

One hundred and twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of  
**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Wellesley, Massachusetts



Photo: Peter Lull

**2020 Annual Reports**



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# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Wellesley, Massachusetts

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## Volunteer Staff

Josepha Dermer, George Dummer, Jane Givens, Margarethe Kulke, Leslie Lee, Caren Parker, Sandra Rigney, Jenny Sawyer, Laura Stettner, and Harriet Thompson.



# 128th Annual Meeting

January 31, 2021

11:00am to 12:10pm

## Agenda

1. Singing of the hymn (page 2) ..... 11:00am
2. Call to order and opening prayer ..... 11:05am
3. Reading of the warrant
4. Quorum and election of parliamentarian
5. Filing of annual reports by title ..... 11:10am
6. Report from the nominating committee,  
Nominations from the floor and election ..... 11:15am  
*Megan Burns, chair*
7. Financial reports. .... 11:25am  
Finance chair remarks *David Osborn*  
Treasurer's report *Harry Condon*  
Investment committee report *David Welch*  
Stewardship report *Hugh MacArthur*  
Presentation of 2021 operating budget *David Osborn*
8. Rector's comments. .... 11:45pm
9. New business ..... 11:55pm
10. Closing prayer and blessing ..... 12:05pm
11. Adjournment. .... 12:10pm

Commissioned in celebration of the 25th anniversary of R. Harrison Kelton as Organist and Choirmaster  
of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley, Massachusetts

for the Feast of St. Andrew

Descant

3. Sing of An-drew, bold a - pos - tle, who made the gos - pel known,  
1. Sing of An-drew, John's dis - ci - ple, led by faith through ways un - trod,  
2. Sing of An-drew, called by Je - sus, from the shores of Gal - i - lee,  
3. Sing of An-drew, bold a - pos - tle, sent to make the gos - pel known,  
faith - - ful to his Lord's ex - am - ple, made a cross his own.  
till the Bap - tist cried at Jor - dan, "There be - hold the Lamb of God."  
leav - ing boats and nets and kin - dred, trust - ing in that "Fol - - low me."  
faith - ful to his Lord's ex - am - ple, called to make a cross his own.  
So may we who prize his mem - ory hon - or Christ in our own day,  
Stirred by hear - ing this new teach - er, An - drew, freed from doubt and fear,  
When a lad's small meal fed thou - sands, when in - quir - ing Greeks found care,  
So may we who prize his mem - ory hon - or Christ in our own day,  
bear - ing wit - ness to our neigh - bors, liv - ing what we sing and pray.  
ran to tell his bro - ther Si - mon, "God's A - noint - - ed One is here!"  
when the Spi - rit came in bless - ing, An - drew faith - - ful - ly was there.  
bear - ing wit - ness to our neigh - bors, liv - ing what we sing and pray.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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Music: Wellesley's Kelton, James Woodman (b. 1957)

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# Staff Reports

## Report of the Rector



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE how much the world has changed in the year since I wrote my annual report for 2019, the year we celebrated the 125th anniversary of our beloved church building. Since then—for most of 2020—we have been dealing with the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In my report last year, I spoke of the ways we had celebrated our 125th anniversary. These included our successful capital campaign, which raised \$2.5 million dollars; our wonderful gala at the Wellesley Country Club; and our St. Andrew's Day service, when we gathered in a joy-filled packed church to hear Bishop Laura Ahrens preach about our call to walk in the steps of Jesus.

In a significant way, our 125th anniversary celebrations have been a source of strength for us during the challenges of the pandemic. In addition to the above events, an important part of our anniversary year was the series of notes from our archives about the life of St. Andrew's over the past 125 years, put together by parishioner Sandra Rigney and published each week in our church bulletin. These remembrances and our celebrations highlighted the strength and resilience of the St. Andrew's community through times of challenge including two world wars, the Great Depression, the Spanish flu, and other events. I certainly have been encouraged by remembering the history and example of our parish over the last 125 years. I know from many of you that being part of the St. Andrew's parish family today has also been a source of strength and encouragement as we live through this pandemic. So, there is much to give thanks for as we look back over the life of our parish during the last year. The life of our parish serves as a concrete reminder of Christ's loving presence with us.

### **Adaptability**

The guiding theme of this year has been "adaptability." We have found ourselves having to constantly

adapt to the changing circumstances of the pandemic—whether changing expectations about the safety of meeting in person to worship or the evolution of our technical ability to use social media and other online tools to keep our parish family connected.

I want to thank our staff, many lay leaders, and volunteers for their leadership, adaptiveness, and "can do" attitude, which have helped our parish not only survive, but even thrive during this time.

I am especially grateful for the leadership of our two wardens, David Hamlin and Paige Manning, who have been a source of wisdom, leadership, and support during this very challenging time. We have also been blessed by the technological skills of several key staff members, which have enabled us to quickly adapt and keep adapting to the challenges of moving our church life online. I particularly want to thank Katharine Clark, our parish administrator; Rev. Mia Kano, the assistant rector for youth and family; and Amanda Kern, our junior choir director, all of whom used their technical skills and worked tirelessly to enable our ministries to continue online. They were instrumental in teaching us how to use Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube so that we have been able to conduct worship and continue many other church activities online.

I also want to thank all our other staff members who have also shown such adaptability during this time. I would like to thank Rev. Margaret Schwarzer and Rev. Karen Budney for the way they have adapted their priestly ministry to the online environment. Wardie Mannix, our music director, has shown great flexibility not only in moving the church music program online but also in finding different churches in which to record the music for Sunday services while our sanctuary is closed for renovations. Steve Killeen, our sexton, has looked after our church building during the months of shutdown and had worked very closely with the contractors undertaking the renovations. Susan Jackson, our Christian learning coordinator, has worked with Mia to move our church school programs online. It has been very good to welcome

Joanne Butler, who became our new financial administrator in February. Within weeks of Joanne's start at St. Andrew's, we closed the office and Joanne has learned her new job and ably undertaken the financial administration of the church from her office at home. We are also grateful to Ruth Hubert, our recently retired financial secretary, who has supported Joanne in learning her new role.

## **Moving online**

In mid-February, we became aware from someone in the medical field that the COVID-19 pandemic was very serious and that we needed to prepare for some kind of "lockdown" as had been seen in China. We immediately started preparing to be able to work remotely and conduct services online. This involved, among other things, buying new computers for clergy and staff so that we could work and communicate from home.

Like everyone else, in the early days of the pandemic we thought the lockdown would last only a matter of weeks or maybe a few months. We were hopeful that we would be able to return to in-person services by Easter. But as the weeks progressed, we learned that we were going to be "in this" for much longer than any of us had imagined. We now do not expect to return to regular worship in our sanctuary until the fall.

## **Parish Life Online**

Almost all our church activities now happen online. Every Sunday morning at 10:15 we stream pre-recorded Sunday services via Facebook, YouTube, and our website. The service goes out at 10:15am but is posted on our website, Facebook page, and our YouTube channel so that it can be watched later at the convenience of our parishioners. On Sundays we have church school and youth group online for our young people. There is also a weekly adult education hour at 9am, prior to our Sunday service.

Each weekday we offer Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline at 8pm (a short prayer service for the end of the day from the monastic tradition) via Facebook, YouTube, and our website. We have many people who follow our weekday services. In fact, we believe that through our weekday online services we

have more people engaging with the parish than in pre-pandemic times. Through our online services we have also increased the geographic reach of the ministry of our church. We have former parishioners who have moved to different parts of the country including California, Georgia, and Florida, now regularly following our services. We have also picked up a new parishioner in Wisconsin at our services.

Although some of our regular parishioners have said that they cannot relate to following church online, we have added several new regular worshippers through our online services. We also hear from parishioners about friends and family members checking in at our online services from time to time in ways they would not have done prior to the pandemic.

One of the silver linings of the pandemic has been the informal liturgical partnership that St. Andrew's has developed with St. Michael's, Holliston, where Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole is the rector. St. Andrew's and St. Michael's undertake all our online worship together, serving both parishes. Many St. Andrew's parishioners have said how much they appreciate Sarah Robbins-Cole's preaching and presiding at our services and how they get a sense of being part of a larger church through our partnership with St. Michael's.

We have installed a video recording system in our church, so that we will be able to continue offering our services online once we are able to go back to church in person. We had discussed the possibility of streaming our worship prior to the pandemic, but the pandemic has accelerated the speed at which we have embraced this new opportunity.

Like many other churches, we make extensive use of Zoom to meet and keep our other church ministries going. We continue to have an active outreach ministry, which helps those in need both through financial help and by collecting and delivering food to our outreach partner in inner city Boston.

Aside from our online ministries we have undertaken a few other activities to keep connected with parishioners. One well-received initiative, spearheaded by our membership and fellowship committees, was the delivery of pumpkins to households of older parishioners around Halloween. We have also had a few outdoor in-person events such as the Blessing of the Animals, a "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event

for our children in the church parking lot, and two outdoor services of Holy Communion.

### **The 125th Anniversary Church Renovations**

Following our 125th Anniversary Capital Campaign, we had planned to undertake major renovations of our church sanctuary starting in May 2020 and extending over the summer. By May, however, uncertainty around the pandemic led us to postpone the renovations until summer 2021. Then, at the end of the summer, it became clear that a probable uptick in the pandemic during the winter made it unlikely that we would be able to resume regular in-person worship in 2020, as had been hoped. Therefore, we decided to proceed with the renovations during the fall and winter; the work should be finished by February. The renovations include a completely new lighting system, a total renovation of the narthex (main church entrance hall), painting the sanctuary, an air conditioning system including an air filtration system to counter airborne pathogens, the renovation of the children's chapel, and a refurbishment of some neglected areas of the sanctuary.

### **What has been the worst part of the pandemic?**

The worst part of the pandemic has been missing seeing our parishioners in person on church on Sunday and on other occasions. It has been very hard to not be able to worship together in our wonderful, beauti-

ful church sanctuary, to feel the energy in the room of hundreds of people gathered to worship God, and to experience the beauty of our church organ and choir.

### **What has been the best part of what has happened during the pandemic?**

I am very proud of the way our clergy, staff team, and many parishioner volunteers have really pulled together and worked so hard to support each other and hold our parish together during this time. I have also been amazed at how quickly we have adapted to this online environment, embracing new technology and thinking creatively to keep our parish connected. It has been remarkable how we have been catapulted into the digital age. Although I am really looking forward to returning to in-person worship in our historic building, the use of social media and online streaming of our services will continue as a permanent and important feature of the life of our parish once the pandemic is over.

But perhaps most importantly, spiritually, the pandemic has helped us reflect on our priorities and what is important in life—our relationships with each other, helping those in need, and God's presence in our lives.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

## **Report of the Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership**



Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

### **Adapting, Engaging, Supporting**

THE YEAR 2020 has been an unprecedented challenge, but there has been creativity and growth at St. Andrew's as well. We have all had to take our programs online and learn to connect over Zoom

and Facebook to maintain safe social distances. I'm happy to report that in this challenging year, virtual events and regular programming have continued to inspire learning, build relationships, and strengthen our faith. We have all engaged this life-changing year with grit and grace. In particular, the excellent partnerships I share with our adult formation committee and our membership committee, and the collabora-

tion our church shares with St. Michael's have been important foundations for our work.

When the pandemic hit, St. Andrew's, Wellesley and St. Michael's, Holliston joined forces. My adult formation committee and I have been happy to share the planning for our 9am Christian learning class with Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole. She has taught fascinating classes and has been a wonderful partner in the work of adult formation. Members of St. Michael's have also participated in our Bible Circles, Inquirers' classes, and Faith & Practice classes, giving both communities a chance to meet one another and share our strengths. Though some real-time events had to be cancelled, our classes taught online this year have largely maintained or increased their size, with new members from St. Andrew's and St. Michael's joining us, and we found creative ways to host Advent and Lenten Taizé-style services. Our membership committee has instigated some great programs and some new initiatives for welcoming newcomers in the midst of this pandemic. You can read about these developments in more detail in the membership committee report. I am thankful to be serving our curious, faithful, and creative church as we weather this pandemic.

### **Adult Formation and Learning**

Online, our monthly Bible Circles and Adrian's monthly Men's Bible Study have continued; we have an average of 30 parishioners studying scripture monthly.

Several new members have joined us this year as some have moved away. In 2020, we studied the *Gospel of Matthew* (Bible Circle) and began to consider St. Peter and his role in forming our church. We expanded our offerings for an extra month and studied four chapters of *Genesis* in June. The Men's Bible Study, which meets early Saturday mornings, read the *Gospel of John*. Our 9am Christian learning series, which meets approximately 28 times per year, has averaged 25 members per class, and we had over 70 people attending a Christian learning series class this past year. Our first two weekly Lenten dinners and programs were well attended with an average participation of 35 parishioners for each of our evening gatherings, but the pandemic halted these offerings in March. This year, our Taizé services went online.

I hosted the Lenten Taizé-style service on Facebook in March and our Advent Taizé-style service premiered on YouTube, Facebook, and our own website in November. I want to offer particular thanks to the members of our Advent Taizé-style meditative working group: D.D. Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Margarethe Kulke, Liz Parsons, Jenny Sawyer, Cynthia Scott, and Carol Shedd. I also thank Wardie Mannix, Amanda Kern, members of our senior and junior choirs, and Katharine Clark. We all spent hours redesigning the way the beauty of the sanctuary service could be transformed to be meaningful as an online offering.

Our 2020 online Blue Christmas service continued to offer space and support for people who are facing significant loss or challenges during the Christmas season. Mia and I staffed our "Ashes-to-Go" station by the train station and Peet's Coffee shop a few weeks before the pandemic hit. For the fourth year in a row, we combined a little evangelism with a chance to help the early risers of Wellesley get ashes before their workday began. It was a pleasure to serve as the facilitator and editor for the fourth Lenten Meditation Guide written by St. Andrew's parishioners. The guide's popularity resulted in our adding a line-item for the cost of the guide to our 2019 budget. In 2020, we printed 400 copies and 126 people also asked to get daily emails of the guide. In the fall, we offered an online adult Inquirers class for people considering Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church. Fifteen members participated in a four-week intergenerational class with members ranging from their 20s (three) to their 70s. Our November Turkey Trot had approximately 60 members of St. Andrew's participating this year. The event was virtual, in order to maintain everyone's safety, and Jenny Sawyer posted pictures runners sent to her. (Thank you, Jenny!) We could not share a joint learning or worship experience with Temple Beth Elohim this year as planned; the pandemic cancelled our ability to make plans. Similarly, our plans for local field trips were cancelled days before the first one was to take place. Our Book Circle has decided to take a needed break during the pandemic. Betsy Millane and the members of the group will reassess Book Circle once they can get together in normal circumstances again. Finally, our

Italian Pilgrimage of 2018 was so popular that Adrian and I are already planning a church pilgrimage to England. Again, due to the pandemic, the trip will be held in 2023, not 2021.

