



# THE CALL

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS  
ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

NO. 384  
FALL 2019

## So What?



*The Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole*

**"SO WHAT?"** That was the question we were asked again and again about our sermons by Mark Jefferson, the Preaching Professor at Virginia Theological Seminary at the preaching course I attended in June. We were told to ask ourselves, Does this sermon matter? Why are you preaching it? Why will this sermon matter to the people you are preaching it to?

Professor Jefferson emphasized that a sermon should always point towards the vision and mission of your church. He challenged us by asking: if we don't know where our church is going, how can we form people through our preaching? If we don't have a sense of direction, our preaching will be scattered and reactive.

### **125th Anniversary, So What?**

As we have been celebrating our 125th anniversary of St. Andrew's Church with a very successful

capital campaign, with the plans for a gala party at the Wellesley Country Club on November 2, and our St. Andrew's Day Festival Eucharist on November 24, I have found myself asking the "so what?" question in relation to what we are celebrating. Clearly, we are not just celebrating the passage of 125 years.

I have found the answer to the question of what we are celebrating in the snippets from our church archives featured on the front page of our weekly bulletin. They paint a rich picture of a parish bound together by a deep sense of community and care for one another, a church focused on the importance of worship, a community committed to passing on the faith to our children, a parish which is also outward-looking in its outreach and care for those in need, and, underlying all of these things, a parish motivated by the love of God.

### **Our Future, So What?**

But as we look towards the future of our parish, it is critical that we continue to ask afresh the "so what?" question. In a world where church-going is one among many options on a Sunday morning, we need to have a compelling vision of why the spiritual practice of coming to church can make all the difference in people having a meaningful and fulfilled life. When I consider why God sent me to be the rector of St. Andrew's, there are a number of key elements in

my vision and hope for our parish which I hope are reflected in my leadership and preaching.

My underlying belief is that God is dynamically in action in the world inviting us to be partners in realizing the divine vision of love for the world. It is in participating in this work with God, using our time and talents, that we find meaning and purpose in our lives. I believe that the Holy Spirit is constantly knocking at the door of our souls asking to be allowed to enter our lives filling us with divine love.

The trouble is that our lives can be so distracting that we lose sight of this reality or invite other idols to fill our lives. The central part of my vision for St. Andrew's is that the role of the church is to remind us of this reality and to provide space and spiritual practices to help us have eyes and ears to recognize in our daily lives how God is reaching out to us and calling us.

My prayer is that St. Andrew's can help us learn that, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, each of us can be more loving, more forgiving, and have a sense of being more loved and forgiven by God that we realize now. I have a deep sense of hope that God is always waiting around the corner to deepen our relationship with God and with each other.

Yours in Christ,

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# Warden's Message

## Welcome Back!



David Hamlin, warden

**W**ELCOME BACK! I hope you each had a restful and enjoyable summer. Perhaps you stayed local and enjoyed our lovely towns, the lack of traffic, and a bit slower pace. Perhaps you spent time at a summer home or on a special trip. Becky and I were lucky to do a bit of all of the above. We have a summer cottage on the eastern shore of the upper Chesapeake Bay. We both grew up spending summers on the bay; sailing, water skiing, and eating lots of blue crab. We also enjoyed being home in Dover, as well as a trip to London to see the Red Sox play the Yankees. Regardless of where we were, St. Andrew's was not far from our thoughts, particularly in this exciting 125th anniversary year. It was a busy summer at St. Andrew's, but both Adrian and Margaret were able to take some well-deserved vacation time.

Happily, our new assistant rector, Mia Kano, started in July. Mia and her husband Aaron, who hails from Wayland, have settled into the apartment at 7 Denton Road. Mia has been busy meeting parishioners, getting to know her colleagues, and gearing up for the youth formation school year. She was ordained in early June at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston. Adrian participated in

the service and Paige Manning attended as a representative of the vestry. I hope you will read Mia's profile in this edition of *The Call*. Welcome, Mia!

In June, the second Indaba Encounter Weekend was hosted by St. David's Church in South Yarmouth. (Indaba is an African-style method of purposeful conversation and relationship building used throughout the Anglican Communion.) The weather was perfect, and it was a meaningful weekend of learning, sharing, worshiping, and socializing. Among the activities was attendance at Pride Day in Hyannis. Adrian, Cynthia Scott, Michael Vanin, and I represented St. Andrew's.

