

# THE CALL

ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

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## Homecoming



The Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

ON MY DESK, next to my computer, sits a small copy of my favorite icon: *The Trinity*, by the Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev. As well as being a pictorial representation of the Holy Trinity, this icon has always been to me a visual representation of a welcoming spiritual home. The icon presents a perfect image of "homecoming," which is our theme for this edition of *The Call*. It is a joy to celebrate the start of the new program year at St. Andrew's, beginning with the parish picnic on Sunday, September 11, as we return to our church home after the summer sabbatical.

The image in Rublev's icon is of three angels, representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are sitting around a table, upon which there is a chalice, representing their communion together. The gaze of each figure is directed towards another of the angels, and they are gesturing to each other. Interpreters of the icon tell us that this mutual regard signifies the sense of community and relationship that lies at the heart of the Christian

Trinitarian image of God. Interpreters also point out that there seems to be an open space at the front of the table, which indicates a welcome to us to join the figures in fellowship.

To me, Rublev's image captures what our spiritual home at St. Andrew's is about. A church is a home where we all find welcome and fellowship with God, who shows himself/herself to us in so many different ways in our lives. The chalice and table remind us that we are welcomed into that home in an intimate way. As we gather for spiritual nourishment around the communion table, we find the opportunity to explore and deepen our relationships with God and each other, and together we ask how God might be calling us forth into the world.

This image of our spiritual home echoes the vestry's vision for St. Andrew's, which is guiding the strategic planning process for the next chapter in the life of our parish. This vision is: *to grow our parish in breadth and depth by strengthening our worship, community, and ministries. Our hope is to deepen the faith of existing members and attract new people to our parish so that they can experience Christ's love. We wish to help people recognize their God-given talents and use them to serve God and their neighbor.*

Over the next few months, the leadership of St. Andrew's will complete the parish strategic plan, which will shape our common life for the next one to three years. During this past summer, a small working group compiled the information gathered from last fall's parish survey, with input from members of each ministry area. Discussion of "strategic plans"

and "surveys" can sound alien when we are considering matters of the soul. However, the purpose of the plan is to implement concrete new ideas that help to strengthen our spiritual home and our relationships with Christ.

Among the items suggested for inclusion in the final strategic plan are: a new informal service for families on Sunday evening, a parish pilgrimage, a midweek service for toddlers and their caregivers, Lenten spiritual discussion groups, and new adult formation offerings. The finalized strategic plan will be formally launched at the annual meeting in January, and we will continue to update you with our progress over the next few months.

Yours in Christ,



The Trinity, Andrei Rublev

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## Warden's Message

### Homecoming Is About Faith




Michael Vanin, Warden

**W**HEN OUR GIRLS were in school, the real "New Year" did not begin on January 1, but just after Labor Day—that fateful first day of classes. As the end of summer approached, anticipation grew, and the traditional preparations were planned: visits to Staples for a fresh supply of pens, pencils, and notebooks; Sports Authority for new cleats and taller field hockey sticks; and trudging through the mall for a whole new and more "grown up" wardrobe. Then came AP classes and new teachers, home and away sports schedules, the magnificence of the New England foliage, shortened afternoon daylight, and that familiar crispness in the air. Even though everyone hoped that summer could last forever, once the calendar flipped to September, there was no turning back. Autumn was embraced as a fresh start, and inevitably, homecoming on campus was accepted as a rite of passage rich with pagantry and expectation.

Although it arrives with a bit less fanfare, our church homecoming is also a time of great expectations, new challenges, and renewed hopes. While the St. Andrew's calendar is dictated by liturgical events, in many ways, we, too, embrace the "New Year"

in September. Our children come back to church school as a new cast of dedicated teachers becomes familiar with the curriculum; the annual parish picnic helps us to get reacquainted with friends we have not seen over the summer, and to welcome new members to St. Andrew's. The vestry begins its business, and even those newly elected, now with several months under their belts, feel seasoned. The buildings look a little more spruced up from renovations and improvements completed during the summer months. Yet, with all this newness, the calendar gives us a bit of a breather in September and October so that we can focus on getting ourselves established before the celebrations of Day of Service/Night of Fun (October 22), All Hallows' Eve (October 30), St. Andrew's Day (November 20), Thanksgiving (November 24), the first Sunday of Advent (November 27), and then the frenzy of the Christmas season.

