



# Loaves & Fishes

**JULY 2026**

*We are what we love*

*<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.*

**Philippians 1: 9-11**

## the left-hand column

☞ Nothing says summer like Vacation Bible School, and St. Andrew's got off to a great start as June ended and July began.

☞ The Senior Warden reminds us that—especially in summer—the best coffee hour doesn't have to be elaborate. Cookies and juice promote fellowship as well as eggs Benedict.

☞ The holy mowers and garden elves could use a few more volunteers. As could our luncheon ladies. And the Junior Warden never runs out of projects to improve and preserve our campus and historic church.

☞ Our friends at Beth Israel have reserved the Marine Museum's bugeye *William B Tennison* for a dinner cruise July 11, details inside.

☞ The June yard sale was, of course, a rousing success. Steve says thank you to all who helped.

If you are like me, these past months have been a restless time, maybe too restless for my own good. I have taken on several projects in addition to the work at St. Andrew's, ones that I have enjoyed but that have proven my own suspicions about myself. Like many people, I like the idea of gaining mastery over something or at least knowing something about it. What I am saying to myself, as I have over the last several months, is that I am a passive vessel for whatever thoughts I care to pour into my head. Often, there is nothing wrong with this. I have prayed for each person on our parish list; to the degree I am able, I have tried to make sure that our community of faith is cared-for (That I think this enterprise begins with my own initiative and not God's is very problematic, but never mind for now).

The trouble is that all these activities are simply a product of habit, one by which I tend to measure my worth in God's eyes. Augustine reminded us what slaves to our habits we are, so much so that it is hard to determine whether our will is ever free. If there is one salient quote from him, it is one that used to sit on my desk until I lost it in a move and some kind soul replaced it for me (Apparently, I looked like I needed



it): “O God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.” It is from his *Confessions*, which is the story not only of a conversion, but of how our minds work. It is also about how the way we have been raised affects our habits, which, in turn inform our will, so that willing the correct things is a very complicated business.

I took some solace in Paul’s letter to the Philippians, which appears to give primacy to knowledge, “to help you determine what is best... to produce the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ,” as if what we know is the best preparation for the Christian life. If we bother to read Paul closely, however, that primacy is given to love—it is not what we *know* but what we *love* that determines who we are. If that love includes, as it has for me in these past years, the renewed commitment to the flourishing of all people around us, regardless of background, nationality or skin color, this has felt like the beginning of a very hopeful time. It is also a time riddled with uncertainty about how we are going to get there. Unmistakable to me, however, is the reminder that God has made a commitment to the entire human race. There are no disposable people, there is no one whose needs we can safely discount, no one whose needs can be ignored in the expanse of God’s economy.

If anything has come out of this time for me, it is the idea that I cannot be a passive receptacle of knowledge or good works or anything else. The God who loved the world into being wants us to continue that creative work. The world depends on it, and whatever we experience as a faith-filled life will be shot through with God’s love for all of us, for our sake and for the harvest of righteousness to which we are bearing witness.

Mark+

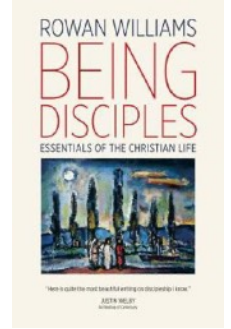


***For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything: the only thing that counts is faith working through love.***

~~Galatians 5:6

## ***Allowing Ourselves to be Our Best Selves***

Rowan Williams, citing Desmond Tutu, has said that he is persuaded there are two kinds of egotists in the world. There are egotists that are so in love with themselves that they have no room for anyone else, and there are egotists that are so in love with themselves that they make it possible for everyone else to be in love with themselves. They are at home in their own skins. It doesn’t mean that they are arrogant or self-obsessed or think they are faultless. They have learned to sense some of the joy that God takes in them (Williams, *Being Disciples*, p. 52)."



