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The Cleansing of Naaman in the River Jordan :: Proper 8, Year C
(Meuse Valley, c 1150-1160)

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's,

I hope you are doing well and looking forward to the long Independence Day weekend.

Two interesting pieces of information came 'across my desk' (as we used to say!) last week. The first was the report of a recent survey that shows a large decrease in the number of Americans who say they believe in God. From the first iteration of the survey in 1944 through the late 1960s, upwards of 95% of respondents said they believed in God. When Gallup asked again in 2011, this number had fallen to 92%, and then to 87% in 2013. In the latest poll, the results of which were released last week, only 81% believed. And the difference between age groups is even more disturbing: Today, 87% of

Americans age 65 or older believe in God, but only 68% of those ages 18-29. The full survey results are available [here](#).

The second was a wonderful note from Bart Geissinger, the Executive Director of Camp Washington, our beautiful diocesan camp located in Morris. Some of you may remember that Bart worshipped with us on 19 June. Bart wrote:

Thanks for the warm welcome at St Andrew's yesterday! It was a gift to worship with you in such a beautiful sanctuary. I have not been there in many years and it was not as I remember it—so I'm thinking that a loving restoration has occurred.

Please share with your vestry how impressed I truly was with the ease of navigating your website, and finding ACCURATE, CURRENT information. It truly is important.

Also, the warm welcome I received from many—a smile, a handshake or fist bump—these are things I do NOT see as I travel around our diocese. Kudos to you and your congregation!

It is wonderful, of course, for visitors to notice all the hard work (and capital) that have gone into restoring and maintaining our church. And a HUGE tip of the hat to our amazing volunteer webmaster **George Potts**, who keeps things up-to-date and readily accessible, every single week—even when he's away from Kent!

But the biggest thank-you goes to all of you who made Bart and his partner feel so warmly welcomed. So often, as Bart mentions (and I can attest, having attended many, many Episcopal churches before and during seminary), visitors are nodded at, waved to or ignored entirely. Not at St Andrew's! We enjoy having new folks with us—whether upstairs in liturgy or downstairs in church school—and we pride ourselves in greeting them and making them feel included.

And so, a concluding thought: The results of the Gallup poll should trouble every Christian, since Jesus commissions us to go and make disciples in every land (Matthew 28:19). If every church made it a point to be as warmly welcoming as Bart found us, I wonder how many percentage points upward we could drive the results of the next survey about belief in God? For many, it starts with a smile and a handshake and an invitation to coffee hour.

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,
Douglas+
Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

This Week at St Andrew's

Sunday, 03 July :: 8:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost* (spoken)

Sunday, 03 July :: 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost* (with music) (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Sunday, 03 July :: 11:40 am

Social Hour (outdoors, weather permitting)

Monday, 04 July :: 9:00 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Feast of Independence Day* (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Monday, 04 July :: 8:00 pm

LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Wednesday, 06 July :: 9:00 am

Walking With the Word

Wednesday, 06 July :: 6:00 pm

Midweek Holy Eucharist (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Wednesday, 06 July :: 7:00 pm

A.A. for Women (*Zoom meeting; email us for info*)

Thursday, 07 July :: 7:00 pm

A.A. meeting

Thursday, 07 July :: 7:00 pm

Al-Anon meeting (Old Vestry Room)

Friday, 08 July :: 9:00 am

Walking With the Word

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

Details about many of these events can be found later in this issue of the
Epistle

Sunday, 31 July

Gathering of the Backpacks

Aug 5, 6 & 7

The Tag Sale!

Backpack Drive:
Help Students Get Ready for a New School
Year



Again this year, we'll be helping Kent's Department of Social Services with its back-to-school backpack drive. Every year DSS provides many families in the area brand new backpacks stuffed with school supplies and personal hygiene items, and also provides them gift cards to purchase new clothes and shoes.

Last year St Andrew's outdid itself in the school supplies department, and we've been asked to contribute again this year. If you can purchase a backpack, some school supplies, a few hygiene items or a gift card, please sign up after either service on Sunday 03 or 10 July; or call the parish office and let us know. (The sign-up will help Kent DSS keep track of what's been given and what hasn't, to avoid any gaps.)

This is a wonderful, tangible way to show our love and commitment to so many families, especially at a time when the cost of everything is going up. *Please consider giving generously.*

New Fellowship Group: Walking With the Word



Join us for Walking With the Word, a new gentle walking group at St Andrew's, led by new parishioner Laura (Lu) Saba. We will meet on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9am, at the entrance to the Parish House. We will spend 2-5 minutes with an inspirational or thought-provoking passage to set the mood, and then we will take an easy walk of 10-15 minutes, followed by a short break back at St Andrew's, before repeating this one or two more times, for a total of 30 minutes of actual walking time, plus break times — you'll be back into your day in under an hour.