As anyone who knows me will agree, I am a person who gets consumed with graphs and charts, with dates and calendars, and with numbers. These things represent precision and certainty. However, as I wrote down my thoughts for this article, I began to think . . . *How can I give up the security of my balance sheets and ledgers and make homecoming more about faith and less about the color coding and organization of my Outlook calendar?* I came across Ephesians 3:17-19, which says it well: "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."



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I would like to believe that I grow in faith every year, but not because I've found all the right answers or can plug 2017 numbers into the 2016 model. It's because I have come to believe that faith is an evolutionary progression, and because I have the community of St. Andrew's helping me to grow. I have my family, who accepts me (warts and all) as a work in progress and a model of improvement (even though an imperfect one). So, I commit this year's homecoming to a new direction, about Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith, and about recognizing how love grounds us, gives us permanence, and sustains our roots.

Yes, church school is important because it fosters Christian learning in our young people. The parish picnic is important because it promotes fellowship. The new *Faith and Practice* Series has been a great and welcome addition to our Sunday morning schedule because it opens our eyes to new subjects or helps us to find new ways of thinking about subjects that feel familiar. But, as one vestry member asked recently: "Are we simply 'smarter' Christians, or can we strive to be deeper ones?" I submit that we should never stop learning, never stop reaching to become the best we can be. But there is more to life than the measuring tape of

personal improvement; that gap is what faith fills.

So for me, Homecoming 2016 will still be about celebrating all of those classic traditions that are neatly marked and color-coded on my four calendars. But what I pledge to myself is to make the start of the new year a more faithful one—volunteering to help those who are underserved, offering my talents to help grow our membership, fostering more fellowship missions and, lastly, being as generous as possible with sharing our treasures with worthy organizations, including giving to St. Andrew's through our upcoming stewardship campaign.

## Faith and Practice: New Offerings

*Preach the gospel at all times; if necessary, use words.* — St. Francis of Assisi



The Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

IN THE PAST YEAR, our Adult Christian Learning committee has worked hard to reflect upon adult education at St. Andrew's. What do we enjoy, and what do we want more of? Is there room for something new?

Since January, our committee has noticed a growing hunger in our parish. Parishioners told us they wanted to engage their faith not only in intellectual ways but also in practical, daily ways. We thought about how to support each other in living out our Christian faith actively. How could we deep-

en our shared faith and explore our faith more intentionally?

We are excited about continuing our 9am Christian Learning Series and our monthly Bible Circles, but we are also excited about launching some new offerings:

- We are launching a *Faith and Practice* Series, an intergenerational program that invites us to deepen our practice of Christianity. Come for one program or all five in the series; you will be welcome. Topics will include *Engaging the Lord's Prayer More Deeply* (October 2), *How to Visit a Sick Friend* (November 7) and *Practicing Forgiveness* (February 5, 2017). Offered on the first Sunday of the month in October, November, February, March, and April, *Faith and Practice* will meet from 11:30am to 12:15pm in Room 2, or the Harvey Room.
- This fall, we invite you to take a field trip or two. We are planning a field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where we will participate in a guided tour of a few unique religious paintings, and consider how art inspires our faith: dates and times to be announced.

- We have been invited to attend a Friday night service with Rabbi Rachel Saphire at Temple Beth Elohim, a 4,000-member synagogue in Wellesley. Rabbi Saphire has spoken at our Lenten series for the past five years, and this fall she has invited us to worship with her faith community. This field trip will help us to appreciate our neighbors in Wellesley more fully, and help us to better understand our own faith's Jewish roots.
- Do you want to combine your love of running with your church life? We are looking for people who want to run the annual Wellesley Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Day as part of a new St. Andrew's team.

Our Adult Christian Learning committee is offering these new programs in a spirit of adventure. We hope they will encourage you to engage Christianity in a new way, and we hope they will inspire us to deepen our faith as individuals and as a community. Please let us know which programs nurture you the best.



## Turning Church into Your Children’s Second Home



The Rev. Catherine “Cat” Healy

SPEND A LOT OF TIME thinking about how to make St. Andrew’s a place where children feel safe, welcome, and loved. I want our parish to be a second home for every child who passes through our doors—a home that provides stability and affection throughout every season of life. If you have children at St. Andrew’s, here are a few things you can do to make that second-home feeling come alive for them.