Our capital campaign *Grateful for Our Past, Giving for Our Future* while officially over, continues to receive generous contributions. As you know we successfully exceeded our goal of \$2 million, and we are really pleased to see additional families participate.

Finally, preparations for celebrating St. Andrew's 125th anniversary continued during the summer. There are two specific dates related to the 125th I want to make sure you have marked on your calendars:

- First, on *Saturday, November 2*, we have our 125th Anniversary Gala Party at the Wellesley Country Club. There will be music, delicious food, and plenty of libations. Additionally, we have invited several special guests to join us. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding what I am sure will be a terrifically festive and memorable event.
- Second, on *Sunday, November 24*, at 10am, we have St. Andrew's 125th Anniversary Festival Eucharist. Our guest celebrant and preacher will be The Reverend Dr. Laura Ahrens, the current



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**PARISH OFFICE:** 79 Denton Road,  
Wellesley, MA 02482-6404  
781.235.7310 | FAX: 781.235.0067  
[standrewswellesley.org](http://standrewswellesley.org)

**PUBLISHER:** Dan Dent  
**EDITOR:** Katharine Clark,  
Parish Administrator  
[kate@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:kate@standrewswellesley.org)

bishop suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. You may remember Laura, as she grew up in Wellesley and was a member of St. Andrew's. She has accomplished a great deal since then, and we are fortunate to have her participate in this special service.

Also, this fall, keep in mind three additional dates:

- *September 8* is Homecoming Sunday, which is the start of our church school year.
- *September 15* our annual parish picnic returns to the front lawn of the home of our gracious hostess Mrs. Walter Hunnewell, 845 Washington Street, Wellesley.
- *October 19* is our day of service. This year, we are partnering with End Hunger NE for a meal

packing event. The goal is to pack 12,500 meals in one hour!

In closing, I hope you were able to follow my fellow warden, Paige Manning, whose advice in the summer edition of *The Call* suggested the many ways to stay connected to God and our faith, even when we are away from St. Andrew's. Welcome home, all!

## Keeping the Faith from Generation to Generation



The Rev. Margaret K. Schwarzer

**W**E ARE CELEBRATING OUR 125th anniversary, and we have a lot to celebrate. For one thing, our church has been thriving for more than a single generation. No one who started the church is still alive to tell us about our beginning, but we have records, a cornerstone, and the beauty of the building itself, which speak to our forebearers' creativity and faithfulness.

The Christian faith and the Episcopal expression of our faith have been passed on in an unbroken chain for 125 years. We have a significant number of families in our parish who have grandparents, parents, and children with spiritual ties to St. Andrew's. Knowing that three—in some cases, four or more—generations of a single family have worshiped here is a sacred fact. Love and prayers have

moved from generation to generation within our walls.

From the beginning of St. Andrew's, educating adults and children in Christian theology and Christian history has also been an important part of our keeping the faith. Bible study has been with us from the earliest days of our church. It is also worth noting that our current Bible Circle Tuesday morning community, which meets once a month to study scripture together, has been meeting continuously for over 65 years. Four years ago, when I was your new associate rector holding my first Bible Circle, a member of the circle said, "We've been meeting every month for over 61 years—longer than you have been alive!" And she was right on both counts. What a remarkable part of our St. Andrew's story.

Looking through our old records, I found a beautiful description of adult formation at our church: "The purpose of Christian Education at St. Andrew's is to help people be *aware* of their rootedness in God, *to grow* in their discovery of His presence in the world, *to realize* His loving concern for every person as revealed in Jesus Christ, and *to respond* in faith and love to the end that they know who they are, and what their human situation means." (Christian Education Pamphlet, 1978-1979)

This fall, we continue our tradition of investing in our own intellectual and spiritual growth. Our 9am Christian Learning series classes will include the study of some of Leonardo da Vinci's art in honor of the 500th anniversary of his death, history of the early church during St. Paul's lifetime, the music of the Pilgrims, and the study of Islam.

Our Faith & Practice series, which focuses on how we can each grow in our daily modern faith, begins in October with "What does God think of suicide?" Our fall term will also include our fourth annual Turkey Trot, our Advent Taizé-style Service, and our December Blue Christmas Service.

In our Bible Circles, we will begin studying the Gospel of Matthew, and our monthly book club, Book Circle, will be going strong with an alternating series of fiction and non-fiction books.

