



Photograph by Clara Stark

the left-hand column

☞ Are you wondering why that young woman is smiling? She just graduated from St. Mary's College with a master's degree in education, about to move into her own home. So she has that to celebrate, but she's probably happy about the "graduation gift" of dishes and household items from our yard sale staff.

☞ Which, by the way, brought in \$4,053.

☞ Parish picnic coming right up: July 19. Details inside.

☞ If the excerpt on page 8 has piqued your interest, and you want to read it (and I hope you do), *The Inquisitor's Tale Or, the three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*, is available from bookshop.org, \$7.99.

☞ "Who that was not a witness could imagine, that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that Men who came from the different parts of the Continent, strongly disposed by the habits of education, to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of Brothers?" Gen. George Washington, November 3, 1783

Loaves & Fishes

JULY 2025

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your Will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing

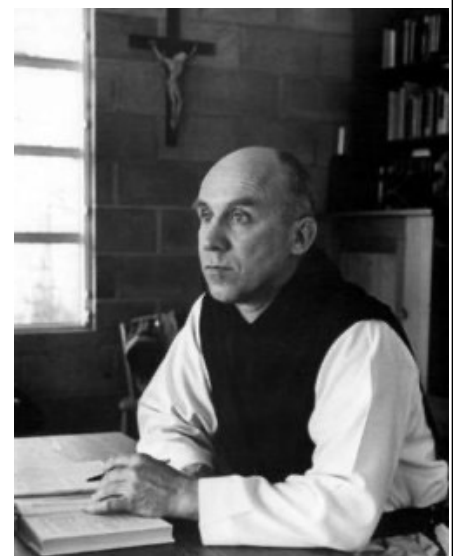
~~Thomas Merton

This business on intentional community can be complicated. In the church, we "traffic" in hope, as one of my colleagues put it, if only because hope often feels like such a scarce commodity in high demand that he feels we can offer it in small amounts to the world. I don't necessarily agree—I have seen abundant grace in your company and have learned from you what it means to give your life to a beloved parish—but there are days when I know what he is saying.

The great gift of being at St. Andrew's is in knowing that this grace is not mine to give. It has been given to an extraordinary group of people who share the goal of making the kingdom transparent in our time and place. It is not easy to do, given all the restrictions on our time, energy and resources.

Merton reminds us, in his meditation, that there will always be limits to what we know of God's purpose; what we believe we see with crystalline clarity will not be so obvious to others who approach the identical issues from a different historical or cultural perspective.

What makes Merton observations so valuable, in my view, is their humility. Although his insights were valued by many,



he never considered himself a prophet, despite living in a time when prophetic voices were seemingly everywhere. They always began from a presupposition that knowledge of God began in relationship, not certainty; if we believe what he wrote about his formation, it is those relationships, outside and within his monastery, that made him who he was.

I don't claim Merton's wisdom but I share the value he placed on relationship in his life and vocation. The strength I see at St. Andrew's is in the love I have seen in both places for the community and the life of each person. What moves me most about being here is the love you share for one another. It is that love which gives me hope, not only for these communities but for the greater church we all serve.

Twenty years ago, someone gave me a card with the opening words of Mark's gospel: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God." the picture was of a page from an early manuscript and I have kept it, primarily because I feel we are always at the beginning, whether we have been in a worshiping community for three years or for thirty. We are always learning about each other, rubbing against one another. It may make the work feel easy or hard, but it is always God's work. I feel privileged to be doing this work alongside all of you and look forward to a summer of renewal and joy in being together.

Mark+

Plumbing the Mysteries —of Life and of St. Andrew's

*Lord, as I read the psalms
let me hear you singing.
As I read your words,
let me hear you speaking.
As I reflect on each page,
let me see your image.
And as I seek to put your precepts into practice,
let my heart be filled with joy.*

St. Gregory Nazianzen (329-389)

Recently, I was reflecting with other clergy how hard the work of the church is, even under ideal circumstances. If we are practicing what we claim to believe, we are celebrating the indescribable gift of the risen Lord. At our best, we are "stand-up" people, hearing God in our psalm recitations, seeing God written on the pages before us and in the world of which we have been called to be stewards. We are even called to recognize the *alter Christus*, the other Christ as s/he appears among us, in the guise of friend and stranger. Most, importantly, we are called to proclaim these things, to make them known through word and sacrament, to somehow call attention to the ineffable.

