

# GRAINS OF SAND

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

### A Message from your Vicar

September 2013

We believe God is here. Seriously, we do.

I put this on the sign outside of my former Church one Sunday afternoon, and was shocked by the responses I received the following week.

People laughed, they called and said we were a crazy cult. The sign elicited all manner of reactions. I am not sure why, but one reason I believe it did was because it was a conviction we held that we believed to our core. God is here, now, with us, not somewhere far off, distant and away. God is present among us now.

What does it mean to say that God is here with us, today? When you think about it, it is a revolutionary idea. It can be shocking to think we might be so connected to a God that desires to know us as beloved friends. It forces us to imagine the world in a different light, and it forces us to imagine that maybe we can't walk through this life all by ourselves, but are dependent upon God in many ways.

Desmond Tutu shared a thought about our dependence upon God, which has stuck with me since college. I saw him at a National Young Adult Gathering in Asheville, NC. He said, *"When you fall down, God always picks you up, brushes you off and says, 'Try again.'"* The compassion with which Archbishop Tutu was able to speak those words offered me a vision of God I had rarely seen. A vision that was intimate and compassionate, a God who cares deeply about me and who I am, a God that walks with me always.



Mumford & Sons, my favorite band has a song called "The Cave", and one of the lines says, *"So come out of your cave walking on your hands/And see the world hanging upside down/You can understand dependence/When you know the makers land"*. Looking at our lives, at the Lake, at our community from a different perspective often helps us see God and our relationship to God in revolutionary ways.

When I was a sophomore in high school, I attended my first Teens Encounter Christ event. At the end of the weekend, I was flying high. I describe that moment, those days, as the life event that caused me to see the world no longer in black and white, but in dazzling Technicolor. Essentially, I was told to come out of my cave walking on my hands.

Our world is about to change, as it does every fall, from a world of green and blue to dazzling color. Every year, my entire life, this time has been significant for me: school starts, fall sports get rolling and the air starts to smell different. For me, fall is a coming home kind of experience. It is a time when I take stock of where I am and what I want to accomplish, a time when I am welcomed home.

We are welcomed home every fall in many ways, and in those welcomes, we are given the opportunity to be made new. It is often not so much the journey we are on, as it is the welcome we receive, that gives us the energy to be who we are called to be as Children of God. In our welcome, we get to declare to the world, "We believe God is here, seriously, we do."

**Welcome home, everyone.**

Aron ✝

## Our Calendar of Events

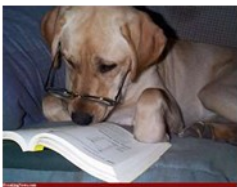
(Look for the details of these events in this newsletter)

Sunday	9/1	Serving Coffee: Ginny Berger in honor of Aron's 39 birthday
Friday	9/6	Reader's Choice Book Club
Sunday	9/8	Welcome Home Sunday-Harvest Potluck/Picnic
	9/8	Christian Formation for Children
	9/8	CHUM Bag Lunches
Sunday	9/15	Serving Coffee: Sandy Carlson in memory of her mother
	9/15	Bishop's Committee Meeting
Sunday	9/22	Serving Coffee: Marge Stenstrom in honor of her mom, Angie's 90 birthday
Monday	9/23	Ladies Night Out
Saturday	9/28	Saturday Stitchers
Sunday	9/29	Serving Coffee: JC Curtis in thanksgiving for her four sisters
	9/29	All Parish Meeting
Sunday	10/6	Blessing of the Animals (page 8)
Sunday	10/13	Serving Coffee: Ken and Dianna Oliver in honor of their wedding
Sunday	10/20	Honoring Our Immigrant Heritage (page 6)
Saturday	11/16	Falling Upward: The Spirit of Retirement
Sunday	11/17	Falling Upward: The Spirit of Retirement



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

September 6



Please join us for our book discussion and lunch meeting at **noon** at Porter's Restaurant on **Friday, September 6**. The downtown site enables those who work downtown to join us on their lunch hour. Bring your parking receipt to get free parking. The meeting will last about 1 hour. If you are new to the book club, call or email me at 723-1181 or [carlzimm@msn.com](mailto:carlzimm@msn.com). Hope to see you there.

