



NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S January—February 2023

Jay's Say: The Chosen

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I am writing on 21 December, the Feast of Saint Thomas — the doubting disciple who ends up making the boldest statement of faith recorded in the Gospels. Encountering the risen Jesus personally, Thomas blurts: “My Lord and my God.”

I invite you to watch the first three seasons of a show called *The Chosen* because this TV Jesus might similarly crack open your heart. Like other actors in the show, Jonathan Roumie actually looks Middle Eastern (his father is Egyptian) and gives us an astonishingly fresh and Jewish Jesus. But most of the episodes teach us about Jesus through the eyes and lives of his followers and of those who are swept up in his ministry. As we witness the disciples changing, we are drawn into their transformation. When Peter, Mary Magdalen, Thomas and the others become more fully alive and strive to love as recklessly as their rabbi, viewers can feel the claim of Jesus on their lives.

The acting, script, cinematography and soundtrack are first-rate and the episodes are often gritty and gripping. Conceived and directed by Dallas

Jenkins, an evangelical Christian, the show features no major stars and is funded by donations from viewers and venture investors rather than a Hollywood studio. *The Chosen* won't be to everyone's taste, but I'm very much enjoying it.

The script is true to the Gospels but employs Jewish *midrash* — imaginative tales that fill the gaps between the lines of scripture. So we get fictional and sometimes elaborate backstories of the first disciples whose actions and conversations reveal their internal struggles. The early episodes are barely biblical, but stick with the show because these added elements end up being faithful to the core message of the Gospels.

The political, social and religious divisions within Judaism are artfully rendered, as are the brutalities of the Roman occupation. Some of the casting decisions for the disciples were inspired. Matthew the tax collector is autistic.



Continued on p. 2

Parish Birthdays



Jenna Wheeler	4
James Wassell	7
Loa Winter	8
Linda Miller	10
John Jevne	12
Peter Machen	12
Barbara Smith	12
David Marshall	16
Nancy Rollins	16
Bob Feuerstein	22
Tina Colehower	23
Diane Caldwell	25
Linda Barnes	26
Kate MacLeod	26
Natalie Stark	28
Kent Woodger	28



Candie Reynolds	3
George Jamieson	6
Natalie Davis	8
Bill Helm	10
Bill Sloan	11
Judy Wallace	14
Gardner Yenawine	18
Cynthia Canaday	19
Mary Lou Sawyer	20
Terry Smith	27

Jay's Say, continued from p. 1

"Little James" is played by an actor whose severe scoliosis and minor cerebral palsy left him with a limp. In a memorable conversation in Season 3, Jesus explains to James why he has healed all these other people but not him. Told by Jesus how God's power and glory can be revealed in human affliction, the actor found the conversation therapeutic.

Twenty-three of us will return from the Holy Land with the bible having come to life in new, exciting and possibly life-changing ways. Thanks to *The Chosen*, your TV or computer screen could quite possibly deliver the same result!

The Chosen is free to watch on Netflix and Amazon Prime,
or you can download the Angel Studio App
to your computer or television
to watch all three seasons.

During Lent and Eastertide,
Kathleen Rusnak and Jay MacLeod
will host conversations about *The Chosen*
on Sunday mornings in the parish hall
from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.
We shall discuss two episodes at a time,
beginning on 26 February
and ending on 28 May (Pentecost).
Participants should watch the episode
in advance of the discussions.

St. Andrew's and Braver Angels –



Like many of you, I am saddened by how polarized our country has become. Sometimes I question what any one person can do to help get members of differing political factions to listen to each other; perhaps as the first step toward their working together. I was therefore heartened to learn from Jay about a citizens' group called Braver Angels (BA), a national organization comprised of volunteers who seek to bridge the partisan divide in order to strengthen our nation. BA has developed effective tools to lower polarization, to facilitate the effective exchange of views and to help discover common values and beliefs. Much of its work involves providing workshops like those found at <https://braverangels.org>.

On 15 December 2022, I had the pleasure of observing moderator Bill Doherty, one of the founders of BA, present a workshop titled *Managing Difficult Conversations with Colleagues and Constituents* to members of the New Hampshire Legislature at the State House in Concord. Other BA team members included former New Hampshire state representatives Patricia Higgins and Doug Teschner, who now serves as the New England Regional Leader of BA. This was the second year that BA has addressed our legislators through its initiative known as *Braver Politics*. Braver Politics seeks to foster opportunities for elected officials and their staff to develop the skills and commitment to work together in goodwill across political differences. I found it encouraging that 102 New Hampshire state representatives (about evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats) chose to collaborate with the Braver Politics team. Watching the crowd of New Hampshire elected officials provide a standing ovation for Braver Politics at the conclusion of the workshop was a tremendously hopeful scene, particularly following the bitterly divisive mid-term elections we have just experienced.

