



# Loaves & Fishes

SEPTEMBER 2025

## Voices of God

*“For every shrill and violent voice that throws itself in front of microphones and cameras in the name of God, there are countless lives of gentleness and good works who will not. We need to see and hear them, as well, to understand the whole story of religion in our world.”*

~~Krista Tippet, Speaking of Faith

## the left-hand column

☞ Back to school, back to our program year and all the familiar routines. Sometimes life seems to be just a series of ruts we get into, bit, as C.S. Lewis once pointed out the circling of the year brings the same-old same-old around, but each time it's a little new, with something different. Somehow it combines the comfort of predictability with surprises to keep us alert.

☞ If you have scrap metal you'd like to be rid of, now's the time. There's already a pile there near the shed in the parking lot. Add yours and it will vanish when Steve sells it. In addition to our busy September calendar, we'll be collecting items for the silent auction set for November 1.

☞ Donations of new—or almost new—items, appealing oddities, and gift cards from local businesses are all very welcome. You can chat with Bobbi Brown (301 994-1144 [brbrow62@md.metrocast.net](mailto:brbrow62@md.metrocast.net)) to ask questions and offer to help.

☞ A fond farewell—and thank you!—to the Holy Mowers for the year. And thank you to our always busy garden elves.

What I have liked most about Krista Tippet (I'll admit that I'm a junkie for her podcasts), is the humility that informs her observations. She is one of the figures on the religious scene who will admit that we are in a time of transition, but refuses to speculate about what it will look like when the dust clears.

Her spirituality is informed by this “both/and,” which can be maddening for those of us who want to insist on dogmatic truth, but looks for the “sacred” among those who embrace a practice or belief without which we cannot be who we are. As an Episcopalian, it is hard to hear that specific liturgical practices don't seem, in her view, to be necessary, but the mass or the Eucharist seem to.

For Tippet, we are all undergoing a major reorganization of what we call spirituality, and it has to include the small voices as well as the loud and boisterous ones, because it



is in that mix that we find out what it is to be human.

For instance, we are beginning what many of us still call the program year. We are beginning a youth group and welcome the return of our wonderful acolytes, as well as a new year of Christian formation, all of which are dictated, more or less, by the start of the school year.

Formation itself follows no such set pattern, and the insights we have about God arrive in God's time, not ours. Yes, we learn a great deal about God's work through the stories we encounter, but the stories don't always fit familiar patterns. We have young people learning about the central act of our faith but, if we are honest, that learning has been happening ever since they have heard our prayers at the heart of our liturgy.

This year, we will be witnessing a lot of change, some of it physical (including renovations to our beautiful church) but necessary for our life together. I believe what Tippetts would say is that, however small our voices are, they are indispensable in the religious landscape of which we are a part. Godself famously speaks with a soft voice and, as we are in the business of helping to represent the voiceless, all we have to do to be true to God's mission for us is be ourselves.

~~ Mark+



### ***The Senior Warden Remembers***

#### ***'What It Was Like'***

Some of you may remember what it was like here at St. Andrew's during the pandemic. Reservations were needed to attend services; temperature checks were required to enter the building; we needed to maintain a 6-foot distance between non-family members; Communion was limited to bread only, and there was no coffee hour after the service.

But eventually conditions improved and we felt safe to be together, so we gradually restored things to the way they used to be. One of the most important restorations was restarting our Coffee Hour after the services. It is very important because it provides a time to gather informally and share hospitality with old friends and new.

Hal Pease and Margaret Hallau stepped forward to

lead the effort to organize and re-establish the parish coffee hour. But now, after several years of leading the effort, they have decided to step away and spend more time traveling. They have done a marvelous job and we owe them a great debt of thanks. Their coordinating and organizing responsibilities will end on August 31. So, the next time you see them, be sure to give them a pat on the back for a job well done.

In other news, September promises to be a busy time at St Andrew's. Homecoming Sunday is scheduled for September 7. Everyone is invited to bring a friend or family member to church and a treat to share at coffee hour.

