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Valentines Winter Picnic-on-the-Street

## St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

**Parish Closed.** Either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the surrounding towns is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore *all worship services will be pre-recorded and made available on our YouTube account* at least an hour before they were scheduled to occur. In addition, all *other parish activities will either be suspended or move to online-only*; participants in those activities will be updated separately. The parish will remain in closed status until both Kent and a majority of the surrounding towns are less-than-red for two successive Thursdays.

## From Fr Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

My goodness, there is a lot going on at St Andrew's these days!! We had a successful Annual Meeting this past Sunday, and our Bible study and anti-racism groups are meeting regularly once again, following an extended Christmas break. We have elected a new junior warden (Randy DiPentima) and four new vestry members (Katherine Almquist, Kent Freeman, Ron Marasco and Janet Rivkin), and we are in the process of gathering the Visioning Team, which will help lead our discernment of how God wants our parish to develop ... and *be developed by* God ... over the next decade or so.

But there's much more, as well!! This edition of the *E-pistle* is crammed with new opportunities for service, fellowship, formation and worship:

- Dear friend of the parish Sr Mary Lanning has asked us to provide **2,500 (!!) dyed, decorated hard-boiled eggs** for her annual Valentine's Day Picnic in the Street, and George-Ann Gowan is leading the charge
- The booklets for **Lent Madness 2021** are in: Marel Rogers is ready to deliver them to you so you can begin choosing your favorite saints (and this year, there's a prize!)

- As our Lenten practice this year, I am suggesting that we read Fr Russell Levenson's *A Path to Wholeness: A Lenten Companion*
- Beginning on 21 February, we will begin offering *live Morning Prayer every Sunday*, via Zoom

You can read more about all of these opportunities—as well as a workshop on forgiveness and a call for Habitat volunteers—below.

Each of these activities will appeal to different parishioners, and I invite you to consider which may lift your spirits, deepen your faith and/or provide you meaning. But in their totality, all of this is a sure sign that the Holy Spirit is at work in and throughout our parish; that God has wonderful plans for us—which are already being realized; and that Christ's love and power are sustaining us in these days when we long for light ... and to be together once again ... and for the restoration of the rhythms of our lives. And what better reason could there be to take up one—or more!—of the opportunities St Andrew's has to offer right now?

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

[Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

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

## Weekly Schedule for 31 January

<b>Sunday, 31 January</b>	Holy Eucharist ( <i>online</i> )	10:00 am
<b>Tuesday, 2 February</b>	The Feast of the Presentation ( <i>online</i> )	6:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, 3 February</b>	Bible Study ( <i>Zoom</i> )	4:30 pm
	Mid-week Eucharist ( <i>online</i> )	6:00 pm

**THIS JUST IN:  
Sister Mary Needs Our Help for Valentine's Day!**



As many of you will recall, every Valentine's Day, Sr Mary Lanning and her organization YES! Solutions put on a [Valentine's Day Picnic in the Street](#) for New York City's homeless population. For many years, we have had fun making up comfort bags for Mary to give to her guests. Unfortunately, this year, due to COVID protocols, she can distribute *only* bagged meals. So, the bad news is: We won't be baking or collecting toiletries or stuffing comfort bags this year. (She also cannot accept coats or blankets at this time.)

But now, the **good** news: Sister Mary has asked us to provide her 2,500 dyed hard-boiled eggs as part of the fare for this year's Picnic. ***Yes, that's right: 2,500 dyed eggs!!*** Coloring the eggs make the meal more festive and bright for Sr Mary's guests, whose lives can be fairly bleak and monochromatic. So we are inviting anyone and everyone to get out their kettles and egg-dyeing dishes and get to it! And if you have the time to also *decorate* your dyed eggs ... with some words of kindness, a little gee-gaw or a pretty drawing ... that would be wonderful. [Here's a link](#) with dozens of egg decorating ideas if you're stuck. (In the past, a team has gathered at the Parish House to dye and decorate donated eggs, but due to COVID ... )

If you would like to contribute, please drop off your eggs at the Parish House on **Friday, 12 February, between 10 and 11 am**. (If this time isn't convenient, you can leave them in the kitchen fridge beforehand.) **George-Ann Gowan** is coordinating this *eggs-cellent* adventure for us. If you have a question or would like more information, please give her a call at 860-946-9232.