You can come for just one segment, or join us for all! Together we can create a gentle walking habit that we can build upon over time. Please come in comfortable, weather appropriate attire, with sturdy walking shoes. Hat, sunscreen, and water bottle are highly encouraged!

Tag Sale 2022: It's That Time of Year Again!



The Tag Sale is back!! Things to remember:

The Sale is *Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 5, 6 and 7*

- 8 am – 4 pm on Friday (early bird buying 8-10)
- 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday
- Noon - 2 pm on Sunday

Items for sale will be under a tent on the lawn, in the Parish House and the Rectory Garage

Masks and social distancing are requested

For those *wishing to donate*:

- Donations will be accepted in the Parish Hall beginning *Wednesday, July 6th*. Donation hours are 9 am-2 pm Monday – Friday, and Saturday, 9 am - noon
- No mattresses, books, clothing, toys or computers can be accepted
- Please be considerate with donations. If you would not buy it, we cannot sell it. Items should be clean and unbroken.
- Those wishing to have *larger items picked up* should call Bob McDowell (860-488-1635) to arrange a time for pick up. *Please note*: All items must be outside for the volunteers to pick up. Items must be of a size and weight that can be lifted by not-so-young volunteers. No upholstered

items can be accepted.

Those who want to help *with pricing, cashiering, wrapping and all the other things that happen before and during the Tag Sale* should call Marel Rogers (860-364-0635). Pricing will begin on July 6th, and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in July.

The POD will be unloaded and furniture place under the tent on Wednesday evening, August 3rd, starting at 4:30 pm.

The Tag Sale offers an opportunity to experience what a marvelous community St Andrew's fosters. We look forward to working with you.

What's Your Favorite Hymn? Help us Sing It This Summer!



In the Episcopal Church, we're truly blessed with a wealth of hymns. Well over one thousand hymns appear in our three main hymnals (and over 250 more in hymnals that are, sadly, little known). With such a feast spread before us, there are many hymns we never get to sing at all—perhaps some of your personal favorites.

In addition, many of us have come to the Church from other denominations whose greatest hymns aren't in our hymnals. You might sing or hum them to yourself from time to time, but we never get to hear them.

Well, this summer we're going to try to fix this! **Each Sunday, beginning 19 June, we'll sing a favorite hymn nominated by a St Andrew's parishioner** (with a little shout-out in the bulletin to whoever suggested it). You can nominate a hymn(s) by using one of the forms now in the Narthex ... or you can email Fr Douglas directly.

So, take that trip down memory lane, remember the songs you used to love to sing in church and let us all share in your musical joy!

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

We have now resumed all of our usual pre-COVID practices except the sharing of the Common Cup; we distribute the Wine in individual portions.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services.

Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P O Box 262
Kent, CT 06757
memo: Food Bank

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's new Social Services Director, Samantha Hasenflue. In addition, it is useful for the Director to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Samantha's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna.** Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

Lections for this Week

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Year C

2 Kings 5:1-15a
Psalm 30:1-6,12-13
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11,16-20



Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-

Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;

Healing Service at 8.30,

Third Sunday

In person

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

(10.30 a.m. available live stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.

-Holy Days-

Holy Eucharist

9.00 a.m.



12 Step Meetings

Mondays
LGBTQ+ A.A. - **new**
(Parish House)

Wednesdays
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

Thursdays
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
A.A. at 7:00 pm - **new**
(Parish House)

Fridays
A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)
temporarily until First Church opens
resumed

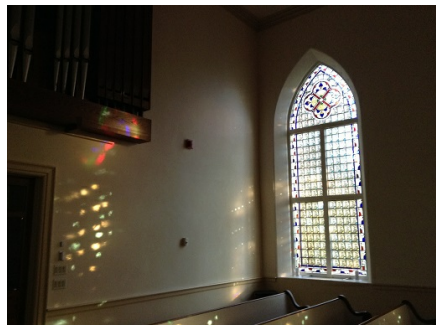


Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
Worthington**
Priest in Charge
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860-592-0171

Susan Guse
Interim Organist
& Director of Choirs

Ron Marasco, Ph.D.



Director of Education

KC Compton
Parish Administrator

Jane Farnol
Church School Leader

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin
Verger

Gloria Contreras
Sexton



St Andrew's Church
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Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm
(2 pm on Thursdays)

Visit St Andrew's website at
www.standrewskentct.org

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org

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