On that Sunday we will begin our new program year. Sunday School will begin as well as choir practice. In September we will also see acolytes at the 10:30 service. You may also notice some new vergers, chalcists and readers. It is wonderful to see so many programs restarting during this month.

~~Susan Bennett



### ***The Novelty of Routine***

As I have said in Sunday services in late August, it is hard to believe the program year is upon us. There is a certain cyclical nature of our work in the church, part of which is determined by the liturgical year, but a great deal of it happens simply by the practices we assume. Beginning on September 7, the choir will return to our 10:30 service, Sunday School will begin for our grade-schoolers. There will be a chance to catch-up with folks who have been on vacation or seeing family and it will feel like the beginning of a routine that has begun countless times as we move into the new year.

There will also be differences from years past. The acolyte program (begun faithfully and continued ably by Chris Moran) will be supplemented by a youth group (thanks to Gizelle Moran), the same kids both working on the altar and also participating in fun and community-oriented events.

For the adults, in addition to the between-services



books group and Bible study on Wednesdays, we will have our second iteration of the *Being With* program (from Sam Wells), which we sampled with St. Mary's parish during Lent last year. It is a wonderful way to learn about what faithful lives look like based upon our own experiences; I'm grateful that we will be able to cover all the material this time, without seasonal constraints. We will resume our past practice of foyer groups, a chance to gather over meals in small groups to learn more about one another—many thanks to Robert Abell for organizing this effort.

We will also continue our relationship with Oakville Elementary School, for whom (as I write this) supplies are coming from very generous parishioners. We also have a contingent of faithful volunteers for classrooms and my hope is to expand this relationship, as well as nurturing the ties we have developed with St. Mary's Caring soup kitchen.

In all of this activity, I invite your feedback. As we grow, we have to do the work of deciding what suits St. Andrew's in our time. I hope you will feel free to share what you like about the offerings we have, as well as what you wish we offered. The work of the church has always rested on the willingness to be in relationship, and part of that willingness includes the ability to be candid about your desires for the community. As always, I am grateful for all these opportunities and look forward to being with you all through the start of another year together.

Yours in Christ,  
~~Mark+



***May today there be peace within.***

***May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.***

***May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.***

***May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.***

***May you be content knowing you are a child of God.***

***Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.***

***It is there for each and every one of us.***

~~prayer of St. Therese of Lisieux

## ***You Never Know What You'll Find***

Restoration work has begun on the Church's soffits, eaves, and fascia boards. Along with starling and squirrel nests, extensive past termite damage was found. This extensive decay has allowed rain water to seep into the brick causing the peeling paint noticeable in the south east area of the Church.

You will find more, detailed, photos of the on-going restoration posted in the parish hall, and I will have more information as the work progresses.

Photograph by Peter Woodside



And, by the way, you may have noticed a pile of scrap metal behind the green dumpster. It's bound for the scrap-metal yard about a week after the yard sale. Steve, with Lee's help, sacrifices his time and talent to remove this huge pile. Should you have old metal objects of no use around the house, now is the best time to get rid of them. Add them to the pile and add to St. Andrew's coffers.

~~Peter Woodside

### ***Passing the Baton— or, as the case may be, coffee urn***

It's been our joy to serve as coordinators for the coffee hour that follows the 10:30 service. Once Covid subsided, we happily volunteered to help restart this fellowship event. Now, several years later, we are stepping aside so we can spend more weekends with our daughters and their families. Sunday, August 31 is our final Sunday.

We have enjoyed getting to know many of you and have marveled at your willingness to offer tasty nibbles each Sunday. Your ministry of hospitality has helped create wonderful bonds of friendship.

Thank you for helping to make this a special part of our parish.

~~Hal Pease and Margaret Hallau



### ***Here Comes September***

If April is the cruelest month, September must be the busiest. We ended August with yet one more of our great yard sales, and Steve will soon be taking another load of scrap metal to sell for reuse somewhere-somewhat.