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## Welcome Home Sunday-Harvest Potluck/Picnic

September 8 at 9:45 a.m.

Let's celebrate coming home to St. Andrew's and rekindling relationships after a busy summer away.



Many of you are gardeners, so for the Harvest Potluck/Picnic, will you consider sharing the fruits of your garden? Sign up outside the mission hall and tell us what you will be bringing. Hamburgers and Brats will be provided for a main course.

Welcome Home!

# Christian Formation for Children

Sunday September 8



Christian Formation for the children of St. Andrew's By-The-Lake begins on **Sunday, September 8**. We will have a lesson and activity on Creation for all ages.

Beginning on September 15, classes will be held for elementary school age. We are excited to have a combination of Godly Play with Bible stories and activities that help support SABTL outreach. Family/Youth Church will be held once a month and Sunday School will not be held on those days. The middle school children will have a series of Bible Stories and they will be matched with a mentor due to the small class size.

We are seeking volunteers for the nursery and to serve as elementary teachers for two-month periods with 4 to 5 lessons. Please sign up on the Education Board or talk with Sally.

He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, *"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."* [Mark 9:36-37](#)

In Peace,  
Sally Buck



## CHUM Bag Lunch Sunday

Sunday, September 8

Instead of standing in the picnic food line how about first helping to bag lunches for CHUM? Many hands will make the task go by quickly and we know from our last picnic that there will be plenty of great food left for you to enjoy with no long lines to wait in. Your help will be greatly appreciated and will be a gift of service to those in need. Thanks for your past and continued commitment to our CHUM ministry.

## CHUM Reminder...



When shopping for groceries please consider purchasing some items for the Food Shelf, staples such as soups, canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, tuna, pasta, etc. Also, cash donations are greatly appreciated - the Food Shelf can make the \$\$ go farther. Make a check out to St. Andrew's with "CHUM" in the memo line (SABTL gets credit for the donations). Or...put cash in an envelope labeled CHUM. Thank you!



Submitted by J and Jean Laundergan

P.S. Large bottles of dish soap and laundry detergent are also needed. They are divided into smaller bottles so many people can get the benefit of your donations.



## Bishop's Committee Meeting



September 15

The next Bishop's Committee meeting will be held **Sunday, September 15** immediately following our morning service until 12:30 p.m. The committee will continue to meet on the third Sunday of each month until further notice.

## Ladies' Night Out

September 23



We will have a Ladies' night out on **Monday, September 23** at 6:00 p.m. We will meet for dinner at the New Scenic Cafe. If you would like to join us, please call Elena Knezevich 724-2939 or email [eknezevich@hotmail.com](mailto:eknezevich@hotmail.com) by Sunday, September 22.

Submitted by Elena Knezevich

## Saturday Stitchers (the "hands-on" group)

September 28

Hooray! The Saturday Stitchers have returned after a busy summer off. Gather up those unfinished projects and join us on **Saturday, September 28** from 9:30 to 2 p.m. in the Mission Hall of St. Andrew's. All are welcome, whatever your handy-work may be; beading, scrapbooking, knitting, catching up on your mending, etc. Please join our lively group of women and men for the day or for as many hours as you can spare. Kris Rauschenfels will host the gathering and provide the main dish. Please bring a side dish to share.



Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## Update from the Bishop's Committee—August 2013

The Bishop's Committee met on August 14, 2013.



The Bishop's Committee continued work on organizational structure of St. Andrew's with a focus on Peace and Justice. After a brainstorming session, the members were given some assignments to bring back to the next meeting in September.

**Welcome Home Sunday**, September 8, 2013 brings us all back from our summer activities and starts Christian Formation for this season. We will have a Harvest Potluck/Picnic with brats and hamburgers provided as the meat course. Please share the bounty of your gardens with us in this celebration of homecoming.

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There will be an **All Parish Meeting on Sunday September 29, 2013** following church. The congregation will be voting on the Bylaws for St. Andrew's By-The-Lake. We will also have a presentation of happenings at the Diocesan Convention from Sandy and Gene Carlson and Aron Kramer.

The Bishop's Committee is continuing their work on the organizational structure of St. Andrew's and will continue to provide updates on our progress as we move forward.