I mention these thoughts because clerics tend to get caught in the world of their own parishes, the concerns for their own communities. It is good, as someone relatively new to the diocese, to hear from others the way they are "solving" their problems, what they are doing to "get around" the difficulties of the moment. I cannot help but be reminded of my friend the former Franciscan, who reminded me more than once that life is not a series of problems to be solved but a mystery to be lived. I console myself in believing that we are participating in a global mystery with many parts, some of which are only in very formative stages. A new awareness of human dignity and its importance has emerged into the general conversation. Many of us have become aware of freedoms we have taken for granted, and are now aware that we must be tenacious about preserving them. Those realizations are gifts in themselves.

It is in that spirit that I am looking for a person (or people) to help with some historical work around St. Andrew's. Being a relative "newbie," I am aware that this work has been done before, but given the amount of work



we do preserving the jewel that is our church, it would be good to take a look at the history of the church and its connection to area landmarks. One of the last conversations I had with the late Bob Aldridge was his desire to see a conversation with the people of Sotterley, given manifest connections between that place and St. Andrew's. My hope is that we can begin that process (which his estate is helping to fund), but we will need people who are willing to take the lead.

I am one with my friend in believing that our life with God is imbued with mystery. I also believe that the joy that Gregory refers to is discovering what we can about the journeys of those who have come before us, and seeing how those discoveries weave into the journey that God is on with all of us.

Mark+

Join Me July 20 to Discuss Confirmation Classes

We are beginning classes for Confirmation, Reaffirmation and Reception on August 3 in anticipation of the bishop's visit on November 9.

The curriculum will be *A Faithful Life*, written by Jenifer Gamber, former head of Christian formation of the diocese, and has eight sessions. There is a provision for doing this online but my preference would be to meet in-person for ninety-minute sessions on Sunday afternoons. Past experience has taught me that in-person gatherings help us build community much more effectively.

I would appreciate your input about the format: I don't want to exclude anyone because of childcare or other issues. I would like to meet with all prospective students on July 20 after services. Please let me know if you can attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Mark+



Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed by your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

~~hour by hour

The Senior Warden Has Some Interesting Things to Report

First and foremost: Vacation Bible School was held June 16 -20, and led by Joyce Austin, Barbara Lorton and Susan Bennett. The children had great time learning Bible stories about travel, doing arts and crafts, playing games and singing songs.

The big furniture move will be taking place soon. An office space for Amy is being created in the room adjacent to the nursery. The room previously used by Lyn will be used to store items from the Thrift Shop to be sold at the yard sale. A large cabinet from Lyn's room will be used as a room divider.

There will be a parish picnic on July 19 here at the church. Details will be forthcoming.

The Bridges program at the St. Mary's Caring soup kitchen began early in June and will continue through July and into August.

They need volunteers to make bag lunches every day for children who are attending day camps throughout the county. If you have some time to spare, please consider volunteering. Parishioners have been very generous in donating food to the program in recent weeks.

Respectfully,

Susan Bennett

And a postscript—

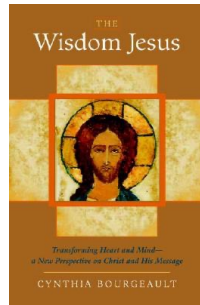
There are a lot of ways to celebrate birthdays. Amelia Moran just celebrated her twelfth and decided that instead of gifts, she'd like her friends to donate food for St. Mary's Caring.

Photograph by St. Mary's Caring



The Wisdom Jesus

We are used to seeing Jesus as a prophetic figure whose ministry of healing and teaching reflect the prophetic traditions of the Hebrew Scriptures. Because the earliest Christians saw him as one who echoed the works of Elijah and Elisha (and certainly Moses), a great deal of emphasis was placed on the power that he offered the children of God, which in turn made the passion narratives the focus of all serious study of the gospels, then and now.



Cynthia Bourgeault approaches Jesus from a very different perspective. As a member of the “world-wide Wisdom movement,” she sees the teachings of Jesus as extensions of wisdom writings within the Bible, as well as some non-canonical documents like the Gospel of Thomas. What emerges is a Jesus who is quite different from the one we are accustomed to meeting, one that should spark lively discussion about seeing Jesus through a very different lens.

Bourgeault's book, *The Wisdom Jesus*, is our next book for our Sunday morning adult forum. Please bring your thoughts, open minds and join us!

Mark+

***The Wisdom Jesus*, The Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault, Shambala Press, 2008, 210 pages**



Summer Is Picnic Time

Ours will be Saturday **July 19 at three** in the afternoon. Hot dogs, hamburgers and buns provided.

The rest is up to us. There are sign-up sheets in the parish hall—one for names and numbers, one for dishes promised.

Cindy Kilcoyne (240 577-3737) has the answers to your questions.

