

# NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S March—April 2024

## Jay's Say

The first stop for Kathy Mathias and me on our trip to Voorhees University was St. Philip's Chapel. I was delighted to preach at the weekly service on 20 February because the Episcopal Church commemorates Frederick Douglass on that date. Douglass died on 20 February 1895.

Born into slavery in 1817, Frederick Douglass escaped to freedom at the age of 20 after two failed attempts. White America was blind to the cruelty and inhumanity of slavery, and Frederick Douglass dedicated his life to schooling us. He published three autobiographies, founded his own abolitionist newspaper, and delivered thousands of speeches that electrified audiences in the United States and Europe. Douglass was the greatest anti-slavery orator because he spoke from experience, especially his suffering as an enslaved child. He was separated from his mother as an infant, witnessed cold-blooded murder, was brutally whipped himself, and experienced the daily trials of physical and emotional abuse.

When 11-year-old Frederick was sent to a household in Baltimore, the owner's wife taught him the alphabet. This was against the law and soon forbidden by her husband, so Douglass taught himself. He got some help from white children in the neighborhood and observed the writings of men with whom he worked, but mostly the young Frederick taught himself from a spelling book, a hymnal, and a Bible. By the time he was 14, he could capably read and write.

Douglass's speeches quoted the Bible at length. "Between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ," thundered Douglass, "I recognize the widest possible difference." He was scathing about the

hypocrisy of the white church, recalling that the most outwardly religious slave-masters were the most depraved in their cruelty.

Douglass was a radical firebrand but never vindictive. "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong," he often affirmed. He was a firm believer in the equality of all people, black and white, male and female, Native American and recent immigrant. He worked closely with white abolitionists and was an early supporter of women's rights. The motto of his newspaper, *North Star*, was: "Right is of no Sex — Truth is of no Color — God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren."

In 1848, Douglass attended the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls as the only African American. When a resolution for women's suffrage was tabled, many of those present opposed it, but Douglass stood and spoke in favor; saying he could not accept the right to vote himself as a black man if women could not also claim that right. The resolution passed.

*Continued on p. 3*

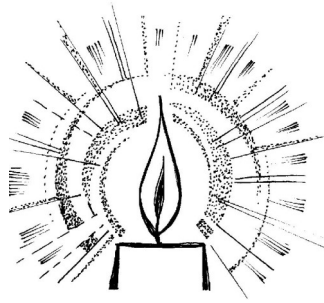
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**Parish Birthdays**



Jennifer Giles	1
William Horn	2
Donald Jefferson	2
Larry Dufault	3
Rosie Best	4
Abby Seward	4
Jim Mathias	6
Alison Seward	8
Elizabeth Lowell	9
Anne Kellett	14
Katrina Wagner	15
Jenny Harrington	20
Nicole Densmore	21
Deborah Ransom	23
Margaret Greenwood	24
Toby MacLeod	24
Missy Carroll	29
Gwen Place	30
Kathryn Mathias	31



Lev Hubbard	2
Charlie Forbes	3
Jack Feyrer	5
Benjamin Greenwood	6
Ainsley Frenkiewich	10
Peter Ruth	10
Emily Kelly	16
Joseph Kealy	21
Ken Miller	26
Catee Hubbard	29



**Watch The Chosen and Join the Discussions**

The Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak will lead discussions on Season 4 of The Chosen on Sundays from 11:30 - 12:30 as follows: Episodes 1 & 2 on 7 April; Episodes 3 & 4 on 14 April; Episodes 5 & 6 on 19 May; and, Episodes 7 & 8 on 26 May.



New Hampshire native and Israeli citizen **Jared Goldfarb**, known to many at St.

Andrew's as a leader of recent pilgrimages to Israel, spoke to more than 50 church and wider-community members on a February Sunday afternoon in order to help us understand the Israel/Palestine conflict.

To do so, he emphasized three key elements. (1) The conflict didn't commence on 7 October. There is a long and complex timeline - and it is important to remove focus from that single event. (2) On issues of social justice there is already much cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis, doing amazing work and offering hope that such cooperation can spread to involve more people and on more issues. (3) "Be a Jethro," he said, meaning that outsiders, members of the international community, ordinary people, may have ideas for resolving the conflict that should be shared.

Padre Jay thanked Jared for sharing his insights and heart with us, with time for questions and answers to conclude the afternoon program.

*Jay's Say, continued from p. 1*

Frederick Douglass did everything he could to educate white Americans about slavery, including the occupant of the White House. Douglass criticized President Abraham Lincoln for his cautious approach to the slavery question, urging immediate emancipation and the inclusion of black soldiers in the Union forces. When the Civil War ended, Douglass understood that his prophetic work had not. He was in the forefront of the fight for the right of black people to vote. He argued that the ghost of slavery lived on in oppressive economic arrangements like sharecropping. Douglass railed against rigid Jim Crow segregation and decried the lynching of 200 black men by white mobs each year in the 1890s. In 1889 he declared that "the malignant prejudice of race still poisoned the fountains of justice and defiled the altars of religion."