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## NEW FOR LENT: Lent Madness 2021

*From Marel Rogers, St Andrew's Lent Madness coordinatorextraordinaire:*

As January rounds the home stretch Lent begins to come into focus. I am looking forward to Lent Madness, the Lenten program with a sense of humor added to some serious study of 32 saints.



From the Lent Madness [website](http://www.lentmadness.org):

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote (online) for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. Last year a group of us met each week to discuss the saints under consideration for that week. This year we can meet on Zoom and do the same thing. There are a number of "Saintly Scorecards"—a booklet with biographical information on the Saintly Contestants—*which can be delivered right to your front door*. Each of the participants can fill out the entire bracket ahead of time and submit it to be judged as each Saint progresses or moves aside. In the spirit of friendly competition, a prize (to be voted on by participants--food, drink, a car wash, a gardening chore) will be awarded to the one who predicted the winner of the Golden Halo.

As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won't change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with each other and with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.

If you'd like to participate in this year's Lent Madness fun, please be in touch with Marel (860-364-0635 or [marelrogers@yahoo.com](mailto:marelrogers@yahoo.com)).

## NEW FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: Lenten Reading for 2021

In the Episcopal Church, it's traditional to offer a mid-week adult formation program during Lent. These often take the form of a supper followed by a speaker or a discussion, perhaps closing with Evening Prayer or Compline. Alas, that model isn't available to us this year.

Likewise, as I pondered the possibilities, I concluded that the *last* thing any of us needs is more screen time. An online class or discussion group ... or movies or YouTube videos or web sites ... are just *not* the thing for Lent 2021.

I have, however, found a wonderful new book by Russell Levenson, an

Episcopal priest in Houston, Texas, called *A Path to Wholeness: A Lenten Companion*. I have just dipped into this short book, but I liked what I saw for each day: a short Bible verse, a brief, conversational meditation, an invitation to reflect on what this means for you and a brief prayer. Levenson's Lenten devotional is deep without being heavy. And to help us read it 'together,' in each weekly *E-pistle* during Lent I plan to have a different 'special guest star' (as they used to say) from the parish provide a short video about one of the week's readings that really spoke to her or him.

I hope you will consider buying a copy (available via the [House of Books](#), [Amazon](#) and the [Church Publishing website](#)) and pausing, each day, to spend a little bit of time learning, reflecting and praying ... as we journey toward the Cross and onward to the Empty Tomb.

## NEW WORSHIP OFFERING: Live Morning Prayer on Sundays, Beginning in Lent

In order to avoid the 'gremlins' that sometimes terminate the live broadcast of our worship over the internet, in November, we moved to pre-recording all our services and uploading them to YouTube. We know, however, that for some parishioners, recorded worship is less meaningful. We also know that for some parishioners, spiritual communion—a service of Holy Eucharist without distribution of the consecrated bread and wine—is not a satisfying worship experience.

Therefore, beginning the first Sunday in Lent, 21 February, we will read the office of Morning Prayer, *live*, via Zoom, every Sunday morning at 8:00 am. This service will last about 30 minutes. (There will be a brief meditation, but no sermon.) We will then keep the Zoom session open for a while afterwards, so members can spend some time chatting with one another and with Fr Douglas, if they'd like.

More details will follow, but **you will need a *Book of Common Prayer* for this service**. If you do not have one, please contact Fr Douglas, and he will be happy to get one to you.