We'll jump into September with the first day of Sunday School and Homecoming Sunday September 7. On the eighth and ninth our luncheon ladies will be hosting luncheons (if you'd like to help, contact Bobbi Brown). On the fourteenth, we have the blessing of backpacks and a meeting (with pizza!) to plan the coming year for acolytes and our new youth group. Foyer groups are organizing; we're renewing our partnership with Oakville Elementary, continuing to volunteer at St. Mary's Caring. Soon we'll launch a new episode in the *Being With* program.

All of this is in addition to the Sunday morning adult forum and Wednesday's healing service and Bible study. Something for everyone indeed.



***Rosh Hashanah is the holiday that celebrates everything. It marks the birth of creation, and on this day, Jewish tradition encourages us to remember how beautiful and blessed and various is the world we have been given.***

~~Rabbi Davi Wolpe

### ***September's Busy Everywhere You Look Happy Anniversary!***

- 4 Paul & Beth Wagner
- 6 William and Shannon Hargreaves
- 14 Donald & Jean Torgerson
- 15 Chuck & Ginni Stein
- 16 Peter and Amy Ulrich
- 21 Sean and Laura Biggerstaff
- 22 Mark and Charlene Mallory
- 24 Rick & Lori Werrell
- 29 Steve & Emily Labows

### ***Happy Birthday!***

- 2 Matthew Brigham
- 5 Laura Biggerstaff, Beth Wagner
- 6 Erica Wible
- 7 Lanette Cowles
- 9 Trey Bergen, Tim Vallandingham
- 10 Alan Easterling, Emily Jackson
- 11 Andy Stickney
- 12 Henry Ulrich
- 13 Dan Donnelly
- 14 Jenna Carnes
- 19 Christina Labows
- 23 Jill Morris
- 25 Elizabeth Labows
- 26 John McKendrew
- 28 Judy Ersek
- 29 Sean Biggerstaff, Sam Walls



Photograph by Peter Woodside

### ***Here's What Oakville Needs***

- Packs of 24 Crayola crayons (not jumbo)
- Packages of baby (or Clorox) wipes
- Purell hand sanitizer. Kleenex
- Packages of #2 pencils, colored pencils, fine-tip Black Expo Markers, Sharpie markers, student scissors, glue sticks, rectangular erasers
- Composition books, loose-leaf paper, 3x5 index cards

*He has told you, O man, 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

**September 7 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Homecoming Sunday**

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 *or*  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Jerry Gehrig

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Mary Maker Lector: Joie Samuelson

Coffee hour: Potluck

**September 14 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 *or*  
Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-11  
1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Mary Larson

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Lynn Duff

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Nancy Edwards Lector: Susan Bennett

Coffee hour: Joyce, Ned and Rudy Austi

**September 21 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9 *or*  
Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Kim Stickney and Mary Hansen

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Dee McRae Lector: Margaret Hallau

Coffee hour: Misty Cantu, Erica Day, Emerson



*Shalom is only possible when the weakest and most  
vulnerable among us are taken care of. Shalom is a  
collective state, not an individual one. I can't be  
healthy, in the fullest sense when my neighbor lacks  
access to health care, nutritious foods, or clean water.*

~~Liuan Huska, in Sojourners May 2025

**September 28 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 *or*  
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

**8:00 a.m.**

Lector: Mary Maker

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

**10:30 a.m.**

Verger: Susan Bennett Lector: Robert Abell

Coffee Hour: Margaret Hallau and Hal Pease

**October 29 Saint Michael and all Angels**

Genesis 28:10-17 Psalm 103 *or* 103:19-22  
Revelation 12:7-12 John 1:47-51



**Please Hold in Your Prayers**

Bobby Anderson, 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, Misty Cantu, Susan Carroll, Art Carson, Donna Carter, Donnie Carter, Judy Cavin, Jennifer Ceriale, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, Erica Day, Laine Dogget, Judi Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Ruby Dyson, Karol Dyson, Linda Epp, Dean G., Brian Gardner, Gloria Gehrig, Susan Geary, Alexi Greene, Mary Hansen and the Hansen family, Ryker Hurst, Greta, Richard Lamb, Terrie Leonard, Thomas Leonard, Elinor Mattingly, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Bob and Doreen Misener, Betty Lou Nagel, Bernice Nunes, Kenda Parker, Kyle Patrick, Skylar Patron, Dan Quinn, Jane Roderick, Rusty and Tanya Robinson, the Rotzinger family, Kelly, Mark Stutso, 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.