One hundred and thirty years after Douglass's death, we still have a long way to go, and Voorhees University has its own inspiring history of changing minds and changing lives. Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was only 23 when she arrived in Bamberg County, South Carolina. A native of Georgia, Wright studied at Tuskegee Institute and was inspired by Booker T. Washington to found several schools in the impoverished rural area. She survived threats, attacks, and arson, but the schools didn't. Wright went back to Tuskegee to finish her degree before returning to South Carolina to try again. New Jersey philanthropists Ralph and Elizabeth Voorhees donated \$5,000, allowing the first high school for blacks to open in 1902 with Wright as principal. Its affiliation with the Episcopal Church dates to 1924, and Voorhees College became Voorhees University in 2022.



Jameikah Smith and Shemar Stewart are hard acts to follow, but I suspect that Vacavia McKenzie and Georgea Saffrey will enrich St. Andrew's when they arrive as scholar-interns in late June. Presuming that church members will be as generous as usual in supporting Voorhees in our May Outreach Offering, they'll each receive a \$300 weekly stipend and return to Voorhees with \$4,000 in scholarship funds for the next academic year.

Kathy and I had time to visit Charleston before heading to the airport. About forty percent of the Africans who survived the passage to North America passed through Charleston's harbor. We saw the auction stall where enslaved Africans were sold to the highest bidder along with other goods and merchandise. Even today, it's tempting to avert our eyes from the realities of slavery and its legacy. It wasn't only the slaveholders of the South who benefitted from slavery. Many northern banks, railroads, insurance companies, universities, and churches did so too. Jesuit priests sold 272 people to help keep Georgetown afloat. New York was once the site of the second largest slave market in the country. Here in New Hampshire, 222 Court Street in Portsmouth served as parsonage to the Reverend Arthur Browne, the first Rector of Queen's Chapel, now St. John's Episcopal Church. Two "negro males" were enslaved at this property, having been bequeathed -- one each -- to the Episcopal priest's wife and nephew.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has helped Episcopalians understand our moral and spiritual responsibility to reckon with slavery and its legacy. Like the people of Douglass's day, we would rather avert our eyes. But truth-telling, repentance, and helping to repair historic wrongs are part of our vocation as followers of Jesus. We support Voorhees University and its students because they will put our money to excellent use. But standing in front of the Old Slave Mart in Charleston, I also understand our support as part of the healing and reconciliation that is God's will.

AMEN!



## *Last Sunday* Looks Ahead – 31 March



Overcomers Refugee Services (ORS) in Concord is our March Last Sunday offering recipient. A resource center serving about 240 refugee families each year, ORS provides an array of help, such as cultural orientation, resumé building and job interview preparation, applications for economic assistance, preparation for achieving permanent residence and citizenship, and conflict-resolution for those who fled violence.

ORS founder and Executive Director is Clement Kigugu, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who came to New Hampshire from Rwanda in 2006 as a refugee himself. He established ORS in 2013 in response to the reality that refugees have significant ongoing challenges lasting far beyond their three months of initial support. A recent honor speaks to Clement's dedicated work in carrying out the mission of ORS, being named to the 2024 Business 200 list, as an exceptional leader in the Granite State. You can revisit his gently powerful March 2023 sermon at St. Andrew's, starting at 19 minutes into the recording, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6BdxL0yCPg&t=1781s>.

As defined by international law, refugees are those who have fled “war, violence, conflict or persecution,” finding safety in another country. Twenty-seven million such men, women and children have left behind homes, possessions, jobs and often loved ones. About 4 million others await being given refugee status (and another 80 million have also been forcibly displaced but remain in their home countries, so are not categorized as refugees). With that status come specific protections, most notably the promise of being permanently resettled in a safe location. Many spend years, even decades, in temporary camps before that happens.

Since the Refugee Act in 1980, the U.S. has admitted over 3.1 million refugees (into every state except Wyoming). In fiscal 2023, 60,014 refugees were admitted to the U.S. While we regularly hear of refugees coming from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela, African refugees continue to represent the greatest number of those coming to the U.S. and to New Hampshire.

In total, more than 7,700 refugees have made New Hampshire their home. They have come to our state from at least 30 nations, with most living in larger communities, such as Concord, Manchester and Nashua. Of the 171 refugees settled in our state in fiscal 2023, 102 came from the DRC. (During that same period, refugees admitted to our neighboring states were: Maine – 407, Massachusetts – 1,248, Vermont – 312.)

