



Loaves & Fishes

JUNE 2025

the left-hand column

☙ Did you know that our 10:30 Sunday service is once again available on ZOOM? Necessary instructions on page 4.

☙ What's coming up this month? A yard sale June 5,6,7, and VBS fun and games June 16-20. Don't forget the caterers—two luncheon.. And there is St. Mary's Caring; you can help prepare and pack summer lunches.

So—plenty of opportunities to help.

☙ Have you looked over our newest plantings? It's the children's garden. Be sure to tell our young gardeners how much you like it.

☙ Our Sunday morning book these days is Thomas Merton's *Thoughts In Solitude*. It's a collection of thought-provoking reflections about meaning and our relationship with God. Do you have a book to suggest—something you've been meaning to read and just need a nudge perhaps? Or a book you've read and would like to share?

Effortlessly,

*Love flows from God into man,
Like a bird
Who rivers the air
Without moving her wings.
Thus we move in His world,
One in body and soul,
Though outwardly separate in form.
As the Source strikes the note,
Humanity sings—
The Holy Spirit is our harpist,*

If you are like me, we are used to the idea of Pentecost as something that “happens” to us, a force that blows through us and past us, an event that happens to us and our community with the arrival of the Holy Spirit, allowing us to change the world (or our part of it). The image we have from the second chapter of Acts, makes this very clear: a wind with tongues of flame alighting on all present, allowing all to hear each other as if in one language, though they come from all corners of the known world. We know it because it is scriptural and we hear each year violently descending on the apostles in tongues of flame, a gift that would form the church and its model for discipleship.

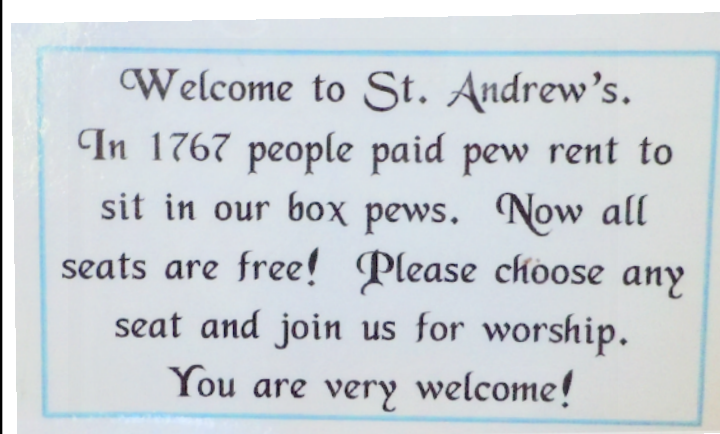
But Mechtild, the thirteenth-century German mystic, offers us a companion version of something that vibrates inside us effortlessly, love flowing into us “like



a bird/who rivers the air/ without moving her wings.” Maybe the image appeals to me because I am a musician but having the Holy Spirit as a harpist with which something inside us vibrates is a picture that appeals to me because it is consonant with what many of us see and feel these days. Within the cultural and political tremors around us, there have been vibrations around us, especially within the church, about how to talk about human dignity, asking us what kind of society we want to nurture, demanding that we take notice of the inequities we had chosen to ignore. Bishop Mariann has conducted a forum, with Tim Shriver, on “the Dignity Index.” Organizations have sprung up, committed to respect for all people, regardless of even the political divisions that separate us. If we are going to be the people we were created to be, we have to respond to the Love that God has placed in us and allow our hearts, minds and souls vibrate with it.

Mechtild does not say that “effortlessly” means without opposition. She was persecuted during her lifetime, and her writings burned; she also became blind in her final years. But her writings bear testimony that the Holy Spirit’s arrival is not so much an event as a process, one to which we have been witnesses over the past year. Its arrival at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles becomes a way of charting its progress, from the crowd that day in Jerusalem to the corners of the known world. The rest, I believe, is up to us, if we want to allow the Spirit to vibrate within us and work toward the change in our part of the kingdom.

Mark+



To Make a Difference

We don't have to be "successful," only valuable. We don't have to make money, only a difference, and particularly in the lives society counts least and puts last.

