



THE CALL

ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

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What does it mean to deepen your faith?



The Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

“WHAT DOES IT MEAN to deepen your faith?” This was a question posed to the new vestry at their recent retreat, held at the Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington. This seemed an important question to be asking the new leadership of our parish, since deepening the faith of the congregation is one of the two main priorities in our new strategic plan. The other main priority is to attract new members—and, in fact, the two priorities go hand in hand, because you won't attract new members if your existing congregation is not being spiritually fed and strengthened.

For some people, the meaning of “deepening your faith” may be obvious. But to many of us, it might not be clear what is meant by this phrase, which can roll easily off the tongues of clergy. So, after a conversation with our other clergy and our wardens, we concluded that a less vague and more concrete

way to address this issue was to ask a different question: “What do you find challenging about being a Christian?” These challenges can be wide-ranging. Sometimes, they include the temptations of money, status, or the desire for comfort. At other times, challenges to our faith can be about being caught in jobs or life situations that make following Christ feel very difficult. For many of us, it can be a combination of these or other reasons.

This question—“What do you find challenging about being a Christian?”—is a good question for us all to be asking in this time of self-reflection during the season of Lent. It is worth remembering that it is not very different from the challenge Christ posed to himself when he went into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights to be tempted by Satan: “What are the temptations that could prevent me from fulfilling my God-given destiny?” Lent is a time for us to identify and commit to addressing some of the spiritual challenges that may be facing us.

I know that many of us don't feel very comfortable talking about their faith, or well-equipped to share it. Episcopalians tend to be very good at “doing our faith”; we excel at providing excellent worship and music, at generous outreach, at providing Christian education, and at fellowship. But we aren't always skilled at reflecting on our spiritual lives. In my last parish, I once asked a group of

parishioners about their experiences of God. My inquiry was greeted with embarrassed silence, until one person dared to say: “I don't think I have ever had one.”

I then talked a bit about my own experience of God. After I spoke, people began to talk about similar experiences, things that they had either not recognized or perhaps not had the confidence to name as experiences of God. But as we shared our experiences, a quiet confidence seemed to grow among the group that God was alive and well in their lives.

One of my hopes for St. Andrew's is that we become a people who are able to reflect upon and articulate our faith—both to others and to ourselves. It is not that I want us to become “churchy bores” who feel compelled to always talk about Jesus. But I am aware that we often don't even have the language or experience to speak about what difference our Christian faith has made to our lives. In an increasingly secular world, it is important that we are able to articulate why our faith matters.

Yours in Christ,

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Walking Fully in the Steps of Christ



Michael Vanin, Warden

WHEN I SAT DOWN to write this article, it occurred to me that, unlike other holidays (Christmas and Halloween, for example), Lent is not easily embraced by the general population. Much of the Christian calendar is celebratory, and Madison Avenue does a great job of encouraging us to consume more, ensuring that our holiday will be "merry and bright." But the season of Lent is identified with sacrifice and repentance. Putting a sales spin on "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" is a pretty tall order.

So why do 1.2 billion Christians around the world observe the tradition of Lent by fasting or giving up something, like alcohol or sweets? Is it our way of recreating Christ's 40-day fast in the wilderness?

The words "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" come from the Old Testament, when God told Adam that one of the main consequences of his eating the forbidden fruit was that he was now separate from God, and was no longer immortal. Returning to dust is our call

to action—reminding us that we only have a finite amount of time to emulate the good news of Christ, following his teachings by doing good things.

As I have written in past letters from the warden, I always pledge to give up something for Lent. Last year, it was alcohol (not as tough as I thought it would be). My sacrifice is a symbol of my spiritual commitment to give up those things that prevent me from walking more fully in the steps of Christ. But I know that after the 40 days of sacrifice comes a great celebration—the spirit of the resurrection and anticipation of Easter. This holiday's symbolism more easily rejoins Madison Avenue (baby chicks, brightly colored eggs) and again crosses over as a celebration embraced by the general public.

I revel in the anticipation of my own rebirth. I believe that everything is possible when we give ourselves a fresh start. God will show us this evidence everywhere—more daylight, warmer temperatures, the emergence of the Earth coming alive with freshly sprouted flowers, and the greenery of the tree leaves. That is the hope and the joy I embrace beyond sacrifice and self-denial.

I challenge you to find your own path toward the positive during this Lenten season. My path is to focus on being a better person, leaving good in my wake, treating others as I would like to be treated, and dedicating my last year as warden to doing all I can to leave a lasting positive imprint on St. Andrew's.



