

# GRAINS OF SAND

## The Episcopal Mission of St. Andrew's By-the-Lake

### Logoi from Theo

August 2012

*Lo-gos (lo'gos; n. pl. lo'goi) [Greek: speech, word, reason]*

So now it's August, a time when everything is still and the whole world seems to go on vacation (including me, on a camping retreat in the Superior Forest). And yet, even as I write this, you as a community are in the process of answering the questionnaire distributed by the Discovery Team. These questions are designed to give the team material with which to lead you into a deeper conversation about the future of St. Andrew's—your strengths, challenges, hopes, and dreams—which can then (after review and possible tweaking by the congregation) become a profile of the community to be used as a tool in the search for your next clergy partner. My prayers are with you in this first step of an important process and all along the way.

Some of you have been impatient with the fact that it *is* a process: “*Why can't we just get on with it? Why do we have to go through all this?*” Others have decided to opt out of the process; they are, they say, “*Waiting and watching.*” I want to suggest that both positions, while understandable and expected, have the potential to do more harm than good.

Let's take the second issue first. I think it's simple: if you care for the community of which you have been a part, which has nurtured you on your faith journey, where you have formed primary relationships with others and with God, then you remain in that community, even when the going gets rough. Grief, resentment, disappointment, anger—if any or all of these emotions are roiling within you—can all be shared in community; they will have less power or will be more able to turn toward positive outcomes when you do so. Remember, the community hasn't changed, even if outward circumstances have. And you are a vital part of the community; your presence, your gifts, are needed in this time of transition more than ever. So to those of you on the sidelines: please come back—your family at St. Andrew's loves you and misses you!



Speaking to the first issue, the immediate answer is also simple. If the essence of the community hasn't changed, some things *have*, certainly in your relationship to clergy leadership, and they cannot simply return to “*the way things were.*” Research and experience have proven the benefits that come when a congregation takes adequate time to look deeply and honestly at itself *without* the departed clergy leader, examine its ministry situation and the demographics of the area it serves, establish clear goals and priorities, and determine what God is calling it to do. Once this work is complete you can then determine the characteristics of the type of priest you need to work alongside you to accomplish these goals and priorities.

So it takes time to intentionally sift through and figure out how the community now does business on its own. Well, not on its own, really. Because we are not a clergy-centric community of faith (or we're not supposed to be!): we are a Christocentric community of faith. And the power of the Holy Spirit given us through Christ never leaves us.

In this time of transition a new energy has been released that God yearns to use. Sometimes that energy is positive, an excitement about the new era and new opportunities. Sometimes (let's be honest) that energy is negative – old or recent unresolved conflicts, struggles over direction, fear of the unknown road ahead. But energy, whether positive or negative, is energy. And no amount of either speed or withdrawal can return you as a congregation to yesterday's familiar comfort. Let the restlessness of this period be a source of creative energy. Even the inevitable resistance to change can be viewed as “*information*,” an invitation for further conversation or nuancing.

Several church experts have tried in recent years to describe the life cycle of a congregation. One diagram describes the progress from the original dreams through the structures and goals that foster creative ministries. Inevitably there comes a time when those dreams and memories degenerate into nostalgia, questioning, polarization and dropout. Inevitably, that is, unless we find a way to open ourselves to fresh visions! When the “*young ... see visions*” and the “*old ... dream dreams*,” that cycle of renewal starts over again as God calls us toward new ministries.

This is your time, St. Andrew's. *Take* the time, use it well, and dream big!

*Theo+*

## Camping Retreat



I will be out of the office **August 1-14**. The Rev. Bill Van Oss will provide pastoral emergency coverage in my absence. He can best be reached on his cell for

emergencies: 269-1060.

Sunday Services will be taken by the Revs. Carolyn Schmidt and Sally Maxwell.

*Theo+*

## Discovery Team Update July 20, 2012



By now, each of our members has received their Survey, **which needs to be completed and returned to us by August 3**. This can be done on the printed survey or online. Your individual input is critical to the long-term success of this process. It is in your interest and the collective interest of St. Andrew's that each of us completes the survey. Along with the Discovery Team, the Bishop's Committee has been hard at work doing their part in the process.

The end result of the Discovery Process will provide a job description for the priest that will eventually be called. Another way of looking at this is that we are creating a **resume** that defines who and what St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is today. We are creating a document that when shared with Episcopal Clergy who are also looking for a new church, will make them want to look at St. Andrew's. The Bishop's Committee is working hard on updating those things that facilitate our ongoing day-to-day operation and existence; updated by-laws, updated mailing list, operating committees and their structure, an accurate financial picture, and an updated, operating web site. When we put the final product of the Discovery Team together with the operating overview from the Bishop's Committee the document will be handed to the Search Committee. That in essence is the resume of St. Andrew's that will be shared with Episcopal Clergy looking for a new church. It will be used as the primary tool in the identification and eventual screening of candidates.

