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It's Time to Fill the Backpacks!!

## St Andrew's Current COVID Status

**THE PARISH IS OPEN.** At its meeting on 16 May, the vestry decided, in accordance with the May guidance from the CDC and at the recommendation of the priest-in-charge and the wardens, to more fully open the parish for worship. Our *worship protocols have now been slightly updated* as follows (see Fr Douglas' message, below):

- If you are fully vaccinated, you are welcome to wear a mask and/or maintain social distancing, particularly on account of the children and potentially immunocompromised people who are present; but you are not required to do so
- If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing
- Congregational singing has now resumed, at the 10:30 service only

In addition, it is no longer necessary to sign-up in advance to attend worship, but we will record the names of those who attend, in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services, as there are parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

# From Fr Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

These are, I know, trying times for all of us. A pandemic we thought was waning is now waxing once again. The delta variant menaces us as it grows exponentially in the population. And the promise of vaccines that seemed so bright six months ago has become tarnished by mix of hesitancy, misinformation, politicization and regulatory ambiguity. The outcome of what was to have been the summer of recovery looks more uncertain with each passing week.

And still, we continue to labor in the vineyard. We gather every Sunday (and during the week) to worship, praise and commune with our Lord. We volunteer our time and talents in service to the Church and the world. And we come together to study, discuss, learn, plan and practice. The Church, as the Body of Christ, never ceases living out His mission.

The guidance and news from the CDC and other government agencies this week has been rather muddled and (to me) not all that helpful, at times. Because Kent and Litchfield County, generally, have low rates of positivity and transmission; a low incidence of disease; and a high rate of vaccination, St Andrew's does *not* need to comply with the guidance that vaccinated people wear masks while gathered indoors (unless the State issues new guidance to the contrary).

At the same time, a handful of you have mentioned to me that you'd like to wear a mask in worship or during a meeting but don't feel comfortable doing so. In addition, there are immunocompromised people in and around our parish family, *and* we are truly blessed to have young children now attending worship regularly. These are two groups of people who cannot (or cannot yet) receive the vaccine. Therefore, I want to assure everyone: **You are perfectly welcome to wear a mask at any time, whether to protect yourself and/or to protect others.** Because we are family, no questions will be asked, and no assumptions will be made.

*(As an aside: If you are eligible to receive the vaccine but have not gotten vaccinated, please prayerfully consider doing so. This is an act of Christian gratitude (for the gift of your own life) and charity (preserving the lives of others)).*

It is my prayer—literally—that we will all be able to stop talking about masks and positivity rates and variants very soon. But we are not there yet. Please know, therefore, that whatever you feel you need to do to keep yourself safe and healthy is perfectly acceptable when we are gathered together as the people of God.

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](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

*P S*: Please note that next week (only), our **Mid-week Eucharist** will be on **Tuesday night**, instead of Wednesday, so we may have as many hands as possible available to help unload the POD for the Tag Sale.

## LET'S SHOW HOW MUCH WE CARE: Help Fill Backpacks for Kent Center School Students!

Leah Pullaro, Kent's director of social services has invited St Andrew's to help fill back-to-school backpacks for KCS students who are in need. This project is a collective effort of the Kent Community Fund, St John's Church (New Milford), High Watch ... and now, St Andrew's, too!

Other groups have donated backpacks and gift cards for back-to-school clothes, so we've been asked to donate all sorts of supplies to fill up those packs:

### School Supplies

1-subject notebooks  
Colored pencils  
Markers  
Crayons  
Pens and pencils  
Colored paper  
Glue sticks  
Loose leaf paper  
1" binders  
Dividers  
Pencil cases

### Personal Hygiene Items

Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Hair accessories

**Please bring your donations to the church on Sunday, 01 August or 08 August; or drop them off in the office by Monday, 09 August.** Everything we collect will be blessed at the 10:30 Eucharist on 08 August ... and then distributed at the Kent Food Bank on Friday, 13 August.