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Preparing for Joy

Prayer, Reflection, Retreat, and Pilgrimage



The Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

EASTER IS BOTH A DAY and a season. In the Episcopal liturgical calendar, we have 50 days of Easter to practice living into the promise of God's transforming, life-giving love for each of us. This Lent, we are preparing for the joy of Easter with four different offerings, and one long-range possibility.

- Join us on Wednesday nights for our Lenten Program and

Potluck, where we have the opportunity to consider a great modern theologian's views on God, Jesus, Salvation, and Community. We will be clarifying our own faith and beliefs in the process of appreciating Marcus Borg's beliefs. Join us on Wednesday nights, beginning at 6:30pm in the parish hall.

- In our spring Faith and Practice series, Rev. Catherine Healy will be facilitating "How to Pray in Color," sharing insights from the book *Praying in Color*, by Sybil MacBeth. There are a million ways to pray, and some of them are in color. Join us in the Harvey Room on April 2 after the 10am service.
- Join us as we read our Lenten Meditation Guide, which offers a devotional reading for each day of Lent, authored by members of the St. Andrew's community.
- On April 1, we are holding our second annual Women's Retreat.

Twenty members of our congregation will meet from 9am to 3pm at the Bethany House of Prayer, an Episcopal retreat center in Arlington, MA. Please let me know if you want to attend.

- Finally, St. Andrew's is considering a pilgrimage to Rome or Ireland in 2018. I've heard wonderful stories about past trips to Jerusalem and England. This term, we will be asking for your feedback and interest in a 2018 trip. If you want to be a part of this spiritual adventure, or have a preference for where we travel, please email me. We are reviving the tradition of pilgrimage at St. Andrew's.

Blessings to you in the sober journey of Lent and in the joyful journey of Eastertide.

Living an Authentic Life

Interview with Anna Page



The Rev. Catherine "Cat" Healy

IN 2016, FOR THE FIRST TIME in many years, our parish took the bold step of sponsoring an aspirant to the priesthood. Anna Page is a senior at Wellesley College, the commander of the ROTC Paul Revere Battalion, which is based at MIT, and an active volunteer with youth ministries at St. Andrew's. She was recently admitted to the U.S. Army Chaplain Candidate Program, as well as the ordination process in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and is preparing to

enter seminary next fall. I recently sat down with Anna to talk about faith, work, the Army, and living an authentic life.

What will your life as an Army chaplain look like?

After I graduate from seminary and am ordained as a priest, I will serve in the Army Chaplain Corps for a minimum of five years of active duty, followed by three years of reserve duty. During active duty, I'll be assigned to a unit as the battalion

continued next page



Anna Page at the 82nd Airborne Museum, posing by the Eucharist kit used by the Rev. Chester Wood, an Episcopal priest and the only chaplain to make four combat jumps in World War II.

chaplain, catering to the needs of men and women in uniform and their families. The Army calls chaplains to “nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead.” Within garrison, I will lead Episcopal worship services; while deployed, I’ll lead ecumenical Christian worship services and respond to the spiritual needs of soldiers from all (or no) faith traditions.

What are some books you would recommend to members of St. Andrew’s who are looking to deepen their faith?

First and foremost, *The Praise of Folly*, by Erasmus. Reading it as I was going through the discernment process was a huge moment for me as a person of faith. Erasmus explains that true wisdom is to admit that you know nothing—and when that happens, you’ll feel more peaceful and recognize that everything is in God’s hands.

There are several devotionals that I’ve loved. *Jesus Was an Airborne Ranger*, by John McDougall, spoke to me as a religious person in the military. As a teenager, I enjoyed *Devotions for the God Girl*, by Hayley DiMarco. I also love C.S.

Lewis, Harvey Cox and Timothy Keller—they all have such interesting, accessible approaches to theology.

What advice would you give to a teenager who is trying to decide whether military service is the right choice for them?

First, I would say it’s important for them to try to figure out who they are as authentic individuals. Embracing authenticity has become more and more important to me as I recognize that when I am true to myself, success will come—not always in terms of power or wealth, but the more fulfilling kind of success that lets you wake up in the morning with a smile on your face, feeling excited about getting out of bed, and doing the work you feel called to do.

Specifically pertaining to military service, I would advise them to do some research to understand what the military lifestyle looks like. It’s disciplined and regimented; there will be demands on you, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, that you have never experienced before—but for the right person, it’s exciting. As soon

as you make the commitment to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, you’re part of something so much bigger than yourself.

What’s the most exciting experience you’ve had in the Army so far?