We all know, even those of us who do not teach for a living, that children are sponges for the models we set in front of them. Because I have a person in my extended family who has small children, I’m reminded of how much children take in; presented with the right models and repeated affirmations, they have the chance to flourish and develop such a strong sense of identity that others around them will want to grow. This process is largely hidden but impossible to miss. Leaving aside Augustine’s thoughts about how we are shaped by our environments and the habits that form us, it is truly wondrous to see these young people develop if you can get their attention. They are, by and large, free from the self-consciousness that goes with extended experience in the world. They show me what it is like to have an openness to the world which is harder for adults cultivate, with the pressures between work and parenthood, especially with the unbidden stresses of the past year.

In a previous environment, I taught in a VBS for those we would consider “high-risk”. We talked about the healings of Jesus—blindness, deafness, exorcisms and the rest. I tried to emphasize that Jesus heals us from the inside-out, which they appear to accept even if they don’t completely understand (Who of us does?). What Jesus allowed in restoring sight to Blind Bartimaeus, speech and hearing to another, sanity to the Gerasene demoniac, is wholeness. God does not want us to be held captive by what limits us or the contraction of our hearts when we are less loving than we could be. When Jesus heals the blind in the company of the disciples, he is giving them (and us, by extension) the opportunity to drop our own blindness. He extends the community by offering the healed person as the best version of themselves and, in the process, allows the onlookers to become the persons God created them to be.

The same dynamic happens in our communities. Summers are an opportunity, if we have the luxury of a break, of getting away and putting the thought of being our best selves to the test. We can afford to be loving in the company of people with whom our relationship will be time-limited. The best part is that we can bring what we learn back to St. Andrew's and the other places we inhabit. There we can be free and confident in who we are, with God's help, allowing the community to be the best it can be and allowing God to take joy in all of us.

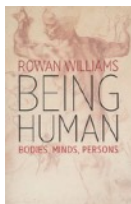
Fr. Mark +



### ***Books for Summer—or Anytime—Reading***

#### *Being Human*

Rowan Williams (Eerdmans, 2018, 114 pages)



Despite being several years old, no other book has struck me recently as such a sane, deeply reasoned extended essay on being a person, in relation to recent scholarship in the sciences, and William's characteristic insights as an observer of human nature. It is far-reaching in its brevity, dealing with consciousness, faith, our bodies, and comfort with silence. Written on the heels of *Being Christian* (Eerdmans, 2014), and *Being Disciples* (Eerdmans, 2016), it's an excellent introduction into one of the great thinkers about our selves and our relationship to God.

#### *The Big Relief*

David Zahl (Brazos Press: 2025, 161 pages)

Podcaster, writer and Episcopal priest David Zahl has written a book for those feeling overwhelmed by their lives: those caring for infirm parents, travel soccer families and anyone else experiencing corresponding

fractures in our culture. Foregrounding a God who is always present in situations that feel impossible, even ones that we create for ourselves, Zahl talks about grace and even atonement (not a hard concept in his telling) to show that "God is not waiting on you or me before he'll be our God." Leaning heavily on the presence of grace even in the most harried lives, Zahl's book will be relief for those eager for a God who creates relief out of impossible situations and lives.

Mark+



### ***The Senior Warden Checks In***

The Father's Day breakfast was held Sunday June 21. The food was great and folks who attend both services had an opportunity to share fellowship.

We are still looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour after the 10:30 service during the summer months, and we want to keep expenses (and work) down for those who sign up to provide snacks. We are asking for cookies and juice or lemonade.

The nursery has recently lost two attendants. These are paid positions. If you know of someone who would like to help out, please let me know.

Beth Israel congregation has reserved Calvert Museum's *William B. Tennison* for a dinner cruise July 11. Check the flyer for information. In the event of bad weather, the cruise will be rescheduled.

Susan Bennet





*You can host*

# *Coffee Hour!*



*Volunteer for a summertime Carefree Coffee Hour, even if you've never hosted before!*

**No picnic spread required, just light snacks of your choice so we can relax with some conversation and enjoy the beautiful weather, together!**

Coffee and donuts, cheese and crackers, your favorite cookies, or something else - we are grateful for whatever you bring!



## *The Junior Warden Has Updates*

Several projects planned for August need volunteers to share the work and speed completion—

Apply DRYLOK white moisture barrier paint to cinder-block walls under the Head Start classroom and office and the nursery. If you're available sooner, we can start sooner.

With the help of a drill, install metal posts at the base of the Saint Andrew's sign in front of the flag. Poles, screws, washers and post supports provided.

