, as well

Every Tuesday: Introduction to the Prayer Book



Have you always wondered what *else* is in the 1,000 pages of *The Book of Common Prayer*, in addition to the few pages we use on Sunday morning? Does the fact that it even has 1,000 pages intimidate you a little? Have you tried praying Morning or Evening Prayer on your own but ended up a bit bewildered? Would you like to know more about the Church's calendar and psalms and prayers?

Well, you're in luck! **Beginning Tuesday, 06 September, at 11:00 am**, we will explore the wonderful heritage and thoughtful theology that is our *Book of Common Prayer*. Each class will be a self-contained unit, focusing on one aspect of the BCP, starting with its history: how it came to be ... and to be revised ... over the last 450 years. (In November, we'll offer a few 'bonus' sessions on some lesser-known features of the BCP. But the September / October classes will cover all the fundamentals.)

It is an ancient adage of the Church that *the way we pray*—the way we worship—*constitutes what we believe*. For Episcopalians, the BCP is the way we pray. So, if you'd like to know more about what we believe (and, thus, why we pray as we do), please be sure to join us!

Next Sunday: Blessing of the Animals



This year we'll hold our annual *Blessing of the Animals*—traditionally associated with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (04 October)—this Sunday, 02 October, immediately following the 10:30 Eucharist. Pets and farm animals are an integral part of many of our lives: dear members of the family who provide joy, companionship and support. On this day, we give thanks to God for their presence in our lives, hallow our relationship with our pets and commit ourselves to loving and caring for them, following Jesus' example.

That day, please bring any and all pets and other animals who are dear to you. We will, no doubt, have an assortment of dogs and cats ... but what a joy it would be to have a real Noah's Ark of birds, fish, rodents, reptiles and maybe even a horse or two!?!

We will 'pipe' the audio of the 10:30 service to the lawn, so that people and pets can fully participate in the Eucharist, if they wish. (Communion will be distributed outside as well as inside.) Or just come at 11:30 if you'd prefer. And be sure to *spread the word to friends and neighbors*. This is a great 'low-risk' way for them to get to know St Andrew's a little!

We will also be collecting ***dog and cat food for donation to local shelters and rescue agencies***. Please be as generous as you can, to help those animals who have no humans to love them.

Bringing Back the Flower Ministry: A Thought from Marel Rogers



I'd like to speak about flowers. I have been able to find only two references to flowers in the Gospels: both Matthew and Luke tell of Jesus speaking of the lilies of the field. And that's it. But flowers are a part of our worship, and as we begin the season of autumn, when the flowers growing around us are fading, perhaps we should think how we might bring the joy and beauty that they contribute to our Sunday worship to those who cannot attend St Andrew's.

There is a long list of names on the Prayer List. My suggestion to all of us is to find a person on that list, perhaps an old friend or perhaps someone you have not met, and take the Sunday flowers to them. Vases will be available in the Narthex: simply arrange one vase and make that visit. It can be Sunday

immediately after the 10:30 service, Monday or whenever you can visit that person.

Taking flowers to shut-ins, those recovering from an illness or welcoming a new baby, someone mourning a loss or someone who could just use a lift used to be a regular part of how St Andrew's parishioners cared for each other. We can do it again, and I predict we'll find as much joy in making these visits as those we visit find in receiving them.

— *Marel Rogers*

Thank You: First Responders Recognition Luncheon



A hearty thank-you to **George-Ann Gowan, Marel Rogers and the children of the Church School** for creating and hosting a wonderful luncheon this past Sunday to honor and thank all of the first responders in the Kent Community: firefighters, EMTs, police officers and others. Several firefighters, EMTs and auxiliary members joined us, and a fun—and delicious —time was had by all!

Now Sold Out: Livingston Taylor, Live at St Andrew's!



For fifty years, Livingston Taylor has been serving up a brew of rock, folk, Broadway and gospel while charting Top-40 hits such as "I Will Be in Love with You." Massachusetts even declared an official Livingston Taylor Day! To kick off Music in the Nave's 2022-23 season, he'll be playing St Andrew's on Friday, 07 October, at 8 pm. Make that your Livingston Taylor Night!

To purchase tickets, just click on [this link](#). All tickets are \$30.

Funeral for Nancy Weidner

A service celebrating the resurrection of Nancy Weidner, who died in January, will be held in the Nave at 1:00 pm tomorrow, 01 October. A reception will follow at the Fife 'n Drum.

Nancy's family has suggested that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders, Mt Holyoke College, Barnard College or any animal welfare charity (such as Alley Cat Allies, the ASPCA or S.O.U.L.: A Feral Cat Sanctuary).

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

We have now resumed all of our usual pre-COVID practices except the sharing of the Common Cup; we distribute the Wine in individual portions.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services.

Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P O Box 262
Kent, CT 06757
memo: Food Bank

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's new Social Services Director, Samantha Hasenflue. In addition, it is useful for the Director to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Samantha's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna**. Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

Lectons for this Week

**The Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost**
Year C

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137
2Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10



Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order
to view
past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays
located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-
Holy Eucharist
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays)
In person
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.



-Holy Days-
Holy Eucharist
9.00 a.m.



12 Step Meetings

Mondays

LGBTQ+ A.A. - **new**
(Parish House)

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

Thursdays

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
A.A. at 7:00 pm - **new**
(Parish House)



Parish Staff

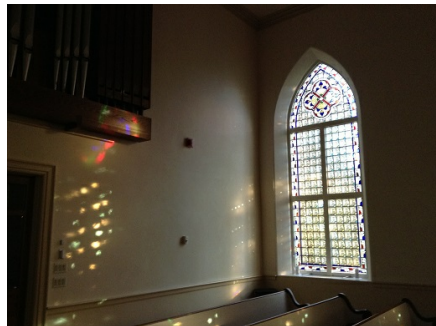
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Organist & Director of Choirs

Ron Marasco, Ph.D.
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KC Compton
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Jane Farnol



Church School Leader

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin
Verger

Gloria Contreras
Sexton



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Parish office open every day except Friday and Saturday from 10 am- 5 pm

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www.episcopalct.org/

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