I completed the Basic Airborne Course in Fort Benning, Georgia. It was the most amazing, humbling, exhilarating, faith-inducing, fear-inspiring experience I’ve ever had to be able to jump out of airplanes and helicopters and realize how much at the mercy of God and nature we really are. You jump out and your parachute deploys—you feel so small and the world is so beautiful—and you realize how big and how connected everything really is.

Talk about a few classes at Wellesley that have had an impact on you.

The Wellesley history department has been so formative in my development as a critical thinker. I loved my class on Renaissance literature, which was team-taught by a historian and an English professor. I also loved my game theory class, which has had a real impact on the way I view the world and assess different situations, and my courses on ancient warfare. I’m excited about this semester because all my classes are focused on conflict and post-conflict transformation.

What have you most enjoyed about being part of St. Andrew’s?

When I walked into St. Andrew’s, I felt the energy and excitement, and it was reassuring to see that the congregation wanted college students to come to church. As soon as I expressed interest in being involved, my desire to serve was embraced. I don’t yet have the words to say how appreciative I am of my discernment committee, the clergy and the whole congregation for all their support.

Calendar

March

Wednesday, March 15
6pm Lenten Series

Thursday, March 16
11am Holy Eucharist at North Hill
7:30pm Worship Meeting

Friday, March 17
7:30pm MetroWest Choral

Sunday, March 19
9am Adult Christian Learning

9:45am Kids' Place, Church School,
and Rite-13
5pm Informal Eucharist

Wednesday, March 22
6pm Lenten Series

Friday, March 24
7pm Youth Group Bowling Night

Sunday, March 26
9am Adult Christian Learning

9:45am Kids' Place, Church School,
and Rite-13
5pm Confirmation Prep
6:45pm High School Youth Group

Tuesday, March 28
5:15pm Service at Salvation Army
Miracle Kitchen
7:30pm Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, March 29
6pm Lenten Series

April

Saturday, April 1
8am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, April 2
9am Coffee hour for 8am Worshippers
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School,
and Rite-13
10am Holy Eucharist and Blessing of
Food
11am Newcomers' Brunch
11:30am Faith and Practice

Monday, April 3
7pm Reading Mavens

Wednesday, April 5
6pm Lenten Series
7:30pm Men's Book Club

Thursday, April 6
10:30am Church School Committee
Meeting

Friday, April 7
Confirmation Class Retreat

Saturday, April 8
Confirmation Class Retreat
8:45am Family Promise Walk Away
Hunger

Sunday, April 9
9am Adult Christian Learning
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School,
and Rite-13
5pm Informal Eucharist
6:45pm High School Youth Group

Monday, April 10
7:30pm Taizé-style service

Tuesday, April 11
9:15am Pastoral Care Team Meeting
10:30am Bible Circle
7:30pm Outreach Meeting
7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, April 12
7:30pm Service of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 13
6pm Family Seder
7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service
and Footwashing
9pm Maundy Thursday Overnight
Vigil

Friday, April 14
12pm Good Friday Liturgy
2pm Good Friday Children's Service
and Hot Cross Buns
4pm Youth Group Overnight
7:30pm Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 15
9am Holy Saturday Service
7:30pm The Great Vigil of Easter and
Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 16
8am Junior Choir Practice
8am Senior Choir Practice
9am Holy Festival Eucharist
10am Easter Egg Hunt
11am Festival Easter Eucharist

Monday, April 17
Parish Office Closed

Thursday, April 20
11am Holy Eucharist at North Hill

Sunday, April 23
9am Adult Christian Learning
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School,
and Rite-13
11:30am Adult Forum
11:30am *common cathedral*
5pm Confirmation Prep
6:45pm High School Youth Group

Tuesday, April 25
5:15pm Service at Salvation Army
Miracle Kitchen
7:30pm Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, April 26
7pm Bible Circle

Sunday, April 30
9am Adult Christian Learning
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School,
and Rite-13
11am Confirmation Prep Bargain
Haul Drop Off
11:30am Bargain Haul Drop-off
11:30am Youth Group Bargain Haul
Service Project
6:45pm High School Youth Group

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The **Sunday Holy Eucharist** is celebrated at 8am, 10am and 5pm (except where noted). The **Holy Eucharist** is also celebrated every Wednesday at 7:30am. All are welcome! **Silent Contemplative Prayer** is offered Monday through Friday at 8:45am. **Senior Choir** has rehearsal every Thursday evening at 7:30pm and every Sunday at 9am, unless otherwise noted. **Junior Choir** meets every Sunday at 9am, unless otherwise noted. **Parish office hours** are Monday through Thursday 9am–5pm and Fridays 9am–12 noon, and **staff meetings** are Wednesdays at 9:30am. **Please note:** there will be some changes/additions and the most up-to-date calendar is found on the website.

