The glittering skyline of Austin, Texas will welcome both The Episcopal Church General Convention and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew National Triennial Convention in July, 2018.

Welcome to Texas!

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew’s National Triennial Convention will join The Episcopal Church’s General Convention in what should be a memorable July, 2018 in the state capital of Texas. This digital edition of The St. Andrew’s Cross offers registration information, the agenda and other information about our national convention, as will the upcoming printed Spring edition.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Regional workshops help us turn the corner

We had 10 last year and 15 more to come

We are a movement that is turning the corner from some anti-growth periods in our past. We have now completed 10 regional workshops. The aggregate attendance has been 384 brothers, clergy and sisters. We still have 15 sites under consideration for 2018. These sessions train, educate, recruit, and motivate men to act.

If you are one of the 384 attendees we welcome any comments on how we can improve the format. Better still, we would appreciate knowing what actions you have started following the workshop.

In every session we have had Brothers who have not made a ministry pledge in recent years. Following the sessions, the value obtained by attending, has prompted numerous members and chapters to update their rosters and profile information with a ministry pledge attached.

Thank you!

Good Book Club for Lent

We are strongly urging you to participate in Forward Movement’s Lenten Bible Study Program: Good Book Club. This is a marvelous way for our 500 plus Members-At-Large (MAL) to obtain Bible study during Lent. Furthermore, we are still searching for better ways we can serve MAL needs.

The URL you can use is www.goodbookclub.org. This is a free service open to anyone who would like to participate. Should you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact Tom Welch (tom.welch@brothersandrew.net) or myself via email (jeff.butcher@brothersandrew.net) or by calling us directly 502-450-5640.

National Day of Service – April 28

Let me introduce Keith Purser, of Atlanta as the 2018 chairman. This is our sixth year for observing this cross-denominational event (please see page 8). The Lutherans, Methodist, several independent organizations plus the Brotherhood are doing local community service all on the same day. You can register on our web site or snail mail the registration to us. Make sure we know how many brothers and sisters are sharing in this experience.

It is an excellent time to get some “dirt under our fingernails.” We are encouraging you to include local Boy and Girl Scout Troops, other youth groups, dads with children and our entire church community. Please take action pictures for us, create a bulletin board at church and follow up with a thank-you note to everyone who participated. Nothing builds male bonding better than working together in a group activity.

Rebranding Men’s Ministry Apparel

Next month we will release a new look for shirts, banner, aprons, note cards, ties and socks. The Executive Board is reviewing the package now prior to release to the local communities. Each chapter director will receive literature to circulate at the chapter level.

This is also the time if you have a burning desire for suggestions on rebranding ideas such as Let Your Andrew Out, Let It Begin with Me or Becoming Men of God (BMOG.)

We ask that you send them along to me Jeff.Butcher@BrothersAndrew.net.

Carpe Diem!
One step at a time

We are off and running fast with the New Year. Last month I represented the Brotherhood at the 191st annual council in my home state of Mississippi. I reached out to Mississippi Bishop Brian Seage to seek his blessing to send a letter to every priest in his diocese. Those blessings were instantly given.

With that, just days before council each priest and parish received an old-fashioned, hand-addressed envelope from me with a personal (typed) cover letter and the winter edition of The St. Andrew’s Cross. I don’t know about you, but First Class Mail, particularly hand-addressed, is opened at my desk before ANY email. It worked!

Several of the priests came up to our booth. Many of those were new to the diocese, which meant they were new to me as well. Time and resources were well spent. This is the proper process I hope all of us use as we introduce or reintroduce our ministry to clergy in a diocese. Start with the bishop. With pastoral blessings from the bishop, we move to the priests. We have records of when and what parishes have ever been chartered. The next step for us as we warm a diocese up to brothersandrew.net is reaching out to every parish we’ve ever had on the rolls. The historian in me loves digging around for this type of stuff. The salesman in me loves applying a time-proven process of “seven touches” to impact new business (members).

The Christian servant in me cherishes the friendships made or renewed as I am about making a difference with our part in the Jesus Movement. We have boxes full of inactive chapter files; all potential leads for growth.

In January we also joined the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). We meet the minimum endowment requirements for membership by having at least $1 million. Developing relationships with CEEP members is priority one. I believe with all my heart the way to grow memberships is to grow relationships first. Our membership in www.endowedparishes.org gives all Brothers in good membership standing with BStA access to CEEP member resources. You will find everything from financial development ideas to administrative ideas to networks for grants and more by our membership with this network of churches. Reach out to our office to learn more.

As the year progresses, the national office will be working with our chaplains, both in the Anglican Churches in North America and The Episcopal Church, in reaching out to seminaries for potential chapter growth there as well. In fact, we’ve already heard from one seminarian with an interest in starting a chapter.

Upon further investigation, I learned his seminary was first chartered with the Brotherhood in 1890 ... 128 years ago. We also learned the dean there had also expressed interest in a chapter over a year ago. We bid your prayers as we tap into a great resource to grow future priests in the Brotherhood at seminaries across the country.