To learn more, see [overcomersnh.org](https://overcomersnh.org). Direct your questions to Jerry Coogan or Karen Zurheide, and consider joining a field trip to the ORS offices in Concord on Friday, 1 March, with sign-ups at church. Please plan to support the work of ORS with a Last Sunday gift designated for Outreach, knowing that your giving, matched by our generous anonymous donors, will go far to help our brothers and sisters in need just “down the road.”

**To respond to Last Sunday appeal**, you can place your gift in the offering plate prior to or on the last Sunday of the designated month, send your check marked for Outreach to St. Andrew's Church, P. O. Box 294, New London, NH 03257, or make an online donation at <https://www.standrewsni.org/giving-on-line.html>. Your generous support will be matched by our anonymous donors. The Outreach Commission and their identified organizations are grateful for your support.

## *Last Sunday Looks Ahead – 28 April* **St. Vincent's Center**

Founded by the Episcopal Order of the Sisters of St. Margaret in 1945, St. Vincent's Center is known throughout Haiti as "the Place" for children with disabilities. The downtown Port-au-Prince Medical Center and Brace Shop annually treat some 5,000 children ages 15 and younger. There are 11 physicians - pediatricians, orthopedic surgeons, an ophthalmologist, a psychologist and a physical therapist. St. Vincent's School educates some 200 students who are deaf and/or blind and/or in wheelchairs. Doctors and teachers - some 121 of them - show up for work, despite the chaos. In addition to being "the Place" for children with disabilities, St. Vincent's is also a safe haven amid the continuing gang violence.

**Our April Outreach Offering will provide breakfast and supper for a full year to 100 students at St. Vincent's School.** Most of us can count on three meals a day, but "food insecurity" is rampant in Haiti; fully half of St. Vincent's 200 students arrive on campus not having had supper the night before nor breakfast that morning. And, the daily curriculum includes science, math, history, Kréyol, French, English, Spanish, art, music and physical education. That's a rigorous routine, and it's hard to learn on an empty stomach!

Director Père Duveaux (an Episcopal priest) says that "the most-frequently-administered medicine is food." And while the government of Haiti and Food for the Poor try to provide such staples as rice and beans, St. Vincent's still must spend upwards of \$40,000 a year to purchase food. Of that amount, **\$15,000 would provide breakfast and supper - for the 100 hungry students who arrive by bus in the morning and the 100 student and adult residents and caregivers who remain in the evening. This amount would cover 250 days of the year, an entire school year.**

Two years ago, St. Andrew's helped to fund a potable water system on the campus so that everyone could drink clean water. Now we have the opportunity to guarantee breakfast and supper for a year. As always, your generosity will be matched by our anonymous donors, and our collective contribution will provide the nutrition which fuels better education and hope for the future.

For more information, please go to <https://stvincentshaiti.org/> or talk with our own parishioner, Elizabeth Lowell, who is a St. Vincent's Trustee.



# Thanks

*From Sister Gertrude Gombay, Handmaids Catholic Clinic and Maternity (September 2023 recipient): I would like to tender my sincere thanks and appreciation for your marvelous contributions . . . My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. Tom Adamski who is the brain child of this wonderful collaboration between the clinic and St. Andrew's . . . This has led to the dawn of a new hope for the clinic . . . I am grateful to you as a church for your timely financial support . . . when the country is undergoing political instability. The funds will be used for the acquisition of some equipment and for essential drugs . . .*

## Wardens' Words

Fast from hurtful words and say kind words.

Fast from discontent and fill yourself with gratitude.

Fast from anger and fill yourself with gentleness and patience.

Fast from pessimism and fill yourself with hope and optimism.

Fast from worries and fill yourself with trust in God.

Fast from sadness and bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and fill yourself with compassion for others.

*(excerpted and adapted from quote from Pope Francis)*

As we journey through the forty days of Lent, we join generations of Christians as participants in a special period of the liturgical calendar that traditionally encourages us to fast, give alms, repent and pray. These conscious actions in our daily life are meant to foster our spiritual growth and love of God, our neighbors and all of creation.

The community of St. Andrew's brings us together for prayer, worship and study, almsgiving, and celebration of major life events such as baptism, weddings, celebrations of life. Prayer and worship remain at the center of our congregational life. Besides personal time for prayer and meditation St. Andrew's provides numerous opportunities for worship and prayer: Monday meditation, midday prayer, Thursday healing services, Sunday services.

Additionally, we are now enriched by the Youth Choir at the beginning of every month. The joy and talent that these children bring to our worship is a gift to all. Study continues to be an integral part of our life at St. Andrew's, too. This is accomplished via sermons, the Faith and Issues book group, the new Composing a Life book group, and soon through classes based on the series The Chosen.

