Church. Please remember to add st.andrew.kent@snet.net to your address book or let us know if you prefer not to receive email from us.

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



St Andrew's Church

1 North Main Street Post Office Box 309 Kent, CT 06757

> 860.927.3486 860.927.3903 (facsimile) st.andrew.kent @snet.net

Visit St Andrew's website at www.standrewskentct.org

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut www.ctepiscopal.org

Service Schedule

-Sunday-

Holy Eucharist 8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays; Healing Service at 8.30, Third Sundays

-Wednesday-Holy Eucharist

Holy Eucharis 6.00 p.m.

-Friday-

Prayer & Meditation 5.30 p.m.

Holy Days as announced.

Calendar

Curcina

Sunday, 5 May

This Week & Weekend at St Andrew's

Wednesday, 1 May

Holy Eucharist for the Feast of SS Philip & James at 6.00 p.m.

A.A. for Women at 7.00 p.m. (Great Room)

Thursday, 2 May

A.A. at 7.30 a.m. (Parish House)

Parish Office open 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Strong Women, Strong Bones at 10.00 a.m. (Parish House) Al. Anon. at 7.00 p.m. (Vestry Room)

> Friday, 3 May Prayer & Meditation at 5.30 p.m.

Saturday, 4 May Choir Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. (Nave)

Sunday, 5 May

Holy Eucharist at 8.30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. (Nave) Book Discussion at 9.30 a.m. (Library)

Holy Eucharist at 10.30 a.m.

Coffee & ... at 11.30 a.m. (Parish House)

CAMP WASHINGTON OPEN HOUSE at 3.00 p.m. for those interested in the Children's Camps this summer.

RSVP 860.567.9623 or campwasgington.org

Monday, 6 May St Andrew's Crafters at 4.00 p.m. (Parish House)

Tuesday, 7 May

Parish Office open 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Strong Women, Stong Bones at 10.00 a.m. (Parish House)

Wednesday, 8 May

Holy Eucharist for the Feast of St Julian of Norwich at 6.00 p.m.

A.A. for Women at 7.00 p.m. (Great Room)

Book Discussion at 9.30 a.m. (Library) Tag Sale Meeting at Noon (Library)

Monday, 6 May

St Andrew's Crafters at 4.00 p.m. (Parish House)

Sunday, 19 May Vestry Meeting at Noon (Library)

Saturday, 8 June Memorial Service for Jim Perkins at 3.00 p.m.

Sunday, 9 June The Day of Pentecost

If possible, please plan to pray the Lord's Prayer in a language that you know other than English.

Saturday, 22 June NW Region Convocation (Trinity Conference Center, West Cornwall)

Twelve Step Groups

Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. A.A. for Women (Great Room)

Thursdays

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

Parish Staff

The Revd Roger B. White, Rector

Thomas W. Holcombe, Organist & Director of Choirs

Margie O'Brien, Director of the Children's Choir

Heather Scofield, Parish Administrator

Joan I. Cassel Financial Secretary

Bill McLaren,

The Santiago Family

As many of you are aware, Tino Santiago, formerly a waiter at The Fife 'n Drum Restaurant and most recently the sous chef at Kingsley's Tavern, has been arrested and is in jail pending an appeal. Tino and his wife, Norma, have three children, and Norma may need to sell their house in South Kent and move to more affordable quarters: without Tino's income they are struggling financially.

A number of people who have known Tino and Norma for years have asked how they may help, and the Rector invites those concerned to make donations to the parish Discretionary Fund which shall then be passed on to Norma. Cheques should be made out to St Andrew's Parish and tagged 'Santiago Fund'. They may be put in the collection plate or may be mailed in to Post Office Box 309, Kent 06757.

In addition Tino's and Norma's son Jason has serious medical issues and has been hospitalized in New Britian, and Leslie Levy is looking for drivers who are willing to drive Norma to visit Jason. It takes 90 minutes to two hours to make the trip, and those who can help are invited to be in touch with Leslie at leslielillienlevy@me.com

Faithfully, Roger+

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

A large number of the mite boxes have already come in, and we shall plan to begin counting and depositing the contents next week. If yours is still at home, please plan to bring it with you to church on the 5th so that we can send the monies off to Bethania Kids and the Kent Community Fund.