Saint Andrew's has such a loving, caring tradition of giving to those in need: eggs, candy, hats, scarves, shoes, socks – you ask for it, we'll provide it. Let's all pitch in and send these students back to school fully prepared for a great year!

-- Fr Douglas

# Weekly Calendar

Friday, 30 July	Prayer & Meditation ( <i>Nave</i> )	5:30 pm
Saturday, 31 July	Choir rehearsal (for fall music) ( <i>Choir Room</i> )	9:30 am
Sunday, 01 August	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 10 (spoken) ( <i>in person only</i> )	8:30 am
Sunday, 01 August	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 10 (with music) ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	10:30 am
Sunday, 01 August	Coffee Hour ( <i>outdoors</i> )	11:35 am
Monday, 02 August	Bible Study: Genesis ( <i>Nave</i> )	11:00 am
Tuesday, 03 August	Mid-week Holy Eucharist ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 04 August	Confirmation Class	4:00 pm
Wednesday, 04 August	POD Unloading for the Tag Sale	4:30 pm
Wednesday, 04 August	A.A. for Women ( <i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i> )	7:00 pm
Thursday, 05 August	A.A. meeting ( <i>Parish House</i> )	7:30 am
Thursday, 05 August	Al-Anon ( <i>Old Vestry Room</i> )	7:00 pm
Friday, 06 August	Tag Sale: <i>Early Bird Admission</i> (\$10)	8:30-10:00 am
Friday, 06 August	Tag Sale	10:00 am-4:00 pm
Friday, 06 August	Prayer and Meditation ( <i>Nave</i> )	5:30 pm
Friday, 06 August	Holy Eucharist: Feast of the Transfiguration ( <i>in person and live-streamed</i> )	6:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE:  
Welcome Home Sunday, 19 September



It is always a good feeling when we re-gather after a summer season that's taken many of us in so many different directions and at different times. And this year, that celebration will be greater than ever, as we also continue to emerge from the constraints of COVID and return to living together in community once more.

**We're planning a wonderful homecoming celebration on Sunday, 19 September, at 10:30, with hospitality and plenty of time for catching up afterwards. Please save the date, and look for many more details to follow!**

## HOSPITALITY AT ST ANDREW'S: Looking for Volunteers

Following an outstanding run by Bernadette Ellegard and her crew (thank you, one and all!), we are pleased to announce that Katherine Almquist has agreed to become the new chair of the Hospitality Commission. We are so grateful for Katherine's willingness to take on this work, and we know St Andrew's tradition of wonderful parish events will continue.

Katherine is looking for volunteers to help her, beginning with our first event of the new church year: an all-parish reception following the 10:30 service on Welcome Home Sunday, 19 September. You do not need to be a chef! There are jobs available for all skill levels and interests. If you are willing to help, please contact Katherine at [kt\\_almquist@hotmail.com](mailto:kt_almquist@hotmail.com).

## NEXT WEEK : Tag Sale 2021

**The much-anticipated St Andrew's Tag Sale is only one week away!**

- The Sale is **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 6, 7 and 8**
  - 8 am - 4 pm Friday (\$10 early bird admission before 10:00)
  - 10 am - 4 pm Saturday
  - 11:30 am - 2:30 pm 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 are being accepted in the Parish Hall, **through tomorrow, Saturday, 31 July**. Donation hours are 9 am – 2 pm M-F, and Saturday 9 am – 12 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

**For those who would like to volunteer:**

- 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). Hours are flexible
- The POD will be unloaded and furniture place under the tent on Wednesday evening, August 4th, starting at 4:30 pm

## THE MISSIONS WE SUPPORT: Educare Africa



*Perhaps you would like to know more about the charities and agencies that St Andrew's helps fund? Perhaps you might even want to get involved with one of them? Well, in each edition of the E-pistle, we will be highlighting some of the charities and agencies that our parish supports via the Mission & Outreach Commission. This week, we feature Educare Africa, a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) that assists students and teachers in Cameroon so students can complete their education and begin helping their country. In addition, Educare seeks to promote peace, cross-cultural understanding, love and unity of all people.*

*This spring the parish donated funds to help veterinary student Banadzem Nicholas Ngonbi complete his studies, and we recently received [a thank you note](#) from him, which we will publish in next week's E-Pistle.*

To learn more about Educare Africa, click [here](#).