William Sloane Coffin

The distinction that Coffin makes between “successful” and “valuable” is a helpful one, at least for me. Having grown up in an achievement-oriented household and having siblings in very different tax brackets from my own, I have wondered what making a difference looks like, especially when I ask young people how they think of work with the vulnerable; the single most common answer I hear is their desire to make a difference.

Although I don’t push them very hard on this response, I suspect it has to do with making the lives of the people we see a little easier, to reinforce the idea that we are all human and all deserve the same consideration as children of God. What they appear to know, almost instinctively, is that any difference on a small scale has to happen before we can expect large-scale change. We have to learn something first-hand about being human before we can learn to create systems that treat all of us humanely.

The difference between success and value is not always easy to make. If you are like me, we confront it all the time, not only because success has some easy metrics—salary, compensation and its trappings, while value is famously hard to define. When we do something of value, we say it is usually outside the routines we create for ourselves and the pressures we feel to be successful. But the whole idea of value is based on the idea that we were irreplaceable from the time we were a thought in the mind of God. When we offer ourselves to our neighbor, we are acknowledging that they also have that value, indeed that there is a mutual interdependence in that value. It is simply our job to make the value of all as clear as we can.

When I meet with people and wish them well, I don’t hope for their success, at least not in the terms we typically use. Indeed, I know many people whose success has done them a lot of harm. What I wish is

that they will see the value they have, free of charge, in the economy of God's salvation. They are indeed irreplaceable, as are the people they serve, and our only job is to make the world a better place by making the invaluable souls we see as transparent as we can.

Mark+



An Accomplishment to Celebrate and an Opportunity to Volunteer

The Parish Hall window project is nearly complete. All of the windows except for three have been installed. The remaining installations should be completed soon. And all of the windows have been donated by parish members! On behalf of the vestry, thank you very much. The generosity of our parishioners is truly amazing. The money earmarked for the windows can now be used for other projects.

Now we need to design the plaque on which the names will be listed. The Junior Warden is in contact with the company that is making the plaque. We hope to have this portion completed in the not-too-distant future.

Two weeks ago, I met with Kristine Millen, Director of St Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen and last week I volunteered there for a few hours. I helped prepare and pack meals for the Bridges Program which is currently an afterschool program for at-risk children. The Soup Kitchen prepares evening meals for them which are delivered to the program site.

During the summer, the program expands to an all-day setting, and meals will be provided. This is where we can help. They need volunteers to prepare meals for children in the Bridges program as well as other children in county day camps. If you have a few hours to spare you can help prepare the lunches. No training is required for those making sandwiches. You can also help by donating food to the Soup Kitchen. A bin has been placed at the entrance to the church and a list of needed items is nearby. More details will come soon.

Respectfully,

Susan Bennett

There's a Lot Going on Around Here

The season of grass cutting has commenced. Very appreciative of the volunteers who have signed up. You may want to consider wearing a mask during the dry spells of the summer due to the ground dust raised by the mower along with grass particles.

If you are lucky you may spot a couple of harmless black racers or black snakes behind the church or along the Parish Hall. Some possibility of encountering a toad or two exists, but they are wily and hide among the plants.

A copy of the mowing schedule has been sent to volunteers. If you are interested in participating, the church offers a weed whacker, push mower and a riding lawn mower located in the shed behind the Parish Hall.

Maintenance and repair to the Church's roof should begin in early June. It is expected that scaffolding will be in place on each side of the church.

SEMCO intends to replace the telephone pole east of the St. Andrew's sign with a stronger pole to host a transformer. This effort will also involve Verizon, owner of the leaning telephone pole located along St. Andrew's Church Road. During the course of this upgrade, internet services with the church will be interrupted. The schedule and duration of the interruption will be announced once the church is notified.

Along with all this, we are looking at replacing our yard-sale-and-events sign along St. Church Road. This will be a permanent sign to replace the one we've been using.

Thank you, garden elves for the new children's garden border and improvements along the columbarium! We had some hail a few days ago, but it doesn't seem to have done any damage.

The Building and Maintenance committee will meet at 7:00 Tuesday evening June 10 in the parish hall. We'll focus on the door/door frame replacement, parish hall floors, and the lack of a gutter behind the building.