Here in New London, our Saint Andrew's Braver Angels team – the Rev. Jay MacLeod, Jeannie Sperry, (moderator), Woody Canaday, (organizer), Paul Catsos, David Balford, Jennifer Giles and Peter Ruth – has hosted four similar learning sessions for our parish during 2022. In 2023, our plan is to make BA workshops and other learning experiences available to all in the New London area. If you are looking for ways to help depolarize our community, please consider participating in an upcoming BA event. All are invited to join in a reprise of Braver Angels' *Skills for Bridging the Divide* workshop in the Saint Andrew's parish hall on 26 February from 2:30 – 5 PM. Seating will be limited to 60 participants and registration will be provided by Eventbrite with the link to that site to be provided to the parish and community shortly. – *Paul Catsos*

United Thank Offering

As you begin the new year, reflect about the past year and those before, thinking about the things for which you are grateful. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and new." If you are like Emerson and me, there are many other things for which you are thankful. In the new year when you are thankful for a friend or an experience, why not practice showing gratitude by placing a coin or two in a UTO blue box?

Pick one up at church. An attitude of gratitude is part of the foundation of a joyful, abundant, Christian life. In the fall, I will remind you to write a check to St. Andrew's for the contents and it will be added to others for the ingathering at the Diocesan Convention. – *Anne Hall, Diocesan UTO Representative*



Last Sunday Looks Ahead – 29 January Willing Hands



If you should volunteer at The Haven food pantry in White River Junction, you will typically find 20 or more different fresh fruits and vegetables available for those in need. (You'll hear more about The Haven in September.). Willing Hands plays a significant role in this: making healthy food, which would otherwise often go to waste, available to those in need. Those are the three key elements to the work of Willing Hands: Making healthy food available for those in need while avoiding waste.

In 2021, Willing Hands provided 1,020,726 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to 85 recipient organizations in Vermont and New Hampshire at no cost to the organizations. How does this happen? Willing Hands drivers pick up fresh produce, dairy, eggs, meat and bread from food donors including farms, grocery stores, wholesalers and restaurants. Volunteers glean leftover produce from local farms and grow produce in four Willing Hands gardens. Then Willing Hands drivers deliver this food six days a week, year-round, free to recipient organizations across the Upper Valley, including food pantries, shelters and senior housing facilities. To accomplish this, Willing Hands relies on 11 paid staff members and, currently, 566 volunteers.

Here are two links if you want to explore further now. The first, <https://willinghands.org/>, is the Willing Hands home page; the second, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZKHhEoTBfk&feature=youtu.be> is a wonderful brief video summarizing the work of Willing Hands.

In each of the following weeks in parish emails we will explore more fully three areas in which Willing Hands makes a significant impact: 1) Ending hunger, 2) Improving health, 3) reducing food waste. In the final weeks in January we will look to the future of Willing Hands

How can we help? As always, monetary gifts are welcome. Willing Hands also relies heavily on volunteers and offers many opportunities for essential, outdoor work among like-minded, congenial people. There is also essential volunteer work that is less physically demanding. To learn more about volunteering see <https://willinghands.org/volunteer/>. – Russ Potter



To respond to Last Sunday appeals on these two pages, 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.standrewsnl.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.

Please also see p. 8 for expressions of thanks from prior recipients.

Last Sunday Looks Ahead – 26 February Dismas Home

Getting a second chance at life. The Dismas Home was so grateful for our generous support last year. As we revisit this most important organization, we learn how complex reentry back into society is for women released from prison and facing a society that has branded them a felon.



Dismas Home
NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Dismas Home is working to break this cycle by providing a safe and supportive environment for previously incarcerated women as they transition back into society. Despite their success in helping residents overcome stigma, obstacles and barriers, they face significant challenges in their quest to expand their programs and increasing their capacity to serve more women. They have a new strategic plan that calls for program expansion in the next two years. This includes goals to

- Secure a transitional home for post-residential living.
- Create post-residential support programs.
- Develop vocational training programs and opportunities.
- Strengthen and expand fundraising and development.
- Establish a capital reserve.
- Create a multi-year financial plan.
- Establish viable, sustainable relationships with all New Hampshire criminal justice system sectors.
- Build relationships with landlords and developers to increase post-Dismas housing options.
- Build a network with service providers to increase operations efficiencies and increase resident opportunities.
- Build relationships with local higher education institutions.
- Build relationships with civic groups and municipalities.

Please consider making a gift to the Dismas Home. Your donation will help them to create a better future for themselves.

Planned Giving and the Legacy Society

One of the things that we've learned over the past year is that the number one reason that people do not leave a planned gift is "no one asked"! That was probably true at St. Andrew's once, but we hope you've noticed that we have now asked that you consider such a gift.