Additional prayers are requested as I travel to Austin in February for an “on-site” visit with our hotel for our convention this summer, to meet with some of our team leaders in Austin and to make the short drive to the CEEP conference in San Antonio.

In March I’ll be at Camp Beckwith in Alabama, the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Reconciliation in Atlanta, an interdenominational meeting of men in Nashville and the Evangelism Matters Conference in Ohio hosted by Forward Movement. With each trip, know my objective is to build relationships so that we may build growth. Are you starting to see a pattern here? The National Office is committed to following the lead established in the Strategic Plan adopted here in Louisville in December of 2016.

All of this is being done to build on the momentum established by your leadership these last two years. We are a movement rather than an institution. More than 38 dioceses in 2017 had visits from either me or your national officers. These efforts are designed to facilitate the revolution from the trenches up rather than the towers down. Believe me when I say, it’s already working. We see it in our office every week. It is both an honor and humbling to be a part of your movement.

I close praying that you wage compassion relentlessly.
2018 NATIONAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION        ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

TRIENNIAL 2018
July 5 - 7, 2018
Embassy Suites Arboratum
9505 Southwest Blvd
Austin, TX 78759

Name: ___________________________ Member / Chapter Number: _______________________

Address: __________________________ City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________

Telephone: ________________________ E-mail: ________________________________

Spouse/Guest [if attending]: __________________________

REGISTRATION FEES: Select the Registration Fee according to your participation (must be postmarked by April 15 to be eligible for lower fee). The fees below include registration fee and breakfast at the hotel each morning, dinner Thursday, lunch Friday, lunch and dinner Saturday as well as nightly receptions as a hotel guest.

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<td>Seminarian &amp; Student</td>
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HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Select the nights you will need a hotel room. If you are room sharing, please let us know. The hotel requires 48 hours notice for cancellation; if less than 48 hours you will be responsible for 1st night.

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PAYMENT INFORMATION:
In order to avoid state tax of 6.5%, hotel reservations must be made directly with the Brotherhood. The only form of payment for both the hotel and conference registration is with a check payable to “The Brotherhood of St. Andrew.” Credit cards will not be accepted.

FLIGHT and TRAVEL: Austin’s airport is Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (IATA code AUS). From airport to the hotel use SuperShuttle.

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS TO:
NATIONAL OFFICE: 620 S. 3rd Street, Suite 302, Louisville, KY 40202
Tentative Agenda

Thursday, July 5
9 am - Noon  Board meeting
10 am - 2 pm  Registration
2 - 3 pm  Opening General Session
I Call to order
II Prayers
III Role call and minutes
IV President’s address
V Proposed revisions
3:30 - 4:00 pm  Break
3:00 - 4:30 pm  Reports of the Seven Ministries of the national Brotherhood
1 Recovery
II Scouting
III Veterans
IV Discipleship/Mentoring
Break
V Restorative Justice
VI Human Trafficking
VII Racial Reconciliation
4:45 - 5 pm  Card Swap (bring a stack of 30-plus business cards)
5 - 6:30 pm  Social hour
6:30 - 8 pm  Supper and Compline

Friday, July 6
6 - 9 am  Full breakfast
9 - 10 am  Morning Prayer
Episcopal Church Foundation Constitution, Budget and Bylaws discussion
10 - 10:15 am  Break
10:15 - 11:30 am  Voting on all business matters
11:30 - 11:45 am  Break
11:45 am - 1 pm  Noonday Prayer, lunch and executive director’s address
1 - 1:45 pm  Break
1:45 - 2:15 pm  Let’s stop whispering about evangelism
2:15 - 2:25 pm  Break
2:25 - 3:25 pm  Workshops* (two held concurrently)
3:25 - 3:40 pm  Break
3:40 - 4:40 pm  Workshops* (two held concurrently)
5 - 6 pm  Social hour

Saturday, July 7
6 - 9 am  Full breakfast
9 am - noon  Morning prayer and discussion led by The Rev. Matt Marino
Noon - 6 pm  Free time
6 - 7 pm  Free time
7 - 9 pm  Banquet and keynote address by The Rev. Scott Gunn

Guest speakers

The Rev. Matt Marino is associate rector for mission, outreach, evangelism and young professionals at The Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine in Houston. Prior to that, he was vicar of a multi-ethnic church plant in Phoenix and Canon for Youth and Young Adults in The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. He has worked with young adults in mentoring settings for 30 years.

The Rev. Scott Gunn is executive director of Forward Movement, a ministry of The Episcopal Church focused on inspiring disciples and empowering evangelists. Forward Movement’s flagship devotional Forward Day by Day is read by Anglicans around the globe. He has served as a parish priest in Rhode Island and, prior to that, as a technical leader in non-profit and commercial organizations. He was educated at Luther College, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and Brown University. You can follow him on Twitter (@scottagunn) or read his blog at sevenwholedays.org.
In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Brotherhood of St Andrew, the nominating committee is soliciting nominations for National Officers to be elected at the National Council Triennial Convention in July of 2018.

Nominations are being received for the positions of President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Council Chairperson, and Provincial Presidents of Province I, IV, V, VI VII, VIII. Province II, and III have Provincial Councils and elect their own Presidents.