## NOW AVAILABLE: Recording of Parish Annual Meeting

In case you missed it ... or just want to see it again (!) ... a video recording of the parish's Annual Meeting, which was held on 24 January, is now available. You can access it [here](#). You will need to enter the following passcode: !@BQU7=%.

## RESCHEDULED: Upcoming Forgiveness Workshop

Forgiveness Workshop for NW  
Region of ECCT  
Saturday, February 6 9:00-12:00PM



*Are you living with unspoken hurts? How deeply are they buried? How do they affect your relationships, both past and present? From whom do you seek forgiveness? And who is seeking forgiveness from you?*

Join us on February 6th from 9-12 noon to explore these possibilities in a Forgiveness Workshop facilitated by Dan Gates, LMFT.

Forgiveness Workshops are an opportunity to explore questions such as these in a safe, supportive environment. Under the guidance of our skilled facilitator, participants can unburden themselves of past and present hurts and bring harmony to themselves.

The benefits of forgiveness include:  
~ gaining insight and understanding into our wounds of abandonment, shame, or betrayal  
~ helping to heal our unresolved trauma

This workshop is offered by free-will donation, and is open to all!

To register, sign up by clicking [this link.](#)

## Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

Housatonic Habitat for Humanity in the Danbury area is seeking **tradesmen** and **“advanced fixer-uppers”** to join our volunteer pool. We operate a maintenance and repair service for low-income households called “A Brush with Kindness” (ABWK). Volunteering with ABWK entails no ongoing commitment and is extremely flexible. Projects typically do not exceed several hours at a time and can often be scheduled according to the day of your availability. Our current volunteer base consists of homeowners with varying degrees of repair/maintenance experience but there is a real need for more experienced people to work with them or just provide direction. Often it could be your expertise, or a specialized tool, that would be required as opposed to actual labor. Our projects are maintenance and repair as opposed to construction or renovation ... so they are limited in scope and time commitment.

The way the program works is that you would be added to an email list of volunteers. As requirements come up we'll put out a blast describing it and asking who's available to participate. The towns we cover include Danbury,

Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield, Newtown, New Fairfield and New Milford. If you are willing and available, you would reply, and then receive further details about the requirement. It's assumed that most volunteers would not be available or have the specific skills for any given project, so our objective is to have as large a pool as possible to draw from. Please note that ABWK adheres to COVID protocols and is largely on hiatus until the pandemic situation improves. The intent of this communication is to bolster our volunteer base in expectation of better times. Skills we're looking for include **carpentry, electrical, plumbing, roofing**, etc. We're looking not only for tradesmen but "advanced fixer-uppers".

We are also looking for a **Weekend Volunteer Coordinator** (also a volunteer position) to coordinate post-COVID weekend work at one of our new home construction sites. Typically needed for one or two weekends a month with a team of volunteers doing less skilled tasks such as interior painting or landscaping.

If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the Rev. Jim Wheeler. To volunteer directly to be included in this program reply to [info@housatonichabitat.org](mailto:info@housatonichabitat.org) with your contact information and please include the types of skills (experience) you have.

Thank you,

The Rev Jim Wheeler, Housatonic Habitat Volunteer Interfaith Coordinator  
203-525-3918 [jrwheeler53@gmail.com](mailto:jrwheeler53@gmail.com)

## Parish Office *Closed*

The parish office is temporarily closed, which means the phone isn't being answered. Father Douglas checks the voicemail once-a-day, usually around 9:00 am. If you have a more urgent need, please call him at 860-592-0171 or email him at [frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com).

## All Recovery Meetings *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and Al Anon) meetings have been suspended. They will resume when we re-open

## Computer Help is Available



If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or Heather know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

## Kent Food Bank



Please help the parish continue our support of the Kent Food Bank

by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

\*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.