Breaking Bread Together to Know One Another Better

It's been a while since St. Andrew's has had foyer groups, so here's a reminder of how these informal gatherings that help church families to get to know each other better work.

Foyer groups ideally consist of four families who gather once a month for fellowship. Each group has families from each service. The group decides where and when to meet. They usually rotate among each other's homes. The host family supplies the main course. Appetizers, sides and dessert are provided by the three other members of the group. Or, the group may decide to meet out with the location or restaurant being decided by the group.

Groups would run for four months beginning in September. After one rotation, new groups could be formed if parishioners would like to continue.

In July and August, we will assess how many families might want to participate in the program. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall by mid July.

Questions? Robert Abell, 703 475 5879,
rateach2nd@aol.com.



Happy anniversary!

- 2 David and Natalie Reed
- 3 Bob and Linda Sisson,
- 5 Scott and Alice Drayton
- 9 Hal Pease and Margaret Hallau
- 15 Tom and Jill Garrett
- 16 Samuel and Brenda Frazier, Willy and Mary Hansen
- 26 Robert & Iris Hall-Wiley

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Annalee Johnson, Emma Wagner
- 3 Lynn Duff, Margaret Hallau
- 7 Robert Willey
- 10 Robert Frick
- 14 Katie Johnson
- 16 Sydney Vieten
- 17 Sara Frank, Walt Johnson
- 18 Charlotte Caudle, Kerri Frank
- 21 Fred Bergen
- 22 Hannah Vallandingham
- 23 Samuel Frazier
- 27 Pamela Carroll, Trey and Savy Hansen
- 28 Rese Bergen
- 29 Brenda Weisman
- 30 Ginni Stein
- 31 Olivia Johnson

The Junior Warden Discusses the State of the Roof—and Other Matters

*Dog days have arrived early this year. We all sincerely appreciate each of the Holy Mowers working in these extreme temperatures. And the beautification work of garden elves who have kept the flowers scattered around the campus watered and weeded. The grounds look great. A note of caution: be alert for ground-bee nests. These creatures attack when disturbed. I'll try to neutralize any nests discovered.

Roof maintenance continues absent any surprises. No internal leaks have been discovered. Inspection of the eaves found significant decay, rot, vermin damage and some improperly installed boards. The eaves consist of soffits and fascia boards. The good news is that in the absence of gutters, rain will fall off the edge of the roof away from the eaves, avoiding further damage to the eaves.

[For those of us not on speaking terms with carpentry, *Websters* describes a soffit as the underside of a part or member of a building, and fascia as a horizontal piece (such as a board) covering the joint between the top of a wall and the projecting eaves].

On the towers, however, the mortar flashing was found to be cracked and broken. The north tower, in particular, has taken a beating over the years. Lacking direct temperature moderation from the church's heating or air conditioning, it has suffered crumbling plaster and mortar deterioration. Metal flashing should be installed in lieu of mortar which would be likely to crack again in the near term.

This repair, outside the scope of work on the roof, is essential to avoid rain blown in from the east and further damage. We are researching potential grants to pay for this as well as the interior damage to the north tower.

Respectfully,

Peter Woodside

*Dog days, the hottest days of summer, for those who like to play trivia, have been associated since at least the eighth century BC with the rising of Sirius the Dog Star in the night sky. Hellenistic astrologers associated Sirius' presence with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck.



Photographs by Peter Woodside

He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

~~Micah 6:8

July 4 Independence Day

Hosea 1:2-10 Deuteronomy 10:17-21 Hebrews 11:8-16
Matthew 5:43-48 Psalm 145 or 145:1-9

July 6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 *or*
Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-8
Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Clara Stark

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Nancy Edwards Lector: Caleb Wong

July 13 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82 *or*
Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-9
Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-9

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jerry Gehrig

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Mary Maker

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker Lector: Joie Samuelson

July 20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 *or*
Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Larson

Altar duty: Kim Stickney and Mary Hansen

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Dee McRae Lector: Robert Abell

July 27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 *or*
Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) Luke 11:1-13

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett Lector: Mary Maker



Please Hold in Your Prayers

The Aldridge family, Pam Baake, Jan Barnes, Melanie Baisley, Eunice Benson, Elizabeth Biddle [Pumphrey], Grace Billingsley, the Blackwell family, the Boyer Family, Caroline Bradford, Carol Brimm, Pete and Nancy Brown, Christine Butler, Kelly, Susan Carroll, Art Carson, Donna Carter, Donnie Carter, Judy Cavin, Jennifer Ceriala, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, Laine Dogget, Judi Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Ruby Dyson, Dean G., Brian Gardner, Gloria Gehrig, Susan Geary, Alexi Greene, Ryker Hurst, Greta, Terrie Leonard, Thomas Leonard, Elinor Mattingly, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Betty Lou Nagel, Bernice Nunes, Kenda Parker, Kyle Patrick, Dan Quinn, Jane Roderick, Rusty Robinson, the Rotzinger family, Kelly, Jonathan Tanner, Taylor, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Charlene Townsend, Paula Wayland, Angelica Wilkinson, Stuart A. Wood, first responders, and all who serve in the military and their families.