The next meeting of the Bishop's Committee is Sunday, September 15, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room.

Roberta Cline, Sr. Warden



## Thank you, Jesus



*"Thank you, Jesus."* These were the words uttered by Ms. Tuff after police arrested the gunman, Mr. Hills at the McNair Discovery Learning Academy in Decatur, Georgia. Was this just a common, cultural expression or an actual prayer of gratitude? We don't know.

Gun control efforts, even the minimal initiative to require background checks for all gun sales, nationally and in Minnesota, have shown both renewed strength and little success. Armed with an AK-47 rifle and nearly 500 rounds of ammunition, Mr. Hill threatened the lives of many children and teachers. You probably read the story in the Associated Press and how Ms. Tuff talked to the gunman for 25 minutes. She shared her story and listened to his story. She gave him a glimpse of hope, countering his thought that he had no reason to live. Linking to one of Aron's recent sermons, she got *"into the hole"* with him because she had *"been there before and knew the way out."* The Minnesota Public Radio played some of their conversation and I was struck by the number of times she calmly addressed him as "sir." Respect, kindness, courage—she displayed them all. No one died. What lessons, not apart from continued legislative efforts, can we learn from her? Can we act in the same way? How does faith embolden us to act?

If you have not done so yet, consider joining Protect Minnesota: Working to End Gun Violence at [www.protecmn.org](http://www.protecmn.org). They are now working with one of the main architects of the successful statewide campaign on another controversial issue – marriage. That is a hopeful sign—the willingness to build an effective, statewide organization. Our area legislators have supported background checks. But they still need regular communication, thanking and encouraging them. They need to hear from us. Look for a table of information, action ideas, and yes, buttons at St. Andrew's this fall.

Holy One, help us not to grieve as those who have no hope. Help us to act. Amen

Submitted by JoAnne Axtell





# Honoring our Immigrant Heritage

Deadline: Sunday, October 20



The Israelite exodus story is a well-known Biblical narrative, central to our Christian faith. Stories of departure and exile continue to this day. Most of us have been told stories of ancestors who emigrated from their homelands to the United States for various reasons and at different times in the history of our country, often at great sacrifice.

What is your family immigration story? Participate in our next exhibit. Share photos, a document, a handed-down family recipe, song or poem, whatever symbols you can collect to display. Wall space will be provided and everything must be ready for hanging. Write a brief story. All stories will be typed for consistency in appearance when they are displayed alongside your prepared exhibit.

Information and a sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the entry. The due date is Sunday, October 20. If there is a change in date we will let you know. Need a frame? Let us know.

Submitted Arlene Renken

## Episcopal House of Prayer Comes North!



One of the recently stated hopes of the Episcopal House of Prayer is to expand its programs into Greater Minnesota. Currently, programs have been offered at the House of Prayer, Colleagueville and the House of Prayer in the City. **Now**, the House of Prayer is coming North! This is an opportunity for those of us living away from St. Cloud or the cities, to participate in some of their wonderful programs.

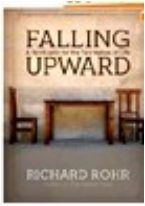
Beginning this Fall, the House of Prayer and McCabe Renewal Center will begin collaborating on various programs. Our first offering is described below. We hope you will consider being part of this excellent way of growing deeper in your relationship with God.

### ***Falling Upward: The Spirit of Retirement***

Saturday, November 16 (9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Sunday, November 17 (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Are you approaching or in that post-career stage of life we call 'retirement'? For many of us, this important life transition brings up essential spiritual questions: *Who am I now? What is the spiritual purpose of this stage of life? Why do I feel this "bright sadness"? Whose voices do I listen to for guidance?*



Over these two days, we will look to wisdom figures ancient and modern, consulting Richard Rohr's book Falling Upward. We will employ contemplative practices and simple spiritual exercises to hear the wisdom of our own 'still, small voice.' Together we will explore the questions that matter to us now and share our discoveries.

**Facilitators:** Patricia Blakely is a former publishing executive and now a spiritual director with certification and a master's degree in theology from St. Catherine's University. Jean Freeman enjoyed a long career in organization development and corporate consulting. They have offered this retreat twice to a full house at the House of Prayer in the City and in Colledgeville. We are pleased to bring it to McCabe Renewal Center.