Questions, comments and concerns welcome.



Photograph by Peter Woodside

Another Farewell

The Rev. Michael Pumphrey was with us only a short time. But in that time, many of us came to love him. With that in mind, here is a message from Elizabeth.

Dear Family and Friends,

After months of grieving, I realized I had not communicated to family or friends. To let them know of Michael's death or the plan for Michael's memorial service, funeral and burial. I am so sorry. This is information that I have for now.

How it works with the Arlington National Cemetery is that you get approval for burial with honors which I have received. Then we wait.

Currently, there is a 11–12-month backlog. I have done this before and it went a bit quicker, but given the times, I cannot guess when this will take place. Once I have a confirmed date, a memorial service will be at the same time based on the timing of the burial to include a gathering of family and friends (maybe the day before or after.) Each day he is at home in his box, I am comforted to know he is with me.

I do hope that when scheduled, family and friends will consider attending to say farewell.

Attached is the Obituary and there is one posted for him here: [The Rev. Charles Michael Pumphrey](#) You can leave photos or videos or special notes at the link.

Please understand that I am struggling. Praying that the fog will lift and I will know what and how to navigate life again.

Please feel free to email, call or text me. I am not as efficient as I used to be so be gentle with me for now.

Elizabeth Biddle
biddleene@hotmail.com
 571-218-0895

I was not able to get the link to work, perhaps you can, but if not, I have a pdf I will happily send you—let me know if you would like to see it

Words From Our Treasurer

Through April 2025 our Net Profit (income minus our expenses) was about \$7,500 below what we budgeted, and although each of the accounts varies a little bit from our plans, the amount given each week to the collection plate was less than we expected by that amount. All of our other sources of income were on track—the thrift shop and fund-raising income were close to the budget, and rental income from the parish hall was above our plan.

Our expenses, including those for repairing the roof gutters, and various other maintenance projects, were close to what we planned. So, we continue to operate responsibly; I am watching parishioner giving very closely. I am not concerned yet because, as I explained at the annual parish meeting, our budget for it is very aggressive and there is still plenty of time to make up this difference.

I would only remind you that summer is a time when many of us are away and our giving falls behind our annual intentions even though the expenses continue, so, if possible, please keep donating your planned amount each month.

I'm pleased to report that all of the new windows in the parish hall have been paid for by your generous contributions.

In spite of the "tariff effect" on the market, our investments actually increased a small bit over the last month, and we are still more than \$40,000 above where we were last year at this time. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the budget or our actual financial results compared to it.

Respectfully,

Chuck Stein



Yes, it's true. We're on ZOOM again at 10:30 Sunday morning. Here's how to find us:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82236313643?pwd=gYrhpaBlmkUfIX1DZtuntfnUnaHgJ6.1>
 Meeting ID: 822 3631 3642 Passcode 604270

Here Are a Few Very Important Necessities for Some Very Important Little People

On the next page you will find the longer list of general needs for St. Mary's Caring. But along with those needs are some especially for children's summer breakfasts and lunches. Have a look and bring some along Sunday or drop them off at the soup kitchen.

Individually packed cereal bowls

Juice and Milk boxes

Fruit cups

GoGurt

Boxed raisins

Lunch meat (but NO bologna)

Jelly

Peanut butter

Granola bars

Chips

Desserts (pudding, rice-Krispie treats, individual-size cookie packages, etc.

Ziploc sandwich bags Ziploc snack bags

Giant paper lunch bags

Welcome to the Busy Month of June

Happy Birthday

1 Regina McKenna, Nancy Meade

2 David Johnson

8 Amber Mallory, Lyn Schramm

9 Jake Garrett

10 Ted Ersek

12 Dottie Knouse

13 Polly Hansen

15 Sarah Walls, Greta Johnston

16 John L. Brigham

21 Bob Sisson

22 Ron Leonard

23 Lori Werrell

24 Molly Kollar

25 Alice Drayton, Alex Everett, Taylor Ulrich,
Alex Baxter

27 Pete Ulrich

29 Sally Johnston, Iris Willey

30 Devon Wolcott

Happy Anniversary

11 Don and Lyn Schramm, Robert and Karen Frick

12 Michael and Becky Edwards

19 Tim and Regina McKenna

25 Dan and Judi Donnelly

26 Alan and Nancy Easterling

Photograph by Peter Woodside



Opportunities to Help

We have a yard sale coming up June 5,6,7. That means set up Wednesday June 4 and clean up June 7. Lots of help needed, plenty of ways to contribute, small and large. Donations? bring them in Wednesday, please.

