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E-pistle



Saint Andrew's Parish
Kent, Connecticut

St Andrew's Church

**1 North Main Street
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Kent, CT 06757**

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st.andrew.kent@snet.net**

**Visit St Andrew's
website at
www.standrewskent.org**

**The Episcopal Church in
Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org**

Service Schedule

-Sunday-
Holy Eucharist
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.

Holy Days as announced.

Calendar

Saturday, 1 July
**Donations for the
Annual Tag Sale**
begin to arrive.

**Friday & Saturday,
4 & 5 August**
Annual Summer Tag Sale
to benefit the Capital Fund

This Week & Weekend at St Andrew's

Wednesday, 19 July

Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.

A.A. for Women at 7.00 p.m. (Moved to First Congregational Church for Summer)

Thursday, 20 July

A.A. at 7.30 a.m. (Parish House)

Al. Anon. at 7.00 p.m. (Parish House)

Friday, 21 July

Prayer & Meditation at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday , 22 July

No Choir Rehearsal (summer)

NW Region Convocation from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield)

Sunday, 23 July

Holy Eucharist at 8.30 a.m.

Select Choir Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. (Nave)

Holy Eucharist at 10.30 a.m.

Iced Tea & Cookies (Parish House)

Wednesday, 26 July

Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.

A.A. for Women at 7.00 p.m. (Moved to First Congregational Church for Summer)

The Lectures this Week

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2017

Genesis 28: 10-19a

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

Romans 8: 12-25

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Twelve Step Groups

Wednesdays

7:00 p.m.
A.A. for Women
(Great Room- at
Congregational Church for
Summer)

Thursdays

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Vestry Room)
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Vestry Room)

Parish Staff

**The Revd Roger B. White,
Rector**

**The Revd Dr David K.
McIntosh,
Priest Associate**

**The Revd Nik Combs
Visiting Deacon**

**Thomas W. Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs**

**Margie O'Brien,
Director of the Children's
Choir**

**Heather Scofield,
Parish Administrator**

**Bill McLaren,
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,
Verger**

Sunday's Homily

Last Sunday's homily (July 16th) is printed below.
If you wish, you may click on the link below for both
Audio and PDF files of
The Rev. Dr. David McIntosh's homily:

[Homily for 6th Pentecost, 16 July 2017](#)

From the Priest Associate

A homily given on the 6th Sunday after Pentecost

16 July 2017

Gen 25: 19-34; Psalm 119: 105-112; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13:

1-9, 18-23

**'If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead
dwells in you... there will be life.'**

Today we hear the parable of the Sower and the seeds... it has had many interpretations. One thing it says to me is that true faith-embracing the message of God's love and reconciliation in the world-is difficult to cultivate. The path with the birds, the rocky hard soil, the area of choking weeds, and the good soil all represent the difficulties we humans face in accepting God's message, and this story stresses the importance of *understanding, perseverance, and attentiveness*.

At some point in each of our lives, we've made it hard for that seed from God to grow... Sometimes our lives are like the path with birds- we don't *understand* what God is trying to share and the message is snatched away.... Sometimes our lives are like the hard, rocky ground- we accept God's word and promise initially, only to lack *perseverance* in the face of hardship or disappointment and give up.... Often our lives are like the weed-filled area- we lack *attentiveness* to follow the Gospel message in the midst of a crazy and "choking" world that lures us in a direction away from God, more toward our own desires... And sometimes our lives are more like the good soil- we *understand, persevere* and remain *attentive* to God's truth, and faith takes hold.

This parable may also tell us more about the Sower than the soil. It seems strange that the sower is not more cautious and business-like. It seems a foolish waste of seed, to throw it out everywhere in the rocks and on the path, as well as onto good soil. Farmers back at the time of Jesus would till and prepare the soil for planting and would be careful to prevent the seed from blowing away in the wind to unfavorable areas... but not this sower! God's love and reconciliation, the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ, is not just for "good soil"... it's for the entire world. The theological message is profound: God's ways are not our ways- we're cautious, controlling, and place limits on our love, while God gives everyone a chance! God's love extends to all, not just a select few. God lavishes love and opportunity upon all of creation. Do bad things happen? Are there illness and cancer, injury and pain? Does evil exist? Yes, and that still does not take anything away from God's love. It doesn't disprove God's presence and everlasting love in each of our lives. God's vision for our world includes those who find themselves in strange, barren, ugly, broken places.... Indeed, God embraces we who are strange, ugly, broken people.

Paul's letter to the Romans stresses this: God has done what the law, weakened by human standards, could not. God sent the Son to overcome death. And in Christ, all have the potential for eternal life! The work of Jesus, his death on the Cross and his resurrection, are life giving and creative. Just as there can be no crops or flowers without dark and sometimes violent storms to bring rain, there can't be an Easter without a Good Friday. And sin, evil, and suffering still exist in the world, even after Christ's victory. God has not eliminated these, but sent the Son to teach us how to deal with them.

The 'good news' of Jesus Christ is that God loves us... God is present with us in our suffering and hardship, helping us to *persevere* and be strong, despite disappointment, hurt, and anger... showing us the truth and the way of eternal life. It's up to us to become the kind of soil that may allow God's way/ God's mission to thrive- that out of suffering and death, may come new life.