The Kent Food Bank is  
especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea,  
coffee, sugar, nuts,  
hot & cold breakfast cereals,  
peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts  
pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays  
from 9.00 to Noon  
*in the back of the Community House  
on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave  
outside the door.*

## Lections for this Week

### **The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*Year B*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20;

Psalm 111;

1 Corinthians 8:1-13;

Mark 1:21-28



## 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**

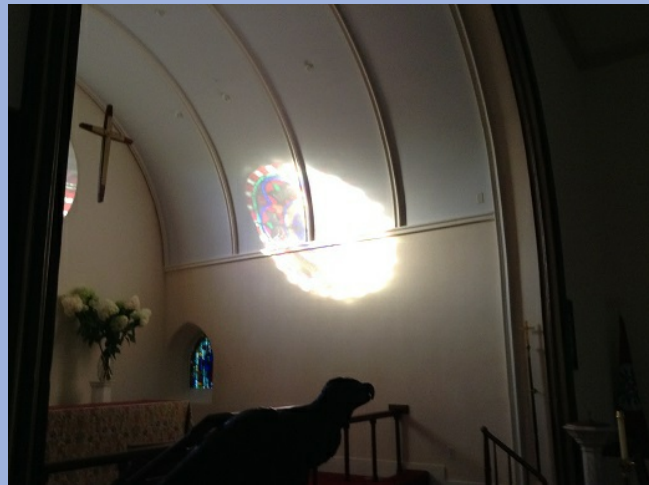
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;  
Healing Service at 8.30,  
Third Sunday  
In person  
for 25 people with masks at  
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
(10.30 a.m. available live  
stream on YouTube)



**-Wednesday-**

**Holy Eucharist**

6.00 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)



**-Friday-**

**Prayer & Meditation**

5.30 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)

**-Holy Days-**

**Holy Eucharist**

6.00 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)

## 12 Step Meetings

**Wednesdays**

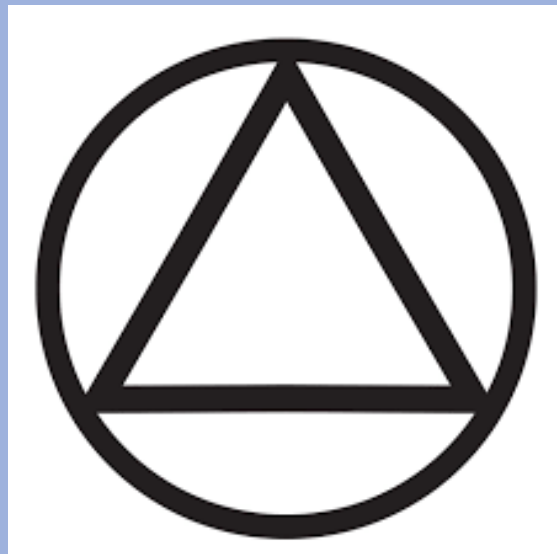
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.  
*Zoom meeting*  
*email us for info.*

**Thursdays**

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.  
(Great Room)  
*suspended*  
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Great Room)  
*suspended*

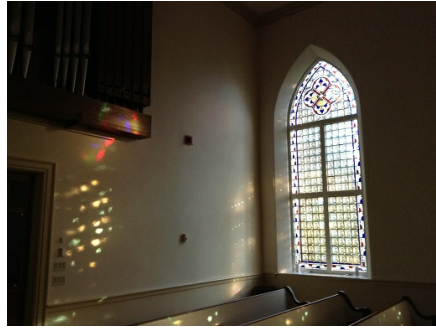
**Fridays**

A.A. at 8 p.m.  
(Great Room)  
*temporarily until First Church opens*  
*suspended*



# Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S  
Worthington,  
Priest in Charge**  
[frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)  
860-592-0171



**Thomas W Holcombe,  
Organist & Director of Choirs**

**Laura Filippi,  
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel  
Financial Secretary**

**Bill McLaren,  
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,  
Verger**



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**860.927.3486  
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**Parish office open everyday except Friday from 9 am-6 pm  
(2 pm on Thursdays)**

**Visit St Andrew's website at  
[www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org)**

**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)**

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