



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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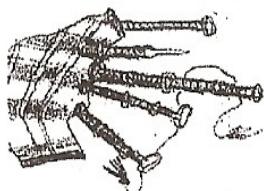
# The Piper

September, 2015



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# Ramblings in the Redwoods

If there is anything that describes St. Andrew's Church right now, it is transition. Since Alli resigned last spring as Preschool Director, and I dropped my sabbatical as a result, we have been working hard to get a new Director into place. We hired Sherry Stone (who is glad to be called "Stone") and so far we are delighted with what she has accomplished; but we still have worries about the level of enrollment and the necessary short-term funding to keep the school going until it builds back up again. We could also use a new teacher, but not until the enrollment and consequent income start arriving. If you know parents of young children...

Another transition has not been very visible until recently; that is, the fact that people who have been doing things year after year are getting too tired to do things year after year. The Fishels have announced that they are unable to continue to do the Golf Tournament after this year (it went very well, by the way), and we have not firmed up anyone who wants to take it on yet. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

When I first interviewed at St. Andrew's, Jerry asked me what I thought about making our budget balance with fundraisers. I told him I didn't think it was a great idea, because then the people doing the fundraisers would feel a lot of pressure to produce money rather than simply doing something for fun. Budgets should be balanced with pledges and gifts, not fundraisers. He agreed. I don't want to sound like I am an unerring prophet, but I think I got that one right.

Because things have not shaken out for St. Andrew's the way we had anticipated at that time. People have died and moved away, others have stopped coming or changed congregations. Some people have visited and stayed, others have come and gone. I can't help but feel some responsibility, as Rector, though it is a situation that has affected churches in all denominations and around the country. But what it has meant is that in order to continue to have the congregation and ministry we have come to take for granted, we have had to continue to rely on the fundraisers.

But with the same people doing the same work and feeling the same pressure year after year, we have a situation that is difficult on them and in the long run unsustainable. It is possible that the golf tournament, one of our biggest fundraisers, could disappear after this year. This is also an ongoing concern for the other items on our yearly calendar.

What to do? At our most recent Vestry meeting I asked people for ideas they would be willing to work to accomplish, things that might add to or replace things on our list. I wanted things people would be willing to do for the fun of doing them. A number of things were mentioned, which I now put out to you, to see whether we have members outside of the Vestry who would either find one or more of these enjoyable or rewarding, or who have other ideas. Here is a list:

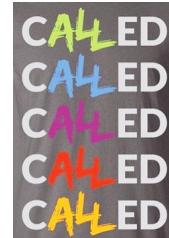
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Elizabeth Forbes

## Called & Sent

"...we find a rather simple formula reported in three of the four Gospels. Jesus is brief and to the point as he sends out his close followers to share his ministry: 'First of all, there are no solo acts. Travel light. Live the core message. Don't worry about success.' Be in partnership, not competition. Walk the talk. Most of all, don't let unnecessary stuff slow you down. All the while, remembering the core message. Heal the sick. Revive hope for the despairing. Pay special attention to the outcast. It's really simple, isn't it? And nowhere are we asked to be concerned about success.

That's God's job." *Isabel F. Steilberg is a priest in the Diocese of So. VA*



Pastor Steilberg reminded me of some important things.

First, that I'm not alone in any ministry I undertake. I don't have to do it all by myself and I can rely on a partner for encouragement, faith building, and strength as well as for accomplishing the task. This is a group effort, whether it is ministry within the church family or out in the greater community. We go in the name of St. Andrew's, in the name of Jesus, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Travel light? Our culture is overwhelmed with stuff and urges us to fill our time to overflowing. Jesus says to take only one coat, no extras, and not even a cooler full of food. How burdened are you by stuff? I know I spend a great deal of time maintaining stuff, much that I no longer use. One of my current goals is to whittle down that burden, to get rid of things I haven't used in 5 years. I ask myself if it's inexpensive enough to replace in the unlikely event that I would need it in the future. Mostly the answer is 'yes'. Are investments of time a balance of giving, resting & renewing, and receiving? God calls us to help others, but God is the one who designed us with limitations. We are not called to use every hour of our lives giving, and never resting, renewing, receiving. The Kingdom of God is a place where each of our gifts is essential to the community's wellbeing. One person giving too much not only burns out, but usurps gifts someone else is called to give.

On the other hand, we are called to feed the hungry, care for the orphans, heal the sick, and visit the prisoners. That's code for share the Good News in any and every way possible. Our culture is so lonely that just making eye contact with someone and smiling can make their day. Our sad world longs for the Good News. We can share it in personal relationships, supporting VCUM, tutoring or being a lunch buddy at school. There are infinite opportunities to live that core message. Some of them will allow us to overtly speak of Christ and some will allow it only in our actions. To the one who hears the Good News it makes no difference how it comes.