My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that If I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

~~Thomas Merton



July

- 1 Tuesday
- 2 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m.—Healing Service
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 3 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 4 Friday Independence Day
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 5 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 6 Sunday
 - 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 - 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 - 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 7 Monday
- 8 Tuesday
- 9 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 10 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 11 Friday
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 12 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 13 Sunday
 - 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 - 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 - 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 14 Monday
 - Noon St. Mary's Garden Club luncheon
- 15 Tuesday
- 16 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 17 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon

- 18 Friday
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 19 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 3:00 Family Potluck Picnic
- 20 Sunday
 - 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 - 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 - 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 21 Monday
- 22 Tuesday
- 23 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m. noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 24 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 25 Friday
 - 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Parents' Afternoon Out
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 26 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 27 Sunday
 - 8:00 a.m. H.E. I
 - 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum
 - 10:30 a.m. H.E. II
 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 28 Monday
- 29 Tuesday
- 30 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 31 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon



Now that summer's here....

Sunday coffee hour should, perhaps, be a bit lighter.

With that in mind, if you sign up for a 10:30 July or August coffee hour, plan to bring whatever cold drinks you like, set up water and punch dispensers, and be sure the coffee pots are set. Regular coffee hours will resume Homecoming Sunday, September 7.

Looking for Someone?

Rector: The Rev. Mark Smith: 301 862-2247 rector@standrewsleonardtown.org

Parish Administrator: Amanda Anisko: 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org

Senior Warden: Susan Bennett

Junior Warden: Peter Woodside

Robert Abell

Joyce Austin

Bobbi Brown

Ethan Chan

Nancy Riddel

Clara Stark

Andy Walls

Treasurer: Chuck Stein

Minister of Music, Amy Foster

Newsletter, Dee McRae

To give flowers for the altar: 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550

The Diocese of Washington 202 537-6555 <http://www.edow.org/>



Food for Thought

Adam Gidwitz' The Inquisitor's Tale is full of boisterous adventure and nuggets of wisdom. Three children—a girl who has visions, accused of witchcraft; a boy whose village has been destroyed by a mob lust for Jewish blood, and a young monastic oblate on a mission for his abbot. It ends with a narrow escape and sanctuary at an abbey.

Standing in the center of the cobbled road inside the iron gate is a giant. His nose and cheeks are ruddy, his air and whiskers unruly, and his red-brown eyes are twinkling. I have never seen him before, but I know, in an instant, that it is Michelangelo di Bologna.

Gwenforte barks and Jeanne breaks into a run. The little peasant girl, wet and sand-soaked, collides with Michelangelo's huge belly and throws her arms as far around him as they can go. Which is not very far. Gwenforte jumps around them barking and leaping and spinning in circles.

Jacob and William just stare at Jeanne, embracing the giant red monk.

"I—I don't believe it," William stammers.

Michelangelo looks up. His great red face is split with an enormous smile. "A hug from a child! he exclaims. "Perhaps God's greatest invention!"

Jacob approaches Michelangelo slowly. He reaches out and touches the monk's fleshy red hand as if he wants to test his physical existence. "You are Misha-el? God's beloved? The angel?"

Michelangelo's great head goes up and down, slowly, once. . . .

Something, though, is not obvious to Jacob. "Why did he send Gwenforte back? And give us these miracles to perform? And put us through. . . through *Hell*?" His throat sounds thick and his face is contorted with anger. "Why?"

"What do you mean, *why*? To save the Talmuds. To cure the dragon. To find the Holy Nail. To open the eyes of the king and his mother, if only a little bit." . . .

"But why not just . . . just make it happen? You know"—Jacob snaps his fingers angrily—"poof!"

"Because God does not work like *poof*!" Michelangelo says, snapping his fingers back at Jacob. Gwenforte looks at Michelangelo's big fingers curiously and the tries to lick them. He laughs and lets her. "God works through people. Like you."

Jacob mutters, "It's a strange way to run the world."

"Yes," Michelangelo agrees. "even to me, it is mysterious. Full of wonders—and endlessly maddening." . . .

The Inquisitor's Tale Or, the three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog, by Adam Gidwitz, illustrated by Hatem Aly, Dutton, 2016.