### **Adult Formation and Learning Advisory Committee**

Our adult formation committee and I shape the mission of Christian education for adults at St. Andrew's. Your feedback and interests guide the topics we choose, so please share your interests and questions with me or a member of our committee. I am thankful for the service and creativity of all our members who served in 2020: Chair Ansley Martin, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Peter Fergusson, Carrie Hawley, Margarethe Kulke, Will Nystrom, Mary Scanlon, Paul Shellito, Carol Shedd, and warden David Hamlin. Special thanks go to Margarethe Kulke, who co-leads our Bible Circles, and to our excellent chair Ansley Martin. Ansley has been a part of the committee since its inception five years ago, and his creativity, dedication, and "can-do" attitude have been essential during this pandemic year. I am thankful for his excellent service and leadership. I also want to welcome our newest member, Laura Brown MacKinnon.

### **Membership Committee**

It has been a pleasure to work with our membership committee in 2020. In particular, I want to welcome Elizabeth Clarke and Sarah Harris who have joined our committee this year. We have continued to share our updated welcome booklet with seekers and continue our work to welcome and integrate new members into St. Andrew's. Children baptized at St. Andrew's continue to receive a special hardcover book which celebrates their baptism with us. Finding new members and welcoming seekers has become harder during the pandemic, but some exciting new initiatives were created this past fall to help newcomers feel welcome and to inspire us all during the pandemic. (Please see the membership committee report for more details.) We held one Newcomer Brunch this year. We were not able to host the spring Newcomer Brunch, Kids' Place coffees, or the Pimm's Party at the rectory to welcome active members of 2019 and 2020 last spring.

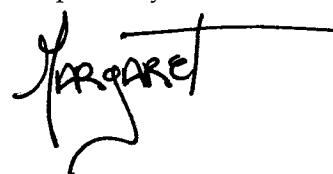
I appreciate the opportunity to be the clergy liaison for this committee. My main responsibilities lie in contacting newcomers by email or phone so that they have an immediate clergy welcome. I also meet with newcomers who would like to meet with me to discuss their faith or have questions about St. Andrew's. Our membership committee and I want to ensure that everyone is welcomed and that everyone finds a place at St. Andrew's. I want to thank Becky Hamlin and David Hamlin, our senior warden, most particularly. They have both supported our committee and kept us vital and on-track in this challenging year.

### **Wellesley College Ministry**

In 2020, Wellesley College students have participated in our Inquirers' class, attended Morning Prayer and Compline, enjoyed Lenten potluck dinners and programs, helped lead church school programs, and shared coffee and conversations with me (in person and over Zoom). We continue to have a roster of 19 members of the classes of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Not surprisingly, I have not met any members of the 2024 Wellesley class. The pandemic hasn't made that possible yet. I'm proud to confirm that our sponsorship of Wellesley graduate Anna Page has come to an end because Anna was ordained as both a deacon and a priest this year. Congratulations Anna! The Wellesley College ministry continues to benefit from a diocesan grant we secured through the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole, Chaplain of Protestant Ministry at Wellesley College. St. Andrew's ministry with Wellesley students continues to bring energy and enthusiasm into our congregation's life and worship.

Finally, I want to thank our rector, Adrian Robbins-Cole, for his strong ongoing support of our adult formation committee and our membership committee. It is exciting to be a part of his clergy team at St. Andrew's.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Margaret K. Schwarzer

# Report of the Assistant Rector for Youth and Family



Rev. Maria (Mia) Kano

JANUARY 2020 BEGAN with the celebration of my ordination to the priesthood. I could not have known then that this huge transition in my life would have nothing on the changes mid-March would bring to our communal life and my role in serving you and our families.

In this report, I hope to outline how our children's and youth ministries adapted and responded to the unprecedented landscape of the 2020 global COVID-19 pandemic. I also want to note I have found that my role as assistant rector has transformed significantly in response to the pandemic and our move to church online. In addition to quickly pivoting our children's and youth formation programs, I have shifted much of my time to providing necessary communications support to our parish administrator and our website designer, as well as technological and social media support to my fellow clergy. Susan Jackson, our Christian learning coordinator, has likewise needed to adapt to new work responsibilities and patterns, which she has done with fortitude and grace. Coryell Urban, who stepped into her church school committee chair and vestryperson for youth formation role in January, has been an invaluable resource, sounding board, and support through all our programmatic change. She has demonstrated exceptional and committed leadership through difficult times. Thank you, Susan and Coryell.

Church school in 2020 began with our usual special family events, including a well-attended Epiphany Fireside service in the parish hall and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We continued the new tradition of a short Ash Wednesday service for the children in the children's chapel on Shrove Tuesday. Planning for our Youth Sunday event on Sunday, March 21, was already well underway, including new partnerships with the adult liturgical leadership and adult formation Lenten program. With the closure of in-person church, we quickly shifted to a virtual version of the youth-led service that involved videos of readings, prayers, songs, and greetings from church school and

Rite-13 kids, as well as three confirmand video sermons. During Holy Week, we offered Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services for children on Zoom, as well as a children's Way of the Cross guided home prayer walk.

In fall 2020, church school committee planned for monthly, outdoor, socially distanced in-person events. Fourteen families stopped by for our new September Blessing of the Backpacks event. In October, we held a "Trunk-or-Treat" All Hallows' Eve service in the parking lot for nine families who dressed up themselves and their cars! Considering rising COVID-19 rates, our November Advent wreath making event was quickly transformed into a drop-by event in conjunction with membership and fellowship's St. Andrew's Day celebration. Sixty-seven families came by to pick up their Advent wreath greens among other goodies. Our December event was also adjusted to be a virtual gingerbread decorating afternoon. We celebrated Jesus' birthday party on Christmas Eve with an online service led by our clergy mice.

Thank you to our January and February church schoolteachers, Veronica Bacon, Matt Benfer, Karin Breedis, Megan Burns, Cari Dineen, Bianka Eichelberger, Heidi Emerson, Caleb Farny, Erica Gelser, Pamela Grossetti, Steve Mahoney, Laura Rodormer, Leanne Salvia, Ellen Staelin, Macie Tanaka, Coryell Urban, Anna Lee Wahls, Emily Whittemore, and Jessica Young. Church school stopped meeting in-person with the closure of Wellesley public schools mid-March and at the direction of our bishops. I began to lead half-hour Zoom classes on Sundays at 9am for preschool through fifth grade, with Susan Jackson assisting. While we followed the Bible lesson plan from the church school curriculum, much of the activities and lesson plans from Weaving God's Promises were not applicable to online teaching. I also produced a weekly five-to-eight-minute YouTube video with a Bible lesson and activity prompt, with help from church schoolteacher Anna Lee Wahls. Over the summer, Ramona, the assistant rector mouse, visited and went on adventures with five church school families.

In summer 2020, I developed a new lectionary-based curriculum consisting of month-long units

designed for at-home formation, online learning, and an eventual transition to in-person classroom, when possible. During the fall 2020, our church school learning grew into three interconnected components. Each month, Susan Jackson and I created that unit's take-home package, including each Sunday's lessons, activities, and any special materials. About 15 families have utilized the downloadable or physical versions of the home formation unit packages. Additionally, 15 different teachers, older parishioners, and families from St. Andrew's and St. Michael's have stepped up to create an imaginative Bible story and activity video each week to accompany the lessons. Because the curriculum followed the lectionary, some of the sketches and animations by our children were also featured in the online worship services. Between five and 15 children ages four to 11 attended our Zoom classroom on Sunday mornings at 9am, which followed the same unit-based curricular arc.

Amanda Kern's genius and creativity has kept music alive at St. Andrew's. From youth Sunday anthems, to Holy Week songs, to stopping by at church school to sing with us, Amanda's voice, little family, and backyard beauty have been adding joy to our services and classes. Starting in the fall, junior choir began meeting on Zoom at 9:30am on Sundays and children's voices have been appearing in our worship once again. Amanda also developed a video Christmas pageant in collaboration with St. Michael's, using children's images, art, and music to tell the story of Jesus' birth in a new way.

In early 2020, church school jointly hosted a Kids' Place coffee hour with the membership committee, which drew seven young families with toddlers and new babies. In recognition that our virtual offerings were not reaching this group of families, we held an in-person All Hallows' Eve reading in the St. Francis Courtyard that drew three families.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the six leaders of Rite-13 in 2020, who courageously and seamlessly pivoted from in-person classes to remote learning without missing a Sunday: Toni Jolley, Judy Marth, Jeff McAdams, Tim Raeke, Shelley Stoudemire, and Greg Urban. Our virtual Rite-13 program built off the strong foundation of bonding and classroom co-ownership these leaders developed over fall 2019

and early 2020. In spring 2020, Rite-13 gathered online at 11am on Sundays to check-in and play games together, providing much-needed consistent social engagement for the kids during lockdown. In fall 2020, we introduced the Sparkhouse video-based "re:form Core" curriculum. Both students and teachers have enjoyed how the new curriculum invites discussion about tough questions of faith. We held a socially distanced in-person outdoor event in September with eight kids. Although we had to cancel our in-person community service event for October, our "virtual lock-in" in early November was very successful and attended by 14 kids.

Our 2019-2020 confirmation class experienced a rougher transition from in-person learning to Zoom classroom. Wellesley public schools were closed the day of our synagogue visit; we participated in a much-diminished virtual diocesan pre-confirmation retreat. Our bishops have not held any confirmations since the pandemic began. I want to thank our 15 confirmation students for hanging in with our experimental teaching and for their beautiful video Bible reflections. I am especially proud of our Youth Sunday confirmation preachers: Annie Fisher, Hunter MacArthur, and Carolyn Urban. Most of all, I owe a deep debt of gratitude to our six confirmation leaders, Ryan Daws, Cathleen Dehn, Greg Hunter, Ansley Martin, Keileigh McReynolds, and Rev. Paige Fisher for being incomparable partners in this transition.

Confirmation class 2020-2021 consists of 15 students and four confirmation leaders (Sarah Harris, Greg Hunter, Keileigh McReynolds, and Karen Pekowitz). Because the online nature of this class has necessitated dropping the worship, retreat, and community service components of our usual program, I decided to revive the older St. Andrew's tradition of individual mentorship. With the help of the confirmation parents, I recruited, matched, and trained 14 confirmation mentors from St. Andrew's and other churches who will meet in-person with their confirmands throughout spring 2021.

Our high school youth group moved from meeting twice a month in-person with dinner, to meeting once a week online for a short check-in and hangout on Sunday evenings. In fall 2020 we were able to add in-person outdoor events such as hikes and apple-

picking, attended by four to eight teens. Our youth group advisors, Rob Brandt and Marie Dunell, have proven themselves to be flexible, patient, and loving presences to our teens, whether online or in-person. We said goodbye and thank you to our stalwart acolyte wrangler, Jennifer Olivetti, in May. Without in-person worship or a new parent volunteer, our acolyte program, which engaged 28 high schoolers in 2019-2020, has been put on hold. Our highly anticipated high school summer mission trip to Appalachia in partnership with St. Michael's was postponed to summer 2021, much to the disappointment of our 28 teen and adult participants.

The bright spots of human connection sprinkled throughout this year have been invaluable to me,

from the evenings spent laughing my head off with teens to the mornings of delightful conversations with your children's favorite stuffed animals, and to all the moments I spent filled with awe at the creativity and talent of our children and teachers. There is more change to come, I'm sure. But for now, I rest in the eternal changelessness of God's love and the ways it shines through each of you.

Blessings,



Rev. Maria (Mia) Kano

## Report of the Music Minister



Helen Ward Mannix

THE SENIOR CHOIR numbers about 32 singers which, as of June 7, 2020, includes four paid section leaders who are either presently students or recent graduates of music conservatories. Our paid section leaders include tenor, Max Herman who

is an undergrad at NEC; soprano, Laura Cervinsky; alto, Britt Brown, and bass, Blake Jennings. Baritone Frank Rosamond left us in June of 2020.

The highlights of this year include Mia Kano's ordination on January 12, 2020, and our Lenten Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Quite coincidentally, the Wellesley Cable Channel asked to video our Lenten Choral Evensong and we were able to use our musical selections on upcoming Sundays after the church was shut down on March 12, 2020 due to COVID-19.

We are, at present, still closed and have been presenting services online since then. As can be expected, this was a particular blow to our music program given that singing is deemed a "super spreader." Since March 12, we have recorded all our hymns and choral anthems for our services.

Special recognition goes to Katharine Clark and

Amanda Kern who have made this technological feat possible. Their tireless efforts to bring the music we have recorded to our online congregation, resulting in some very beautiful services, is beyond words. We simply could not have done it without them. Special recognition also goes to Peter Lull who has spent countless hours recording hymns and choral music. Thank you, Peter.

Another facet of our adaption to online services was dealing with the copyright issue. We are now members of OneLicense and, with the indispensable help of choir member Liz Dean, who has been painstakingly cataloguing every piece of music we sing and play, we are in compliance with the laws.

In June of 2020, I completed my 13th year as music minister at St. Andrew's.

Because the wardens and Adrian Robbins-Cole decided to go ahead with the church renovations, I have been without an organ to play since the organ was wrapped on September 4, 2020. Before that time, I practiced every day throughout the pandemic except for Sundays. Since then, I am indebted to Village Church, Wellesley College, Old West Church in Boston, and Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill for permitting me to practice on their instruments. The Church of the Redeemer has also allowed the section



leaders and me, along with our team, to record anthems for our services.

Our senior choir has done a brilliant job of holding together in this difficult time. We started back right after Labor Day with regular Zoom choir rehearsals every Thursday evening from 7:30pm to 8:15pm and have had as many as 20 participants. I distributed hymnals and copies of *The New Church Anthem Book* to all our members. I also continue to reach out to mem-

bers who are unable to come to our Zoom rehearsals in hopes of keeping us together until we can meet again in person.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen Ward Mannix

## Report of the Parish Administrator



Katharine Clark

I WAS READING *The Murmur of Bees*, by Sofia Segovia, which is set against the backdrop of the 1918-1919 Spanish flu pandemic, last February. So, when the news of the coronavirus ramped up later that month, I was already thinking about pandemics and

what can happen. I began looking at all our technology and thinking about how we could all work from home for an extended period. After my repeated attempts to contact our tech consultants proved unsuccessful, I ultimately hired a new one, PCDoctectives. PCDoctectives added LogMeIn to all our machines. We took inventory of the equipment, wrote a spreadsheet, analyzed and prioritized our needs. LogMeIn also gave us the ability to log into our work computers from home. As we flipped the calendars to March, I began purchasing new laptops and docking stations, microphones, lights, and tripods for people to record and use to “go live.” I helped everyone sign up for a Zoom account and thus we started working from home.

At the beginning we were guided by the diocese for protocols and best practices. We spent a good deal of energy on office and workplace safety and tried to organize safety rules around having services in the building. Steve Killeen and I jumped into finding and purchasing Personal Professional Equipment (PPE) supplies early. I am glad we have them, even as we have not had a lot of call to use them since we are all still working (mostly) at home. In April, I worked with Boston Light & Sound, Inc. to move forward

with the changes needed in our audio system to add video broadcasting capabilities in hopes of using the system when we returned to church in the fall. Their work was done between May and August.

In March, I began to work with our web designer on plans for new webpages that would fill the bill for hosting and viewing live services. I also noted those pages that would need changes as time moved on. We were also thinking about how we might present Easter to the congregation via the web, even though we did not yet know what we would be doing. We were running multiple tracks of plans based on many “what-if” scenarios and we were learning new skills. We each had such different roles, and I was thinking about who had to do what and when so we could build a remote service from the ground up. We also had to think as a team of three, with Mia Kano and Amanda Kern, on how to allow enough time to learn video and sound editing.