**Come to church!** The more often your children are in church school on Sunday morning (or youth group on Sunday evening), the more fun they’ll have. They will get to know their peers and become familiar with the rhythm of the church year, and they’ll become comfortable in the liturgy when they join you in church for communion.

**Volunteer in our church school.** You don’t need to be a trained teacher or a Bible expert to help out as a church school teacher! When

your turn to teach is coming up, invite your child to help you plan the lesson. Read the upcoming week’s Bible story together and choose activities for the class that look enjoyable to both of you.

**Volunteer with your child.** Children of all ages can learn their way around the church by helping to put away craft supplies, collect recyclables, or clean up in the kitchen. Older children (grades 8 and up) make great assistant church school teachers, and you and your child can share the joy of teaching together.

**Read the weekly church school meditation.** Find out what the topic of the coming Sunday’s lesson will be and mention it to your child. Pull out a children’s Bible and read the Bible story of the week as a bedtime story.

**Ask meaningful questions about what your children are learning in church school.** Every grown-up has learned the hard way that “What did you do today?” never gets much of a response. Instead, try asking for specifics: “What was the best question you asked today?” or “What was the most fun song you sang today?” or “Did anything about today’s story surprise you?”

**Attend church events outside Sunday morning.** Church will feel more like home for your children if they get used to running around the building and having fun at events like the All Hallows’ Eve Potluck in October, Family Cookies

& Carols in December, or the Family Seder during Holy Week.

**Make play dates with other families from St. Andrew’s.** Church is a social experience for kids, just as much as it is for adults. Help your children get excited about seeing their friends at church by nurturing those relationships outside the church walls.

**Help your children learn the Lord’s Prayer.** Mastery of this short but powerful prayer will help them feel at home during the Eucharistic prayer at church, when they are able to recite it with the rest of the congregation. You don’t need drills or flash cards—reading the words together at bedtime is a good way to lay the groundwork for memorization.

**Talk with your children about what happens at communion.** Even if they’ve been through Holy Communion prep, they may still be mystified by the purpose of the bread and the wine we share every week. There’s no need to get into heavy questions of doctrine; your children will be interested in how communion helps you feel close to God.

These are just a few ideas to get you started on helping your kids feel at home at St. Andrew’s. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you’d like to talk about them further. It’s a pleasure to share the work of building our parish community together.

# The Legacy Society

Randy Parker

FOR MANY OF US, St. Andrew's is our church home—not only as a place, but also as a collection of relationships and experiences that have provided support and a spiritual foundation for us and for our families. Perhaps it has been a source of guidance and inspiration, a place of celebration for many of life's blessings and holidays, and a sanctuary of solace during difficult times. As our lives evolve, our relationships with our homes (and our church) change. Perhaps we move away—physically relocating or moderating our involvement over time. Nevertheless, our sentimental and spiritual connection with St. Andrew's remains intact.

Many parishioners have chosen to acknowledge the importance of that long-term relationship by honoring St. Andrew's with a planned gift or

bequest. In 2002, as part of the "Many Gifts, One Spirit" capital campaign, the Legacy Society was created as a way for parishioners to formally include St. Andrew's in their wills. As a result of that effort, nearly 60 parishioners have joined the Legacy Society. Over the last fifteen years, many of their gifts have benefited St. Andrew's, either for a specific purpose or directed to the broad mission of St. Andrew's through a contribution to the endowment.

A contribution to the endowment provides a powerful long-term benefit to St. Andrew's. As the endowment grows, it supports a larger annual draw (calculated as 4% of the principal over a three year average), supplementing the annual pledges and providing on-going operating support.

We've come to realize that it is time to reacquaint people with the purpose of the Legacy Society: to provide lasting support to St. Andrew's through an intentional bequest. We also believe that it is important to honor those who have made contributions. This fall, we will begin an effort to recognize those who have recently died, and whose bequests have been realized, by celebrating their lives, acknowledging their relationship to St. Andrew's, and showing our gratitude for their gifts.

We encourage you to consider becoming a member of the Legacy Society and including St. Andrew's in your will. If you have questions about how to make a bequest or any aspect of the Legacy Society, you can speak with one of the clergy or wardens.