I love the last part the most: Don't worry about success. One plants, another waters, someone else digs in compost and manure, but it is God who give the increase. God is the catalyst that makes the reaction happen. The Holy Spirit alone feeds hearts, heals disease, jump starts a spirit with hope and courage. Our only job is to do as the Spirit directs. We may not get to see the results, but we can be confident that God is producing them.

Responses welcome. Contact Elizabeth, [elizabethdhf@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethdhf@gmail.com) or Paula, [pauladalejansen@gmail.com](mailto:pauladalejansen@gmail.com)



## 2015 St. Andrew's Golf Tournament

Forty one players vied for fame and fortune on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year's winning team was the intrepid trio of Jerry Fishel, Paul Bagnasco, and Mike Leslie. Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> was the coed team of Barry Holtzclaw, Kitty Creech, Jerry Thorman, and Sandy Thorman. And in 3<sup>rd</sup> place was the team of Dan Kelly, Rochelle Kelly, and Scott Overton.

Winning for the Longest Drive, Youth: Jacob Herdon; and Longest Drive, Women: Beth Leslie. The Closest to Pin prize went to: Sandy Thorman.



The Winners: Mike Leslie, Jerry Fishel, Paul Bagnasco



### Public Affairs Officer of The Episcopal Church

I love Neva Rae Fox's Daily Scan. Neva Rae works at the Episcopal Church Headquarters, familiarly known as 815 because their address is 815 Second Avenue in NYC. The Daily Scan is a reader's digest of Episcopal News, listed by titles in an email. If anything sounds interesting, you can click on it and read the whole article. I have enjoyed it tremendously and if you think you would, you can subscribe (free) by contacting:

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A fun run, or join in on another fun run around the area.

Hold a dance

Bingo night at Portuguese Hall

Art and wine festival

Maybe do something together with other churches supporting VCUM

Concerts, maybe here, maybe someplace else

Ecumenical concert at some other church with more room

Open Mike nights or talent show

It was also suggested that we do some things just for the socialization of it, such as having a swim outing, or working a football game at the snack shack for SLVHS.

The idea is to keep things less formulaic and more enjoyable.

Friends and members, this transition is real and it is crucial. We are moving from one experience of St. Andrew's to another. The more people who will take part in putting things on as well as attending them the better chance we have of spreading things out so nobody feels overwhelmed. When the calendar is inflexible and the events are run by people who feel pressured, enthusiasm and participation both decline.

What do you have? What do you want? What are you willing to do? We need you not to just read this article and reflect on it but to respond to it. Can we count on you for that? The alternatives are to begin to see St. Andrew's level of ministry diminish, or to see people begin to give more in pledges.

Thanking you in advance,



-Blaine


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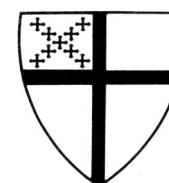


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### Why I Am An Episcopalian: Reason #38

Our theology is an art form, not a law book.

*Paul Gibson, Diocese of Toronto  
 from [101 Reasons to be Episcopalian](#)*

## Inspiration on Retreat

I was privileged to attend the Annual Women's Retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista this past month. It was such a delightful and spiritual experience, that I wanted to share it with St. Andrews.

The retreat is especially focused on the individual, with some shared moments but a lot of time for introspection in a silent and beautiful place. The grounds are lovely to wander around in, and there is plenty of time for that. In spite of the drought conditions, the place is inspiringly beautiful, conducive to walking about with birds, bees, deer, and assorted wildlife. The overnight stay is pleasant, with double rooms or single if you wish, reasonably priced. They also have little cottages available for a single or a couple, I am told. The food is remarkable, plentiful, and healthy.

This year's retreat was led by The Rev. Amy Denney-Zuniga, whom you may remember from our Lenten series a few years ago. She continues to be an inspiration, with a calming presence and a lovely voice. We did some Taizé singing, small group sharing, which was optional, journaling, creative work, in addition to prayer and silent reflective time. This year's theme was The Gift of Sabbath. I highly recommend this experience to all women--just look for the Mary Lou Thompson Retreat next August in our bulletin or your e-mail. Below is the poem that I was inspired to write.

Donna Brough

### The Fountain

Bird chirp, flutter of wings  
Wet  
In the sparkling fountain  
God's Here

Bee buzz, skimming water  
Thirst  
Quenched in the fountain  
God's Here

Breeze soft, stirring the air  
Slight  
Ripples through the fountain water  
God's Here

Women silent, introspective  
Still  
Gazing deeply into the fountain of their souls  
God's Here



it. But the world is full of examples where things don't work, fall apart, or miss the mark. It happens.