As spring progressed it became clear that we needed to rethink the logistics of church, and the staff started meeting daily on Zoom to coordinate our work. We all learned Google Calendar, Docs, and Sheets (through Google Drive); Dropbox; and Facebook. A few of us also learned some Adobe products—Premier, Rush, Photoshop, Acrobat—YouTube; and Vimeo. (There are others I am forgetting I am sure.) I signed us up, in various combinations, for all the licenses to these (new-to-us) online cloud services/apps/programs (not always inexpensive and most often by monthly subscription). I spent a lot of time looking for training videos for all the things we were

going to need to keep everyone working from home. Mia made PowerPoint presentations to train the other clergy to “go live” on Facebook in the spring of 2020. This was our first transition for Sunday services. The plan was to transition to recorded services for Holy Week and Easter: that would be our second transition.

In the past, for this kind of training work, I would have invited people into my office to watch me do the thing we needed to learn, and then I would have looked over their shoulders as they repeated the process. But that is not possible now and that makes trainings like this exponentially more difficult for teaching and learning. And the learning curve on some things has been steep, with some of us learning faster than others.

All these new systems for coordinating our work have changed our workflow. For instance, because all the music now had to be recorded, we needed to set up schedules for recording that included staff and parishioners with safe standards and protocols to follow. Once the music was recorded, everything had to be uploaded from phones, cameras, or laptops (multiple kinds of learning here as each device has its own interface) to Dropbox, named, and sorted into files by date. Then we began assigning the editing tasks for both sound and video. As you can imagine, that pushed out the timeframe we were accustomed to working within when we were all in the office together—from making final decisions a few days before a service to weeks before a service.

This kind of scheduling change affected all our work. Because our disciplines are interdependent, each staff member’s work is usually dependent on another staff person’s work; workflow scheduling has a domino effect. We all had to start thinking much further in advance than we wanted or were used to, moving the work onto the next step and the next person to touch the project. We also had to become better communicators via more systems as we could no longer walk down the hall to ask a question. Since we use

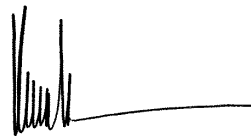
Office 365 fully and completely now, we use Teams as well as texts, phone calls, emails, Zoom, and screen sharing often to “look over each other’s shoulders.”

For a period, we stopped scheduling all our volunteers because of COVID-19. Some are now working remotely, others are coming in to do typing, and still others are taking things home to do, but this in general is a great loss for us. First, we love having them in the building, willing and able to do almost anything we might need in a pinch, as well as tasks that get done on a regular weekly basis. Second, they improve the atmosphere and morale in the office bringing great cheer to staff, other volunteers, and callers both on the phone and at the door. Many of the volunteers help to maintain church records and I still worry about these tasks. We are keeping records on Google Drive right now and we must move them into the books. The longer this goes on, the bigger this project gets. So, I am devising a system to get everything into the hard bound books for last year as I write this.

I still find myself needing to help solve equipment issues and printing issues, etc. that are in people’s homes now and not just at the church. These are tasks that would normally—relatively speaking—be easy in person, and now they can take days instead of hours working on the phone or remotely. Thankfully, this happens much less now that we are all settled in our routines.

I pray that a new normal emerges and that hope springs eternal. I pray that we can continue to shine our lights into the world and illuminate a path of encouragement and unity, individually and as a church community.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Katharine Clark

# Wardens' Reports

## 2020 Year in Review

### January

**Worship** • Ordination of Rev. Mia Kano (January 11)

- Epiphany Fireside service and Potluck (January 5)

**Adult Formation** • Bible Circle: *The Gospel of Matthew: A Witness to Jewish Christians*, Chapter 7 (January 15)

- 9am Christian Learning Series: *Religion & The Arts: Faith and the Church through the Poet's Eye* (January 26)

**Youth Formation** • Youth Group hosts Mission Trip Night, the first training session for Appalachia Service Project 2020 (January 12) • Everyone invited to join confirmation class for instructed Eucharist service (January 26)

**Outreach** • Church school and Rite-13 meet with outreach committee for MLK day community service learning (January 19) • St. Andrew's sponsors table at annual MLK breakfast hosted by the World of Wellesley (January 20) • Volunteers spend MLK Day of Action in Boston working on projects at Blackstone School, a partner of St. Stephen's Church, our sister parish (January 20)

**Fellowship/Membership** • Epiphany Fireside Potluck Dinner following the Epiphany Fireside Service (January 5) • Parishioners urged to sign up as coffee hour hosts after 10am Sunday services

**Book Clubs** • Men's Book Club: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean • Book Circle: *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez (January 21)

**Vestry** • *Celebrating 125 Years, A Pictorial History, 1894 to 2019* marks completion of St. Andrew's anniversary celebration • 2020 budget forum, led by David Osborn, with the rector and wardens available for questions, gives parishioners a preview of 2020 St. Andrew's budget (January 19) • The 127th annual meeting held January 26, new parish leaders elected, reports given on the work accomplished in 2019, and a budget for 2020 approved • Parishioners encouraged to complete pledges for the 2020 stewardship campaign as soon as possible.

- Youth and children's teachers and volunteers

asked for consent and cooperation with background checks by SecureSearch Faith

### February

**Worship** • Rev. Jay Sidebotham, director of RenewalWorks, welcomed as guest preacher (February 9)

- Presidents' Day All-Parish Eucharist with all-ages sermon (February 16) • "Ashes-to-go" at the Wellesley Square train station and Peet's Coffee from 7:30am (February 26)

**Adult Formation** • The rector plans a three-month sabbatical starting in mid-May and focusing on the RenewalWorks initiative • Men's Bible Study continues exploring the *Gospel of John* (February 1) • Bible Circle: *Gospel of Matthew: A Witness to Jewish Christians* (February 11 and 12) • Faith & Practice: *What is Good Grief?* (February 2) • 9am Christian Learning Series, *Religion & The Arts: This Isn't Kids' Stuff: Christian Theology in C. S. Lewis's Narnia Series*, presented by Penn Young (February 9); *Angelic Visitations*, presented by Peter Fergusson (February 16); *Holy Week in Spain: Public Pageantry*, presented by Katie Hodges (February 23)

**Youth Formation** • Cooking Night @ Youth Group (February 9) • Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (February 25) • Lenten Madness Battle of the Saints provides questions to ponder and daily voting on Instagram

**Outreach** • SOUPER Bowl food drive for Wellesley Food Pantry (February 2)

**Book Clubs** • Book Circle: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett (February 18) • Men's Book Club: *Tuxedo Park: A Wall Street Tycoon and the Secret Palace of Science That Changed the Course of World War II* by Jennet Conant

**Vestry** • Ruth Hubert, St. Andrew's financial secretary for almost 20 years, to retire in March • Joanne Butler introduced as new financial administrator succeeding Ruth Hubert

## March

**Worship** • Lenten Choral Evensong sung by senior choir with guest organist Thomas Handel (March 1) • Worship services, church meetings, and events suspended beginning March 12 due to COVID-19

**Worship – Virtual** • Sunday services offered on Facebook Live at 10am and recorded on Facebook and YouTube after 11am • Sunday services streamed to the congregation of St. Michael's, Holliston (March 15 and 22) • Morning prayer services with clergy at 8:30am and Compline, a short prayer service each evening at 7pm, begin on St. Andrew's Facebook page and website (March 16) • Youth Sunday Morning Prayer: St. Andrew's children and youth lead prayers and music with sermons by three confirmands (March 29 - Facebook and YouTube)

**Adult Formation** • 9am Christian Learning: Lenten book, *Meeting God in Mark*, by Rowan Williams • Faith & Practice: *Your Body is a Temple* (March 1) • Men's Bible Study continues exploring the *Gospel of John* (March 7) • Bible Circle: *Gospel of Matthew: A Witness to Jewish Christians* (March 10) • Lenten Potluck & Program: *Into the Wilderness: Sacrifice, Suffering, Temptation, and Transformation: Fasting: Ancient Practice and Modern Discipline* led by Ansley Martin and Margaret Schwarzer (March 4); *A Jewish Perspective on Suffering: a Journey Through Ancient Texts and Philosophies* by Rabbi Rachel Saphire (March 11) • Lenten Meditation Guide, contributed by 47 parishioners, offers brief devotional for each day of Lent and Holy Week

**Adult Formation – Virtual** • Sunday forum via Zoom led by Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole: A Bible Study based on *The Path: A Journey through the Bible, Chapter 22, Grace May Abound* (March 22)

**Youth Formation** • Kids' Place children and parents invited to special coffee hour after 10am service (March 1) • St. Andrew's confirmands and high school youth group join Teen Shabbat service at Temple Beth Elohim (March 6) • St. Andrew's junior choir participates in 61st Annual Grace Knight Babson Concert (March 8)

**Outreach** • B-READY lunches prepared for St. Stephen's after school program (March 1)

**Outreach – Post COVID-19 Update – March 18** • St. Stephen's Youth Programs continued on virtual

basis • Family Promise families moved to hotel • *common cathedral* continues Sunday worship with safe distancing • Healthcare Without Walls housing disrupted as shelters adopt social distancing • United Way / Pearl Street Cupboard & Café discontinues in-person meals, offers pick-up of meals and provisions • Knitting ministry continues in members' homes • El Hogar schools closed, 50 remain students on campus, farm remains operational

**Fellowship/Membership** • Virtual coffee hours after 10 am service start March 14, by Zoom or phone

**Vestry** • St. Andrew's Firearm Safety Task Force meets (March 8) • Church building closed due to COVID-19 (March 12)

**St. Andrew's Website during COVID-19**

• Six Links provided for Community Connections: *Live Worship*; *St. Andrew's Facebook Page*; "*StAs-Wellesley*" *Instagram Posts*; "*StAsWellesley Youth*" *Instagram Posts*; *St. Andrew's YouTube Channel*; *St. Andrew's Zoom Meetings*

## April

*Virtual events live streamed and/or recorded*

**Worship** • Liturgy of the Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel (April 5) • Holy Week Services: Taizé-style Compline service on Monday evening (April 6); Stations of the Cross on Tuesday evening (April 7); Service of Tenebrae on Wednesday evening (April 8); Maundy Thursday Service (April 9); Good Friday Liturgy at noon (April 10); Good Friday Children's Service at 2:30pm (April 10); Great Easter Vigil at 7:30pm (April 11); Festival Easter Service at 10am (April 12) • Happy Easter and Passover greetings from the Wellesley ecumenical group (April 12) • Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline at 8pm continue

**Adult Formation** • Sunday forum led by Sarah Robbins-Cole finishes book *The Path: A Journey through the Bible, Chapter 24, "The Alpha and the Omega"* (April 5) • Bible Circle: *Matthew, Chapter 26* (April 14-15) • 9am Christian Learning Series: *Reflection on Serving with the Peace Corps in Rwanda* with Hannah Horobin (April 19); *Meeting God in Mark* by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury (April 26) • The rector's sabbatical postponed until next year

**Youth Formation** • Children's Easter Message (April 12) • Rite-13, confirmation class and youth group continue

**Outreach** • St. Stephen's Youth Programs discontinue in-person services, ramp up virtual learning, continue support for students and families • Family Promise: all four families healthy and staying in hotel • common cathedral continues Sunday worship with safe distancing and access to Emmanuel Church hall for food and rest • Healthcare Without Walls distributing supermarket gift cards and working to keep in touch with clients • United Way/Pearl Street Cupboard & Café distributes donation of 33,000 meals and registers 50 new families for food assistance • Knitting ministry continues in members' homes • El Hogar: country in lockdown, resident students in quarantine, teachers and staff trying to maintain contact with those at home • Wellesley Food Pantry open Tuesdays for on-request curbside pickup and home delivery

**Fellowship/Membership** • Coffee hours after Sunday services • St. Andrew's and St. Michael's virtual Knit Night (April 19) • Bargain Haul canceled for 2020

**Vestry** • Virtual treasurer's/finance office remains open for pledges and other payments by mail or on website Online Giving page

## May

*Virtual events live streamed and/or recorded*

**Worship** • Graduating college students from St. Andrew's celebrated at 10am service (May 31) • Rector conducts first social distance wedding and baptism • Restrictions on worship in church extended through June • Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline at 8pm continue

**Adult Formation** • 9am Christian Learning: *Meeting God in Mark*, Chapter 3, by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury (May 3); *Stories of Mothering in Scripture: Many Voices* (May 10) • Bible Circle: *Gospel of Matthew: A Witness to Jewish Christians*, Chapter 28 (May 12-13) • Spring Bible Circles: *The Creation Stories, Genesis* Chapters 1 and 2.3 (May 26-27) • College-age Bible Study Group begins with *1 John* (via WebEx on Tuesdays at 4pm) • Anna Page video explains Rite II Morning Prayer

• Junior choir end of year wrap up (May 31) • Ramona, the Assistant Rector Mouse, introduced and followed on youth Instagram • Eighth graders invited to try out Youth Group on special "Art Night" (May 31)

**Youth Formation** • Church school, Rite-13, confirmation class and youth group continue • Parents of high school seniors invited to discuss ways to honor graduates (May 7) • Virtual Parents' Circle (May 15) • Special Family Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 31

**Outreach** • St. Stephen's Youth Program distributing food to needy in their group of 200 families. Decision B-SAFE summer camp pending • Family Promise Metrowest serving 23 families, with 27 adults and 46 children across all the programs. One family acquires own apartment • common cathedral continues Sunday worship with safe distancing on Boston Common, provides hall at Emmanuel Church for food and rest • Healthcare Without Walls continues to provide medical service to homeless and marginally housed women and babies • United Way/Pearl Street Cupboard & Café food pantry open and distributing needed food • Knitting ministry continues making shawls, baby hats and sweaters for expected winter demand • El Hogar still housing 41 children, teachers and staff continue to be paid, no infection so far. • Wellesley Food Pantry moves to the UU Church during renovations at the Hills Congregational Church

**Fellowship/Membership** • Families and children invited to special "Coffee Hour" (May 31) • Piano recital, *Imagined Worlds* by St. Andrew's choir member and Wellesley College senior Katie Hodges (May 23)

**Book Clubs** • Men's Book Club: *Eight Days at Yalta: How Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin Shaped the Post-War World* by Diane Preston (May 6)

**Vestry** • 125th Anniversary Capital Campaign update reports \$2.5 million in gifts and pledge commitments at end of 2019, well exceeding \$2 million initial goal • Most of St. Andrew's property refurbishment work deferred until spring/summer 2021 • St. Andrew's likely to remain closed for the summer like other Wellesley churches and Episcopal parishes in Massachusetts • Parishioners urged

to stay current on St. Andrew's website and on social media: Facebook, YouTube, parish and youth Instagrams, and Twitter

## June

*Virtual events live streamed and/or recorded*

**Worship** • Multifaith Witness against Racial Injustice on grounds of Village Church (June 7) • Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline at 8pm continue