One of the most beautiful prayers I know, reflects this Gospel message and interestingly, it comes from a Jewish theologian, Rabbi Jack Riemer, the *Likrat Shabbat*:

*"We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way
That man must find his own path to peace
Within himself and with his neighbor.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation
For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world
If we would only use them wisely.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God,
To root out prejudice,
For you have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all men
If we would only use them rightly.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair,
For you have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope
If we would only use our power justly.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease,
For You have already given us great minds with which
To search out cures and healing,
If we would only use them constructively.*

*Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and willpower,
To do instead of just to pray,
To become instead of merely to wish." [\[1\]](#)*

As Paul tells us, the God who raised Christ from the dead will give life to us... has already given life to us... through the power of the Spirit! It's up to us to embrace that Spirit, and to persevere and share God's unfailing love. As we come to the altar this morning, and as we venture out into the world this week... may we strive to become part of God's mission, part of God's ongoing renewal of creation!

[\[1\]](#) From Harold S Kushner, When Bad Things Happen to Good People, New York: Schocken Books, 1981.

Special Thanks to The Rev. Steve Klots

We are so grateful for the presence and assistance of our dear friend and fellow parishioner, **Fr. Steve Klots**. He has been more than generous with his time and expertise to our parish this summer... helping to celebrate some of our Wednesday Eucharists and making himself available to help on a Sunday (7/30) when Fr. David will be away.

As most of you know, he is the long-time Chaplain of South Kent School. Their Chapel was damaged by fire this Spring, and despite his busy schedule regarding clean-up and rebuilding, he has made himself available to us. Please be sure to thank him for all he has done and continues to do for us!

From the Tag Sale Committee

**Celebrating our 30th Anniversary!!
THE DONATIONS ARE ARRIVING
IN DROVES**

**The Tag Sale is just around the corner,
August 4th and 5th!**

Small Donations:

**Household items and small items will be
accepted**

July 1st to August 2nd.

**Please bring up to the NE corner of the Parish
Hall.**

Large Donations:

**Furniture and larger items can only be accepted
at the storage container from July 10th -August
2nd**

on

**Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday from 10 a.m. to
12:00 noon**

**Saturdays (7/8, 7/15, 7/22, and 7/29) from 10
a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed!

**for Pricing / Pre-sale and Prep now,
for moving items from storage on 8/2 and 8/3,
and with selling on sale days!**

Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall

For any Tag Sale questions, contact:

PAT CAMPBELL

845-832-3454

Remember that books should be donated to the Kent Memorial Library Book Sale, and clothing should go to the Quality Thrift Shop. Also, we cannot accept mattresses or box springs, nor can we accept computers or computer equipment. Limited pick-up service is available (by arrangement), and the volunteers may decline to accept some of the items offered.

**PLEASE, DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE, IN THE DRIVEWAY,
OR THE HALLWAYS!**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Just a reminder that the Parish Office is OPEN and Heather will be around on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

HIKERS/ CAMPERS

This is being repeated for information to the entire

parish: As most of you know, we can no longer host hikers and campers on parish property. Please be sure that you **do not invite** any hikers or campers to inquire about staying on our property... per policy of the Rector and Vestry, hikers CANNOT pitch tents or stay on our property overnight. We are sorry but we cannot endure the liability and problems we have faced in this regard.

NW Region Picnic for Hikers

You are invited! Picnic and Worship

Hosted by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and the
Episcopal
parishes of Salisbury, Sharon, Cornwall, Lakeville and
Kent

**Sunday, July 23 at
1:30 PM**

At the Falls Village Picnic Park at the Iron Bridge
(West Bank of Housatonic River -
across from Hydro Power Plant)

By Car: Intersection of Dugway, Falls Mountain and
Housatonic River Roads

Write to revheiditruax@gmail.com for more info

A Request from **FISH** **'Friends in Service Here'**

FISH provides rides for those needing to keep local medical appointments, local hair appointments, and to do local grocery shopping, and

**VOLUNTEERS
ARE VERY MUCH NEEDED,
IN PARTICULAR DRIVERS!**

Please call Edith Altvater

Needed by The Kent Food Bank

This month, The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of

**ketchup, mustard, canned baked beans,
tuna, canned vegetables.**

*Please remember that the Food Bank accepts
petfoods as well!*

Donations may be dropped off in the basket in the narthex, to the left of the doors. And please: do try to make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

Announcements

Northwest Region Convocation

All are invited (adults and children) to pray and collaborate with fellow parishioners from around our NW Region at a gathering at 'The Activity Shed' at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield on Saturday 22 July 2017 from 11 a.m to 2 p.m. This will also be an opportunity to meet with our new Region Missionary, Eliza Marth and The Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp.

St. Andrew's Garden

Tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, beans, peppers and zucchini have all been planted in the garden. Volunteers are needed to weed and water our garden. Harvesting is done on Wednesdays.

A request from those who count and deposit the collections from Sundays:

The counters ask us to help them by tagging our cheques so that they are certain as to how to receive them: as Pledge, as donations to the Capital Fund, donations to the Discretionary or Mission & Outreach Funds, etc.

Please remember that the loose offering on the first Sundays of the month

... is given to the Parish Discretionary Fund for those in any kind of need.

Second Sundays at Camp Washington

Guest clergy will offer a short program, followed by worship and then a simple meal, at Camp Washington on the second Sunday of the month. Camp Washington is at 190 Kenyon Road in nearby Lakeside, Connecticut,

and those interested are asked to make reservations at 860.567.9623. Further information is available at www.campwashington.org

Summer Camps at Camp Washington

Camp Washington has published its schedule for summer camps for children ages 5-16. Copies are available in the parish house at the bulletin board in the north foyer and on-line at www.campwashington.org

The Quality Thrift Shop

... at The First Congregational Church is very much an effort of the whole of our community to provide affordable clothing and household necessities to those who need them. Members of St Andrew's Parish and of Sacred Heart Church help out there, and more help is urgently needed! Whatever hours you can give will be appreciated, and so please call 860.927.3287 if you are able to assist!