The Augustinian philosopher or theologian has a bit too many of Plato's ideas in his toolbox. Everything must be either "perfect" or "an imperfect shadow". Plato and everybody since him on the academic side sensed "imperfection", grieved that things weren't perfect, and came up with philosophical arguments like Original Sin. Augustine got some of it right. Things and people are not quite right and it has been going on since the beginning. But his view is binary - God is perfect/good and we are not. His followers only made it worse.

But if you take that argument over to a machinist, he looks at it very differently. Machinists make things based on a drawing or plan, in the old days, a "blueprint". In the lower right corner of every print is a box that lists the *tolerances*. If, for example, it states that if a dimension on the drawing is a fraction, say,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", it must be cut to an accuracy of plus or minus  $1/32$ ". In other words, if it was within  $11/16$ " to  $13/16$ ", it meets spec. But if the dimension is  $0.750$ ", it has to be within  $0.745$ " and  $0.755$ " or plus or minus  $0.005$ ". The tolerance is tighter but no one expects it to be exactly, purely,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. It's not going to happen and, in fact, it shouldn't - even if the philosopher grinds his teeth at the imprecision. Over the years I have been in the live steam railroading hobby. I have heard club members say, "It runs fine on air but won't run on steam." One of our members was a master of steam pumps and he knew right away what was wrong and how to fix it. Metals, when heated, expand at different rates and what runs fine at room temperature is no longer in tolerance and will either bind up or get too sloppy when hot. Things are complicated in real life and run better when they are neither too loose nor too tight in the real circumstances in which they run.

This is all metaphor, one from the philosophers and another from the craftsmen. The metaphors we use shape how we see and do not see the world. They both clarify and distort. Our current politics and religion are rife with battling metaphors. Whatever the issue, beware of absolutes, of black and white choices. You may be listening to a closet Augustinian who failed shop class.

As one of my wiser engineering managers once said, "We measure with a micrometer, mark it with chalk, and cut it with a chainsaw." Real life is like that. Remember, the founder was a carpenter.

+Jim





## The Deacon's Bench by Jim Lieb

Blaine's summer sermons are on the Liturgy. He recently got as far as The Confession and the Peace. This has led me to consider reflecting on "Sin" for this month's edition.

As Blaine pointed out, the word "sin" as we use it in the Confession comes from the Greek word *hamartano* which comes from archery, "to miss the mark". The earlier Hebrew word is *chata*, also from archery, "to miss". If you look in a concordance you will also see some explaining phrases like "expiation", "repentance" etc. which fit the theology of the translators. But way back, it was to miss the mark even if we read into it things like guilt, penance and "do better next time".

We also use this idea of sin/repentance later in the Liturgy in the Lord's Prayer. We see the word *paraptoma* which is the Greek for "sideslip or fall" in the phrase "... Forgive us our *paraptoma* as we forgive the *paraptoma* of others". Curious, no? We, as Anglicans most often use "trespasses" if we are reading from the Prayer Book for this word but sometimes use the Presbyterian "debt/debtor" if we sing the hymn.

Words are slippery and sometimes say more about the speaker/writer than intended. Consider that when the Bible was translated from Catholic Latin to vernacular English, the land owning aristocracy was the backbone of the Church of England whereas the new merchant (middle) classes were mostly of the Presbyterian persuasion. I can't prove any of this in a court of law but it is curious, is it not?

There is another way to look at this whole idea of "miss the mark", something that would have been very familiar to Jesus. Mark (Mk 6:3) identifies Jesus as "Is this not the *carpenter*, the son of Mary?" Matthew has another take on it (Mt 13:55), "Is this not the *carpenter's* son?" In either case, even if *carpenter* in both the Hebrew and Greek (*tekton*) is more "*craftsman*" as in mason or even jewelry maker, he comes from a family who made things. In this case, I can see why the King James chose "nail pounder" instead of stone mason. Everything in England was made out of wood except castle walls, so a carpenter would be more familiar. In any event, regardless of his building trade, Jesus was well familiar with making things.

People who make things have a very different outlook than philosophers, scribes and, especially theologians and canon lawyers. I would assert that St. Augustine spent too much time in rhetoric books and not enough time in the shop. No machinist would come up with an idea like Original Sin. He well knows the condition of which Augustine writes but he sees it in a very different way. Yes, it is all about "missing the mark" and how we feel and react to

## Love One Another

Lately, I've come to see the word "kind" popping up over and over in the media, in workshops about happiness, in descriptions of "good" people, in reference to how people need to be treated and as a way to help bring peace to the world. It's hopeful to see this word back in our culture with so many years gone by since we saw the bumper sticker "Practice Random Acts of Kindness".