**Adult Formation** • 9am Adult Forum: *The Joseph Novella, Joseph and Potiphar's Wife*, comparing Genesis 39:1-19 and the Qur'an 12:21-34 (June 7-14); *Joseph and Pharaoh*, Genesis 41:1-45 and Qur'an 12: 43-57 (June 21); *Joseph and his Brothers*, Genesis 42:1-44:17 and Qur'an 12:58-86 (June 28) • College-age Bible Study Group continues with *1 John* • Bible Circles: *The Creation Stories*, Genesis Chapter 2:4-2:25 (June 2-3) Chapter 3 (June 9-10), Chapter 4 (June 16-17)

**Youth Formation** • Parents asked for youth formation concerns and priorities in 2020-2021 • St. Andrew's members cheer WHS graduates in diploma car parade past St. Paul's (June 5) • Rite-13 and youth group final meetings of year (June 7) • St. Andrew's youth join students in diocese to discuss dismantling racism with Bishops Alan Gates and Gayle Harris

**Outreach** • Outreach partners continue limited programs. Parishioners using AmazonSmile urged to support El Hogar or the Wellesley Food Pantry • St. Stephen's, Family Promise, *common cathedral*, Healthcare Without Walls also welcome donations

**Fellowship/Membership** • Coffee hours after Sunday services

**Book Clubs** • Book Circle: Plans to read books about racial justice, including *How to be an AntiRacist* by Ibram Kendi and *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander • Men's Book Club: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah (June 3)

**Vestry** • Panel of doctors from congregation to help develop safety procedures for when church re-opens • Questionnaire asks parishioners' comfort level for in-person worship and how they might participate in St. Andrew's summer and fall activities • Online Sunday services to continue through the summer whether or not in-person worship resumes • St. Andrew's expected to remain closed

for summer like other churches in Wellesley • First quarterly giving statements for 2020 will be combined with six-month statements mailed in July

## July and August

*Virtual events live streamed and/or recorded*

**Worship** • Sunday Service at 10am, Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline at 8pm continue

**Adult Formation** • Copies of St. Andrew's summer book, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, available from Wellesley Books • St. Andrew's Forum Zoom meeting to discuss the movie "13th" and issues of racial justice (August 16) • Invitation to sign up for adult confirmation preparation class this fall via Zoom in four sessions

**Youth Formation** • Parents asked to indicate interest in confirmation class beginning September 2020 and express concerns and priorities for their children's faith formation in 2020-2021 • Ramona, the new assistant rector mouse, visits children of the parish throughout summer in person and via instagram, @staswellesleyyouth

**Outreach** • Outreach partners continue their programs on a limited basis • Parishioners donate \$15,000 in groceries and gift cards to St. Stephen's Youth Program families from early May through July, cook and deliver 248 "grab-n-go" meals in single week

**Fellowship/Membership** • Coffee hours after Sunday services • Special summer edition of *The Call*, available online

**Vestry** • With church unlikely to reopen until 2021, wardens, vestry, and property committee support decision to start church renovation project this fall • Work of clergy and staff continues, with office operations and financial administration fully functional on-line. • Parishioners asked to keep pledge payments current; contribution statements mailed for January-June • Instructions provided for accessing directory of church members from website and using mobile app "Church Life" for cell phones

## September

*Virtual events except as noted*

**Worship** • Sunday services at 10:15am, Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline at 8pm con-

tinue • Homecoming Sunday (September 13) • St. Andrew's and St. Michael's join to celebrate St. Michael's and All Angels feast day (September 27) • Special Bible skit for children at 10:15am service (September 27)

**Adult Formation** • 9am Christian learning series resumes: *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold Kushner, led by Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole (September 13); *Ancient Desert Fathers: A Powerful Spirituality of Isolation*, led by Rev. Margaret Schwarzer (September 20); *The Monastic Tradition of the Jesuits*, led by Rev. Dr. Jim Weiss (September 27)

**Youth Formation** • Confirmation class registration 2020-2021 • Registration for virtual and take-home programming for church school, Rite-13, and high school youth group • Parents attend first Zoom meeting of Rite-13 leaders for this year (September 13) • High school youth group invited to meet on Zoom every Sunday at 5pm for 20 minutes to check in and pray Compline together (starting September 20) • High school youth group kick-off (in person, outdoor, socially distanced) (September 13) • Parents of this year's confirmands attend Zoom meeting September 20 preceding first confirmation class on September 27 • Youth group apple picking for eight teens at Dowse Orchards (September 27) • Rite-13 Games and Adventure Day at War Memorial in front of Town Hall (socially distanced with masks) (September 20)

**Outreach** • Outreach partners continue programs on limited basis • Family Promise van driver on cross-country cycling trip to raise awareness of family homelessness • St. Andrew's provides lunch at common cathedral on September 27 • Healthcare Without Walls provides *Bridges to Moms* baby registry on-line for donating baby supplies to struggling families • El Hogar still housing 41 students; residents of Tegucigalpa allowed out of homes one day every two weeks • Wellesley Food Pantry returning to Hills Congregational Church

**Fellowship/Membership** • Coffee hours after Sunday services • "You'll be back," song stolen from *Hamilton* and rewritten with humor and inspiration for the church, available online • St. Andrew's Fall Music Program: 40 minute "senior choir" Zoom masterclasses; 30 minute "junior choir" Zoom

group voice lessons; Virtual Large Group Recording Projects for All Saints' and Christmas; parishioner videos and recordings • Invitation to join Coventry Cocktail Hours on Zoom

**Book Clubs** • Men's Book Club: *Billy Martin, Baseball's Flawed Genius* by Bill Pennington

**Vestry** • Reminder to stay current with St. Andrew's virtual content using the 6 Community Connection links provided on its website and by visiting St. Andrew's on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram (parish and youth), and Twitter

## October

*Virtual events except as noted*

**Worship** • St. Andrew's and St. Michael's begin combined Sunday service at 10:15am • Celebration of St. Francis Day (October 4) • Blessing of the Animals in first outdoor service (5 pm, October 4) • Anna Page ordained a priest by Bishop of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. (October 17) • Parishioners invited to submit pictures for All Saints' Sunday virtual project

**Adult Formation** • 9am Christian Learning: *St. Francis Day: Reflecting on St. Francis* (October 4); *Men and Women of Faith: The Biographies of Three Saints*: Pope Francis (October 11); Mary Magdalene (October 18); Julian of Norwich (October 25) • Men's Bible Study, led by the rector, explores the *Gospel of John* (October 3) • Bible Circle: *The Peter Chronicle: St. Peter's Contribution to our Christian Life* (October 13 and 14)

**Youth Formation** • Church school, Rite-13, and youth Sunday programs continue, including junior choir Zoom group, youth confirmation class, and high school check-in and Compline • Church school home formation materials available for pick up weekly plus lessons and video on webpage • High school youth group hike at Ridge Hill Reservation (October 18) • Toddler story-time on All Hallows' Eve in St. Francis Courtyard (October 25) • High school community service discussion on Zoom (October 25) • St. Michael's teens invite St. Andrew's high school youth group to Halloween themed virtual game night (October 27)

**Outreach** • Outreach partners continue programs on a limited basis; weekly e-Pistle provides links

for donating to each • Amazon shoppers invited to use AmazonSmile to support El Hogar in Honduras or the Wellesley Food Pantry • Donations to St. Stephen's youth programs since early May exceed \$15,000 • Family Promise Metrowest cancels live fundraising due to COVID and initiates online cash raffle and virtual concert • *Esperanza: A Celebration of Hope* provides an innovative online introduction to staff and students in Honduras and glimpse of how El Hogar is fulfilling its mission during the pandemic (October 24)

**Fellowship/Membership** • Virtual coffee hour after Sunday service continues • WALKtober, sponsored by fellowship committee, held Sundays and Thursdays in October on routes near church • Invitation to sign up for Coventry Cocktail Hours on Zoom • "Senior choir" Zoom masterclasses for adults and high school students on Thursday evenings through mid-December • Call to congregation musicians to contribute videos/recordings for regular Sunday services

**Book Clubs** • Men's Book Club: *Columbus: The Four Journeys, 1492-1504* by Laurence Bergreen (October 7)

**Vestry** • Annual stewardship campaign launched October 4 with the theme *Rising to the Challenge: We are all in this together* • Parishioners asked to wear face coverings and practice safe distancing at functions that must be conducted in person

## November

*Virtual events except as noted*

**Worship** • All Saints' Sunday (November 1) • Outdoor in-person Communion services on Memorial Garden lawn (1pm and 3pm - Sunday November 1) • Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts, during virtual visitation to St. Michael's preaches at joint St. Andrew's/St. Michael's Sunday service (November 15) • St. Andrew's Day celebration with bagpiper at 10:15am online and #StAndrews-Strong bracelet, shortbread, and Advent wreath greens available for pick up after service (November 22) • Wellesley Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Zoom (November 23) • Advent Taizé-style Meditative service (November 29) • Parishioners invited to request pre-consecrated wine and wa-

fers for Holy Communion at 5pm Christmas Eve service (multi-committee effort)

**Adult Formation** • Faith & Practice: *Forgiving Ourselves* (November 1) • 9am Christian Learning: *How to Live with the Rules St. Benedict Teaches Us*, by Judith Valente: Part 1, *Community: How to Claim It* (November 1); Part 2, *Trust: How to Build It* (November 8); Part 3, *Finding Balance: How to Live It* (November 15); *What is Free Will* (November 22); *The Virgin Mary's Portrayal in the Qur'an*, Part 1 (November 29) • Men's Bible Study concludes study of *John's Gospel* (November 7) • Bible Circle: *The Peter Chronicle: St. Peter's Contribution to our Christian Life* continues with Matthew 17:1-10 and Acts 5:27-42 (November 10 and 11)

**Youth Formation** • Rite-13 Rake 'n Run (November 1) • High school youth group hike at Noanet Woodlands in Dover (November 8) • Rite-13 virtual lock-In and game night (November 14)

**Outreach** • Donations invited for holiday dinners for 80 families of St. Stephen's Church in Boston • B-LOVE collection of food and Visa gift cards for families of St. Stephen's Youth continues on Tuesdays

**Fellowship/Membership** • Members of St. Andrew's and St. Michael's invited to participate in Silent Night Intergenerational Virtual Choir for 5pm Christmas Eve service • Gathering of the Greens at the home of Luisa Hunnewell (November 21) • St. Michael's Online Holiday Bazaar (November 15 - 22) • St. Andrew's team participates for fifth year in Turkey Trot 2020, a virtual race this year honoring its founder, Carol Chaoui (November 21 - 29)

**Book Clubs** • Men's Book Club: *A Personal Odyssey* by Thomas Sowell (November 4)

**Vestry** • Special edition of *The Call* describes current church renovations, largest of which is new lighting system in the sanctuary • Financial administrator updates information on contribution statements and year end payments • Parents and teens can use new Remind app for text notifications about events and classes • Instructions provided for updating Zoom to the latest version



## December

*Virtual events except as noted*

**Worship** • Blue Christmas Service (December 16)

- Christmas Pageant combining traditions from St. Andrew's and St. Michael's during 10:15am Sunday service (December 20) • Children's 3pm Christmas Eve service & Jesus' Birthday Party (December 24) • St. Andrew's and St. Michael's joint 5pm Festival Holiday Christmas Eve service (December 24) • 10am Facebook Live Christmas Day service (December 25) • 10am Sunday service live from the rectory (December 27) • Wafers and wine were distributed for the Christmas Eve service

**Adult Formation** • 9am Christian Learning Series: *The Virgin Mary's Portrayal in the Qur'an*, Part 2 (December 6) *Advent mini-retreat on Holy Waiting* led by spiritual directors from Bethany House of Prayer (December 13); *Jesus' Human Father: Lessons Joseph Teaches Us* (December 20) • Men's Bible Study (December 5) • Bible Circle: *The Peter Chronicle: St. Peter's Contribution to our Christian Life* continues with Acts 8:14-25 and Acts 12:1-9 (December 8 and 9) • Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole, rector of St. Michael's, begins clergy sabbatical after Christmas while joint services and informal partnership with St. Michael's continue

**Youth Formation** • St. Andrew's families invited to show gingerbread houses and Christmas decorations on Zoom (December 12) • Youth group alumni night (December 20)

**Outreach** • St. Andrew's continues participation in Anton Cleaner's *Coats for Kids* program • Family Promise virtual holiday concert Keeping the Promise and silent auction (December 5) • Alternative Gift Fair 2020-Style conducted remotely with December 10 target for submitting selections • St. Andrew's provides lunch at common cathedral (December 20) • Winter warmth collection on Tuesdays for *common cathedral* homeless

**Fellowship/Membership** • St. Andrew's and St. Michael's families invited to provide short Christmas greeting videos for Christmas Eve service • Holiday Bazaar items pickup at St. Michael's church December 5 and 6

**Book Clubs** • Men's Book Club: *Frozen in Time, An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II* by Mitchell Zuckoff (December 2)

**Vestry** • Theme for winter edition of *The Call* is *Advent and Christmas*, offering reflections and messages of hope for the season • St. Andrew's delegate, Sarah Dent, reports on virtual Diocesan Convention, including discussions of racial justice and climate change • St. Andrew's response to COVID featured in Wellesley Townsman article "Like other churches, St. Andrew's finds its way online" (December 7)

—*Special thanks to George Dummer for his dedication in organizing and compiling this record.*

## Gratitudes

**1/5 Jesus' Birthday Party!** Thank you to the church school committee members who helped put together Jesus' birthday party after our 3pm Christmas Eve service, especially Jen Martin and Cari Dineen. Happy birthday, Jesus.

**1/5 Christmas Eve Services** An enormous thanks to the many people who helped with our Christmas Eve services, including (but not limited to) the altar guild, the flower guild, the ushers, the choir, the lay Eucharistic ministers, the acolytes, the readers, and those who helped prepare the bulletins. Thank you for helping to make our celebration of the birth of Christ so joyous, both for the congregation of St. Andrew's, and for all the visitors we welcomed to rejoice with us.

**1/12 St. Stephen's Christmas Bags for the Elderly** We have been blessed with another year of wonderful contributions of homemade cookies and handmade knitted gifts to bring to the elderly at St. Stephen's. These gifts of time and love are a beautiful way to bring some joy to elderly St. Stephen's parishioners. We would not be able to do that without your help. We want to thank the knitting group, led by Donna Kell, who made 60 gifts and all the cookie bakers; Al & Zebby Dubé, Nancy Jones, Linda Lull, Cam McCormick, Betsy Millane, Caren Parker, Barbara Shellito, Linda Sperry, Jacqie Stathis, and all the anonymous cookie elves.

**1/12 Epiphany Fireside Service** Thanks to all who contributed to last Sunday's Epiphany Fireside dinner. The potatoes, soups, salads and desserts were delicious! Special thanks to Jen Olivetti and Jenny Sawyer for organizing and to all their helpers, Al & Zebby Dubé, Hillary Madge, Posy Olivetti, Randy Parker, and Carol Shedd.

**1/12 B-READY** Many thanks to the volunteers who prepared eight big casseroles of macaroni on Sunday, January 5. These were delivered to St. Stephen's and gobbled up with gratitude by the hungry kids in the after-school program! Thank you to Bonnie Akins, Heidi Harper, Cam McCormick, Bonny Nothern, Dave Osborn, Ryan Osborn, and Christy West.

