



THE COMPANION

...of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,
Waterford, Michigan

August 2019

From the Priest-in-Charge

—The Rev. Canon Jonathan Sams

Our new Bishop-Elect, Bonnie Perry, is a deeply spiritual person with proven qualities as an inspired Christian leader. She also has a same sex spouse, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. They have been together for about thirty years. For the delegates who elected her as bishop, her sexual orientation is no more of an obstacle than the color of her hair or her love of long-distance kayaking.

Many people have come to regard homosexuality as just one of the ways God creates people. But for others it can be troubling, not because they are particularly homophobic, but because it appears to contradict passages in the Old Testament and the Epistles of St. Paul. Those with such moral reservations are not required to change their opinion, but are under the same obligation as every baptized person in the Episcopal Church, that is to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves."

Bishop Elect Perry understands that there are some who sincerely question her suitability to serve as a Bishop (or priest, for that matter), just as others do not believe that women can be validly ordained, regardless of their sexuality. I am saying that there is room in the Episcopal Church for "conscientious objection". As long as a person is sincerely seeking to live out their Baptismal vows and follow Christ, there can be and always has been a wide diversity of opinion amongst us. In Romans 12 St. Paul wrote, "owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." Nobody gets this 100% right, and everyone is in need of forgiveness. Biblical writers like St. Paul could not have known, as most (but not all) the scientific community has concluded in our day, that sexual orientation has a significant biological aspect to it. For some people, it is heterosexuality that is unnatural. Is it truly God's will that such people be required to live in celibacy?

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Senior Warden's Update

—Joelle Chaney, Senior Warden

I hope you're having a good summer! It seems to be flying by, as summer always does. Hard to believe it's nearly August. This has been a busy time at St. Andrew's.

--Kitchen renovations are underway. The old dishwasher has been removed and the walls have been painted. The new flooring will be installed. The ceiling, lights and floor will soon be replaced, making the kitchen a fresh, welcoming place.

--On Sunday, July 21st, a special congregational meeting was held to help determine the future of the rectory. The parish voted in favor of leasing out the rectory. The next step in the process is going before the Standing Committee at the Diocese in September to get their approval. If our plan to rent the rectory is approved, we would seek to use a property management company to minimize the headaches for St. Andrew's. Stay tuned.

--Eucharist in the Park was held at Bay Court Park on Wednesday, July 24th. It was a perfect summer evening-- sunny, temperature in the upper 70's with low humidity. The Minstrels welcomed the addition of Mike Watson on accordion! Thirty-three people were in attendance to enjoy the service, the music, fellowship and wonderful food.

--Marcia Bottomley's Gift: The Vestry met with the investment counselor that helps us with the endowment funds. We will be deciding how to invest most of the money from her incredibly generous gift. The investment counselor pointed out that it would be better to not put any of the money in the endowment, and leave it as unrestricted funds. Marcia knew that St. Andrew's has an Endowment Fund, yet she chose to give us an unrestricted gift, so putting restrictions on it would be an added burden. The planning for the church parking lot, though important, is going to be delayed. When we do tackle the parking lot, we will use some of the proceeds from investment to match any fundraising efforts that the parish undertakes. We need to keep sight of the importance of our involvement and support in the projects and programs here at St. Andrew's. Working together is what makes us a stronger community and fosters growth.

The Blessing of the Animals will be held at St. Andrew's on Saturday, September 7th. We are looking forward to another fun gathering. Bring your furry friends to meet everyone else's furry friends. There will be treats, gifts, special guests and popcorn, in addition to the pet blessing. It's a great occasion, which usually attracts dogs, but other pets are welcome!!

Before we know it, another program year will begin, with church school, bells and choir (also the budget and renewing your pledge, what fun). The annual Church Picnic (or Potluck, as it might more aptly be called) is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th. There will be a sign-up sheet on the board in the Richardson Room.

God bless the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you in church soon!

Joelle Chaney
Senior Warden

From the Priest-in Charge

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The exemplary moral lives of LGBTQ Christians who participate faithfully in our congregations make such judgments seem arbitrary and unfair, contrary to our experience of the gospel. This has particular relevance for someone like me, a divorced and remarried priest, since, according to some sentences in the Bible, I should be excluded from serving in the church. But the Episcopal Church has decided that mercy, love, and renewal are more important than punishment and exclusion of people who are doing the best they can with the gifts God gave them.

