



www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * st.andrew.kent@snet.net



Ash
Wednesday

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,

The response to last week's video message was very positive, so I'll try it again. This week's is about our observance of Ash Wednesday, which is next week. You can view the message [here](#). Please let me know what you think!

As a reminder, on Ash Wednesday, we will be offering a brief, outdoor, socially distanced *Imposition of Ashes* in the Church Yard at 7:30 am and again at 12:30 pm, and an online *Holy Eucharist (Liturgy of the Day)* on the [St Andrew's YouTube channel](#).

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

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

Weekly Schedule for 7 February

Sunday, 14 February	Holy Eucharist (<i>online</i>)	10:30 am
Monday, 15 February	Holiday: Parish Office Closed	
Wednesday, 17 February	<i>Imposition of Ashes</i> (<i>in Church Yard</i>)	7:30 am
Wednesday, 17 February	<i>Imposition of Ashes</i> (<i>in Church Yard</i>)	12:30 pm
Wednesday, 17 February	Bible Study (<i>Zoom</i>)	4:30 pm
Wednesday, 17 February	Ash Wednesday Eucharist (<i>online</i>)	6:00 pm

STARTING 21 FEBRUARY: 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.

NEW FOR LENT: Lent Madness 2021

From Marel Rogers, St Andrew's Lent Madness coordinator extraordinaire:

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).

ALSO FOR LENT: 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.

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=.%.

FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH: Absalom Jones Offering



In honor of Black History Month and Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in The Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited Episcopalians everywhere to deepen our participation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation by engaging with and supporting Episcopal

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, known as HBCUs.

Congregations and individuals are urged to dedicate the offering from their observance of the commemoration of Absalom Jones (February 13) to support the two Episcopal HBCUs: St Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C., and Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. "These schools bring educational, economic, and social opportunity to often resource-poor communities, and they offer many blessings into the life of the Episcopal Church," Bishop Curry said. Donations to the HBCUs will provide much needed help to offer competitive scholarships and financial aid, attract and retain exceptional faculty, support cutting-edge faculty research, install new and upgraded technology campus-wide, and provide state-of-the-art classroom and athletic equipment.

"In light of our renewed covenant and commitment to the work of racial justice and reconciliation, I hope you will join me in supporting the Absalom Jones Fund this year," the Presiding Bishop said.

Jones was an African American abolitionist and clergyman, and the first African American ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. He was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop in 1746 in Delaware. Jones moved to Philadelphia after his master sold his plantation along with Absalom's mother and six siblings. Jones bought his wife Mary's freedom and later was granted his own emancipation in 1784. In 1787, with his friend Richard Allen, they founded the Free African Society, a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for Black people. Jones was ordained a priest on September 21, 1802, faithfully serving the African Episcopal Church of St Thomas in Philadelphia, which remains a vibrant congregation.

"As we commemorate Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in The Episcopal Church, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate his memory and to honor the witness of two schools that continue to form new leaders," Bishop Curry said. "In honor of Jones' commitment to advancing the education of African Americans and promoting the development of African American leaders in all areas of life, The Episcopal Church is delighted to designate Saint Augustine's University and Voorhees College as the beneficiaries of the 2021 Feast of Absalom Jones offerings."

Donations are accepted at episcopalchurch.org/givehbcus. You can also text GIVEHBCU to 41444.

ECCT Lenten Retreat

ROOTED IN HOPE IN A TIME OF ANXIETY:

Spiritual Nourishment and
Refreshment in the
Midst of Chronic Anxiety

Saturday, February 27, 2021 | 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
A day of learning, reflection and spiritual refreshment for laity



Rooted in Hope in a Time of Anxiety: A Day for Laity
Saturday, February 27 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Are you growing weary of life in “COVID-time?” Would you benefit from a Lenten Retreat?

Join our bishops and laity from across ECCT for a day of spiritual refreshment and learning. Living in the midst of chronic anxiety impacts all of us; our relationships with our children, spouses/partners, family, friends, colleagues, and faith communities. Together we will learn about the predictable ways humans react to chronic anxiety from **Dr. David Olsen**, a nationally recognized expert on the impact of anxiety on families and churches. We will also explore patterns of behavior that can help alleviate stress and anxiety. Interspersed throughout the day our chaplains from the **Bethany House of Prayer** will offer opportunities for reflection, meditation, and prayer.

Note: This is a free event open to all laity in ECCT; preregistration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Click [here](#) to register.

AROUND THE AREA: 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 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

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 Laura 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

Lections for this Week

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Year B

2 Kings 2:1-12;
Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9



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

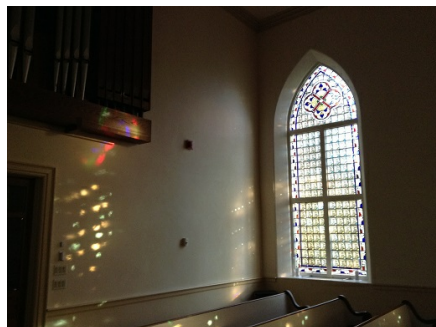
The Rev Douglas S

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Priest in Charge

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Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs

Laura Filippi,

Parish Administrator

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Bill McLaren,
Sexton

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Verger



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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

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org

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