Unique to our congregation we have an Outreach Committee that helps us broaden our almsgiving to include a variety of organizations locally and internationally. Last year, with matching gifts, over \$100,000 was donated, which is clearly a demonstration of our generosity.

Recently many of you participated in a survey to make known the many gifts and talents that belong to the members of our congregation. Nearly 90 of you responded. What we have gathered demonstrates the awesome gifts and talents that our congregation possesses which will help us connect needs to talents.

Let us then journey through Lent as individuals and as a community committed to following the path of love. – *Claire Pace and Nancy Rollins*



### *From the Legacy Society – Where There's a Will, There's a Way*

A real-life story that, I hope, will illustrate the importance of estate planning.

"Jackie," 44 years old, a single mom and recent friend, was living in Colebrook with her 12-year-old daughter, "Leslie." I talked with Jackie about her contingency plans in the event of an unlikely disaster and she had none. I described to Jackie the scenario in the event that something happened to her without a plan and told her that she risked having Leslie become a ward of the state. I convinced her to see an attorney and to create a will, including a child-care proxy that would protect Leslie.

This was finally accomplished a few months ago and included the provision that Leslie would join one of Jackie's best friends (who of necessity had been asked and had agreed to the plan) in the unlikely event of Jackie's untimely death.

Approximately one month after the will had been completed and signed, I received a call from Leslie saying that her mom was sick and unable to get out of bed. Leslie called 911 and her mother was flown to Dartmouth-Hitchcock by helicopter. She died the next day of complications resulting in heart failure.

I relate this true story only to emphasize that nobody can foresee, nor should ignore, the future and that we all should have a plan that will make our wishes known and protect our descendants.

Leslie is now living with her new family and seems to be remarkably well-adjusted. We all regret the circumstances but are so relieved that the end result was having her protected from a disastrous fate.

And so, while I have been asked to make *planned giving* a priority for our congregants, I concluded early on that an important first step was to have had each of us *create a will*. I hope you have done so or are considering doing so in the near future.

And of course, I hope you will consider including a legacy gift to St. Andrew's in the process. --  
*George Jamieson*

### **Youth Choir**

"The joy and talent that these children bring to our worship is a gift to all." Here we see them on Candlemas, rehearsing before the service (*left*) and during the service, wearing their youth choir medallions (*right*), singing "This Little Light of Mine." Whether in their weekly rehearsals or on the first Sunday of the month, we are delighted to have these choristers with us.

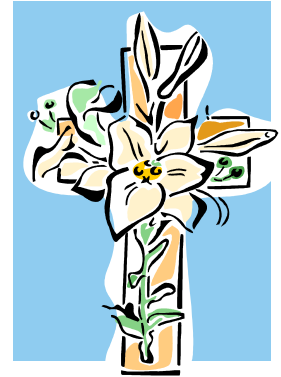




## Calendar of Events

### March:

- 1 (Friday) - Visit OCR (*see p. 4*)  
 3 (Sunday) - Youth Choir sings at 10 AM All-Age Eucharist (*see p. 7*)  
 9, 16, 23 (Saturdays) - Faith & Issues meets on Zoom, 9 AM (*see p. 10*)  
 17 (Sunday) - View "Babette's Feast," 2 PM, parish hall (*popcorn provided*)  
 18, 20, 21 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) - Composing a Life book groups  
 (*see p. 10 for times each session*)  
 22 (Friday) - Friendly Kitchen (*see below*)  
 24 (Sunday) - Palm Sunday; Braver Angels workshop, 2 PM (*see p. 15*)  
 28 (Thursday) - Maundy Thursday liturgy, time TBA  
 29 (Friday) - Good Friday ecumenical service, 12 noon  
 31 (Sunday) - Easter Sunday, 5:45, 8 and 10 AM



### April:

- 7 (Sunday) - Youth Choir sings at 10 AM All-Age Eucharist (*see p. 7*);  
 The Chosen discussions commence, 11:30 AM (*see p. 2*)  
 20 (Saturday) - Faith & Issues resumes on Zoom, 9 AM (*see p. 10*)

**Monday to Friday** 12 Noon Midday Prayer (in church and on Zoom) –  
 Thursday Healing Eucharist to resume during Eastertide  
**Mondays** 6 PM Meditation  
**Tuesdays** 9:30 AM Craft Group  
**Thursdays** 7 PM, Choir Rehearsal (in choir room downstairs)  
**Third Thursday** (most months) 5 PM, Vestry

The Craft Group meets every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 AM in preparation for the annual Summer Fair. Please join us whether you are working on a project of your own or would like to see what ideas and patterns we can share with you. Come also for the camaraderie and refreshments.