**1/19 Ordination Fellowship Reception** Thanks to all who worked so hard to make Mia's ordination reception a success: Barbara Bergstrom, Al & Zebby Dubé, Ruth Ecker, Wendy Haering, Joanna Horobin, Jane Kettendorf, Debbie Monti, Terri O'Toole, Dot Reed, Sandy Rigney, and Margaret Zusky. It was great way to show off our church's hospitality to so many guests during this important celebration.

**1/19 Ordination** "I am so overwhelmed with gratitude for all the folks who came to celebrate my ordination with me on Saturday. I feel absolutely flooded with love and support! Huge amounts of work went into making that day so memorable; thank you for it all. I was so touched by the personalized and spectacular reception, by the beautiful music and flowers, and the thoughtful detailed support of the altar guild. I want to especially thank the parish for being so welcoming to my friends, guests, and colleagues, many of whom mentioned to me how impressed they were with the kindness and hospitality of St. Andrew's."  
—Rev. Mia.

**1/26 Community Learning** Much gratitude to our outreach representatives who came to teach our kids about community service and faith during our community learning event last Sunday. Thank you to our teacher assistant helpers who also talked about their own community service practices.

**1/26 The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast** Many thanks to all who gathered for the World of Wellesley MLK Day breakfast. We had interesting speakers, beautiful singers, excellent dancers, and a step team from Wellesley High School at our celebration. Most importantly, we had a significant gathering of members of our town, all taking time to honor Dr. King and to think about his legacy.

**1/26 Blackstone School** Many thanks to the volunteers who came to Boston on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday; there were 19 of us who did projects at the Blackstone School to brighten up the learning space. It was truly in the tradition of this great leader to work hard to improve the spaces in this school, which primarily serves

a racially and economically diverse student body. Mark Benjamin, Marga Dieter, Heidi Harper, Donna Kell, Anne Manners, Cam McCormick, Debbie and Michaela Osborn, Elspeth Grant Pruett, Adrian Robbins-Cole, Jenny & Mark Sawyer, the Schaefer family, Paul Shackford, Paul Shellito, and Penn Young.

**2/2 *Alternative Gift Fair*** Many thanks to all parishioners who so generously contributed to our successful Alternative Gift Fair this holiday season. Also gratitude to the Whiting family who shared their practice of distributing the lovely gift cards produced by Cam McCormick to each member as well as to others who mail them with their Christmas greeting cards. Our totals this year are the following: \$3,410 will be sent to El Hogar; \$1,835 to Heifer International; \$1,355 to St. Stephen's Youth Programs; \$945 to Family Promise Metrowest; \$775 to Food for our Neighbors; \$770 to St. Andrew's stitching ministry; and \$500 to Episcopal Relief & Development.

**2/9 *SOUPER Bowl*** The outreach committee thanks all who returned SOUPER Bowl bags, generously filled with donations for the Food Pantry. Special thanks also go to Peter & Linda Lull, Debbie Osborn, and Jack Whiting, who delivered the bags to the Food Pantry; and to Peter, Ben, and Thomas Mahoney and other church school members who helped carry the bags to the cars. And a huge thank you to Margarethe Kulke for once again organizing the event!

**2/9 *Health Care Without Walls*** Thank you to all the St. Andrew's stitchers for the beautiful hand knit items that support Health Care Without Walls that were so beautifully displayed in church on Sunday, February 2, and to Donna Kell for organizing and speaking on behalf of Health Care Without Walls.

**2/9 *B-READY*** Many thanks to the volunteers who stayed after church on Sunday to prepare and deliver a hearty meal for our friends at the St. Stephen's B-READY after school program: Bonnie Akins, Heidi Harper, Cam McCormick, Bonny Nothern, and Christy West.

**2/23 *El Hogar Ministries*** On behalf of the children and staff of El Hogar Projects in Honduras and

the board of directors of El Hogar Ministries here in the United States, I want to thank St. Andrew's for the incredibly generous gift of \$43,000 made as 2019 drew to a close. This money is part of a tithe from our parish's recently completed capital campaign, and for that reason it will be used for capital improvements on both of El Hogar's campuses in Honduras. I will keep you all updated on what those improvements are, as we move further into 2020. Thank you, St. Andrew's, for your steadfast support—in prayer, in presence, and in treasure—of El Hogar's mission to serve the most vulnerable people of Honduras: children living in extreme poverty. With your help, and by God's grace, we are raising up a new generation of leaders in that country. For more information about El Hogar, please visit their website: [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org), or email me, Becky Taylor, Board President.

**3/1 *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*** We're grateful to the fellowship team and church school committee for organizing our last hurrah before Lent on Shrove Tuesday. Thank you to our Rite-13ers, their leaders, and our egg strata cooks for our spectacular pancake supper feast! Special thanks to D.D. Alexander and Susan Jackson for their help with burying the alleluias and teaching our kids about ashes.

**3/1 *New Cassock and Surplice*** I'm so grateful to the people of St. Andrew's for their beautiful and generous gift of a new cassock and surplice on the occasion of my ordination. How fitting that I will be wearing it for the first time at our choral evensong! Many thanks to Debbie Lorenz for her help in sizing and organizing. I was deeply touched by the Altar Guild's gorgeous gift of a purple and white stole that I wore for the first time on Ash Wednesday. I will wear all these vestments with pride and forever remember you when I don them.

**3/8 *Family Promise Hosting Week at Village Church*** A big thank you to those who helped out during our Family Promise host week at Village Church March 1 through 8: Ashley Denton, Cam McCormick, Anne Manners, Caren Parker, Debbie Osborn, and Heidi Harper.

**3/8 Pancake Supper** Thanks to all who worked on the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The delicious egg strata's made by Paige Fisher, Lakey MacArthur, and Elizabeth Svedlund were a big hit. Zebby Dubé, Terri Rawson, and Mike Wakefield were amazing in the kitchen, and of course all of our Rite-13 servers/greeters/cleanup crew made the evening a success. A special thank you goes out to organizers Terri Rawson and Jenny Sawyer. If you missed it, add it to your calendar for next year! It truly is a great way to prepare for Lent.

**3/8 Choral Evensong** Thank you to our great choir and our talented choir director Wardie Mannix for the wonderful choral evensong last Sunday evening. We were blessed by their offering of beautiful anthems and settings for the evensong. It was lovely to see many parishioners and visitors at the service.

**3/8 Evensong Reception** Thank you to all who contributed to the candle-lit reception highlighted by the beautiful center table of greens, orchids, and savory treats following the Choral Evensong service. A special thanks to Wendy Haering and Margaret Zusky for organizing. And they could not have done it without their devoted team, so thanks to everyone who contributed.

**3/8 Kids' Place Coffee Hour** Thank you to the membership committee and returning parish families for a well-attended Kids' Place coffee hour on Sunday! You helped to welcome several new, young families and even plugged some experienced members into more opportunities for parenting support.

**9/27 B-LOVE collection** Many thanks to the volunteers who have been donating to the weekly B-LOVE collection of non-perishable groceries and VISA gift cards, which are arranged by Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, and donated to families at St. Stephen's each week. We have collected over \$15,000 worth of food and cash cards since early May, and our collective generosity is really wonderful. Bonnie Akins, Cynthia Ballantyne, Maggie Baxter, Jim & Margaret Blackwell, Judith Boland, Stephen Clarke, Ashley Denton, Marga Dieter, Zebby Dubé, George Dummer, Marie Dunnell, Noel Dwyer, Nancy

Echlov, Peter Fergusson, Erica Gelser, Wendy Haering, Joe Hamilton, Dave & Becky Hamlin, Meg Harris, Sarah Harris, Joanna Horobin, Emily Hunnewell, Cynthia Hunt, Carol Jankowski, Ann Johnson, Donna Kell, Dan & Susan Kemp, Ruthie Klinck, Margarethe Kulke, Isabel Lyndon, Lakey MacArthur, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Joy MacLeod, Herb & Paige Manning, Jen Martin, Cam McCormick, Lois & Doug Mizzi, Lisa Onorato, Caren Parker, Karen Pekowitz, Anne Prensner, Madison Riley, Adrian & Sarah Robbins-Cole, Heather Schaefer, Margaret Schwarzer, Charlene Smith, Lynda Sperry, Jacquelyn Stathis, Elizabeth Svedlund, Kris Vanin, Allison Wheeler, Jack & Jill Whiting, and Margaret Zusky. An extra big thank you to Heidi & Wade Harper whose front porch is filled up each Tuesday!

**10/4 B-SAFE Volunteers** A big gratitude to the volunteers who gave time, talent, and treasure to support B-SAFE during the week of August 3, 2020: we prepared 62 delicious and nutritious grab-n-go meals each day, which was much appreciated by the children and staff at St. Stephen's. Some of our cooking days were super hot but we powered through it! Rob Brandt, Nancy Echlov, Heidi Harper, Cynthia Hunt, Donna Kell, Lakey MacArthur, Jen & Ansley Martin, Cam McCormick, Llynda McFarlane, Debbie Osborn, Karen Pekowitz, Jenny Sawyer, Mary Scanlon, Paul Shackford, Lynda Sperry, Sue Stewart, Kris Vanin, Betsy Veidenheimer, Sandy Warren, and Margaret Zusky.

**10/11 common cathedral lunches** Our church provided 150 grab-and-go lunches for common cathedral on September 27—thanks to our food preparers and deliverers! Nancy Echlov, Joanna Horobin, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Cam McCormick, Caren Parker, Sandy Warren, and Margaret Zusky.

**10/18 Video skits in our online service** Many thanks to the Grossetti family for their "Exodus wilderness" video skit featured last month in our online service and to Becky Hamlin and Lynda Sperry for their video of the "Parable of the Wedding Feast" starring various Playmobil characters, which was featured in our online Sunday service last Sunday. If you feel called to make video skits in any form

for our online worship or for our church school children, please contact Mia.

**11/1 All Hallows' Eve "Trunk-or-Treat"** Many thanks to Liz Svedlund and the church school committee team for the spooky All Hallows' Eve "Trunk-or-Treat" and service this past Sunday. Thank you to all the families who got into the "spirit" with costumes and out-of-this-world car décor!

**11/1 Toddler Story-tim** Thank you to Coryell Urban for organizing the lovely toddler story-time on Sunday. We had a lovely reflection on how all things come to an end—even COVID-19. So good to see sweet little faces!

**11/22 Rite-13 leaders** A huge thank you to our Rite-13 leaders for being angels "Among Us"! Thank you for delivering goody bags for our first successful virtual lock-in this past Saturday and for being great "crewmates" for the kids this year

**11/22 common cathedral lunches** Many thanks to those who prepared and delivered 150 bag lunches to common cathedral on November 15: Bonnie Akins, Nancy Echlov, Joanna Horobin, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Debbie Osborn, Ryan Osborn, Caren Parker, and Sandy Warren.

**11/29 Holiday Meals for St. Stephen's** Shopping for, assembling, and delivering the ingredients for 80 Thanksgiving meals was no small task! Our thanks go to Herb Manning for coordinating the effort and to the rest of the team: Harry Grey, Joanna Horobin, Alan Joachim, Paige Manning, Mary Scanlon, and Jack & Jill Whiting. We are also grateful for parishioners' contributions to fund these meals for St. Stephen's.

**11/29 Greens & Wreaths!** A huge thank you to the Hunnewell family for sharing their trees' beautiful bounty with our parish. We enjoyed beautiful weather last Saturday gathering the greens around their property. Many thanks to Heather Schaefer,

Linda Lull, and Christine Beach for organizing Saturday and Sunday's gathering and distribution of greens. Your efforts brought the fragrance and spirit of the season to so many homes this Advent.

**12/6 The Advent Taizé-style Service** brought a soulful calm to our first Sunday of Advent. Special thanks to the members of our working group who made it happen: D.D. Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Margarethe Kulke, Liz Parsons, Jenny Sawyer, Cynthia Scott, and Carol Shedd. Special thanks also go to the music-makers: Wardie Mannix, Amanda and Lucy Kern, the Pekowitz family, Laura Cervinsky, Britt Brown, Max Herman, and Blake Jennings. We couldn't have done it without Katharine Clark, who did the technical work to put the service together: thank you Katharine.

**12/20 Gingerbread House-Making Party** Thank you to the church school committee for the sweet time that was the Gingerbread House-Making party on Zoom last Saturday! Lots of giggles and collapsing roofs. Thank you especially Coryell Urban for delivering the house kits to folks ahead of time and for every family that picked up, decorated, and sent in photos of their creations.

**12/27 Seniors at St. Stephen's** The 50 presents for the Seniors at St. Stephen's have been delivered to Boston and there are a lot of people to thank for all the help that was provided. There were wonderful knitted items by the knitters of the church led by Donna Kell, and homemade cookies made by: D.D. Alexander, Becky Hamlin, Kathie Hodges, Suzy Littlefield, Luisa Newman, Lisa Onorato, Michaela Osborn, Caren Parker, and Jacqui Stathis. Thanks to all the members who contribute to the donations for this outreach

— *Special thanks to George Dummer for his dedication compiling and organizing this record.*

## Wardens' Report



David Hamlin



Paige Manning

AS WE ENTERED 2020, we were happily remembering our 125th Anniversary celebrations and feeling blessed by your tremendous generosity, which led to the success of both our 125th Anniversary Capital Campaign and our annual stewardship appeal. We were looking ahead to another fulfilling year as a parish, both spiritually and programmatically. We planned to strengthen our parish through an Episcopal program called RenewalWorks, were anticipating Mia's ordination, and Adrian's sabbatical. Among many other events on the horizon, under the excellent leadership of Jim Blackwell and the property committee, we were preparing for our sanctuary and narthex renovations. Wow, does that seem like a long time ago! It is a good reminder that our plans may not be God's plans.

Thankfully, we were able to celebrate Mia's ordination in early January. It was a very special service filled with faith, love, and joy. Additionally, St. Andrew's sponsored Anna Page's April ordination at St. Michael's Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Blessings to both Mia and Anna for long and happy priesthoods.

On the personnel front, after 20 years of service as our parish financial secretary, Ruth Hubert made the decision to retire. We planned to celebrate Ruth's outstanding service to St. Andrew's in the spring of 2020, but now hope to have Ruth join us at a Sunday service when we are back worshipping in person. After a thorough search, led by Frank Hunnewell, vestryperson for personnel, we hired Joanne Butler to replace Ruth as the financial administrator. Joanne hit the ground running in February. In partnership with Harry Condon, our treasurer, and David Osborn, vestryperson for finance, the parish's finances have

been carefully and thoughtfully managed during this challenging year.

By late February, we were beginning to think about the coronavirus and make what we viewed as necessary adjustments, such as not passing the peace, being more careful at Lenten suppers, and making changes to communion. Adrian was well ahead of the curve in recognizing the need to adapt to the rapidly changing situation. By early March we were beginning to prepare for the possibility of being remote. Thanks to Kate Clark's forward thinking technology leadership, the clergy and staff had the hardware and software to start working from home as we locked down. While it was by no means easy, for the most part the transition to remote work and worship was pretty seamless. In our families the younger generation is an invaluable technology resource. This turned out to be the case at St. Andrew's as well: Mia's expertise allowed us to effectively use social media and communication platforms for education and worship.