We do plan to deposit the proceeds from the mite boxes next week, so please do return the mite boxes as soon as possible!

Also, several cheques for the Santiago family have come in and we have collected some \$800 for them. I would like to send a cheque along to Norma next week as well, and therefore if you intend to make a contribution please send it in soon (Post Office Box 309)or put it in the collection plate on next Sunday.

Gratefully, Roger+

The Homily for Good Friday Sr Mary Lanning

Good Friday Reflections St. Andrew's - Kent 19 April 2019 Sexton

Randy Osolin, Verger Standing By
.Being There
OMG!
Be With Me,
PLEASE!

How BRUTAL!

How utterly, shamefully brutal!

The man who wrote that anguished Story was in PAIN Every memory, a vivid, re-lived picture.

John was there.

John and I grew up without cameras or cell phones.

What we experience
is burned into the film of our souls,
in words.

What we see here in memory today -the torture and mocking and murder of One Woman's Son,
that horrific process -is dreadful;
too excruciating to watch
but unable to erase.

They
the loving and loved John
-- and THREE MARYs -Were There.

What I want to share with you today is a little comforting assurance, vivid in my soul from the Dyings I have companioned.

Suffering is what scares us, not dying.

LIVING scares us.

Living through pain and misunderstanding,
living disdained,
living disregarded,
not mattering.

NOT MATTERING.
NOT BELONGING.
This is the dread
that drives the separation
between those who feel righteous

and those who suffer keenly,
knowing that they fall outside the boundaries of The Righteous,
disdained and undesirable,
excluded
-- but also,
grossly UNKNOWN,
generically unwanted
because of somebody else's self-insulating righteousness.

What I have shared with so many for almost 8 decades -with drug addicts and street dwellers inhospitals and nursing homes and
family bedrooms -is that the process of dying
is just one more almost-familiar step
in the process of living.
And children are the least frightened of all.

Death is not scary.

The process of getting there can be.

Something in us, intuitively, is at ease with our own transition into whatever it is that is our death.

We intuitively acquiesce in our mortality.

We are not, essentially, afraid of it, however reluctantly we may anticipate it.

We shrink from, the process.

Death - trust me, -- is not fearful.

Suffering IS . . .
and suffering is where we do have power.

We can't control death,
but we CAN take the fear and isolation out of each other's suffering,
while LIVING,
and while dying.

WE can take the dread out of pain, out of the fear of more pain,
especially bearing the pain alone.

We CAN take away the fear and isolation,
the utter aloneness,
the abandonment,
the not mattering.

We can take away the pain of invisibility
In LIFE and in death,
by being there.

Little children ask me,
"What Can I Do For God?"
(to compensate, as if,
for all the badness).

NOTHING. NOTHING.

We DO For Each Other

We CAN NOT hurt God.
We can not make God feel better.
We hurt each other.
We CAN make each other feel better.

O merciful God, Let Us Do What We Can While We Can

BE NOT AFRAID.

Death is not scary.
Living scares us.
Fear holds us back

in ways we too often don't see.

LIVING is where we help each other get past the fear of failing, ultimately, in what we're all about.

We can't control death,
but we CAN take the fear and isolation out of each other's suffering.
We can dilute pain
and silence the dread of more pains,
by being there.

In both LIFE and in Dying,
fear that the suffering will get worse
exacerbates the suffering of the moment.

If only there were
SOMEONE TO HEAR,
to listen, to care.
EVEN ONE SOMEONE
calms; reassures; restores connectedness,
eases acquiescence;
makes tender the parting.

Death,
especially companioned Death, when it comes,
is a gentle, UN fearful release,
almost always.

I have been there hundred of times.

The most troubled, broken, frightened, shunned people I have held
are freed from fear,
freed from conflicted clinging
to false failure.

HOW SACRED THE OPPORTUNITY, TO BE THERE!