Our caterers have a luncheon for the Retired Teachers June 10 and one for St. Mary's Garden Club June 16. One advantage of helping with these luncheons is the delicious food you get to share. Talk to Bobbi (brbrown62@md.metrocast.net) .

Vacation Bible School June 16—19. Lots of activities, lots of fun. You can help—contact Joyce churchshool64@gmail.com , 240 298-9122.

And don't forget the holy mowers, or how about joining the Thrift Shop sorters on Tuesday?

St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen

CURRENT KITCHEN NEEDS

-- Please note that we cannot accept expired goods -

Chunky Soup and other canned soup
Olive oil (large sizes preferred)
Parmesan cheese
Canned tuna and chicken
Chicken, beef, and vegetable broth
Chili seasoning packets
Crackers (saltine, Ritz, etc.)
Graham Crackers
Juices (64-oz bottles or individual boxes)
Microwave popcorn
Shredded cheddar/Mexican cheese
String cheese
Peanut butter (creamy preferred)
Hamburger and tuna
Ketchup bottles
Vienna sausages
Instant oatmeal packets
Canola oil (48 oz.)
Pepperoni
Mayonnaise (32 oz.)
Cheese slices
Hot chocolate packets



Drop Off Monday – Saturday between 8:30am and 1pm

20331 Point Lookout Road in Great Mills, by the rear door.

To volunteer preparing food for the Bridges program, please use their sign-up genius:

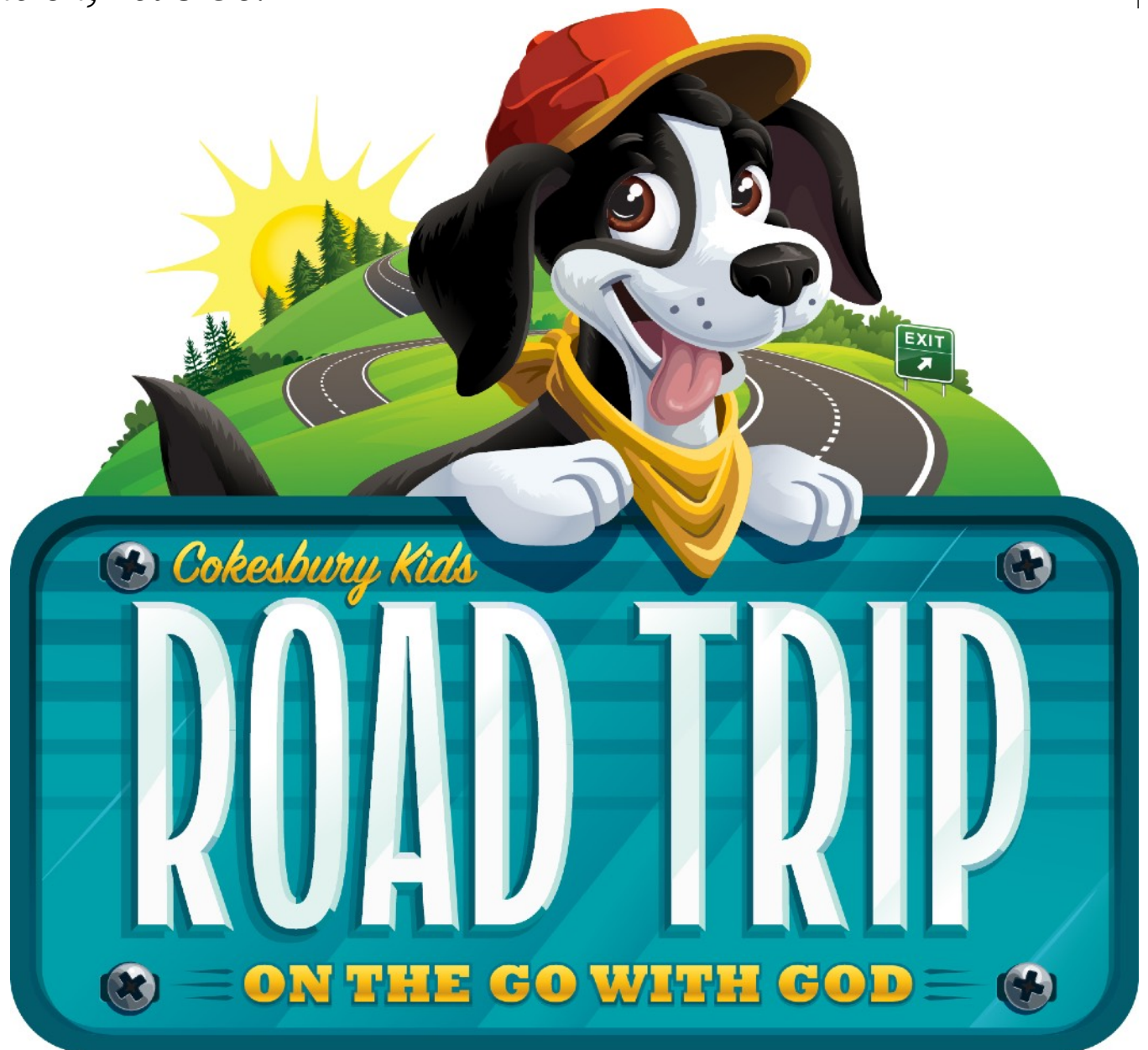
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AAAF2EA1FFC52-55940608-bridges#/>