Because decisions about the proposed Montessori Preschool may affect setting dates and places in the church for collecting your household treasures, as well as the date of the Fair itself, please stay tuned.

Meanwhile, please come on Tuesdays to stitch, paint, color and/or chat (and snack).



### Help Re-Stock the KLS Community Food Pantry

#### March: Cereal

#### April: Hearty soups & stews

Paper towels, toilet paper, coffee (regular, decaf and instant), peanut butter and jelly, cake and brownie mixes and monetary donations are always welcome.



Our next visit to the **Friendly Kitchen** is Friday, 22 March. Friendly Kitchen is one of St. Andrew's longest running outreach projects. The kitchen has one purpose -- to feed the hungry. Let JoAnn Hicks know if you would like to help. With lots of help, she says, it is an easy task.





## *Parish Updates*

### **Death**

*9 January*

*Susan Clark*

### **Memorial Service**

*24 February*

*Chuck Thompson*



Eleven-year-old Anya played her own composition as a prelude at a 10 AM service in February. A piano student of Nicole Densmore, Anya is a two-time winner for musical pieces submitted to the New Hampshire Music Teachers' Association competition. The prelude "Floating" is a new composition written as a duet for piano and flute, providing Nicole an opportunity to accompany her. Anya also played one of her award-winning compositions, "Summer Night," later in the service. Anya is grateful to both Nicole and Will Ogmundson for their mentorship. All of us at St. Andrew's are grateful to Anya for sharing her musicianship with us. **Brava!**



*As a newcomer to St. Andrew's, **Susan Feyrer** jumped right in and became involved in various ministries here before her election to the Vestry in January. She and her husband Jack are cradle Episcopalians, and she has served on vestries in other parishes.*

I was born and raised in Media, Pennsylvania. I attended a state university where I met my future husband, Jack. After graduating, I began teaching junior high students in Nazareth, Pennsylvania, and Jack and I were married in June, 1974. Shortly thereafter, we purchased our first home in Bethlehem, where three of our children were born: Emily, Rebecca, and Amanda. Jack's job brought us to upstate New York in 1980, and we settled in Schenectady, where David and Lucy were born. After 13 years as an at-home mom, I returned to teaching when our youngest started kindergarten. Several years later, Jack's career took us to Coral Springs, Florida, where we lived until 2003, when our youngest child graduated from high school, and Jack's job allowed us the option to return to upstate New York. I was fortunate to be able to return to teaching in the district I had left when we moved to Florida. I retired in 2015, and we moved back to the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania the following year. In 2021 we decided to move to New England to be closer to several of our children and seven of our 11 grandchildren.



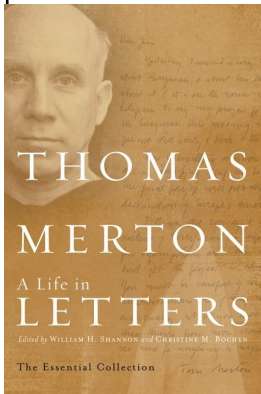
Neither of us had ever set foot in New London, but moving here has been serendipitous. Since Jack and I are both cradle Episcopalians, one of the blessings of our move was finding St. Andrew's, a warm, welcoming and dynamic church. We were quickly welcomed into the fold and I became involved as an usher, volunteer at Friendly Kitchen, substitute at the Thrift Shop, helper at Messy Church, and now as a Vestry member. I have served on vestries at two of our previous churches, and I look forward to serving at St Andrew's.

## *Faith and Issues Book Group*

For our next Faith-based book for Faith and Issues meetings, beginning 9 March for three weeks, we've chosen: *Thomas Merton: A Life in Letters: The Essential Collection*.

We'll then have a break from 30 March through 13 April, and resume our Saturday morning discussions on Zoom from 9-10:30 on 20 April. Look for the next chosen Issue book to be announced in a timely Friday parish email.

We'd love to have you join us! -- Katrina Wagner

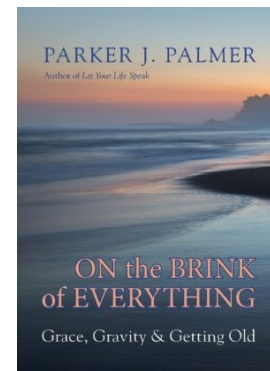
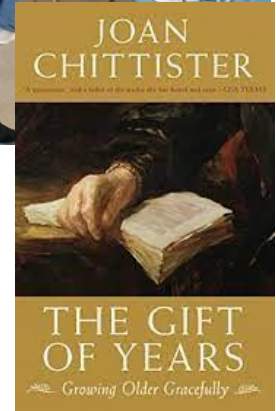


## *Composing a Life Book Group*

After an organizational meeting in January for this new book group, Composing a Life, Alison Seward created three "chapters" to accommodate the different schedules of the dozens of people interested.