Analogously,
in those moments when dying is not yet imminent,
Being There - in Dying AND in Living is the emollient that relieves almost every suffering.

Being there.
Touching.
Hand-holding.
Eye-to-Eye listening with our hearts, our intuitions, our sameness;

letting our understanding emanate, because we DO understand brokenness. We've been there, each of us, helpless, alone.

We know how close to our limits of confidence we really are, much of our time.

Living with the Dying, as they die . . . and as they live ... living with those inside AND outside our Righteous Zone as they LIVE - marvelling at the mysterious resilience that has sustained them throughout their fallings and stumblings, their horrendous pain and shame and rejection -- THIS is where we should be.

This is my job.

This is all our jobs ... as it was Jesus' job.

Be there.

LIFE is a succession of saying YES to our own WHAT IFs, and to each other's WHAT IFs.

Be there.

We do understand each other's brokenness, fear, incapacity
more than we think we do.
Hear the unspoken plea.
See me.

SEE ME. PLEASE.
I AM HERE.
BE WITH ME. BE WITH ME.

And after IT IS FINISHED
a small prayer to help those more often to be at peace, to give peace.
Parting. Living. Together.

Here I am, Lord;
as I am,
finished, for this moment.
Grateful for any Next.
Here I am,
ready to rise.
To see,
ready to be
and to relish

--as You do-all that I have become. Here I am. As I am. Here. Now.

AMEN.

The Homily for 28 April

The Reverend Stephen B. Klots, Chaplain, South Kent School

John 20.19-31

In the Name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Gospel reminded me of something that happened to me six years ago on Labor Day weekend. I used to have a dog --her name was Lucy-- and she was about as cute and cuddly of dog as could be. S ome of you might remember; she enjoyed coming into town and hanging out at the coffee shop when it was across the street. But there was something wrong with her. Over time, she simply became more frantic in her behaviors --more anxious, possibly. I'll give you a simple example. She loved riding in the car, and when I first got her, she would wait patiently by the car to be let in. In time, however, she started running circle around the car while barking frantically. She also began to dislike certain types of people. For instance, she didn't like smokers; I'm guessing it was something about the way they smelled. But the problem was that, as time went on, she went from grumbling at smokers to growling and even barking at them. Most of the time, she was fine, as sweet as ever, but something was going on; something was wrong with

I went on that Labor Day weekend to visit my friends Kevin and Marie at their beach house near Plymouth, MA, taking Lucy with me. When I got there in the late afternoon, it was beautiful, and we all decided to go down for a walk on the beach --Kevin and Marie and I, along with our dogs, who got along well. But there was an issue: a neighbor of theirs stopped by, a woman named Nancy who was a heavy smoker. I've know her for years. Lucy started growling ferociously at her, and I leaned down toward her, just to get her to hush up. She turned toward me, and --BANG--she bit me right in the face.

It was an awful night. My upper lip had big tear in it, and there were gashes in my face and nose. Blood was everywhere. I shouted at my friends to put Lucy in my car, her safe space, and then Kevin rushed me to the hospital, first to the one in Plymouth, and then, after they decided the case was too much for them because of some issue with the nose, up to the Tufts Medical Center in Boston. About 27 stitches and several hours later, I was back at their house. I felt awful, I looked awful (with the school year just a few days away), and worst of all, I knew I was going to have to put down that cute and snuggly dog who, even then, just wanted to jump up in the bed and sleep next to me.

I still have a scar from that night, here on my upper lip. It's not too noticeable, but I suppose if I ever were on the FBI Most Wanted list, they would it include as one of my identifying marks --which indeed it is. It says something about me --my history, and that awful night. It is part of who I am --and this is something that scars do. They tell our stories --they identify us-- and such scars certainly don't have to be just physical. Perhaps they are emotional. Perhaps they are all that remains from some relationship, or from some experience in childhood. Those scars can be very real as well.