## All Recovery Meetings Are *Resuming*

As the parish has re-opened, all recovery groups (AA and Al Anon) have been invited to resume their meetings. Please check with their organizers or the parish office for details.

## Computer Help is Available



If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or KC know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

## Kent Food Bank



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

Kent Community Fund  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

\*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations

during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays from 9.00 to Noon  
*in the back of the Community House on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave outside the door.*

## Lections for this Week

### **The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Year B*

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a;

Psalm 51

Ephesians 4:1-16;

John 6:24-35



## 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.

**-Friday-**

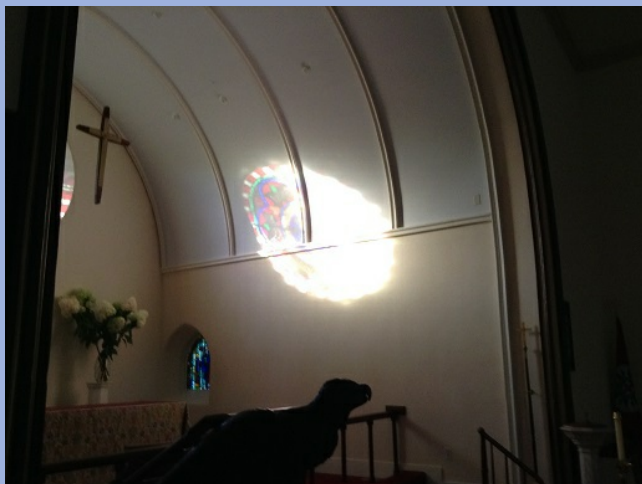
**Prayer & Meditation**

5.30 p.m.

**-Holy Days-**

**Holy Eucharist**

6.00 p.m.



# 12 Step Meetings

**Wednesdays**

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.

*Zoom meeting  
email us for info.*

**Thursdays**

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.

(Parish House)

*resumed*

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.

(Old Vestry Room)

*resumed*

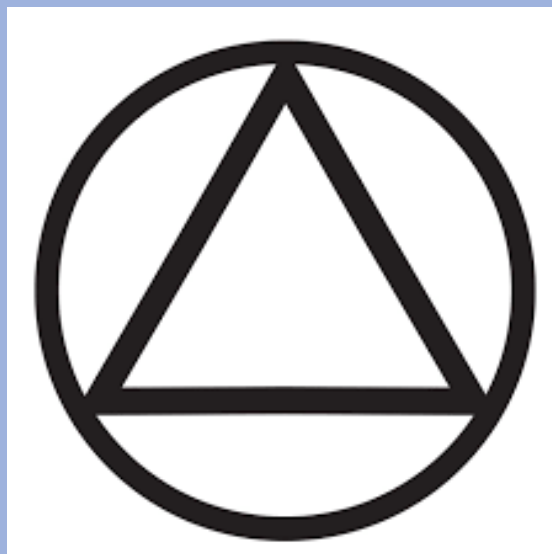
**Fridays**

A.A. at 8 p.m.

(Great Room)

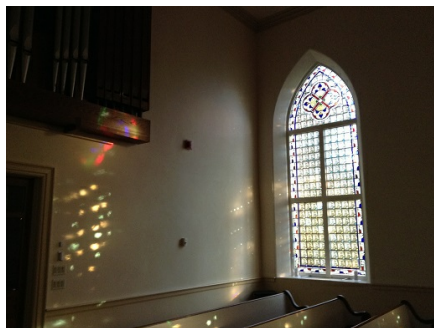
*temporarily until First Church opens*

*resumed*



# Parish Staff

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



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

**KC Compton,  
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel  
Financial Secretary**

**Bill McLaren,  
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,  
Verger**



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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](http://www.standrewskentct.org)**

**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)**

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