You are invited to be a part of all of these events. Come for one class or come for them all. Attend four Faith & Practice classes or come try on just one and see if you like it. Join us for the 9am Christian Learning class or the Turkey Trot, or one of our special liturgies. You are invited to grow in Christ and build the next chapter of your own spiritual journey as we learn, reflect, pray, and worship together.



# From Catholic to Episcopalian

## A Thoughtful Conversion



Betsy Millane

**M**ARY SCANLON IS ONE OF the many visible of our parishioners. Her scholarship, altar work, and volunteerism are well known, her face and name familiar to many. She volunteers on several St. Andrew's committees, including outreach, adult formation, deanery, LEM, and Bargain Haul. Confirmed in the church two years ago, Mary is passionate, committed, and contributes much to St. Andrew's. Yet she hasn't always been a member of St. Andrew's, or an Episcopalian.

Scanlon was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Catholic parents. Both were first generation immigrants, her father's parents were from Ireland and her mother's parents were from Ireland by way of New Brunswick, Canada. As was expected, she was confirmed in the Catholic faith in the seventh grade. She attended Catholic school through college, getting her bachelor's degree from Regis College. Mary has a master's degree in pub-

lic health from Harvard University, a master's degree in nursing from MGH School of Health Professions, and a post graduate specialty nursing training in mental health from Boston College. She works at a residential facility for adolescents with major mental illness or unstable home environments: Wayside Youth and Family Support network in Framingham.

With such a strong Catholic background and tradition, what led Mary to the Episcopal Church? In 2002, after revelations of clerical abuse and cover up by Cardinal Bernard Law, she started working with a group, Voice of the Faithful, which is committed to supporting survivors of those abused by clergy, supporting the many priests of integrity, and advancing accountability by the clergy. Her main efforts were spent on advocating for survivors. She hoped to be able to work with Cardinal Law to acknowledge the grievances perpetrated and to make amends; and to change the power structure in the Church, so as to guard against future violations. The group stressed to the leadership that the "laity has a wisdom and should be more involved in the governance of the church." They were dismissed, with the proclamation by an auxiliary bishop, "Revelation is given to the hierarchy, not the laity." It was a time of great upheaval in the Church, including the courageous initiative of 58 priests in the Boston Archdiocese who sent a letter to

Pope John Paul II, appealing for the removal of Cardinal Law.

Scanlon describes her decision to leave the Catholic Church as "anguish." For several years, she tried to work for reform within the church. Although she had profound appreciation for priests of integrity and her fellow lay Catholics, the Catholic hierarchy, she said, was resistant to renewal. In her view, the bishops' stranglehold on decision making, resulted in a culture of repression, intolerance, and lack of respect for gay people and women.

In 2004, as the Massachusetts SJC was considering whether the Constitution afforded the right of civil marriage to same sex couples, the bishops promulgated a letter across the Commonwealth, urging Catholics to sign in opposition to same sex marriage. Scanlon attempted to circulate a different letter in her parish, affirming that same sex couples have the civil right to marriage, but the priest would not allow it.

At this time, Mary decided to look around for another parish, and for a while attended a wonderful parish, led by one of the 58 brave priests who spoke truth to power. However, after realizing the entrenchment of clericalism in the Catholic Church, she decided reluctantly to look into other denominations. Once she visited St. Andrew's, she immediately liked the spirit and the community. From the onset, she said, she admired and appreciated the leadership of St. Andrew's.

## Join Us for the 4th Annual Turkey Trot, Thursday, November 28

**PLEASE SIGN-UP AS A MEMBER** of Team St. Andrew's for the 5K Wellesley Turkey Trot. Parishioners age 7 to 95 are welcome. In 2018, 72 of us signed up to run the Turkey Trot, and most of us pounded down the pavement together even though the weather was a record-breaking seven degrees (plus wind chill). Those of us who ran

were thankful for our warm red St. Andrew's runner's caps, and for each other's company. More members staffed the water table across from the church parking lot. Thank you, water table team. We all had a great time, and we won the "Biggest Team" trophy. With your help, we can do it again.

Adrian, she says, is a terrific pastor whose faith in action is an inspiration. He cultivates an “alive” community where people can connect with their faith and other worshipers, and can become involved in outreach to the wider community.

When she first attended St. Andrew’s, Margaret and Cat had just started in their ministries at the parish. What an inclusive and inviting atmosphere! She finds St. Andrew’s to be “wonderfully open” and a “church that listens.” When she first joined, she and her husband, Victor Calcaterra, were working full time and “found it a good way to meet

people and enlarge our circle of friends.” Her first visit wasn’t without its challenges, though. She came in November and was struck by the fact that everyone was wearing plaid. “What is this?” she thought, “a cult?” It was St. Andrew’s Day.