I speak of all of this because of what happens between Jesus and Thomas in today's Gospel. Jesus has appeared to the disciples, granting them his peace and bestowing on them the power to forgive or retain the sins of any. But there was a problem: Thomas was not in the room at the time, and he would not believe unless he saw the mark of the nail in Jesus' hand and the wound in his side. Perhaps these were not literally scars, but they were indeed wounds, the marks of Jesus' harrowing crucifixion on Good Friday -- and Thomas needed to see those identifying marks. One week later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, and almost immediately he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas' response is telling. More simply saying, 'Oh, it is you, Jesus', he goes further. 'My Lord and my God', says Thomas. 'My Lord and my God.'

I think Thomas' response was driven by something more than seeing in those wounds only the marks of his crucifixion. For Thomas, they were something more-they pointed also to Jesus' resurrection. He saw in them that somehow, in the love of God, good is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, life is stronger than death, and the love of God triumphs over all.

In short, Thomas saw those scars as something horrific, but also as something filled with grace-and I think there's a lesson in there for all of us. Do we see our scars as merely a mark of some horrific experience, or, like Thomas, can see them as marks of the grace and love of God? Take the scar on my lip as an example. I can think of it only as a sad souvenir from the night that Lucy bit me, or, when I see it, I can think of the night that my friends Kevin and Marie took such good care of me, with Kevin driving me to the hospital and comforting me for hours. I can also think of my other friends who came to visit that weekend, whose compassion and sympathy was boundless. I can think of people who wrote me notes when I finally put Lucy down. I can even think of the doctor who treated me that night. There I was, in the ER at Tufts Medical Center, and the first doctor to treat me --well, I found out afterwards that he, a young fellow, had been a doctor for about three hours. I knew something was up with him; I could tell he was nervous when he got his iPhone out and started taking pictures of my face. Then another doctor walked in -- also fairly young, and looking like he was all ready to head out for the weekend. His hair was slicked back, he had a knapsack on over his shoulders, but he had heard there was a tough case and wanted to have a look. It turned out he was the head of maxilo-facial surgery at Tufts. He saw my face and said, 'Let me have a look at this'. He started to put on surgical gloves and then realized he should

probably take that knapsack off first. Two hours later, after caring for me meticulously and compassionately, he headed out the door to start his Labor day weekend, and my face looks good today because of his efforts.

All of these people-my friends and, in one case, a complete stranger --in their own ways worked to bring the love of God to me in that moment which in some ways felt like my own Good Friday. They did so through their compassion, their sympathy, their kindness. They brought light into the darkness of my night and brought about the dawn of resurrection. I got through that experience, and here I am today.

And I want all of you to think about the scars in your life. Who was there with you to get you through those experiences? Was it family, friends, a complete stranger, or simply the abiding presence of God himself that got you through? Are those scars simply the mark of some horrific experience, or are they also the mark of the love and grace of God, made present in your life by others?

That, I believe, is what Thomas saw in the wounds of Jesus, and what we should see in our own scars. And it is important for us to keep this in mind as we go forth in the service of our Lord. We all have been through our own Good Fridays, and there are countless other people out there in the world who, even now, are going through their own times of horror. As followers of the Risen Lord, we are called to bring the love of God to those people, to bring some light into their darkness, as has been done for us time and again, and as our Lord has done once and for all for us in his resurrection. We are called to bring the light and life of Easter to those going through Good Friday, so their scars become more significantly marks of love, healing, and resurrection. And if we can do this, not only will we make the grace of the Risen Lord known to those who are hurting; I am certain will will also come to know Jesus a little better for ourselves. Amen.

SUMMER CAMP at CAMP WASHINGTON

The summer camping season is not all that far away, and Camp Washington has published their calendar for 2019.

Children's Camp (ages 7 - 12) will be from 30 June - 7 July & from 4 - 16 August. The one-week camp costs \$575 and the two-week camp \$1300.

Mini Camps (ages 5 - 10) will be from 14 - 16 July & from 17 - 19 July for \$275. There will be a Mini Day Camp from 15 - 19 July for \$300.

Please visit the Camp's website for more information and to register: www.campwashington.org or call 860.567.9623.

A Prayer for Change

This prayer has been used several times since this summer at

Eucharist and several of you have asked that we reprint it again. It was developed by The Women's Prayer Circle of St John's Church in North Guilford, as a reflection on the state of the world and how to bring God's love. Their hope is, as more people and churches use and share it, the prayer will create an energy that will be a force for loving change.