## St. Andrew's Reception Team



Debbie Osborn

AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER of St. Andrew's for the past 16 years, I thought I had a good sense of the multi-generational volunteer involvement of our many parishioners. However, I recently discovered a tireless team that must be acknowledged! Organized and led by Dot Reed and the late Janet Thompson over 20 years ago, this special team caters our funeral receptions. Originally they were known as the *Reception Ladies*,

but with time the volunteers now include both men and women. St. Andrew's could not offer this ministry to families without their sensitivity and commitment.

Dot and Janet recognized that the culture around what families could provide in a time of deep need had changed significantly. Many years ago, neighbors would contribute food to the family home and relatives and friends could celebrate the life of someone special together in the inviting atmosphere of home. Families live much farther away now and travel many miles to funerals and memorial services. They are usually not connected enough with a base in Wellesley to organize a reception at a local venue. So "home" is St. Andrew's for relatives and friends.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to help out at John Thomas Henderson's reception in June. He and his wife, Anneliese, are longstanding members of our parish. I arrived at church at

9:30am to help with a noon reception. The team was already in our kitchen, which is dedicated to Janet Thompson. They were happily chatting and quietly organizing tables and platters for an expected crowd of well over 100 people. During the reception a gentleman came up to me, commented on how nice everything looked, and asked: Who was the caterer responsible for it? Well, I introduced him to some of our reception team . . .

Thank you Dot and Janet for having the foresight so many years ago to provide a home at St. Andrew's for those who are grieving for their loved ones. And thank you, Margaret Zusky, for recently taking over the reins for our receptions. Our reception team represents the love and care that helps sustain our very special church community.

**To our reception team, and the other parishioners who join them, we say thank you!**

# Reflections on Homecoming



Jenny Sawyer

**W**RITING ABOUT a single moment when I felt at home at St. Andrew's was difficult for me. I always feel at home at St. Andrew's—during worship, at fellowship events, and during “work” as an office volunteer. But I guess I didn't realize just how at home I was until I stopped into Roche Brothers one hot summer evening. Tired, hungry, and in need of a shower, I was hoping to go unnoticed in my pursuit of a prepared dinner. 'Twas not to be. Quickly spotted at the chicken

nuggets, I looked up, completely embarrassed, to the bright smile of a fellow parishioner. As we chatted for a bit, my self-consciousness started to fade away, and I felt the warmth and kindness of a person I had come to call my friend. That night, I actually saw four more parishioners (!), each with the same non-judgmental reaction to my appearance. It wasn't until I walked through my front door, greeted by my children, when I heard these words uttered for the first time: “You went to the store like that!”



Marie Dunell

**I**T IS SAID THAT A HOME is not just a place, but a feeling. The month of September represents that special time at St. Andrew's when we all come “home” to reconnect and renew our faith in God and community. I love seeing everyone and catching up on their time away, whether it involves travels, projects, or personal growth.

Fall is also a time when we refocus our commitment to the St. Andrew's community, whether it be volunteering with St. Stephen's, the altar guild, or our church school education program.

Just as family members feel a connection to each other and help build the family by contributing in areas of their choice, St. Andrew's provides a rich offering for its members with their many diverse talents and interests. It has been a true blessing for me to work with fellow Rite-13 leaders and young people who are exploring their relationships with God and family. I know that it has strengthened my faith and commitment to both God and St. Andrew's, allowing me to feel that I am in a place where I belong.

Photo: Peter Lull



# St. Andrew's Stained Glass Windows

IN 1983, ST. ANDREW'S PARISH historian and scholar Gertrude Green Cronk published a pamphlet describing the beautiful collection of stained glass windows that adorn our sanctuary. Here is the seventh in an ongoing series about the windows.

—Jane Givens

THE LEFT-HAND Saint Joan of Arc window is in memory of Agnes Wilkes Rankin (1862-1930), who was a nurse in World War I. There is no record as to who gave this window. It may have been A. E. Rankin, who was vestryman, 1910-1914, and warden 1915-1934, or it may have been J. Wilkes Rankin, lieutenant of the U.S. Navy in World War I.