It dawned on me that a way that people can "love one another" on a daily basis doesn't have to be in grand gestures. It can simply be through kindness. Opening a door for someone, giving a smile, being a good listener, sharing time, showing concern, simply being friendly are all ways that we can make a difference while we brave our busy, hectic lives.

Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

What a relief!

By Rochelle Kelly

## Called to Give, Called to Receive

One of the harder things we humans have to do is to let go of control and give it over to God. But when we do, things start to happen that wouldn't happen otherwise. The idea that God should make decisions about what we should do with our money is not easy. Our greatest fear is that we won't be left with enough to meet our needs; our second-greatest is that we won't have enough left for what we want. God wants us to give until it hurts, we reason, so the only word there we can be sure of is "hurts." But there is a corollary to giving. If we all give, then we also all receive. If we all take ownership of the ministries of the Church, by paying for them, by participating in them, and by promoting them, we will find that the giving of others comes back around to us.

St. Andrew's has been operating for the past several years with an income line item called "Faith." This line item is the difference between the income we believe we can count on and the income we need to pay for our budget. Each year we have, by the grace of God and the generosity of God's stewards, been able to fill that line item with actual income.

That is an anxious way to live our financial year but it also builds our faith that God both wants us in business and wants us to continue to have the ministries we currently practice.

Our preliminary draft budget for this year again has a large "Faith" line item under income. We do believe that God will continue to bless us and help us. Meanwhile, however, in order to lower the stress on your representatives - the Treasurer, the Vestry, and the Rector - we would like you to consider pledging, if you don't already, and to move your giving further toward the biblical standard of the tithe - or all the way there - if you are not tithing already.

This congregation of faithful stewards has kept St. Andrew's running all these years, through some truly scary financial times. Let's give each other a hand - in both senses of the word - and continue to live out both the giving and receiving parts of God's call on our lives.



September, 2015



Youth Group is back in full swing. Please come to Youth Group on **Sundays at 10am**. This month we will be discussing fundraising goals, activities for the year, and our ski trip coming up in February. Do we want to continue our monthly fellowship breakfasts this year? Come be part of the discussion. See you on Sunday.



**Sunday School Teachers** - We need a few more! It's one Sunday a month. Please sign up with Teresa Ruff.



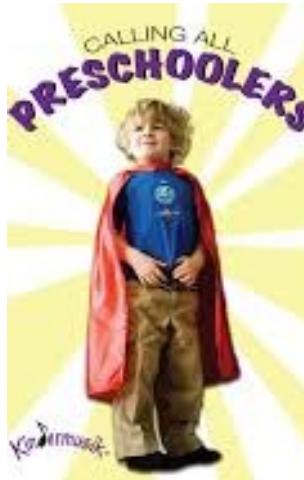
### St. Andrew's Preschool Opens With New Director

Ms. Sherry Stone began her term as the new Preschool Director in August. She is ably assisted by Rebecca Krusee. They are ready for a room full of little ones, but the room is only half full to date. If you know anyone with preschool age kids, pass their names on to Stone - *everyone calls me Stone, she says*. Stone will then invite them to visit our facility and to meet with the staff.

**Sherry Stone** has over 15 years experience in Primary Education and Diverse Visual Arts. She is the mother of three grown up children and the grandmother of one. Her passions are family, children, nature-writing, creative arts, and learning.

She has taught college freshman art, and Native American history, as well as 3rd grade, 4th grade, pre-k, and kindergarten. She implements creativity as a learning tool, hence making learning more enjoyable. She also recognizes that we are all different, and don't all learn the same. She says, "I feel privileged and humbled to be a part of children's lives through education. I believe I learn way more from the innocence of young children than they learn from adults sometimes."

**Rebecca Krusee** has been a St. Andrew's preschool teacher for almost 5 years. She is the mother of two children and holds a BA in Industrial Technology and a Teaching License from the Board of Education. Rebecca very much loves working with young children, and they love her as well.



from the Banner, June 13, 2015

### SLVHS Building named for retired Science Teacher

The San Lorenzo Valley High School Science Building was renamed last month, to honor retired Science Teacher Preston Q.

Boomer, for many years of dedicated teaching. On May 22, a crowd showed up to honor Boomer — the creator of the famed Boomeria — at the newly dubbed Boomer Science Building.

By Patricia Sousa



### St. Andrew's Women's Reading Group

When: September 8th, 7 pm

Where: Jean Templeman's house

Book: Paris Wife, by Paula McClain

# HAPPY

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| Katherine McCormick | 3  |
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# BIRTHDAY