A Prayer for Change

Loving God,
You have made the whole of human life in your image;
each one of us shaped in love.
Your goodness is ever-present within us all.
But, there is so much evil and pain in our world,
it comes at us from every direction.
Teach us how to rediscover Your love within us,
to use that love as a force for good.
help us to turn our hearts toward the world in hope,
Praying for each other, regarding each other as treasure.
Join us all together in prayer, that we might be the light which
darkness can never overcome;
through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

The Homily from Easter Morning

Please click on the link below in order to hear or read the Rector's Homily for 21 April HOMILY for 21 April

The Lections this Week

Easter III

5 May 2019

Year C

Acts 9.1-6

Psalm 30

Revelation 5.11-14

John 21.1-19

Volunteers for Coffee & ... after the 10.30 liturgy

Those who have signed up to provide light refreshments for Coffee & ... in the next few weeks are

5 May ??? 12 May ??? 19 May ???

The Annual Reports for 2018

The Reports presented at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, 21 January, are available in hardcopy form in the narthex or in the Parish Office, and may be view online by clicking on

Annual Report 2018

St Andrew's Crafters

With the Annual Christmas Bazaar fewer than six months away, the St Andrew's Crafters will next meet on

Monday, 6 May in the Parish House

and will continue to meet on the First Monday of the month through November.

Needed by The Kent Food Bank

This month, The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of coffee, tea, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, canned soups, canned or bottled fruit juices.

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

Also: the Bank is interested its selections for personal care including supplies for adult incontinence, soaps, toothpastes, feminine products, etc.

Donations may be dropped off in the basket in the narthex, to the left of the doors. And please: do try to make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

Announcements

The Book Discussion Group

... will next meet on Sunday, 5 May, at 9.30 a.m. in the Library in order to discuss Chapter 16 ('The Reign of Mary') in Eamonn Duffy's remarable study of the Pre-Reformation Church in England, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England*, 1400 - 1580. All are welcome!

A request from those who count the collection monies:

The counters ask us to help them by tagging our cheques so that they are certain as to how to receive them: as Pledge, as donations to the Capital Fund, donations to the Discretionary or Mission & Outreach Funds, etc.

Please remember that the loose offering on the first Sundays of the month

... is given to the Parish Discretionary Fund for those in any kind of need.

The Quality Thrift Shop

... at The First Congregational Church is very much an effort of the whole of our community to provide affordable clothing and household necessities to those who need them. Members of St Andrew's Parish and of Sacred Heart Church help out there, and more help is urgently needed! Whatever hours you can give will be appreciated, and so please call 860.927.3287 if you are able to assist!

Norfolk Library Art Show by Heather Scofield 'enLIGHTenment'

April 5-30 Opening with refreshments on Sunday, 7 April 4-6 p.m 9 Geenwoods Rd. E. Norfolk, CT 06058 (860) 542-5075

> At nearby Camp Washington 190 Kenyon Road, Lakeside campwashington.org 860.567.9623

SECOND SUNDAYS at Camp Washington at 4.30 p.m.

Guest clergy will offer a short program, followed by worship and then a simple meal, at Camp Washington on the second Sunday of the month. Those interested are asked to make reservations at 860.567.9623.

Further information is available at campwashington.org



A Request from *FISH* 'Friends in Service Here'

FISH provides rides for those needing to keep local medical appointments, local hair appointments, and to do local grocery shopping, and

VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY MUCH NEEDED, IN PARTICULAR DRIVERS!

Please call Edith Altvater (860.248.0316) if you can help!

Pawling Concert Series

Friday, 26 April
8.00 p.m.
Hubbard Court in the Smith Field House
Trinity-Pawling School
700 Route 22, Pawling, New York

Davina & The Vagabonds

in

A Coffee House-Style Concert

of New Orleans charm, Memphis soul, tender Gospel moments, and Kurt Weill-like theatricality

\$30/\$15 students

www.pawlingconcertseries.org