**Suggested Donation** \$105 (includes both days and lunch on Saturday)

**To register:** Call McCabe Renewal Center (724-5266) or register online. Retreat space is limited to 15.

Call McCabe and ask for the latest newsletter with other spiritually enriching offerings.

\*Note from the editor: Check the sign-up table in the entrance to the church for copies of the fall newsletter.

## Extraordinary Chocolate Chip Cookies

(Served at Marie Bassa's Celebration of Life service on May 11, 2013)



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 1/2 cups butter or margarine (1 use butter)  | 2 tsp. baking soda                                    |
| 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar                    | 1/2 tsp. salt   |
| 1 1/4 cups brown sugar, packed                 | 1 1/2 bags (12 oz bags) semi-sweet chocolate chips    |
| 1 Tbsp. vanilla                                | <u>Optional:</u> 1 - 2 cups chopped nuts, if desired. |
| 2 eggs   |   |
| 4 cups Gold Medal unbleached all-purpose flour |   |

### Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In large bowl - beat butter, sugars, vanilla and eggs on medium speed (or with spoon) until light and fluffy.
3. Stir in flour, baking soda and salt (dough will be stiff). Stir in chocolate chips (and nuts, if used).
4. On ungreased cookie sheet, drop dough by tablespoonfuls about 2" apart. (Directions say to 'flatten slightly - I don't do that.)
5. Bake 11-13 minutes or until light brown (centers will be slightly soft). Cool 1-2 minutes then remove from cookie sheet to cooling rack.

Makes approx 5-dozen cookies.

### NOTES:

The recipe calls for two 12 oz packages of chocolate chips but I found that to be too much. I usually use 1 package of Nestle semi-sweet choc chips and 1/2 package of the new Nestle dark chocolate chips. However - when I made the cookies for the funeral I used the semisweet and 1/2 package of milk chocolate chips.

Submitted recipe from Jean L. (Via a package of Gold Medal Unbleached All-Purpose Flour)

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

**2802 Minnesota Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55802**

**Vicar:**

The Rev. Aron Kramer

**Email:**

aronkramer@gmail.com

**Blog:**

[www.aronkramer.blogspot.com](http://www.aronkramer.blogspot.com)

**Twitter:** @aronkramer

**Office:** 218-727-1262

[standrewsbythelakeduluth@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsbythelakeduluth@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Sandra Carlson

[carlzimm@msn.com](mailto:carlzimm@msn.com)

218-723-1181

Suggestion/comments appreciated.



***A People  
on the Way  
to  
knowing,  
loving,  
and  
serving God.***

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



## Green Team News:

The Green Team met again in June and is continuing to make progress in working on the Evergreen level, hoping to finish the documentation by the end of the summer. We, at St. Andrew's, are serious about how we interact with the environment and we have a Green Team working on describing what we do and have done, and reminding us that environmental concerns are important to us. Kinnan Stauber is the contact person for this group. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Margaret Handley

## Bike or Walk to Church This Summer

The Green Team is encouraging biking or walking to church as a sustainable transportation mode. You can participate by riding or walking either all or just part of the way. Do not forget to keep track of your walk/bike trips on the trip log sheet located on the sign-up table. The Green Team will add this information to our application for the top green recognition.

Submitted by Ellen Pillsbury

## Blessing of the Animals

October 6, 2013 at 9:45 a.m.

St. Francis is famous for saying, "Preach the Gospel, if necessary, use words." On **October 6**, we will put our ability to preach the Gospel without words to the test. As part of our Sunday mornings worship, we will Bless all the animals we possibly can.

I encourage you to bring your pets, bring your friends pets, bring you friends too, if they are willing to come. Spread the news, so we can have all the dogs, cats, lions and lambs we can find. Let us recreate the Peaceable Kingdom from Isaiah.

Or not. Bring your stuffed animals, your memories of beloved pets who have died and their pictures; all will be welcome to receive a blessing on that day.

Please bring your pets on a leash, if appropriate. Treats will be provided for pets and their human companions.

"Preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words."

Blessing of the Animals, October 6, 2013 at the 9:45 a.m. service.



**The October Grains of Sand deadline is  
Monday, September 23.**