The clergy and staff quickly fell into a routine of daily Morning Prayer and Compline. Sunday services were joint with Sarah Robbins-Cole's parish, St. Michael's, Holliston. This was a brilliant outcome that benefitted both parishes while providing all of us the opportunity to see Adrian and Sarah lead worship together. Many parishioners commented that the interaction and dialog between them made worship more meaningful and personal. Zoom coffee hours after services became a great way to catch up with others in our parish.

Early in the pandemic, among the many issues the vestry grappled with was whether to apply for the US Government's Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP). Ultimately, after prayerful consideration, the decision was made that we should not apply due to the strength of our parish finances.

For the first time in many years, much to the consternation of those of us with donation piles, we cancelled Bargain Haul. Not only was St. Andrew's deprived of a meaningful revenue source and a wonderful week of fellowship, but those in the community who depend upon the bargains each year were let down.

In May, out of an abundance of caution and concern about worker safety and supply chain disruption, we made the difficult decision to delay our construction project.

Then, as Governor Charlie Baker began to discuss loosening gathering restrictions we started planning for a safe reopening. St. Andrew's is blessed with many physicians, so we convened a doctors advisory group consisting of Judith Boland, Richard Ehrlichman, Eliot Heher, Paul Shellito, and David Steele. Their expertise and guidance was invaluable in thinking through how we could worship together safely. We determined that with social distancing the sanctuary could hold about 60 people. St. Andrew's also had to submit a reopening plan to the diocese for approval, which was granted. However, due to the daunting logistics and concerns about parishioner safety we ultimately determined that reopening was not prudent.

While the clergy and staff were able to take some well-earned time off, in addition to continuing daily worship, the summer was spent preparing for the fall. Adult education, youth education, Bible study, youth group, Rite-13—essentially everything we do as a parish—needed to be reviewed and when necessary, revised. We also began planning for what would normally be our fall regathering Sunday service, this year to be held on Luisa Hunnewell's lawn and followed by a socially distanced "bring your own" picnic. However, Governor Baker's order limiting outdoor groups disappointingly necessitated cancellation.

In August, as it became clear that we would be remote well into 2021, we decided to start our renovation project. One silver lining to the delay was it allowed us to research air conditioning (with air purification) for the sanctuary and were able to add it to the project. We are excited to be able to use this closure time productively as well as to support the local economy.

Since we had to cover and protect the organ, Wardie Mannix with Peter Lull's assistance, recorded hymns and anthems for all services through December. Wardie has also been conducting and recording anthems with the section leaders masked and singing 20 feet apart. Throughout the year, Amanda Kern, Wardie, and the section leaders have worked hard to

create beautiful and original music for our worship services.

In September Paige Manning expertly worked on a lease amendment and extension for the Montessori School that protects St. Andrew's as their landlord, should any coronavirus issues arise.

Each vestry ministry approached the fall thinking outside the box to engage and connect the parish as much as possible. Please read each report as there has been a lot of activity, including pumpkin deliveries, #St.Andrew'sStrong bracelets, and Walktober. Worship continues to include many readers from both parishes as well as some creative biblical skits and animations. In October, we held two outdoor communion services, with no more than 32 people, advance sign-up, and single serving wafers and grape juice packages.

Our stewardship campaign, "Rising to the Challenge: we are all in this together," to support the parish's mission and ministries in 2021, was St. Andrew's first remote effort. With Hugh MacArthur very capably at the helm, the stewardship committee went into overdrive to ensure we met our goal of \$1,050,000. Many of you recorded meaningful stewardship testimonials to help this effort. Abundant thanks to all who have pledged, and we strongly encourage others to join in; it's never too late to pledge your support for St. Andrew's!

Planning for Advent began early, and as we write this, we have just celebrated Advent II. Margaret is planning the Taizé-style and Blue Christmas services, Amanda is organizing the Christmas pageant, and we are distributing consecrated wine and wafers for use at the 5pm Christmas Eve service.

In closing, we want to thank all vestry and committee members for their dedication this year. Finally, we want to sincerely thank Adrian, Margaret, Mia, Kate, Wardie, Amanda, Joanne, Steve, and Susan for their herculean efforts to keep St. Andrew's not only functioning, but thriving and growing in new and innovative ways during 2020.

—David Hamlin and Paige Manning, wardens

## Montessori School Report

THE WELLESLEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL is delighted to continue its long-standing relationship with St. Andrew's, now in its 46th year of partnership. There is no doubt that this year has been a challenging one, but the support of St. Andrew's has allowed us to continue to offer our community a high-quality program for children 15 months to six years old. Access to a community-based program is more important now than ever, as families look for a safe and nurturing place for their child's development to be fostered. As we strive to meet the needs of our community during these difficult times, our teachers and

staff are implementing new and innovative ways to offer an authentic Montessori curriculum, while mitigating the challenges of a pandemic. We would like all St. Andrew's parishioners to know that a scholarship fund is available to members of the church. On behalf of the entire Wellesley Montessori School, I would like to give a special thanks to the clergy, vestry, Katharine Clark, Susan Jackson, Wardie Mannix, Steve Killeen, and Bill Clover for their continued support to our school community.

—Vanessa Larkin, M.Ed.,  
Wellesley Montessori School director.

## Parish Register

*Baptisms* Gavin James Bacewicz, Weston Thomas Bacewicz, Oliver Wells Cory, and Holly Gordon Magruder.

*Burials* John M. Beggs, Bill Elfers, Janet M. Flett, David Hutchens, Carol Jankowski, Donald A. Pegg, Mary G. Pegg, John Reed, and James Sullivan

*Marriages* Madeline Surgenor & Michael Richards, Terri Rawson & Michael Wakefield



Photo: Peter Lull

*Blessing of the backpacks*



# Nominating Committee Report

IN A YEAR MARKED BY UNCERTAINTY, the nominating committee is particularly pleased to present a robust slate of candidates for a vote before the congregation at the 128th annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church on Sunday, January 31, 2021. These committed candidates have shown an eagerness to serve the church

and its people that is both impressive and heartening. I am so grateful for the insight and counsel that was provided by our nominating committee this year: Dan Dent, Emily Hunnewell, Peter Lull, and Jen Martin, with sage advice from Paige Manning and Adrian Robbins-Cole.  
—Megan Burns

## 2021 St. Andrew's Slate of Nominees

### Will Nystrom, Warden (3-year term)



Will Nystrom

WILL, HIS WIFE SUZANNE, and daughters Maddie, Lily, and Hazel have been part of the St. Andrew's family for 15 years. Will's father, Robert, now living with the family, also enjoys St. Andrew's virtual services. Will has served as the vestryperson for Christian learning and chaired the search committees that brought us Margaret and Mia. Will serves on the boards of non-profit organizations that focus on education and health. He is a founding partner of the Boston law firm Nystrom, Beckman & Paris. Outside of church, Will likes fitness, gardening, being on the water, playing soccer, and family time.

### Laura Brown MacKinnon, Worship (3-year term)



Laura Brown MacKinnon

LAURA CAME TO ST. ANDREW'S in 2005 with her husband, Bruce, and their children, Isabella and Henry. Continuing the Moorhead/MacKinnon family tradition as faithful and active members in our parish, Laura has had the opportunity to serve in the following ways: church school teacher, church school committee, Bargain Haul co-chair, search committee, altar guild member and director, and worship committee.

She currently teaches stage management at the Yale School of Drama and the Columbia School of the

Arts. Laura is an active supporter of both the Wellesley Food Pantry and the League of Women Voters. Mostly, she spends her time chasing after her family—gladly and gratefully.

### Elizabeth Clarke, Membership (3-year term)



Elizabeth Clarke

ELIZABETH GREW UP in the Episcopal Church in Kansas City and became a member of St. Andrew's after moving to Wellesley in 1994. She and her husband, Stephen, have three children, Will, Emily, and Ben. All were baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew's and have been involved in church life throughout the years. Stephen formerly served as warden among other roles at St. Andrew's. Elizabeth has been a church school teacher, has served on the nominating committee, Bargain Haul, and co-chaired the parish auction. She is currently on the membership committee and altar guild.

Elizabeth graduated from Middlebury College and worked in finance for ten years before starting a family and becoming an active volunteer. In addition to St. Andrew's, Elizabeth has been very involved at her children's schools, including serving as co-chair of the Nobles PA last year. In her spare time, she enjoys long walks with her dog, time with family and friends, and reading.

### **Lisa Howe, Human Resources (3-year term)**



Lisa Howe

LISA AND HER FAMILY (husband David and then school-aged children, Christiana, Francesca, and David) moved from Fairfield, Connecticut to Weston in 2005. They spent a year seeking out a spiritual home that resembled Trinity Church in Southport, where they had been deeply involved. Although it was not the first stop on their search, St. Andrew's provided the right combination of inspiring worship services, impactful community outreach, and a welcoming congregation. It also happened to be David's mother's family church. His parents were married at St. Andrew's in 1954, as were Christiana and her husband in 2017.

Lisa has served on the boards of many Weston community organizations. She recently completed a term as marketing chair on the board of Community Consulting Teams, an organization whose MBA alumni volunteers provide pro-bono management consulting services to Boston-area nonprofits. At St. Andrew's she is a member of the finance committee. In September, the Howes moved to Wellesley and have busy settling into their new home, which offers the added benefit of being just a little closer to St. Andrew's.

### **Mary Scanlon, Outreach (3-year term)**



Mary Scanlon

MARY SCANLON and her husband, Victor Calcaterra, have been parishioners at St. Andrew's for the past six years. Mary has enjoyed her involvement in the outreach committee, adult learning, book circle, scripture reading, pilgrimage, and altar guild.

She is a retired psychiatric nurse practitioner. Her five children and their families are sources of boundless excitement and pleasure.

## **Nominating Committee**

### **Anna Lee Wahls (2-year term)**



Anna Lee Wahls

ANNA LEE AND HER FAMILY have been members of St. Andrew's since 2016. She, her husband, Justin, and children, Ellen (10) and John (6), live in Wellesley. Anna Lee serves as a church school teacher. Outside of St. Andrew's, she is serves on the board of the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club and is active in the Bates Elementary School PTO.

## **Deanery Representative**

### **Sandra Rigney, Deanery Rep (1-year term)**



Sandra Rigney

SANDRA GREW UP in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and joined St. Andrew's in 2013. In addition to being an office volunteer, she has enjoyed serving on the communications and fellowship committees, receptions, and Bargain Haul. She graduated

from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in Graphic Design. Sandra spent most of her career in publishing, as a book designer focusing on textbook design and in project management. In 2019, she compiled and designed *Celebrating 125 Years, A Pictorial History* for St. Andrew's 125th anniversary.

### **Harriet Thompson, Deanery Rep (1-year term)**



Harriet Thompson

HARRIET ATTENDED St. Andrew's as a high school student and returned in the mid-1980s. Now a retired secretary, she is an office volunteer, a knitter in the stitchers' group, and an usher for the 8am service. She enjoys gardening and babysitting her niece's

two children. Though now living in Newton Upper Falls, Harriet still feels attached to St. Andrew's, as both of her parents are buried in the Memorial Rose Garden and St. Andrew's feels like the right place to worship.

# Vestry Committee Reports

## Report of the Vestryperson for Adult Formation

WE BEGAN 2020 continuing the strong work established by our outgoing vestryperson, Peter Fergusson, Rev. Margaret Schwarzer, and our dedicated adult formation committee. Over the last five years I have witnessed how this committee has organized, developed, and expanded the programming and offerings for our parish. Yet it has been the nimbleness, creativity, and accountability of this group in the face of the challenges presented by the global pandemic that have been most impressive. As we forged ahead to adapt and sometimes re-invent our programming, the results were offerings that continue to engage, inspire, and connect with our parish.

Before the gathering restrictions were enacted mid-March, programming continued per usual. Our Christian learning series focused on Christianity and the Arts while our Faith & Practice sessions dove into the topics of “Good Grief” and “Your Body is a Temple.” We held two of our Lenten series programs and dinners, one on “Sacrifice: Ancient Practice and Modern Discipline of Fasting” and the other on “Suffering: A Jewish Perspective”. I would like to thank the Green Team for their guidance and help in providing a more environmentally friendly approach to the Lenten events.

As we switched to a virtual format, unfortunately we had to eliminate events such as the college coffee meetings, Wellesley College retreats/workshops/programming, and a field trip to the MFA, as well as

suspend planning for our pilgrimage to England in 2021. Other events, including the Taizé-style service and the Turkey Trot, had to be reimaged.

However, our regular Christian learning programming continued to thrive in a virtual format. Whether it was the Christian learning series, Bible Circle, or the Men’s Bible/book clubs, interest and attendance reflected pre-pandemic levels and grew in some areas. One significant change involved our collaboration with Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole and St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. We enjoyed the shared responsibility and engagement between the two parishes in the offerings for the Christian learning series, Bible Circle, and adult confirmation classes. We welcome this inspired collaboration for the foreseeable future

As a committee, we charge ourselves with constantly assessing and evaluating our offerings to ensure their quality, relevance, and interest to a broad reach of our parish. This year has been an unusual one, but this committee never ceased to approach the challenges with inspired vigor and enthusiasm. Thank you: Laura Brown MacKinnon, Peter Fergusson, David Hamlin, Carrie Hawley, Margarethe Kulke, Mary Scanlon, Carol Shedd, and Paul Shellito, for your dedicated service. Thank you, Rev. Margaret Schwarzer for your wisdom and perspective; you are our backbone.

—Ansley Martin

## Report of the Vestryperson for Communication

AS COVID-19 TIGHTENED ITS GRIP on the world in early 2020, St. Andrew’s priorities shifted quickly to focusing on the safety of the church’s clergy, staff, and parishioners. Accordingly, church operations, worship services, programming, and events pivoted to the digital space, requiring the immediate and systemic adoption of electronic communications across the St. Andrew’s community. Although St. Andrew’s had made great strides in elevating our understand-

ing and application of technology and digital communications in 2019, moving 100% of the church’s daily functions, governance, interactions and, especially, worship to a virtual arena required significant diligence and adaptability. Communications became more important than ever as the congregation became dependent on dissemination of information and opportunity to worship with no in-person interaction and very limited printed materials.

- Clergy and staff were provided with laptop computers to ensure they were equipped for remote communications.
- The clergy, staff, and vestry quickly adapted to virtual meetings, utilizing video conferencing programs such as Zoom. Digital tools such as Dropbox and the Adobe creative suite optimized file sharing and development of creative communication materials.
- The church website quickly became an epicenter of information for parishioners. With help from talented volunteers, especially Rob Brandt, parish administrator Katharine Clark leveraged the site to provide immediately accessible updates on virtual services, programs, and activities, and a virtual calendar presented in an easy-to-understand, week-by-week schedule that was updated daily.
- Daily email communications from the clergy supported the online calendar and added additional context while providing parishioners with a sense of connectivity. The number of social media followers and relevant/relatable content increased across all platforms.
- All services were successfully transitioned to the virtual space, including Sunday worship, morning prayer, and compline, and parishioners were able to easily link to services through multiple channels including the website, YouTube, and Facebook. Christian learning for children, youth, and adults; choir rehearsals; beloved special events such as the Christmas pageant; and social activities like coffee hours also converted to remote platforms.
- A new video recording system was installed in the sanctuary so St. Andrew's will be able to stream services even after returning to in-person

services, providing parishioners with a choice of how they worship while continuing to increase the parish's reach.