Chapter meetings in February had seven attendees in each to discuss Joan Chittester's book, *The Gift of Years*. Alison had circulated a list of possible book titles for the next discussion and with input from the three meetings, Parker Palmer's *On the Brink of Everything* has been chosen for the March discussions. Whether you attended a previous discussion or not, you are welcome to join at one of the following times: Monday, 18 March at 10 AM, Wednesday, 20 March at 4 PM or Thursday, 21 March, 4 PM.

Books ordered at Morgan Hill Bookstore for a book group are eligible for a 15% discount or you may find the book in your local library, or online. Alison hopes to identify in March three or four of the next books to be read (over as many months), and is also looking to share leadership of the sessions with other readers.



*The Outreach Commission* meets in person on the first Thursday of even-numbered months to receive and consider suggestions for our *Last Sunday* offering. We have agreed that our efforts should be focused on humanitarian needs, both domestic and international; and we welcome suggestions from parishioners. At our meetings we discuss potential recipients and decide who among us will do the required research and the writing.

Committee members are Elizabeth Lowell, Jerry Coogan, Jim Mathias, Russ Potter, Tom Rubin, Becky Rylander and Karen Zurheide. Their contact information is in the 2022 St. Andrew's Parish Directory.

**Mystery box?** Not too long ago there was a large bulletin board in the parish hall above this box, and immediately above the “mystery box” we could read the words “Suggestion Box.” As you may have noticed, the box is still there but without any identifying sign.

A former vestry member regularly brings her key to church and unlocks the box – finding it empty each time, with no messages to pass on to Padre Jay.

It's not that you are required to have “suggestions” and you are welcome at any time to speak with Jay, or a warden or vestry member when you have an idea, concern or interest to share. But if you prefer to put that thought in writing, the box welcomes your input. Please, in addition to your message, include your name and a way to contact you so that we can respond appropriately.



*We acknowledge the spiritual and physical connection the Pennacook, Abenaki, and Wabanaki Peoples have maintained to N'dakinna (N-DAH-kee-nah) and the aki (land), nebi (water), olakwika (flora), and awaasak (fauna) which the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire strives to steward today. We also acknowledge the hardships they continue to endure after the loss of unceded homelands. We reaffirm The Episcopal Church's renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery. We repent of these sins and take responsibility for working to repair these damages ecumenically. We seek to foster relationships and opportunities that strengthen the well-being of the Indigenous People who carry forward the traditions of their ancestors.*

## United Thank Offering

The theme for UTO this Lent is “40 Days of Grateful Presence,” calling us to give thanks for many things in our lives we take for granted. The hope of the UTO staff is that during the 40 days of Lent we can all use gratitude to help us be more present in our daily lives. I urge you to take a few moments each day to think about the many things you take for granted and give thanks for them. As you do, place some change in a UTO box or a dish of your own.

It's not too late to pick up a UTO box. The ingathering for UTO is during the diocesan convention in November before which I hope you will write a check to St. Andrew's with UTO in the memo for all the change you have placed in the box throughout the year.



With those funds collected in November, the 2025 UTO grant focus will be on water, based on Jesus' words, “I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” UTO will fund projects focused on water, including but not limited to projects that:

- Address water issues such as desalinization, access, care of water sources, water rights, and education about water resources.
- Increase water awareness (drought tolerance, flood prevention).
- Address health issues directly related to water quality (formula access for babies, aftermath of contaminated water, etc.).
- Address water needs of unhoused people (laundry, showers, bathrooms, drinking water).

UTO recognizes that many water access issues today stem directly from historic trauma and harm done to marginalized people. Projects that encourage truth-telling, acknowledge historic trauma around water, and establish pathways toward healing also fit this focus. — Anne Hall



*Jerry Coogan is serving his first term on the vestry, and has been seen at many of our church fairs helping to sell pieces from a big wheel of cheese. He likes to quote Ben Franklin: "Diligence and hard work are the mother of good luck." He also loves "small world" connections, noting that new vestry clerk Kathy Mathias (profiled on p. 13) served as a long-time college counselor at his high school alma mater, Loyola, and Kathy's husband Jim is a graduate of the same.*



After college, I made a life decision to live in a rural area. The First Presbyterian Church of Westfield, New Jersey was our marriage venue. Pat and I are blessed with two accomplished adult children, Meredith, 40, and Tim, 33. I am very proud of Pat's career starting as a special education teacher in rural upstate New Hampshire, college instructor and now responsible for communications for a technology initiative at Princeton University.