What does she miss from the Catholic Church? “The outreach, a church having a global identity, a visible reach means something to me. There are good priests and good people within the Catholic Church, who are ardent in their faith and committed to doing good work.” But they are led, she knows, by a hierarchal structure that is not open to reform.



Mary Scanlon

Scanlon has been on a journey few of us have taken. How fortunate we are that it has brought her, and her many talents, to St. Andrew’s.

## Getting to Know Mia Kano



The Rev. Maria (Mia) Kano

IN THIS ARTICLE, The Call continues its series of conversations with St. Andrew’s clergy and staff to give the parish an opportunity to learn a little more about our church leaders. In this eighth article, we meet Maria “Mia” Kano, who joined St. Andrew’s as our new assistant rector for youth and family this past July. —Dan Dent

### What prompted you to become a minister?

Throughout my early childhood, my family alternated between my father’s Catholic parish and my mother’s Congregationalist church.

I was fascinated by church and the differences between the communities from an early age. By the time I was in middle school, I already knew I wanted to be my mother’s minister, the Rev. Alida Ward, when I grew up. Ward embodied unconditional love for each person she met, although it always seemed to me that she devoted extra energy and love to the teens in the community. Although I struggled with my faith in college, God found and called me back to my original dream through a military chaplain in Amman, Jordan. In the Episcopal Church, I discovered a new path to deeper connection to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit through incarnational spirituality and sacramental worship. But it was truly that the parishioners and clergy of Grace Church, Medford that taught me to recognize the specific gifts God was calling me to use for the service of the Body of Christ.

### What about St. Andrew’s most excites you?

I am most drawn to St. Andrew’s commitment to intergenerational community. There are so few

spaces in our society and culture where people of all ages and generations can come together to support, teach, and love one another. It’s a delight to be welcomed into a community that treasures tradition, embraces creativity, and celebrates God’s children of every age. I am excited to hear your stories of how St. Andrew’s has transformed over the decades and I feel very fortunate to have arrived in time for the 125th celebration.

### Tell us something about yourself that makes you, you.

I come from a very crafty family! My twin sister loves to quilt and my older sister weaves, but I have found a special joy in knitting stuffed animals for the children in my life. Over the last few of years I’ve knitted and given away close to 50 animals, including a purple cow, a unicorn, and a mini-version of my dog that my husband keeps at his desk at work. I find that each of my creations develops its own personality and I love to receive pictures of their various adventures from their new friends.



# Images from the El Hogar Mission Trip

Honduras, August 3–10, 2019

Photos: Courtesy Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole



At the chapel of the El Hogar High School outside Tegucigalpa



Playing games with the El Hogar boys after dinner



The chapel of the El Hogar agricultural school and farm



Our group with El Hogar girls outside their dorm



The boys at the El Hogar High School



Lunch on our way to visit the agricultural school



# Save the Date for Our 125th Anniversary Gala

6:30pm at the Wellesley Country Club, Saturday, November 2, 2019

Look for your invitation to this ticketed event in early September



## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY



Photo: Peter Lull

### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Officers, and Staff

**Warden** David Hamlin david.hamlin17@gmail.com

**Warden** Paige Manning pmanning@goulstonstorrs.com

**Treasurer** Arnout Eikeboom treas@standrewswellesley.org

**Clerk** Sarah Harris sarginnharris@gmail.com

**Rector** Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole adrian@standrewswellesley.org

**Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership**

Rev. Margaret Schwarzer margaret@standrewswellesley.org

**Assistant Rector for Youth and Family**

Rev. Maria (Mia) Kano mia@standrewswellesley.org

**Pastoral Associate** Rev. Karen Vickers Budney revkar7@comcast.net

**Parish Administrator** Katharine Clark kate@standrewswellesley.org

**Music Minister** Helen Ward Mannix wardie@standrewswellesley.org

**Financial Secretary** Ruth Hubert ruth@standrewswellesley.org

**Christian Learning Coordinator**

Susan Jackson susan@standrewswellesley.org

**Director of Youth Choirs** Amanda Kern amanda@standrewswellesley.org

**Sexton** Stephen F. Killeen steve@standrewswellesley.org

**Assistant Sextons** William Clover and Matthew Killeen



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

79 DENTON ROAD  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02482

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