Using a delicate touch, sand and repaint, with matching colors, peeling parts of the St. Andrew's sign.

Wash, exterior and interior, church windows. This requires two people and a twelve-foot ladder; newspaper and water for washing.

Weeding and watering; this is a never-ending task; it beautifies our campus, and our garden elves need support.

Removing weeds growing in the parking lot—another never-ending task.

Repainting fading parking-lot division lines. Brush, sealant and paint provided.

Can anyone identify this friendly member of St. Andrew's four-footed congregation?

Peter Woodside



Photograph by Peter Woodside

Photograph by Peter Woodside



Photograph by Joyce Austin





Photographs by Joyce Austin





**Ahoy, it's time to set sail - AGAIN!**

Enjoy a sunset cruise along Patuxent River aboard the  
historic

**William B. Tennison**



**Saturday, July 11, 2026**

Enjoy a two-hour trip, departing the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD at 7 p.m. sharp. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. underneath the lighthouse. Dinner will be served aboard, featuring a wide variety of hearty sandwiches, salads and side dishes, as well as dessert. Beverages will also be provided.

The cost is \$50 per person with all proceeds benefitting Beth Israel Synagogue. Limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Online reservations open now. To reserve and make payment, visit online at [Beth Israel Special Events](#). For info call 410-474-8886.



*We always see through a glass darkly, and that is what faith is about. I will live by the best I can discern today. Tomorrow I may find out I was wrong. Since I do not live by being right, I am not destroyed by being wrong.*

~~Verna Dozier

**July 5 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1, 10-17 *or*  
Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Mary Maker Coffee hour:

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Mary Maker Lector: Margaret Hallau

Coffee hour: Werna Gillies

**July 12 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 *or*

Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-14

Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**8:00 a.m.** Susan Bennett and Dee McRae

Lector: Ron Leonard Coffee hour:

Altar duty: Susan Bennett

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Susan Bennett and Dee McRae

Lector: Robert Abell

Coffee hour: Anne Carson

**July 19 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b *or*

1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Jerry Gehrig Coffee hour:

Altar duty: Kim Stickney and Mary Hansen

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Kim Stickney Lector: Ginni Stein

Coffee hour: Margaret Hallau and Hal Pease

**July 26 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b *or*

1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Mary Larson

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Susan Bennett Lector: Mary Maker

Coffee Hour: Moran family

***Please Hold in Your Prayers***

Patrick Afoakwah, the Anderson family, Pam Baake, Melanie Baisley, Jan Barnes, the Bateman family, Eunice Benson, the Blackwell family, Caroline Bradford, Carol Brimm, Pete and Nancy Brown, Christine Butler, Amanda Cain, Misty Cantu, Susan Carroll, Donna Carter, Donnie Carter, Judy Cavin, Jennifer Cerialle, Brandan Chan, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, Erica Day, Judi Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, William Doughty, Erin Dugan, Karol Dyson, Ruby Dyson, Dean G., Brian Gardner, Paula Garner, Jerry Garner, Susan Geary, Gloria Gehrig, Gavin Gillies, Alexi Greene, Jerry Himmelheber, the Hunter Bennett family, Ryker Hurst, Greta, Helen Kundacik, Terrie Leonard, Thomas Leonard, Elinor Mattingly, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Bob and Doreen Misener, Bernice Nunes, Kyle Patrick, Skylar Patron, Natalie Reed, Jane Roderick, the Rowe family, Bob Sisson, Mark Stutso, Jonathan Tanner, Taylor, Isabella Tenczar, Charlene Townsend, Harvey Tyler, Paula Wayland, Angelica Wilkinson, the Willet family, Brandn Woehlke, Stuart A. Wood, first responders, and all who serve in the military and their families..



Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in the to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

~~Book of Common Prayer



***Ask Not What your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.***

~~John F. Kennedy

## July

- 1 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
12:30 p.m.—Healing Service
- 2 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
6:00 p.m. AA  
6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 3 **Friday**  
6:00 p.m. AA
- 4 **Saturday Independence Day**
- 5 **Sunday**  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 6 **Monday**
- 7 **Tuesday**
- 8 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
12:30 p.m.—Healing Service
- 9 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
6:00 p.m. AA  
6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 10 **Friday**  
6:00 p.m. AA
- 11 **Saturday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 12 **Sunday**  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 13 **Monday**
- 14 **Tuesday**
- 15 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
12:30 p.m.—Healing Service
- 16 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
6:00 p.m. AA  
6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 17 **Friday**  
6:00 p.m. AA
- 18 **Saturday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 19 **Sunday**  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II

- 20 **Monday**  
Noon Garden Club Luncheon
- 21 **Tuesday**
- 22 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
12:30 p.m.—Healing Service
- 23 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
6:00 p.m. AA  
6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 24 **Friday**  
6:00 p.m. AA
- 25 **Saturday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 26 **Sunday**  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 27 **Monday**
- 28 **Tuesday**
- 29 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
12:30 p.m.—Healing Service
- 30 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
6:00 p.m. AA  
6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 31 **Friday**  
6:00 p.m. AA



### 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-Willey

### Happy Birthday

- 2 Annalee Johnson, Emma Wagner
- 3 Lynn Duff, Margaret Hallau
- 7 Robert Willey
- 9 Mary Maker, Olivia Labows
- 10 Robert Frick, Mark Mallory
- 14 Katie Johnson
- 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, Kelsey McGee



## Looking for Someone?

Rector: The Rev. Mark Smith: 301 862-2247 [rector@standrewsleonardtwn.org](mailto:rector@standrewsleonardtwn.org)

Parish Administrator: Amanda Anisko: 301 862-2247 [parishadmin@standrewsleonardtwn.org](mailto:parishadmin@standrewsleonardtwn.org)

Senior Warden: Susan Bennett

Junior Warden: Peter Woodside

Joyce Austin

Ethan Chan

Randy Gilles

Mary Hansen

Nancy Riddell

Clara Stark

Treasurer: Pete Ulrich

Minister of Music, Amy Foster

Newsletter, Dee McRae

To give flowers for the altar: 301 862-2247 [admin@standrewsleonardtwn.org](mailto:admin@standrewsleonardtwn.org)

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550

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



## Food for Thought

*Is baseball our civic liturgy? In a long, thoughtful essay in the summer edition of Plough, theologian and philosopher David Bentley Hart (acknowledging his own love of the sport) suggests that it is. "We have a spiritual need to make sense of our own lives by glimpsing a larger history through our personal recollections. . . .And this is why, as far as American society as a whole is concerned, in all its diversity, there is only one truly redemptive form of memory available: baseball."*

Baseball, however, is not merely a sport; it is first and foremost The Game, and more than that: it is the great mystery play that joins us ever and again to our childhoods, our cultural history, our lost paradise in *illo tempore*, and ultimately to the divine. No other sport native or imported to these shores has anything like that uncanny sacral power. Certainly not American football, which, or all its complexity is ultimately just an exercise in military logic, a clash of advancing fronts seeking to penetrate and conquer one another's territory. . . .It wholly lacks baseball's angelic indifference to the passing of the moments, and certainly baseball's openness to the infinite that lies beyond the imposing but not inviolable barriers of the outfield walls. . . .It is in this fusion of historical, personal and mythic time that baseball provides an always open passage from the temporal to the eternal. . . .To remember eternity and not merely the past, to remember God and not merely the call of destiny, is to be partially liberated from the brutality and idiocy of history. And, in its humble way, baseball really is a vehicle of reconciliation between simple recollection of the past and a transfiguring anamnesis of the eternal, experienced in the enchanted form of repeated cycles within repeated cycles, across an ever-widening expanse of years. The game really is a kind of civic liturgy, a kind of ritual repetition, that allows time to become transparent to the timeless. It cannot redeem souls, obviously, but even so it does have the power to aid in the redemption of the culture's imagination and deepest longings. Or so I would like to think. At the very least, it offers us a glimpse into paradise—into childhood's innocence, into Eden, into what Nicholas of Cusa called the walled garden of the divine essence—all under the aspect of play and that is a great blessing. Only in play, whether in sport or in art or in other "ahistorical" endeavors of that kind, can we really understand the true nature, the original peacefulness, and the final purpose of creation.