*O God, you have loved each of us since before we were  
born, and you love each of us in equal and abundant  
measure. Yet, we sometimes choose to live as though we  
were not the brothers and sisters we know ourselves to be.  
Pour your blessing upon all your people in every nation,  
whatever their faith or ethnicity. Preserve their lives,  
deliver them from the terror of war, and when this is over,  
guide them in the way of conciliation and peace. Bring the  
a deepening sense of their oneness in the human family that  
those things that unite your people may be seen and felt as  
greater than anything that can ever divide us. Amen*

~~The Reverend Barbara Cawthorne Crafton 5

## September

- 1 Monday
- 2 Tuesday
- 3 Wednesday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
  - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 4 Thursday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
  - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 5 Friday
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 6 Saturday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 7 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
- 8 Monday
  - Noon St. Mary's Garden Club luncheon
- 9 Tuesday
  - Noon Retired Teachers' luncheon
- 10 Wednesday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
  - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 11 Thursday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
  - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 12 Friday
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 13 Saturday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 14 Sunday Blessing of Backpacks
  - 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
  - 12:30-1:30 p.m. pizza and planning meeting for Acolytes and EYC
- 15 Monday
- 16 Tuesday

- 17 Wednesday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
  - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 18 Thursday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
  - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 19 Friday
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 20 Saturday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 21 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
- 22 Monday Rosh Hashanah begins
- 23 Tuesday
- 24 Wednesday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 12:30 p.m. Healing Service
  - 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 25 Thursday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
  - 6:30 p.m. AlAnon
- 26 Friday
  - 6:00 p.m. AA
- 27 Saturday
  - 9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 28 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
- 29 Monday
- 30 Tuesday



**The 10:30 a.m. service is available via Zoom**

Please use these credentials to connect:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82236313643?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82236313643?pwd=gYrhpbImkUfIX1DZtuntfnUnaHgJ6.1)

[pwd=gYrhpbImkUfIX1DZtuntfnUnaHgJ6.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82236313643?pwd=gYrhpbImkUfIX1DZtuntfnUnaHgJ6.1)

Meeting ID: 822 3631 3643

Passcode: 604270



## ***Looking for Someone?***

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

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

*New York Times* columnist David French wrote some months ago about the pain of being ostracized by his evangelical church because he did not support Donald Trump. Recently he wrote about a show called “Fixer Upper” which featured a couple who belong to a “traditional evangelical church.” They were attacked on BuzzFeed for their beliefs, which were not a feature of the show. But when they included a gay couple in a new show, “conservative Christians roasted the Gaineses.” Cancel culture, French said, cuts both ways, and is always unnecessary.

When you possess a burning sense of certainty in your moral vision, intolerance is always a temptation. If you give your opponents a platform, won't that lead some people astray? If error creates injustice (or worse, leads people to the gates of hell), why should error have any rights? . . .

The Wars of Religion are ancient history to us, but they were much more present in the Colonial era. The Wars of Religion were as recent to James Madison as World War I is to us, and they were destructive on a vast scale. The challenge of genuine religious diversity was very much on the founders' minds.

How do you live in a pluralistic republic without abandoning your core convictions? Madison admonished us not to yield to two related temptations. Don't try to diminish liberty and don't try to establish uniformity of opinion.

Instead, he said, the answer was to “extend the sphere” of the republic, to “take in a greater variety of parties and interests.” In this circumstance, “you make it less probable that a majority of the whole will have a common motive to invade the rights of other citizens.” . . .

One of the beauties of our culture at its best is that no side of the American divide has to abandon any of its core convictions to enter the public square or to engage in the stream of American commerce.

There is no real tension between arguing for your own deeply held values while also recognizing the rights and dignity of people who disagree. Or, to put things even more simply, our country would be far better off if more Americans embraced a version of the Golden Rule — defend the rights and privileges of others that you would like to enjoy yourself.