Coming back to today, we are awaiting each of

your thoughts and input from the survey. The information will be gathered and summarized and then that information brought back to you by way of congregational meetings and small focus groups. We will have the opportunity to affirm and fine-tune the results and conclusions drawn from the survey. The Discovery Team continues to meet every other week and we will be compiling that information from the survey and working on the agenda for the congregational meeting and the focus groups.

The wardens and co-chairs of the Discovery Team met with Karen Olson, the Bishop's Representative, and Cammie Beattie, our Discovery Team consultant last week to both update everyone and define where we go from here. The Discovery Team will complete the evaluation of the survey response and compile the summary by mid August. We will present the findings/summary in September in a congregational meeting with a series of small focus groups to follow immediately. According to both Karen Olson and Cammie Beattie, we are on schedule or even a bit ahead of schedule for where we are in the search process.

In conclusion, we are making progress, but now we need your input. As we have said from the beginning, this is not a process completed by the Discovery & Search Committees but a process that is completed by each member of St. Andrew's. We sincerely want to hear from each of you. Please be direct in your responses and please add your comments on questions that we may not have asked.

Yours in Christ,

The Discovery Team



## Discovery Team Telephone Numbers and Email Addresses

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## CHUM Adopt-A-Backpack For Kids In Need Of School Supplies

CHUM is once again working with the Duluth School District to host a "Back to School Fair" on Tuesday, August 21. Families with limited resources will be provided school supplies and backpacks at this event.

Over 730 backpacks were distributed in 2011.



### Here's How You Can Help

You can either donate a backpack plus the supplies to fill it or donate the money so that the supplies can be purchased. Backpacks are distributed to two age groups.

#### Grade K-5 Backpack

Give an \$18.00 donation or donate a backpack filled with: 3 Wide Ruled Notebooks, 1 Scissors, 6 Pencils, 1 Box Markers, 1 Crayons, 2 Glue Sticks -NOT glue bottles, and 3 Pocket Folders.

#### Grade 6-12 Backpack

Give a \$20.00 donation or donate a backpack filled with: 6 Pencils, 3 Pens, 3-Ring Binder, 3 College Ruled Notebooks, 1 College Ruled Loose Leaf Paper, and 3 Pocket Folders.

To ensure fairness to all students, we pack each backpack identically based on a specific list of supplies. If you are unable to donate a full backpack, the items most needed each year are back-

packs, 3-ring binders and pocket folders.

You may drop off backpacks and supplies, a check made out to CHUM, or cash in the designated basket in the Mission Hall no later than **Sunday, August 12** and Joanne Blyler will see that it gets to CHUM or you can mail a check directly to: CHUM Food Shelf East, 120 N. First Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55802 by Monday, August 13.

For more information, contact Meg Kearns, CHUM Distributive Service Director at 727-2391 or [megkearns@chumduluth.org](mailto:megkearns@chumduluth.org).

Thanks you for supporting local students!

Submitted by Joanne Blyler

## The Reader's Choice Book Club of St. Andrew's

Our next meeting will be **Friday, August 3** at noon at Porter's. For more information call Sandy Carlson at 723-1181 or Heather Pitschka at 720-8683. Please join us in our **first anniversary celebration** of the book club.



Next meeting: Friday, September 7.

## CHUM Community Annual Picnic

The picnic will be held **Tuesday, August 7**. First Avenue West will be blocked off in front of CHUM and food will be served from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the parking lot adjacent to the Food Shelf (120 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. West). There will be good food, fellowship and music from Jim Hall until the street is reopened at 8:00 pm.

The CHUM community works hard together. Here is an opportunity to relax and play together as well!



## Peace and Justice

We are planning the next CHUM dinner for **Thursday, August 23**. Ginny will work her magic in the kitchen again, and the main course will be chilimac. In the past we have asked for bakers as well as kitchen help and servers. Because baking isn't as pleasant in the heat of the summer, we won't have bread and bars this time. Instead, we are asking for people to donate fresh fruit for dessert. Please sign up in the Mission Hall to help cook, transport, serve, and donate fresh fruit. For further information, call Margaret Handley at 393-2493.



Submitted by Margaret Handley

## Liturgy Planning Meeting August 25

Believe it or not, the end of the summer Sundays after Pentecost is in sight and it's time to plan for the "second half" of this season. This will run for three months and take us up to Advent, which begins December 2 this year.