I thank God for the Episcopal Church. We cannot claim to have a monopoly on God's truth, but there is always room for God's truth among us. Whenever I have addressed this subject in the past there have been some readers who take issue with me, some because they think I am not "liberal" enough, and others who think I am just the opposite. If you are among either of these, please talk to me about it. I continue to learn a lot from those who disagree with me, and we "owe no one anything, except to love one another."

Jonathant

Visit Father Jonathan's blog at www.theramblingrector.blogspot.com



Photos from Eucharist in the Park were taken by member, Jean Watson. More photos appear on page 4 of this publication. Featured above (left) is Father Jonathan and (right) newest member of The Minstrels, Mike Watson playing the accordion. Special thanks to Jean for taking these great photos of our annual event!

Eucharist in the Park Photos



Above: Members enjoying fellowship and tasty food.



Top Right: Margaret Chaney

Below: Jack Chaney and Father Bob



One of the Blues Brothers (Father Bob Wollard), being accompanied by Mike Watson.



Above (L to R): Midge Ferris, Zoe Wernette, Kathy Longcore, and Lois Vestuto

There have been years when Eucharist in the Park had to be postponed or cancelled because of extreme heat; or had a storm roll in during the middle of the event. This year St. Andrew's was blessed with a perfect sunny day—low humidity and reasonable temps.

A special thank you to our Fellowship Committee team members for hosting the annual Eucharist in the Park. Thanks also to our celebrants: Father Jonathan and Father Bob. Thanks to our musicians: Jack Chaney, Father Jonathan Sams, Mike Watson and Father Bob Wollard. Last but not least, thanks to our photographer, Jean Watson.

Book Club

***The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne**
Thursday, August 15th at 6:30 pm
St. Andrew's on Hatchery



Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, September 7th
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

The date of the annual Blessing of the Animals has been moved up one week to accommodate Father Jonathan's vacation. This is a community outreach event, so be sure to invite your friends, neighbors and coworkers. Volunteers are also needed on the day of the event. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please speak with Jeanette Ragsdale or Sue Foster. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Richardson Room bulletin board.



Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 15, 2019

**immediately following the 10:00 am worship service*

Crop Walk 2019

Sunday, October 6, 2019

Registration at 1:30 pm / Walk begins at 2:00 pm



Be sure to save the date! As in the past, St. Andrew's will be hosting the rest stop and offering refreshments. Additional volunteers will be needed to act as crossing guards and drivers to pick up any walkers who are unable to complete the walk. Walkers are also needed to help raise funds. For more information about the history of the CROP Walk, please see the article on page 7. Our co-chairs for St. Andrew's are Scott Slocum and Worley Smith. Worley said that you will be hearing from him on Sunday mornings!



Birthdays

- 4th Syd Owen
- 10th Anna Moreno
- 13th Mary Contreras
- 16th Janice Lessenthien
- 20th Aleta Morris
- 23rd Judy Rowcliffe
- 27th Lynn Maker
- 28th Bonnie Champion



August Anniversaries

3rd Becka & Bernie Yeater

CROP Walk Celebrates 50th Year

With its inception 50 years ago in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are "viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks," notes the [Los Angeles Times](#) (Oct. 26, 2009).

On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP – and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. As far as we know, York County, Penn., was the first walk officially called the CROP Walk for the Hungry – and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide.

Currently, well over 1,600 communities across the U.S. join in more than 800 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.

What does CROP stand for?

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, we've outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program.

Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go?

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall work of Church World Service, particularly grassroots development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs - something CWS has learned through 70 years of working in partnership around the world.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5301 Hatchery Rd.
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Parish Administrator's Hours:

Monday & Friday

9:00 am—4:00 pm

(248) 673-7635

Email: office@standrewswaterford.org

Submissions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted by email (above), snail mail (5301 Hatchery Rd., Waterford, MI 48329), in person, or by leaving articles in *The Companion's mailbox* to left of the Office door.

Visit us on the web at:
www.standrewswaterford.org