301-863-5700 | stmccaring@gmail.com | www.stmaryscaring.org

Photographs by Joyce Austin



Come on, Let's Go!



It's Vacation Bible School, come and bring your friends
June 16—20, 9:00 till Noon

Lots to do: Music, Arts and Crafts, Bible Stories, Games and Snack Fun

To learn more, volunteer or enroll: churchschool64@gmail.com
or 240 298-9112

You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

~~Deuteronomy 10:19

June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21 John 17:20-26

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett

Lector: Ginni Stein

Acolytes: Tom Joyner, Alice Dunn, Barrow Dunn

Coffee hour: Warna and Randy Gilles, Martha and Carl Kemp

June 8 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-2 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:25-35, 37
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17, (25-27)

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Maker

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Svenna Gonzalez

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Nancy Edwards

Lector: Joie Samuelson

Coffee hour: Gizzele and Chris, Vivian and Amelia Moran

June 15 Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 or Canticle 13 or Canticle 2
Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jerry Gehrig

Altar duty: Kim Stickney and Mary Hansen

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker

Lector: Robert Abell

Acolytes: Rudy Austin, Amelia Moran and Vivian Moran

Coffee hour: Anne and Art Carson

June 22 Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a Psalm 42 and 43 or
Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:18-27
Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Larson

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Dee McRae

Lector: Ginni Stein

Coffee Hour: Barbara Lorton and Beth Wagner

June 29 Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 or
1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21 Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1,13-25 Luke 9:51-62

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Mary Maker

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett

Lector: Margaret Hallau

Acolytes: Chris Moran, Alice Dunn, Barrow Dunn

Coffee hour: Fifth Sunday Shared coffee hour

Please Hold in Your Prayers

The Aldridge family, Pam Baake, Jan Barnes, Melanie Baisley, Robert Bennett, Eunice Benson, Elizabeth Biddle [Pumphrey], Grace Billingsley, the Blackwell Family, Caroline Bradford, Carol Brimm, Pete and Nancy Brown, Christine Butler, Kelly Butler, Susan Carroll, Art Carson, Donna Carter, Donnie Carter, Judy Cavin, Jennifer Ceriale, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, McKenna Cox, Marilyn Crosby, Laine Dogget, Judi Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Ruby Dyson, Brian Gardner, Gloria Gehrig, Susan Geary, the Girard family, Alexi Greene, Susan Hogan, Ryker Hurst, Dave Johnson, Greta, Keith Johnston, Terrie Leonard, Thomas Leonard, Elinor Mattingly, the Mattingly family, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Sue Montgomery, the Montgomery family, Bernice Nunes, Annamaria Pache, Olivia, Joey and Georgio Parisi, Kenda Parker, Kyle Patrick, Chase Phifer, Lisa Powell, Dan Quinn, David and Natalie Reed, Jane Roderick, Rusty Robinson, the Rotzinger family, Diane Rudish, Bob Sisson, Alice Snyder, Kelly, Jonathan Tanner, Taylor, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Charlene Townsend, the Walls family, Paula Wayland, Angelica Wilkinson, the Willett family, Stuart A. Wood, Vitaly Zarouba, 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