Fr. Theo is still seeking to do less and have SABTL do more in terms of making decisions about the parts of our communal liturgy (both words and music). The goal is to have a functioning, independent liturgy committee by the end of the year, one that will be ready to guide and support the new vicar when she/he arrives in the Spring. Might this be your ministry?

We meet to plan the Fall on Saturday, August 25, at 9:00 am. Please let Fr. Theo know if you can make it.

## SABTL Saturday Stitches

The Saturday Stitches is cancelled for August—everyone is busy enjoying summer activities. We will resume the Stitches gatherings in September.

Submitted by Joan Hunn

# Hanging On To Faith

*"Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens."* ~J.R.R. Tolkien

*"Faith makes things possible, not easy."*  
~Author Unknown

*"Faith and doubt both are needed - not as antagonists, but working side by side to take us around the unknown curve."* ~Lillian Smith

*"Faith can move mountains, but don't be surprised if God hands you a shovel."*  
~Author Unknown

*"None of us knows what might happen even the next minute, yet still we go forward. Because we trust. Because we have Faith."*  
~Paulo Coelho, Brida



Faith is my word of the year. Faith is what I hang on to so that I can see further than just tomorrow. Faith is a belief in that which you cannot see. I cannot see the future, but must believe that the sun will rise again.

I speak of faith to illustrate our current journey as a congregation. Our comfortable world has been turned upside down, and our view to the future seems uncertain. We do not know what to expect, only that we must trust, have faith, must believe that we will be able to stick together through our transition into something that we cannot yet fully define.

I speak of faith to illuminate our current financial status. We have committed to a budget for 2012, which has certain fixed expenses. Our only income is from pledges and fund-raisers. Income to date has fallen, and is not at a level that would entice a new vicar to join us.

Collectively, we need to rally our members. We need to "step up to the plate", in a sense, and turn our downward slide into an upward trend.

**I am issuing you a set of challenges today:**

To think of our future, to remember why you chose St. Andrew's, to have faith that our strength in numbers will keep us together, to believe.

Submitted by Kinnan Stauber,  
Building and Grounds co-chair, past Senior Warden, Current Co-Treasurer

## Minnesotans United For All Families

### "How to Have the Conversation" Training

Conversations with people we know are the key to changing hearts and minds. Despite all the media attention, marriage for same-sex couples is an issue many people haven't had a chance to really discuss. You can open that door. The kinds of conversations we need to have can be tough. This training will prepare you for these conversations and help you make a plan to get started.

Trainings will be held at Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth on **Tuesday, August 7;** **Thursday, September 6;** and **Thursday, October 11.** Please register online at: [mnunited.org/faithconversations](http://mnunited.org/faithconversations).

*"When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them."* --Martin Buber

## Revised St. Andrew's Directory

The revised St. Andrew's directory is now available on the table in the church entryway. Please let Fr. Theo know if any corrections need to be made. If you would like an online version of the revised directory, you can email Fr. Theo at [salamander.park091@gmail.com](mailto:salamander.park091@gmail.com).

### Directory Corrections:

Cindy Hendrickson's address is 1120 Minnesota Avenue, *not* 120.  
Rebecca Thomsen, *not* Thompson

## **Bishop's Committee Update A Journey Through Transition**

Since the April Discovery Retreat, the Bishop's Committee members have been working in three transition focus areas:



1. Development of an organizational structure to encourage and help form our future shared ministry.
2. Communication- website and communication tool development.
3. Uphold Parish life – hosting church-wide discussions.

### **Organizational Structure**

We are working through first drafts of church bylaws and existing committee description documents. We intend to share these draft documents with everyone once they are further along. A large part of the bylaws yet to be worked on is a section on procedures for managing our finances. This section will take some effort and time to develop.

### **Communication**

We have been working with the Episcopal Church on MN Communications Missioner who is able help us develop a new St. Andrew's website (at no charge). We are waiting our turn to have a website drafted. It will likely be later this fall before we will be able to share an initial design and gather your feedback. While we wait a new church, database and directory have been developed and we have spent time discussing how to improve our church-wide communication.

### **Upholding Parish Life**

We have held two discussions, one on faith formation (youth and adult) and another on what future activities would we like to see at St. Andrew's. We intend to hold a few more in the coming months as topics are discerned. Our hope is that through these discussions we gain a sense for next year's activities both within St. Andrew's and throughout our community. Another goal of these discussions is to ask for your involvement

and to lend your talents for planning and organizing activities that move you. We ask for your prayerful consideration of where you could help. St. Andrew's is a lively place because we share our talent and energy.