Virtually connecting the St. Andrew's community with the clergy, services, programs, and each other has provided a safe haven for all parishioners, but especially for those who were most vulnerable to the virus. The reach of electronic communications has attracted new members and enabled former parishioners to reconnect with St. Andrew's; weekday online services have more people engaging with the parish than before the pandemic.

Along with St. Andrew's online communications success, we leveraged offline opportunities to invite more people in the surrounding community to worship with us. Printed ads in local papers announced special services, and a big new banner outside the church provides an open invitation to join our vibrant congregation online.

In early December, the *Wellesley Townsman* published a story about St. Andrew's and how the church is finding its way in the online space. Based on an interview with the Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole, the article addressed the challenges related to connecting with parishioners during a pandemic and highlighted the many successes St. Andrew's has experienced with our new digital communications strategies.

Other than a brief break at the outset of the pandemic, the communications committee met monthly in 2020, with frequent attendees including our three clergy members (Adrian Robbins-Cole, Mia Kano, and Margaret Schwarzer), Rob Brandt, Katharine Clark, Dan Dent, Lee Eichelberger, Peter Lull, Betsy Millane, and Sandra Rigney.

—Terri Rawson

## Report of the Vestryperson for Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP PEAKED EARLY THIS YEAR with our largest in-person events taking place in the first quarter of 2020: The Epiphany Fireside service and dinner, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and our Evensong Reception. As the pandemic temporarily brought our ministry to a halt, and cancelled many of our traditional events, we were able to regroup in the fall and

bond with parishioners through socially distanced group walks and pumpkin deliveries to many members. The holidays brought on many new challenges, but with the support of other church ministries the fellowship committee remained strong.

I am very thankful to the following parishioners who work hard and are always chipping in to make sure

that all events run smoothly: Barbara Bergstrom, Sarah Dent, Al Dubé, Zebby Dubé, Wendy Haering, Becky Hamlin, David Hamlin, Nancy Jones, Peter Lull, Hillary Madge, Jennifer Olivetti, Tim Raeke, Terri Rawson, Dot Reed, Sandy Rigney, Laura Rodormer, Jenny Sawyer,

Lynda Sperry, Kris Vanin, Michael Vanin, and Margaret Zusky. And a special nod of gratitude to Steve Killeen for all his work to support us behind the scenes.

I look forward to 2021 when we can all be together again!  
—Linda Lull

## Financial Report and Budget (see insert)

### Report of the Vestryperson for Human Resources

2020 WILL BE REMEMBERED as a year of a global public health and economic crisis with simultaneous social and political upheavals in the United States. You can be proud that during this challenging year the clergy and staff of St. Andrew's Church demonstrated almost super-human resilience—adjusting, improvising, and collaborating in ways previously unimagined. They took care of us and of each other under the most challenging circumstances, and St. Andrew's is stronger as a result.

Early in the year we were recruiting and interviewing candidates for the position of financial administrator, a position held by Ruth Hubert for many years. We were thrilled when Joanne Butler accepted our offer and started work on February 1. The plan was for Joanne to work side-by-side with Ruth until her formal retirement on March 31, providing two full months of overlap. We are grateful to Ruth for the support she provided, and continues to provide, helping Joanne understand our financial procedures and absorb the institutional knowledge Ruth had accumulated during her time at St. Andrew's.

In mid-March everything changed when the global COVID-19 pandemic struck, and the entire church staff shifted to working remotely, which continues today.

I'm sure that elsewhere in this annual report for 2020 others will describe in greater detail the incredible work the church clergy and staff undertook to respond to the pandemic. Nonetheless, the HR committee would like to acknowledge here the extraordinary resilience that everybody demonstrated.

Adrian, Margaret, and Mia (in a wonderful new collaboration with Sarah Robbins-Cole of St. Michael's in Holliston) quickly brought all our worship services online through Zoom, Facebook,

YouTube, and the church website. New morning prayer and compline services were added. All of this and more was facilitated by the amazing work of our parish administrator, Katharine Clark, who fearlessly navigated all the technological challenges as St. Andrew's and many parishioners were thrust into a brave new world of virtual experiences on our laptops and cellphones. Wardie Mannix and Amanda Kern are keeping us connected to our beloved musical traditions, which form an integral part of our Sunday services. Susan Jackson brought our church school offerings into an online and virtual environment. Although our buildings are closed, Steve Killeen is on site every day keeping everything secure and in customary good order. With the narthex and sanctuary renovations now underway, his presence and knowledge of our infrastructure has been a tremendous help.

Fortunately, our solid financial condition has allowed us to maintain full compensation and benefits for all our clergy and staff throughout the year. While we considered taking advantage of the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program, as did many other places of worship, the vestry decided that our financial condition made that unnecessary, and that those resources were better used by organizations less fortunate than we.

As noted in this report last year, Adrian had asked us to consider a new policy to reimburse our clergy and staff for the work-related use of their personal cell phones. After the pandemic struck, this became all the more necessary, and members of the committee developed a reimbursement policy that was implemented retroactive to February 1. We are now working on the 2021 HR budget.

This concludes my three-year term as your vestry-person for HR. I would like to thank Adrian for his thoughtful, determined, and effective leadership. We are in good hands.

I would also like to thank the other members of the HR committee: Meg Harris, Nancy Kohl, Michael Mahlenkamp, Paige Manning, Paul Merry, Terri Rawson, and Michael Vanin.

—Frank Hunnewell

## Report of the Vestryperson for Membership

THIS YEAR, AS THE PANDEMIC HIT our country in early March, tracking new members attending St. Andrew's came to an abrupt halt. Up to that point, we had eight new families who requested to be added to our database and who wished to receive regular communications from our parish. We did reach out to them in early spring. Over the course of the year, we have had at least five requests from individuals attending our worship services online who asked to be added to our mailing list and/or made a financial contribution to St. Andrew's.

Sadly, since we are no longer meeting in person for worship, there has been no need to have welcome greeters for each Sunday, nor exit greeters.

On March 1, right before we closed our doors, we were able to host a Kids' Place coffee for families with babies and toddlers. They loved being able to connect with each other and have playtime for their small children.

We cancelled our spring and fall newcomer brunches, which normally help welcome newcomers to the parish. We also cancelled the Pimm's party at the rectory set for May.

Membership was able to work with fellowship in the fall to create COVID-19 Coventry Cocktails—

Zoom gatherings of small groups to help us stay connected. We are pleased to say we have nine groups of at least six "windows" per group. They will meet three times over the next few months with the first occurring between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Membership created "#St.Andrew'sStrong" silicon bracelets to give to all members of the St. Andrew's family. These bracelets are a constant reminder that we are in this pandemic together and we look forward to having a ceremonial "cutting off the bracelets" when we are able to worship together again safely.

Membership also partnered with altar guild and fellowship to create "Communion to Go" packages for the Christmas Eve 5pm service. The membership committee helped package the wafers and wine and helped distribute to any parishioner requesting a delivery.

A big thank you to the membership committee for their steadfast work and enthusiasm during 2020. The committee includes Connie Barnes, Elizabeth Clarke, Amanda Curtis, Sarah Harris, Francie Hawkey, Carrie Hawley, Lakey MacArthur, Suzanne Nystrom, Anne Prensner, and Ginny Snow. David Hamlin is our warden representative and Margaret Schwarzer is our clergy representative.

—Becky Hamlin

## Lay Pastoral Care Committee Report

THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM is made up of lay people and the St. Andrew's clergy. It is an example of the partnership between lay people and clergy and plays a central role in the provision of pastoral care at St. Andrew's. Typically, members visit parishioners in their homes and in hospitals, nursing homes, and other residential communities. However, since March, pandemic safety protocols have meant that it has not been possible to visit parishioners. Nor has it been possible for the team to have its monthly in person meetings.

But the work of the team has continued with individual lay members of the team being active in their pastoral ministry either by phone or by Zoom. Lay members have also kept the clergy informed of pastoral situations they learn about.

We are looking forward to being able to fully resume the important work of the lay pastoral care team, including in-person visits, when conditions allow.

—Adrian Robbins-Cole

# Report of the Vestryperson for Outreach

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE of the St. Andrew's outreach ministry is to help our congregation put our Christian faith into action. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly impacted every aspect of our outreach efforts. The need is greater than ever in our neighboring communities as well as around the globe and we have had to adjust our "hands on" mentality to protect others and ourselves. Our last in-person outreach meeting was March 10, 2020. From that point on we have slowly but steadily adapted to Zoom interactions and virtual fundraising efforts. St. Andrew's monetary assistance has been a lifeline for many of our outreach partners. Ten percent of the pledge payments received from our capital campaign in 2020 will be distributed to El Hogar, St. Stephen's, and Family Promise Metrowest equally. Below highlights our outreach work for 2020.

## Metrowest/Local outreach partners and activities

### 1. *Family Promise Metrowest*

Our relationship with Family Promise Metrowest (FPM), a cooperative interfaith partnership helping homeless families through safe transitional shelter, meals, and case management, continues to be a positive opportunity to live our faith.

- Volunteers from St. Andrew's and Village Church hosted families in person the week of March 1. After that date it was decided that the homeless families would be sheltered in a hotel. Fundraising began in earnest to continue to provide case management and supportive services for the families.
- The annual "Keep the Promise" gala was held as a virtual event on December 5, with a live and silent auction as well as raffle tickets and music.
- Debbie Osborn and Heidi Harper are St. Andrew's coordinators for FPM and have attended FPM coordinator meetings every other month this year via Zoom. Our outreach budget gave \$2,400 this year to Family Promise Metrowest. A yet-undetermined amount received from the Alternative Gift Fair will also be given to FPM.

### 2. *Salvation Army/Pearl Street Cupboard & Café*

Our longstanding partnership with the Salvation

Army (SA) and Pearl Street Cupboard & Café has given our parish monthly volunteering opportunities. Unfortunately, this year the Pearl Street Cupboard & Café has been closed and is offering meals-to-go only. Our outreach budget gave \$3,000 to Salvation Army Framingham.

### 3. *Wellesley Food Pantry*

St. Andrew's outreach continues to support the efforts of the pantry in helping our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Peter Lull is the point person for the Wellesley Food Pantry and is also the president of the pantry. The pantry was temporarily located in the Unitarian Universalist Church during renovations to the site at the Hills Church.

- Margarethe Kulke organized the annual SOUPer Bowl Sunday pantry collection and on February 2 the many items collected were delivered to the pantry.

The Wellesley Food Pantry received financial support from St. Andrew's in the sum of \$1,500 from the budget as well as money collected through the Alternative Gift Fair. As of this writing, the AGF money has not been totaled.

## Urban/Boston outreach partners and activities

### 1. *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

St. Stephen's Church in Boston's South End has been our sister parish for a very long time. Through our continued partnership with this inner-city parish, we have been enriched by our relationships with many of the leadership and staff of St. Stephen's.

- Cam McCormick and Karen Pekowitz organized our week of volunteering for the B-SAFE summer enrichment program which occurred August 3 to 6. Sixty grab-and-go lunches were prepared each day for the campers and 50 bags of non-perishable groceries were delivered August 7 to support St. Stephen's Youth Programs.
- St. Andrew's support of the B-READY program, which provided hearty macaroni and cheese casseroles for the after-school program at St. Stephen's,

has been transformed into the B-LOVE program. Cam McCormick organized a sign-up to allow parishioners to drop off non-perishables every Tuesday at the home of the Harpers. The donations are picked up on Wednesdays by a volunteer from the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill. The program has been a huge success with many St. Andrew's parishioners donating faithfully each week.

- In November, Herb Manning organized the Thanksgiving food bags that were given to St. Stephen's. The Mannings and several volunteers shopped for the turkeys and food, organized the bags, and delivered 80 bags to St. Stephen's.
- The Whitings prepared the Christmas baskets given to the seniors at St. Stephen's.

#### 2. *Healthcare Without Walls*

Healthcare Without Walls (HCWW) was founded by Dr. Roseanna Means and provides free and compassionate medical care to homeless women and families. St. Andrew's has supported the efforts of this ministry for many years. Donna Kell oversees the Sox Box and the knitting ministry which both aid HCWW.

- Donna Kell continues to purchase white cotton socks, which are needed by homeless people for health reasons. She drops them off periodically throughout the year.
- The St. Andrew's Stitchers work at home to make beautiful homemade hats/scarves/blankets for Healthcare Without Walls clients and also for the Christmas baskets for St. Stephen's.
- A virtual baby shower was hosted by St. Andrew's parishioners in support of the Bridges to Moms initiative this past summer. Many shopped online to provide much needed baby supplies for homeless mothers, which were distributed by HCWW.

#### 4. *common cathedral*

*common cathedral*, also known as Ecclesia Ministries, is an outreach ministry to homeless people in the Boston area. Through Cam McCormick's leadership, a monthly sign-up was created to provide a "grab and go" lunch for the ministry once a month. Cam has also organized our participation in a "warm clothing/sleeping bag" drive for the unhoused people served by Ecclesia Ministries.

## **El Hogar, Honduras**

For more than 40 years, El Hogar has been transforming the lives of children who are crippled by extreme poverty. El Hogar provides a home and education to those children who would otherwise have little hope of a future. Becky and Steve Taylor have been the spokespeople for this vital ministry for many years. As the Taylors have moved geographically, Bianka Eichelberger has offered to be the liaison. Bianka was one of eight who traveled to El Hogar in the summer of 2019 from St. Andrew's.

- Many new initiatives are happening at El Hogar. There is a new executive director in Honduras, Denise Vargas, the first native Honduran to have this leadership role.
- On October 24, El Hogar hosted "Esperanza, a Celebration of Hope", an online fundraising event that provided participants with information and insight into the mission of El Hogar. Many at St. Andrew's took part and donated generously. St. Andrew's provided \$5,000 in financial support from the budget as well as money (not determined yet) from the Alternative Gift Fair.

A yearly event that deserves mentioning is the Alternative Gift Fair (AGF), which occurred virtually in 2020. The AGF provides parishioners the opportunity to support our outreach partners by donating in someone's name as a gift. The AGF was again organized by Ann Johnson with assistance from Cam McCormick and Katharine Clark who made the event virtual and seamless.

## **New Initiative**

In 2019 the outreach committee developed a tool to encourage wider parish involvement. Through diligent and thoughtful work, the Outreach Grant Application was created. Thirty thousand dollars was set aside to be awarded to organizations that met certain criteria set forth by the members of the committee. Due to the pandemic this grant opportunity was put on hold. The \$30,000 set aside for this effort will be distributed equally among our outreach partners.

The many and varied opportunities to put our faith into action are what make St. Andrew's such a vibrant and caring community. 2020 has been a challenging year for our outreach ministries, but I am grateful



for the generous response of our parish and thank the outreach committee members for their coordination of our efforts: Al Dubé, Zebby Dubé, Bianka Eichelberger, Joanna Horobin, Donna Kell, Margarethe Kulke, Peter Lull, Herb Manning, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Anne Manners, Cam McCormick, Debbie Osborn, Caren Parker, Mary Scanlon, Jack Whiting, Jill Whiting, Penn Young, and our warden representative, Paige Manning. We will miss Carol Jankowski,

a decades-long member of the committee and enthusiastic volunteer across our outreach ministries, who died in 2020.