June

- 1 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
- 2 Monday
- 3 Tuesday
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 4 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
 - Setting up for Yard Sale
- 5 Thursday
 - 800 a.m. Yard Sale
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 6 Friday
 - 8:00 a.m. Yard Sale
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 AA
- 7 Saturday
 - 8:00 a.m. Yard Sale
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 8 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
- 9 Monday
- 10 Tuesday
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
 - Noon Retired Teachers' Luncheon
- 11 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 12 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 13 Friday
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 14 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 15 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
- 16 Monday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon VBS Road Trip!
 - Noon St. Marys Garden Club Luncheon
- 17 Tuesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon VBS Road Trip!
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 18 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon VBS Road Trip!
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 19 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon VBS Road Trip!
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 20 Friday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon VBS Road Trip!
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 21 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 22 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
- 23 Monday
- 24 Tuesday
 - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 25 Wednesday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
- 26 Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
 - 6:00 p.m. AA
 - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 27 Friday
 - 6:00 AA
- 28 Saturday
 - 9:00 a.m. noon Thrift Shop
- 29 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
- 30 Monday

Looking for Someone?

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

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

Senior Warden: Susan Bennett:

Junior Warden: Peter Woodside:

Robert Abell:

Joyce Austin:

Bobbi Brown:

Ethan Chan:

Nancy Riddell:

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@standrewsleonardtowntown.org

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550

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



Food for Thought

In a recent New Yorker piece Adam Gopnik surveyed a number of books about the Civil War and asked whether it might have been prevented, but also asks whether we are too ready to assume that war is inevitable.

The habit of describing war with metaphors drawn from natural disasters is as old as war writing. Homer himself uses natural metaphors to ennoble violent human actors: Achilles is a wild fire sweeping across the Trojan plain. Given what Greek warfare actually entailed—pitched battles of close combat, where victory meant cutting others to death with edged weapons—the figure feels less like a metaphor than a mask.

So it is with us. The Civil War lingers in memory as brutal and tragic. . . . It is the altar of American existence—a sublime sacrifice and a perpetually contested example—so thoroughly sanctified that to ask if it might have been avoided by pragmatic compromise feels almost obscene. . . . And yet three-quarters of a million people died, and the enslaved people in whose name the war was fought emerged still trapped in an apartheid terrorist estate. Was it worth it? . . .

Yet believing that the war was inescapable is not quite the same as believing that it was right. Was the Civil War “worth the sacrifice”? Suppose that someone had had the force and the imagination to craft a plan for gradual emancipation. Full enfranchisement might have been delayed for several years, but the enslaved would have been free at last. And what of the human cost? . . .

The truth is that we accept mass dying with enormous aplomb. More than a million perished in the covid-19 pandemic, but those who complacently predicted that it would be no more than a season’s pain appear to represent the new common sense: lockdowns were excessive, the health establishment overreacted. Mass dying barely fazes us—until, that is, it becomes personal and particular. . . .

Lincoln’s elegiac words about the dead soldiers at Gettysburg remain true: from their sacrifice, we still can take renewed commitment to their cause, that of liberty against tyranny. But we should also remember that the purpose of the struggle of liberty against tyranny is not to carry on the fight but not to have to. We can’t forget these soldiers’ lives, but neither should we forget the manner of their dying. . . . Remaining alive to other people’s pain, in the face of heroic rhetoric, retrospective rationalization, and two-sided tribal terror, is perhaps the hardest moral task we face—and one at which we almost always fail. Sometimes the only people who can see the sky are the soldiers who die beneath it.