Monday, May 1

9am Bargain Haul Drop-off
6pm Bargain Haul Drop-off

Tuesday, May 2

9am Bargain Haul Drop-off

Wednesday, May 3

7:30pm Men's Book Club

Thursday, May 4

10:30am Church School Committee Meeting

Friday, May 5

6pm Parish Night

Saturday, May 6

8am Men's Bible Study
8am Youth Group Bargain Haul Service
8:30am Bargain Haul

Sunday, May 7

9am Coffee hour for 8am Worshippers
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-13
5pm Informal Eucharist

Monday, May 8

7pm Reading Mavens

Tuesday, May 9

9:15am Pastoral Care Team Meeting
10:30am Bible Circle

Wednesday, May 10

7pm Bible Circle

Thursday, May 11

9:15am Altar Guild Ascension Day Observed

Saturday, May 13

8am Youth Group Whitewater Rafting Trip

Sunday, May 14

9am Adult Christian Learning
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-13
10am Holy Eucharist and Holy Baptism
5pm Confirmation Prep
6:45pm High School Youth Group

Tuesday, May 16

7:30pm Outreach Meeting

Thursday, May 18

11am Holy Eucharist at North Hill

Saturday, May 20

9:30am Youth Group Diocesan Acolyte Festival Trip

Sunday, May 21

9am Adult Christian Learning
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-13
4pm Grace Knight Babson

Tuesday, May 23

5:15pm Service at Salvation Army Miracle Kitchen
7:30pm Vestry Meeting

Sunday, May 28

9am Adult Christian Learning
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-13

Monday, May 29

Parish Office Closed



Photo: Peter Lull

June

Thursday, June 1

10:30am Church School Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 3

8am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, June 4

9am Coffee hour for 8am Worshippers
9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-13

Monday, June 5

7pm Reading Mavens

Wednesday, June 7

7:30pm Men's Book Club

Sunday, June 11

9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-13

Tuesday, June 13

9:15am Pastoral Care Team Meeting
7:30pm Outreach Meeting

Thursday, June 15

11am Holy Eucharist at North Hill

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Parish Register *Baptisms Benjamin Payne Dietz, Mason William McNamara Burials Patricia Jane Conroy Dwight*

A Page from St. Andrew's History

A look at the history of St. Andrew's can reveal some surprising and little-known facts about our parish. For one, we were a community on the move for our first decades, until we found our present home.

St. Andrew's First Twenty Years

1875 First meeting was held in Waban Hall, Wellesley Square

1880 Sunday afternoon services were held in the small YMCA building on Church Street near the cemetery, and then in the upper story of a wheelwright shop on Washington Street, opposite the entrance to the Town Hall

1886 Services were moved to the new Town Hall

1887 The Ladies' Aid Society purchased an organ

1890 Wellesley College petitioned the bishop to establish an Episcopal mission in Wellesley

1892 The mission, originally named Christ Mission, was renamed St. Andrew's Church

1894 The parish adopted articles of incorporation and voted to build, borrowing \$3,500 as an initial mortgage and holding the first service on St. Andrew's Day

Photo: Courtesy Wellesley Public Library



St. Andrew's Church, Circa 1894

Our 1903 Budget

IN 1903, THE ANNUAL BUDGET was \$2,955. The rector's annual salary was \$1,000. To maintain this financial picture, the vestry devised a plan whereby the congregation of one hundred was divided into five classes: Class A consisted of ten people who were expected to

give \$1.00 per week, down through Class E at \$.05 per week, for a total of \$1,508. With that amount, along with other offerings throughout the year, plus the annual check of \$350 from Miss Carrie J. Cook of Dana Hall School (\$7 per student per year) and contributions from

the Ladies' Guild, the total income was \$2,955. Five hundred dollars, excluding the rector's salary, were spent for music and repairs to the church. Ten dollars per year were allowed for the church school.

Lent in 1975

"LENT IS NOT AS EASY TO OBSERVE as it used to be. The mobility and complexity of suburban life makes sustained and continuous Lenten programs more difficult to plan

and to attend. The purpose of Lent, however, can still be observed as a period of time when we take an inventory of our Christian beliefs and values, our true commitment to

Jesus Christ and His Church, our attitudes toward other people, and the vitality of our lives as Christians."

—Rev. James R. McColl, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, 1975

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