Skiing (Cannon, Cranmore, Ragged, Wildcat, Sunapee, Okemo), cycling, kayaking, gardening, walking around the lakes and reading are joys. Blessed to have lived in Franconia (10 years), North Conway (15 years) and now New London (25 years), all beautiful communities! Living in these distinctive parts of New Hampshire has been a wonderful experience for which we are grateful.

A Roman Catholic for the first half, I transitioned to the Episcopal Church 30 years ago. Pat and I enjoy travel to the U.K., Ireland, Italy, Spain and Islesboro, our favorite Maine island. At this stage, I give back and help people along life's journey.

- ◆ Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland; graduated from Loyola High School, Towson, Maryland.
- ◆ After graduation from the University of Scranton (another Jesuit institution), received a Master's in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh.
- ◆ In 1971, began my professional career as a town, city and regional planner in Corning, New York.
- ◆ In 1973, moved to Franconia, New Hampshire to serve as the first Executive Director of the North Country Council, the regional planning and economic development agency for northern New Hampshire.
- ◆ In 1984, established a consulting practice providing planning and development assistance to state government agencies, municipalities, engineering firms, attorneys, banks, development corporations and private organizations.
- ◆ At present, retired and accepting an occasional special project.
- ◆ Past President of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association and an expert witness in planning and zoning matters before the New Hampshire Superior Court.
- ◆ Volunteer work: Trustee, Tracy Memorial Library; Chair, Town Waste Reduction Committee; Rotary Club of New London; Overcomers Refugee Services; and Chair of the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions.



*Serving her first term as clerk of the vestry, **Kathy Mathias** recently accompanied Jay to Voorhees University to recruit our two interns for the coming summer (see Jay's Say). It is fitting that Kathy served in this fashion, given her prior employment experience with young people and her coordination of the overall experience for our interns last summer. Now retired with husband Jim, she has returned to New Hampshire and New London where she spent many happy summers years ago.*

I was born a PK (preacher's kid) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and spent most of my childhood in New Britain, Connecticut. My father, Alan McLean, and his work as a UCC minister had a great influence on me and my desire to work with people. In my case, my "people" turned out to be adolescent boys as they negotiated the exciting and sometimes difficult years of high school.

I am one of those fortunate people who stumbled into a career at the very start of my working life that proved to be fulfilling and transformational. I spent 36 years as a college and guidance counselor at Loyola Blakefield, a boys' Jesuit high school in Baltimore that happens to be the alma mater of both my husband Jim and Jerry Coogan. I loved working in a school, and in a Jesuit environment in particular. Working with all boys was ideal for me. I led overnight Jesuit retreats and week-long service trips to impoverished areas in New Mexico, Jamaica and Philadelphia. My students embodied the Jesuit motto of "Men for Others." It was also wonderful to have our son Matt attend the school where I worked. Our daughter Laney, who is two years younger, attended a Quaker school nearby. Jim and I met during my freshman year at Amherst College, where I majored in English and played multiple sports.



New Hampshire and New London have always been special places in my life. My maternal grandparents bought a little house and barn on Pingree Road in 1962, and my parents eventually retired there. My father served as a minister at First Baptist Church for a few years with Jeff Zurheide. My paternal grandparents built a rustic summer camp on Newfound Lake in 1911. Some of my earliest and most cherished childhood memories are of time spent at Newfound Lake or in the wooded paths around Pingree Road and Pleasant Lake. For eight straight summers from the ages of 15 to 22, my primary summer job was at the Wilmot Community Beach Program, teaching swimming, leading hikes and occasional overnight camping, and serving as a camp counselor. Fortunately for me, Jim fell in love with the area as well and in 2022, we retired and moved to our home on the old King Ridge ski mountain where we both learned to ski.

Jim and I are grateful for the welcoming, stimulating community of St. Andrew's. It has made our transition to New England and retirement an exciting next chapter.



The New Year included breakfasts for men and women of the parish.

### *What is "Safe Church" - ?*

It is more than those two words . . .

In 2019, the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire adopted the Model Policies of the Episcopal Church which had been passed at the (national) General Convention in 2018. The Safe Church Program of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire has three major components - policies, training, and background checks. Church leaders are responsible for knowing and following the policies, "Model Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth" and "Model Policy for Protection of Vulnerable Adults," both of which are included in the Diocese of New Hampshire policies.

Knowing the policies is the first step in Safe Church. The policies reflect the commitment of the Episcopal Church to provide communities and congregations that are safe places to worship and minister generously -- for all people, particularly those who may be vulnerable, free of any form of harassment, bullying, abuse or exploitation.

The second step in Safe Church is training, which has been enhanced with new videos created especially for the Episcopal Church, with Presiding Bishop Curry featured. The online courses are in two groups: Universal and Specialty. The Diocese of New Hampshire encourages everyone to expand their Safe Church training beyond the baseline requirement, and to explore the full range of "Universal" and "Specialty" training.