A high priority for each of us should be that we leave our families a well-thought-out will. We can't begin to explain what a burden relief that is for those that we leave behind. It's something that many of us put off because, let's face it, it's not one of the most enjoyable tasks that we undertake (no pun intended).

But please remember to take that first step. That's the most difficult part of the process. And while you're at it, please give some thought to a legacy gift to your church. For more information please visit <https://standrewsnl.planned.gifts/> or recent newsletters.

Thanks, *George Jamieson, Planned Giving Committee chair*

Warden's Words

This is the final occasion of my penning Warden's Words. After six years on the Vestry (the last two as Warden) I will be finishing my term this January. It has been a pleasure, a privilege and an honor to serve in that role, and before I step down, I want to share a couple of thoughts with you.

As parishioners of St. Andrew's, we are all members of a vibrant community, one that is gaining new members and is financially sound, due to the untiring inspiration, leadership and guidance of Padre Jay over the last decade. Working with him as Warden, I have seen close-up just how devoted and committed he is to teaching and leading all of us, and others beyond, to walk with Jesus in the way of love. You've probably suspected that his work is seemingly never done. Indeed, I can't count the number of times I've received emails from him that were sent at 11 PM or 4 AM even though I knew he had been in meetings all day or working on services and then providing pastoral care to someone late into the evening. Several folks have asked me if Jay is working too much or taking care of himself, and the answer to both questions is "yes" – he does work long hours, but he does know how to pace himself. I only mention this to remind everyone that he does have only one true day off each week (Wednesday), so it is important not to ask him to get to you on that day as he needs that down time to replenish his batteries (*see below*).

Yes, our community is based principally on worship, but St. Andrew's is so much more than Sunday services. The myriad educational and Christian formation programs that Jay has initiated (the most recent being "God 101") present opportunities for learning more about our faith and ourselves. Looking back at the last ten years we have had retreats to Iona and the Holy Land, and missions to Navajoland; we have had our annual fairs and visits from inner city kids and have begun Messy Church to reach out to families with young children. We run a thrift shop and youth programs and serve the homeless at the Friendly Kitchen, among many other activities. We can always use more volunteers to help out on these non-worship events; as my mother always said, "Many hands make for light work." And, getting involved means more opportunities for fellowship and new friendships. Give it a try!

In closing, I just want to say that I am leaving you in the far-more-than-just-capable hands of your soon-to-be Senior Warden, Karen Zurheide. In her first year as Junior Warden, Karen brought a high level of energy and commitment to her role, and I know that St. Andrew's will surely benefit from her service in 2023, along with a new Junior Warden who will be elected at the annual meeting! – *Joe Daly*

Annual Meeting is set for 29 January.

Here is the slate your vestry has approved.

Treasurer for three years: Mike Quinn
Vestry for two years: Russ Potter

Vestry for three years: Fifi Mitchell, Nonie
Reynders, James Wassell

Warden for two years: Claire Pace

Western Convocation/Diocesan Delegate for
three years: Marni Eaton, Alice Perry

For more about Annual Meeting, see p. 7.

Reminder for 2023: Our Rector's day off is WEDNESDAY.

Help him get that weekly break by avoiding non-urgent calls, texts or emails on a Wednesday. (And don't expect communication from him then either.) Shelly Boucher, Parish Administrator is available to take your call or email and your Wardens may also be available when you have concerns on a Wednesday. Thanks, all!

Calendar of Events

January:

6 (Friday) - Feast of the Epiphany

14 (Saturday) - Jay returns from Holy Land; Faith and Issues resumes (*see p. 9*)

22 (Sunday) - 2023 budget preview between services

27 (Friday) - Friendly Kitchen (*see below*)

29 (Sunday) - Candlemas observed, 8 & 10 AM; Last Sunday, to benefit Willing Hands (*see p. 4*); Annual Meeting (*see p. 6 and below*); "Lunch Bunch" meets every last Sunday in 2023



February:

5 (Sunday) - Messy Church, 4 PM (*see p. 9*)

7 (Tuesday) - Weekly Bible study on Zoom commences, 7 PM (*watch for more information*)

22 (Wednesday) - Ash Wednesday (*watch for more information*)

26 (Sunday) - Last Sunday to benefit Dismas Home (*see p. 5*); *The Chosen*, weekly discussion commences, 11:30 AM (*see pp. 1-2*); Braver Angels workshop, 2:30 PM (*see p. 3*)

Monday to Friday 12 Noon Midday Prayer (Healing Eucharist Thursday)

Mondays 6 PM Meditation (resumes 16 January)

Tuesdays 10 AM Craft Group

Thursdays 7 PM, Choir Rehearsal (in choir room downstairs)

NOTE: We continue to recommend masks and physical distancing regardless of vaccination status for indoor activities. Doors and windows will be open.