Nominations must be made by a member of the National Council, and the person nominated must agree to the nomination. Nominations must be mailed to the Nominating Committee no later than April 1, 2018. Nominations from the floor at the National Council Triennial Convention must meet the provisions of Article 7. paragraph G and H of the Bylaws dated July 2017 (see the web site for the latest version of the bylaws).

Brother Tom Bates
Nominating Committee Chairperson

Please use this form to nominate Brothers to serve on the National Council.
We’ll miss you, Sue

By Jim Goodson

AMBRIDGE, Pennsylvania – On a raucous summer night 15 years ago, Sue Claussen and I joined a large group of Brothers for a Mexican meal across the Ohio River from the Brotherhood’s national office.

We were both fresh hires. Sue is a New Jersey girl and I’m from Texas. We both have two daughters and we hit it off.

We sat together and regaled each other and nearby Brothers with allegedly amusing stories about our children and significant others. It was all we could talk about since we knew nothing about this thing called the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

How could we possibly imagine that 15 years later, we would be the Brotherhood’s institutional memory and its most tenured staffers?

And who could imagine Sue guiding the Brotherhood’s finances during its most difficult times and to emerge on the “other side” during the current era’s optimism and energy.

Sue served the Brotherhood by managing its finances carefully and professionally. She paid the bills, the taxes, the employees, the vendors and oversaw the Brotherhood’s orphan program in Uganda.

While I got bylines in every edition, Sue helped office manager Cindi Davies make sure each Brother received a copy of The St. Andrew’s Cross as well as all office mailings. Last month, Executive Director Tom Welch decided we should add the magazine to its initial email rather than make Brothers download an attachment. He called on Sue and she reconfigured the publication to make it fit - and on deadline.

She created our first computerized database.

Sue was integral to rescuing the Brotherhood during its darkest days, when we couldn’t pay our employees or anyone else. She and longtime Brothers Ken Evans and Jerry Balcom worked around-the-clock putting together a plan that worked.

No task was ever too big for her, despite being barely-five-feet-tall. In what seems like a vague and fuzzy memory now, Sue and Cindi Davies staged every national council meeting and Triennial. They did everything. All us Brothers did was show up.

She fondly recalls the difficult-to-manage Triennial when we joined the Daughters of the King in a mammoth meeting at hot, humid Disney World.

“My favorite was the meeting in Chicago,” she says.

“It was really inspiring seeing the St. Andrew’s Chapel at the church where the Brotherhood started.”

Sue knows a lot about the inner-workings of the Brotherhood. She’s worked with five presidents and has nothing but praise for virtually all the Brothers. Her career spans the Keith Hook-era to the Jeff Butcher-era.

“I have nothing but praise for the Brothers I’ve worked for;” she says. “All of the Brothers have been very professional and caring.

“The Brotherhood is a unique organization. It does a lot of good things, but its greatest quality is the Brothers themselves. Sure, there were difficult times and problems just like in any large organization, but the Brothers always conducted themselves in the best way possible.

“They knew they were representing a ministry and didn’t do or say anything that would reflect poorly on the Brotherhood.

“There are many who helped me a lot and I will really miss them.”

The Brotherhood says the same thing to you, Sue.

Jim Goodson is editor of The St. Andrew’s Cross.

THANK YOU SUE FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BROTHERHOOD
“What you have done for the least of these, you have done it unto me.” (Matt 25:40)

By Keith Purser

The Brotherhood of St Andrew invites you to participate in the sixth annual National Service Day Saturday, April 28.

Our objective is simple: get people everywhere - across state lines, party affiliations, religious preferences and denominational ties to join together and give their communities a helping hand that day.

This event is perfect for mens’ groups, womens’ groups, Bible study groups, university fraternities and campus ministry groups to get out and - through the generous application of elbow grease and - do some mighty good deeds. Last year more than 1,000 people in 75-plus groups around the country participated in National Service Day. They built shelves and trimmed bushes, moved furniture and cleaned yards, raked, hauled, removed, washed, fixed, planted, painted, tweaked and tackled jobs far and wide. Their efforts bettered the lives and circumstances of hundreds of individuals who, not surprisingly, witnessed the practical hands and feet of Christ’s body at work.

Everyone who lends a hand is encouraged to wear their T-shirts, hats, jackets or other identifying logos to make visible the work of Christ in their communities. Set aside some time on Saturday, April 28, to

• organize a meaningful community service project by working together as a congregation to assist an individual, family in need or your local community. The project should be identified as a worthwhile mission opportunity.
• obtain your clergy permission, support and involvement.
• encourage Brothers to enlist enough men, women and young people, friends and family members to complete the service project in one day.
• promote the day in your parish, your community and your diocese to allow participation to be as widespread as possible during the event,
• take pictures of members and participants in action, and publish an article in your parish’s newsletter, diocesan newsletter or possibly to send to the office for possible inclusion in the St. Andrew’s Cross publication and the Brotherhood’s national website
• begin and end the day in prayer and
• have fellowship and refreshments during the day.

Additional information can be obtained from the Lutheran Men’s Network.

Keith Purser is chairman of National Service Day. He can be reached at kepurser14@att.net.