Background checks are a third step, of New Hampshire required for church employees, volunteers working with youth, home visitors, and church leaders.

As Safe Church Minister, and working in collaboration with Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Safe Church Officer for the Diocese, it is my responsibility, per Safe Church policy, to:

- Make sure that Safe Church policies are publicly posted [bulletin board or on website] and that ministry leaders and volunteers are familiar with them.
- Make sure that Safe Church training is available to those for whom it is required.
- Make sure that those who are serving in the congregation know who is supervising their ministry and how to contact them with concerns.
- Make sure that there is a written application, an interview, and references checked for certain ministry positions.
- Make sure that required criminal background checks are completed every five years.

I would be glad to have a meeting or write another article to provide answers to additional questions you may have. - *Anne Hall, St. Andrew's Safe Church Minister*



#### *A Prayer for Peace*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen. BCP, p. 815



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
invites you to a free workshop  
**Sunday, 24 March, 2 - 3:30 PM.**



*Skills for Disagreeing Better* will empower you to have constructive conversations with those on the other political side. The interactive workshop provides the not-so-secret sauce that counters polarization and bitterness:

- Listen well and doors will usually open;
- Listen not just for political positions but for the values and experiences that underlie their politics;
- Share your own views with the skills learned in the workshop so the other person will take them in.

The workshop will be led by experienced moderators Jeannie Sperry and Paul Catsos. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to register, scan the QR code below on your phone's camera. Alternatively, send an email to [wcanaday@braverangels.org](mailto:wcanaday@braverangels.org).



*The fight to save our nation  
begins with a ceasefire  
among ourselves.*

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
52 Gould Road, New London, NH 03257  
[www.standrewsnl.org](http://www.standrewsnl.org) 603.526.6344

St. Andrew's will host a new Braver Angels workshop, *Skills for Disagreeing Better*, on 24 March from 2-3:30 PM, as shown above. Our own Paul Catsos and Jeannie Sperry will moderate. Use the QR code or contact Woody Canaday, [wcanaday@braverangels.org](mailto:wcanaday@braverangels.org), for more information.

The concept, "Disagree Better," is being championed by Governor Spencer Cox of Utah, currently Chair of the National Governors Association. Gov. Cox is a big booster of what Braver Angels is trying to do and addressed Braver Angels' National Convention in Gettysburg last summer. If you want to be refreshed by a constructive approach to politics that is actually being practiced, see the following link to an inspiring presentation from 21 February at Washington National Cathedral: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SFSkWxUxeo>. Gov. Cox and Gov. Wes Moore of Maryland interview each other about the topic of Civility and learning how to Disagree Better. (Skip ahead to 10:50, otherwise you'll just see the screenshot as people assemble. The two governors' conversation ends at 51:20.) — *Woody Canaday*

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New London, NH**

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*Rector*

**The Rev. Jay MacLeod**

*Director of Music*

**William Ögmundson**

*Dir. of Music for Children and Youth*

**Nicole Densmore**

*Verger*

**Anne Hall**

*Parish Administrator*

**Shelly Boucher**

*Resident Clergy*

**The Rev. Lucretia Jevne**

**The Rev. Canon Jim Ransom**

**The Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak**

**The Rev. Leslie Smith**

**The Rev. Charlie Tirrell**

**The Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner**



**The Vestry**

**Treasurer**

**Mike Quinn** (expires Jan. 2026)

**Wardens**

**Claire Pace** (expires Jan. 2025)

**Nancy Rollins** (expires Jan. 2026)

**Vestry Members**

*Term Expires Jan. 2025*

**Billy Kelly**

**Russ Potter**

**Russ Register**

*Term Expires Jan. 2027*

**Gerry Coogan**

**Susan Feyrer**

**Kathy Mathias, Clerk**

*Term Expires Jan. 2026*

**Jennifer Giles**

**Fifi Mitchell**

**Nonie Reynders**

**Western Convocation Delegates**

*Term Expires Jan. 2025*

**Marni Eaton**

**Alice Perry**

*Term Expires Jan. 2026*

**JoAnn Hicks**

**Bill Morgan**

**Mandy Johnson, alternate**

**Committee Chairpersons**

**Finance & Investments**

**Mike Quinn**

**Altar Guild**

**JoAnn Hicks**

**Becky Rylander**

**Hospitality**

**Rosie & Harvey Best (8 AM)**

**Louise & John Moses (10 AM)**

**Buildings & Grounds**

**Harvey Best**

**Newsletter**

**Alice Perry – Editor**

**Craft Group**

**Rosie Best**

**Barbara Smith**

**Outreach**

**Becky Rylander**

**Eucharistic Ministers**

**Anne Hall**

**Stewardship**

**TBA**