This is a year of transition and opportunity. We are blessed with a legacy of love, kindness, outreach, peace, justice and the power of God's love to help one another and the world beyond St. Andrew's doors. The Bishop's Committee has a lot of work ahead of us, and we ask for your prayers, input, and participation.

Peace,

Ellen and Tim

### **Your Bishop's Committee at St. Andrew's**

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Kinnan Stauber, Treasurer

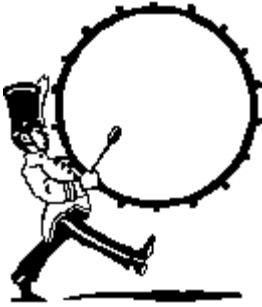
Cindy Hendrickson, Clerk

Bob Carmack, Region 2 Representative

JoAnn Carmack, Region 2 Representative



# Duluth Superior Pride



You are invited to join with people of faith on **Sunday, September 2** and march with the *Duluth United for All Families* Float. Gather at 11:30 at the corner of Hammond and Broadway (go straight across the high bridge, about one half mile and you will see the

gathering spot on your right. Park on the street and look for the orange and blue VOTE NO signs!)

Duluth United for All Families is working to defeat the (anti) Marriage Amendment which states "marriage shall be between one man and one woman" that will be on the ballot in November 2012. We hope to have groups from all lifestyles marching to affirm the rights of gay people to marry those they love.

For more information about the Duluth Superior Pride Festivities, see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the Mission Hall.

(VOTE NO signs are available at the Duluth United for All Families office on the second floor at Gloria Dei. The office is staffed from 1-4, Monday through Thursday. A suggested donation of \$10 per sign is appreciated.)

## Pride Events 2012

Here are just a few of the pride events: For a complete listing and details go to: [dspride.com](http://dspride.com)

**Thursday, August 30**, 5 pm, *Mayor's Reception*, Depot, 506 West Michigan Street.

**Saturday, September 1**, *Hummingbird Family 5 K*, 8:30 am registration, 9:30 am race, Western Lake Superior Waterfront Trail, 7408 Grand Avenue.

**Saturday, September 1**, *Pride Festival*, 11 am to 7 pm, Bayfront Festival Park, free admission.

Enjoy live music, food, vendors, kids and adult activities, etc.

**Sunday, September 2**, *Pride Worship Service*, 8:30 breakfast, 10-11:00 worship, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, 835 West College Street.

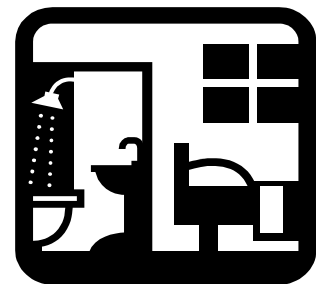
**Sunday, September 2**, *Pride Parade*, meet at 11:30 at Broadway and Hammond. March approximately 1/2 mile with Duluth United for All Families float! Church signs and banners are appreciated.

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## Homeless Doesn't Have To Mean Helpless

Look at the kids around you. Any one of them could be homeless. They could live at Life House. Life House is a facility to help homeless teens Monday through Saturday and is located in The Lifeline Building on West First Street.

Life House's mission is "To provide a safe harbor for enhancing the lives of youth risk." It has been helping homeless teens age fourteen to twenty since 1991. Life House is located all over the St. Louis County, but the one in Duluth is the only center in Northeastern Minnesota where homeless kids can just drop by. Fern Penick said, "It is an outreach for the homeless youth of the Duluth area." Life House supplies kids with a place to stay, get an education, food, clothing, etc. Life House also provides programs to help teens with finding a job, housing, school, and health.



Life House helps teens all over and could be helping someone near you

Submitted by Jacqueline Wright  
SABTL Youth Member

**The Episcopal  
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Suggestion/comments  
appreciated.

*A People  
on the Way  
to  
Knowing,  
Loving,  
and  
Serving  
God*

We're on the web!  
[standrewsbythelake.org](http://standrewsbythelake.org)



**The deadline for the September  
Grains of Sand is Saturday, August 25.**

## **Adult Formation**

An adult book study group will begin on **Thursday, September 13**. We will be studying *"The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of The Lord's Prayer"* by John Dominic Crossan. Father Theo will lead the groups with a 10:30 am session and a 6:30 pm session. The number of sessions has yet to be determined.

There's a sign-up sheet in the Mission Hall and the book is available from Amazon for \$11.00.

Don't miss this great opportunity to go in-depth with "The Lord's Prayer." Fourteen people have already signed up.

Submitted by Sandy Carlson