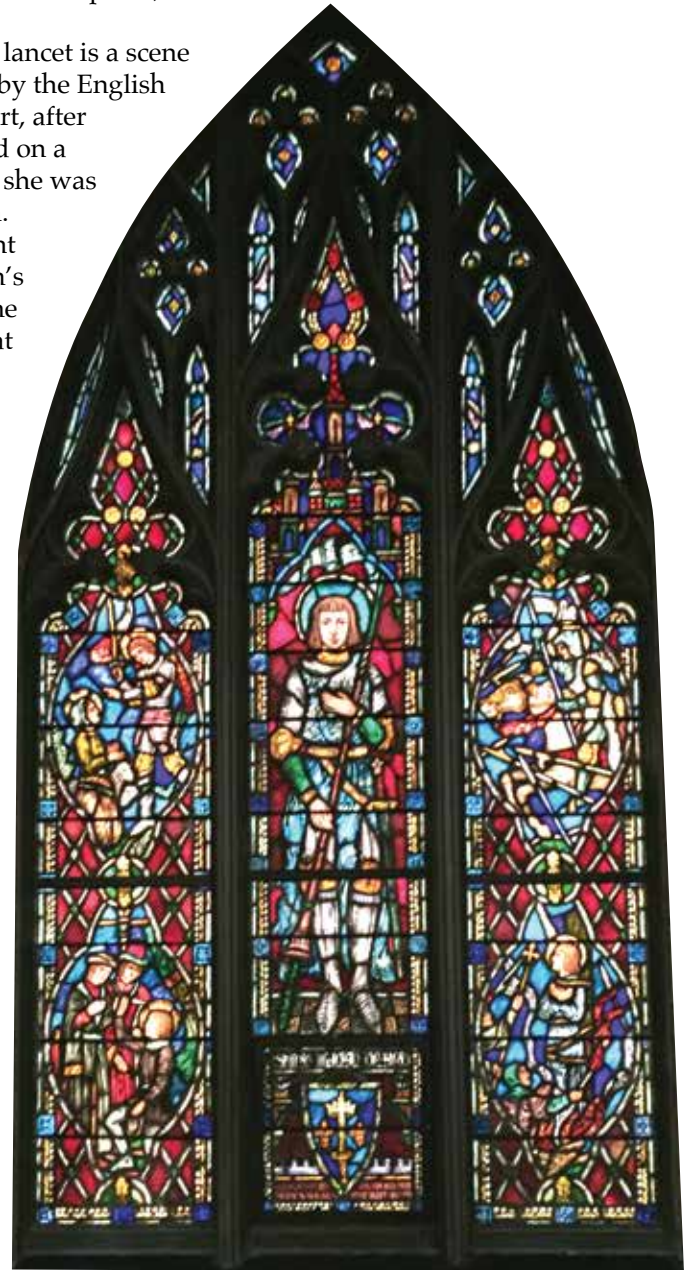
The window has as its theme Saint Joan of Arc (1412-1431). Joan, both warrior and saint, occupies the central lancet of the window. As warrior, she stands, clad in white armor, with green tunic, holding across her body a standard from the top of which waves a white banner. As Saint Joan, a green halo bordered with gold surrounds her head. Above the tracery are brilliantly colored fleur-de-lis, emblem of the fair realm of France, which Joan set forth to save from the English encroachment. Below her, enclosed within a green shield, is an upturned sword, topped by a crown. On either side, again, fleur-de-lis. The sword doubtless signifies Joan's martyrdom; the crown, her glorious military victories.

In each side panel, the artist portrays a significant scene from Joan's life, each scene within an almandine enclosure. In the upper left, Michael, general of the hosts of heaven, stretches his left arm toward Joan, who kneels before him. Joan is thus anointed, called to lead men-at-arms against English usurpation, until she should see Charles the Dauphin crowned as King. The upper right lancet depicts Joan mounted on her charger, riding

into battle with fierce impetus, her white banner waving.

The lower left lancet is a scene from Joan's trial by the English ecclesiastical court, after her capture. Tried on a charge of heresy, she was doomed to death.

The lower right scene shows Joan's martyrdom. In the center of the great market place of Rouen has been raised a pile of logs. Joan stands condemned, bound with ropes to the stake, hands clasped. The executioner at her lower left feeds flame to the logs with his long torch. Dark red flames encircle her body. Joan called to her Savior as she died, "O God, that madest this beautiful earth, when will it be ready to receive thy saints? How long, O Lord, how long?"



The Saint Joan of Arc Window

Photo: Katharine Clark

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