We continue to strive to put our faith into action and trust in God's unwavering love for our strength and perseverance in the year ahead.

—Heidi Harper

## Report of the Vestryperson for Property

STEMMING FROM ST. ANDREW'S 2019 capital campaign are three significant 2020 changes:

- A property committee was established to provide oversight especially for capital projects.
- A capital campaign property refurbishment fund is set up.
- Upgrades to the sanctuary, narthex, and children's chapel

We are grateful to Jim Blackwell for quarterbacking the sanctuary and narthex renovations. His work involves often-daily communications with our architect/consultant, our contractors, and St. Andrew's leadership. The work ranges from developing strategic coordination of subcontractors and cost oversight to selecting tile samples and paint colors.

The scheduling of the renovations, originally planned for the summer months, changed because in spring it was uncertain if there would be mandated

shutdowns or supply chain interruptions. Instead, renovations started in the fall and early winter, a period when the church was closed to parishioners. Another COVID-19 induced change, a positive one, was the addition of air treating technology, called bipolar ionization, which mitigates and reduces the spread of viruses.

Thank you, Jim Blackwell, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Carrie Hawley, Frank Hunnewell, Michael Mahlenkamp, Randy Parker, and Sam Schaefer—members of the property committee.

Again, we are grateful to Steve Killeen for the care and attention that he gives to the maintenance of our properties. Our dramatic renovation project rightly steals the limelight, but projects coordinated by Steve, such as water leak remediation, roof repair, upgrading of our church parking lot, and managing renovation traffic are essential.

—Stephen Mahoney

## Renovation Report

IT WAS EXCITING to restart the renovations to church worship spaces after the seven-month COVID delay. After the property committee and the vestry gave their approval to proceed in early September, our core team of Adrian; Jim Blackwell; Steve Mahoney, vestryperson for property; Bill Foley, construction manager; and Tala Klinck, architect, resurrected the project. All subcontractors were available, which made it possible to start back to work in October. By the time you read this report the project will be almost complete.

Renovations to the narthex have been designed to make the church's main entrance feel more welcoming

and give it a more formal character. A new tile floor has been installed. New coat closets, cabinetry, and wood trim have been added. The narthex entrance door has been replaced through a gift to the church.

New lighting designed by parishioner Carrie Hawley, principal at HLB Lighting, has been installed in the narthex and the sanctuary. The sanctuary has been painted, had floors sanded, pews repaired and refinished, and kneelers recovered. The last item will be new carpeting. The children's chapel, with a new wood floor, has been repainted and the altar was refinished.

Air conditioning has been installed in the sanctuary and the children's chapel.

UV-C ion disinfection technology, designed to eliminate 99% of pathogens such as COVID-19, has been incorporated in new ceiling fans and our forced air system. Many institutions are adding these technologies in response to the pandemic.

Final costs are expected to be very close to our October estimates (attached). Special thanks go to the property committee for their counsel during the final planning. Steve Killeen, our intrepid sexton, as always has been a major help with this project.

—*Jim Blackwell*

## Report of the Vestryperson for Stewardship

THE 2021 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE came together in the spring of 2020 to begin planning for the 2021 campaign. Given the stresses and uncertainty the COVID-19 pandemic was placing on all of us, we decided our power as a community was a strong way to battle back. The theme of the campaign was "Rising to the Challenge: We are all in this Together," and our goals were to raise \$1,050,000 and have participation from 300 households.

Our strategy relied on some successful past guides, including beginning the campaign in October and keeping it to a crisp four-week frame. Due to COVID-19, we had to reimagine or fully rethink other elements of the campaign to work in the virtual world. These elements included:

- Integrating St. Andrew's campaign with St. Michael's since we were functioning as one virtual parish in services
- Pre-campaign survey to understand what inspired the parish and to understand any potential issues
- Kick-off video interview with Adrian Robbins-Cole and Sarah Robbins-Cole to introduce the campaign and theme
- Conversion of all testimonials, numbering more than 20, to video

- Weekly email blasts of video testimonials, thermometer showing progress, and reminders to pledge
- Video updates from the stewardship committee on progress

As we wind down our campaign, I am pleased to report that we have raised nearly \$1 million and appear to be on track toward our goal of \$1,050,000. We will continue to get gifts and pledges through January.

I would like to thank everyone in the St. Andrew's community who makes a pledge or a gift as this helps us to make the church and our parish what they are today. I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful group. I would also like to thank members of the stewardship committee for their time, talent, and energy in making a very different campaign a success: Connie Barnes, David Hamlin, Ann Johnson, Allen Jones, Herb Manning, Madison Riley, George Stathis, Michael Vanin, and Justin Wahls.

Finally, a call of appreciation and gratitude to Adrian for his support and participation throughout the entire process, all the meetings, and helping to develop the strategy.

—*Hugh MacArthur*

## Report of the Vestryperson for Worship

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE acts as the liaison between the clergy and parishioners of St. Andrew's Church to address any needs or issues with respect to our worship services. The group meets quarterly with the clergy to give support and advice with the planning and coordination of worship details. Extra attention

is always given to the major celebrations of Christmas and Easter, as well as other special services. The committee includes the ministry heads for ushers, acolytes, music, altar guild, flower guild, and lay Eucharistic ministers, as well as the wardens.

At this point in the annual worship report, you are typically treated to the numbers of services, attendees, and other fascinating statistics, but 2020 was anything but a typical year. As everyone is aware, the vast majority of the worship services for the year occurred remotely. After suffering through the vagaries of Zoom with live services, we switched to prerecorded services, which not only provided more stability, but allowed enriching components to be added. Joining forces with St. Michael's in Holliston, our online services have been led by not just Adrian, but also Sarah Robbins-Cole (and we will hate to give her up once our worship life returns to normal).

All of our clergy have done an outstanding job leading us in worship and are constantly looking to keep the services fresh to engage us all. We have had a bounty of worship opportunities with the Sunday, daily, and special services. The St. Andrew's Day bagpiper, Taizé chanting and candles, anthems by our section leaders, and packages of consecrated bread and wine for our Christmas Eve communion are but a few of the examples of the care and attention taken to make the services as meaningful as possible.

The clergy's work has been supported by so many, and we are appreciative of the beauty, connection, and even smiles imparted by the efforts of a host of heavenly helpers. Wardie Mannix and Amanda Kern have provided the music we cherish, with Amanda's additional technical support. Katharine Clark has

done heroic work behind the scenes to put the components of our services together. The flower guild created beautiful arrangements for our special services at the end of the year. The lay Eucharistic ministers have been represented by many who have read for both lessons and prayers. Altar guild members delivered Christmas poinsettias. A special treat has been the online appearances of children, who warmed our hearts by greeting, reading, and singing—the worship ministries had extra help this year!

Jen Olivetti stepped down this year as acolyte coordinator and we are grateful for her cheerful service in the many years she has served in this capacity. Finally, many thanks again to Adrian, Margaret, and Mia for their tireless efforts. It has been a challenging year, but they never faltered in their shepherding of the St. Andrew's flock and we are blessed to have them.

Worship Committee members include the following individuals:

*Clergy* Adrian Robbins-Cole, Margaret Schwarzer,

Mia Kano, and Karen Vickers Budney

*Wardens* David Hamlin and Paige Manning

*Acolytes* open (as of this writing)

*Altar Guild* Liz Parsons

*Flower Guild* Katie Barrack

*Lay Eucharistic Ministers* Joe Hamilton

*Music* Helen Ward Mannix and Amanda Kern

*Ushers* David Boghosian

— Cynthia Scott

## Altar Guild Report

THE ALTAR GUILD is essentially responsible for the physical materials used to depict the grandeur of God. We maintain and care for the sacred vessels, altar linens, hangings, and vestments that transform our sanctuary through the religious seasons.

Our members work in teams and generally serve one day each month. A head of week is responsible for coordinating the care of all communion services. Special events including weddings, funerals, baptisms, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, confirmation, and the bishop's visits are orchestrated collectively.

A typical year would entail five to six full membership meetings. The morning and evening meetings allow us to reflect on our experiences, organize and

explore the possibilities of future occasions, provide education, and deepen friendships. The Ascension Day service in May is meant to honor deceased members, formally induct the newest members, and celebrate our efforts.

Unfortunately, January 16, 2020 was the last in-person gathering we were able to host and our activities were discontinued in the third week of Lent with the cessation of services. Adrian, Margaret, and Mia managed to officiate weddings, baptisms, and memorials independently. Later in the year many of our guild assisted Margaret with the preparation of a Zoom Advent Taizé-style service and happily continued the tradition of delivering the holiday poinsettias.

The altar guild is led by Elizabeth Parsons and Erica Gelser and includes: Bonnie Akins, D.D. Alexander, Adele Beggs, Barbara Bergstrom, Margaret Blackwell, Judith Boland, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Terri Burnell, Kim Carlson, Jean Childs, Elizabeth Clarke, Elsie Deane, Jo Dermer, Zebby Dubé, Nancy Echlov, Linda Gallo, Blair Glennon, Wendy Haering, Becky Hamlin, Heidi Harper, Sarah Harris, Pam Henrikson, Ann Johnson, Donna Kell, Margarethe Kulke, Debbie Lorenz, Pat MacKinnon, Paige Manning, Karen McAdams, Linda McCammond, Debbie Monti, Caren Parker, Linda Reineman, Cynthia Scott, Ellen Staelin, Laura Stettner, Carol Sullivan, Liz Tecca, Joann Tuytschaevers, and Jill Whiting. Members emeritae are Barbara Compton, Charlotte Corey, Janet Ellis, Janet Hough,

Jane Kettendorf, Anne Prensner, Eleanor Sullivan, Harriet Thompson, Sally Whitman, and Ruth Wilson. Sadly, Carol Jankowski and Beverly Wood passed away in 2020.

I wish to express my greatest appreciation for all the wonderful members. Especially the heads of week and special coordinators: Erica Gelser, Elizabeth Clarke, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Pam Henrikson, Wendy Haering, Heidi Harper, Jean Childs, Margaret Blackwell, and Linda Reineman for their exceptional effort.

Our greatest need going forward is to recruit additional individuals. If you are seeking a fresh opportunity to deepen your understanding of our faith practices, the altar guild is waiting to welcome you.

—Elizabeth Parsons

## Lay Eucharistic Ministry Report

ST. ANDREW'S LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEMs) include readers and chalice bearers. They are a dedicated group who make an important contribution to our worship services. The pandemic year of 2020 brought changes to this service as to all other parts of our life as a parish. Until the last in-person Sunday service on March 8, our 25 active chalice bearers continued to serve, as well as the 26 readers we had as of that time. Starting March 15, when we moved to virtual Sunday services, we recruited online readers, and now have close to 40 volunteers. In addition, we also have ten to 15 substitutes to fill in when needed for readings or chalice bearing. In a normal year, there are over 400 LEM assignments, willingly fulfilled due to the dedication and cooperative spirit of the LEM volunteers.

Many of our active eucharistic ministers and readers have served St. Andrew's loyally for several years: one for over 40 years, 11 for more than 20 years, and another seven for over ten years. Several people play a key role in helping organize and schedule the LEMs: Adams Carroll, responsible for weekly reminders, distribution of the readings and prayers, and substitutions; Liz Deane, for the care and maintenance of our vestments; and Katharine Clark, who makes sure we have the weekly service information and recognition in the bulletin.

Many thanks to all our capable, collegial members of this ministry for their help and their willingness to serve. We all look forward to serving again in person.

—Joe Hamilton

## Memorial Rose Garden Report

SINCE ITS CONSECRATION on June 14, 1998 there have been fifty burials in the memorial rose garden. We are very grateful to Wardie Mannix, who has been caring for the roses in the garden with the help of our sexton, Steve Killeen. In addition to thanking Wardie for her skillful and faithful care of the roses, the administrators thank everyone in the congregation who has contributed to the creation and maintenance of this beautiful garden. We welcome all members of the

congregation to learn more about it. I offer my thanks to the memorial rose garden administrators: David Hamlin and Paige Manning, wardens; Harry Condon, treasurer; Stephen Mahoney, vestryperson for property; and Katharine Clark, parish administrator.

—Adrian Robbins-Cole

**Burials in 2020** John M. Beggs, Janet M. Flett, Donald A. Pegg, Mary G. Pegg, and John Reed

## Report of the Vestryperson for Youth Formation

2020 WAS DEFINED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, which required significant flexibility and creativity in youth formation. We are incredibly grateful for Rev. Mia Kano's leadership during this challenging time; she recognized the need to quickly pivot to virtual lessons and events, while also reaching out to families to understand their individual needs. Susan Jackson continued to support the church school as programming shifted from onsite to virtual. We are also very thankful for our passionate committee of D.D. Alexander, Megan Burns (ex officio), Becca Daws, Cari Dineen, Leanne Salvia, Heather Schaefer, and Elizabeth Svedlund, who continued to meet monthly, via Zoom, and dedicated many hours of their time to figuring out new ways to engage St. Andrew's youth in a rapidly changing environment. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions on in-person gatherings, we continued to offer meaningful programming and special events.

Our initial response to the pandemic was to recreate our existing programs virtually, as much as possible, but as it became clear that gathering restrictions would extend into the fall, we shifted our efforts to developing longer-term solutions that were flexible enough to be implemented in person or virtually. Our committee focused on making virtual events engaging and assessing what worked or did not. In May, Rev. Mia Kano organized meetings with youth formation lay leaders for Rite-13, confirmation, and youth group to gather feedback on their experiences teaching virtually. She also created a summer advisory group comprised of parents, church school teachers, and church school committee members to garner a deeper understanding of what church school families needed spiritually.

As a result of those conversations, Rite-13, confirmation, and youth group continued, via Zoom, into the fall and planned regular in-person, masked and socially distant activities. A common theme among church school-aged families was the strain of the pandemic on parents as they tried to navigate remote schooling and childcare needs; thus, flexible, hands-on activities, in addition to Zoom church school, were appreciated. Rev. Mia Kano continued to provide weekly church school lessons via Zoom and created a home formation curriculum of weekly activities and lessons that could be picked up at the church monthly.

Feedback from families indicated a hunger for in-person gatherings and worship. The church school committee was able to host several in-person events in the fall, including a "Blessing of the Backpacks," a toddler story-time, and an All Hallows' Eve trunk-or-treat and service in the parking lot. Due to rising COVID-19 infections, plans for an outdoor advent wreath-making event had to be pared back on short notice and a December gingerbread house event that was originally planned to take place outside was moved to Zoom.

A detailed report of specific programming has been submitted by Rev. Mia Kano.

Also of note, as we moved into the fall, our church school committee transitioned to a smaller group, which was reflective of the increased demands on parents.

St. Andrew's youth are an essential part of our parish. We depend upon the many volunteers who teach and mentor our youth and thank all who give their time to this important ministry.

—Coryell Urban







Photo: Peter Lull



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