Annual Meeting is set for 29 January (*continued*). We hope to convene between the 8 and 10 AM services. Should severe weather jeopardize our getting a quorum of at least 50 parishioners, we will hold the meeting later in the day on Zoom. Stay tuned!

The agenda will include approval of minutes of 2022 annual meeting and approval of the 2022 Annual Report. We will present the slate of officers (*see p. 6*) and welcome any nominations from the floor before calling for a vote. Treasurer Mike Quinn will present the 2023 budget approved by vestry. Following that business we will share a slide show of 2022, and invite questions before closing.

Help Re-Stock the KLS Community Food Pantry

January: Canned Fruit

February: Large Juice, especially low sugar and 100% juice



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, 27 January. Friendly Kitchen is one of St. Andrew's longest running outreach projects. The kitchen has one purpose -- to feed the hungry. Everyone is welcome, no questions or qualifications. Let Janet Heyl know if you would like to help.



Parish Updates

Reception

30 November

David Balford

Patsy Catsos

Paul Catsos

Lisa Gover

Jeannie Henskens

Renate Kannler

Nancy Rollins



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, Janet Heyl, Christine Kellett, Russ Potter, Tom Rubin, Becky Rylander and Karen Zurheide. Their contact information is in the 2022 St. Andrew's Parish Directory.

Thanks

from Last Sunday recipients:

From *American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem/ Ahli Arab Hospital (August)* – Many, many thanks to you Jay and to the St. Andrew's family for your wonderful gift in support of this remarkable ministry. . . . Thank you for bringing healing and hope to Gaza.

With gratitude,

John Lent

Executive Director

From *Upper Valley Haven (September)* - We are extraordinarily grateful for the generous support of the congregation of St. Andrew's. The Haven would not exist without you and other generous donors who believe in our vision that all in our community should be free from hunger, securely housed, and able to pursue a self-directed life.

With warm regards,

Michael Redmond

Executive Director

Laura Gillespie

Development and Communications
Director



And in Bluff, Utah, *St. Christopher's Mission*, May recipient in Navajoland, reports progress on a tiny house funded by St. Andrew's generosity.

From *El Hogar (October)* - Thank you so very much to you and the entire St Andrew's community. You are helping us to provide opportunities to the children of El Hogar that will allow them to transform their lives and open a path to a brighter future.

We are deeply grateful,

Tim Monroe

Executive Director

The *Faith and Issues* reading and discussion group will resume meeting on 14 January from 9:00-10:30 via Zoom.

Our current **Issue** book is *Embrace Fearlessly The Burning World: Essays* by Barry Lopez, which we will read and discuss over four weeks.

See St. Andrew's website under *Learn* for our next **Faith** book. It will be listed shortly. If you have questions or are interested in joining, please contact Katrina Wagner through the church office.

-- Katrina Wagner

Our Messy Church event on 4 December centered around Advent. Families and individuals of all ages enjoyed many craft activities related to preparation for Christmas and all it means to us. Some youngsters also had the opportunity to create their own nativity scenes with Alison Vernon after school in the days prior to Messy Church.



Our next Messy Church will be Sunday, 5 February, with the theme "Jesus Our Light" in keeping with the celebration of Candlemas (Presentation of Jesus in the Temple) the Sunday before – the infant Jesus being recognized by old Anna and Simeon in the Temple – intergenerational worship long ago!

We look forward to new friends and old engaging with us in this next episode of "church but not as you know it."



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. Alice Roberts

The Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak

The Rev. Leslie Smith

The Rev. Charlie Tirrell

The Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner



The Vestry

Wardens

Joe Daly (expires Jan. 2023)

Karen Zurheide (expires Jan. 2024)

Treasurer

Mike Quinn (expires Jan. 2023)

Vestry Members

Term Expires Jan. 2023

Nonie Reynders

Chuck Thompson

Term Expires Jan. 2024

Morris Edwards

Alice Perry, Clerk

Linda Potter

Term Expires Jan. 2025

Billy Kelly

Claire Pace

Russ Register

Western Convocation Delegates

Term Expires Jan. 2023

Pat Goodwin

Karen Shepherd

Term Expires Jan. 2025

JoAnn Hicks

Barbara Smith

Term Expires Jan. 2024

Alice Perry, alternate

Susan Schweizer, alternate

Committee Chairpersons

Altar Guild

Judy Ackroyd

JoAnn Hicks

Buildings & Grounds

Harvey Best

Craft Group

Rosie Best

Barbara Smith

Eucharistic Ministers

Anne Hall

Finance & Investments

Mike Quinn

Newsletter

Alice Perry – Editor

Outreach

Becky Rylander

Stewardship

TBA