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The Transfiguration (Luke 9)
(Mosaic at St Catherine's Monastery, Mt Sinai)

From Katherine Almquist, Junior Warden

A few weeks ago, I got a voice mail message from Charmian Place. After a bit of phone tag, we connected, exchanged pleasantries and she got right to the point: Would I be willing to be the Junior Warden? Silence, because I truly did not know what to say. In fact, that is exactly what I said: "I don't know what to say." Charmian countered: "You could say yes." I asked for a bit of time to think it over. I had a lot of doubts, plenty of good reasons to say "no." Randy would be a tough act to follow, it would take too much time, and what if I agreed and discovered it just wasn't my cup of tea? So the thoughts went, rumble, rumble, rumble, in my head. I was making an excellent case for myself to politely refuse.

A day or so later, my dear friend Florence called. We have known each other for forty years, through various Manhattan neighborhoods, suburban homes and now rural ones. She has been a constant in my life. Florence is always positive, always happy to see you, always late and always makes you feel you are just fine, exactly the way you are. I did not ask if she was calling for a particular reason, but launched into the "Junior Warden Quandary," voicing my doubts and (secretly) hoping she would back them up and offer me a graceful exit strategy. She has always been good at that sort of thing and has helped me plot my way out of more than one sticky situation over the years. After I finished rambling, she said "Just say yes, Katherine." Not what I expected—or wanted—to hear. "Why?" I asked, a bit miffed. "Why not? Don't think of everything that can go wrong. Think of everything that will go right. You've told me how happy you are that you've gone back to the church, and that you love St. Andrew's. Just go with it. Right now, I am just so grateful for all the times I

have said "yes."

Hmmm.

She then said this: "I've called to tell you something." You know the expression "my heart dropped"? Well, mine did not drop, but it sure started to race. I had a feeling of what I was about to hear. "My health has taken a turn for the worse. The drugs aren't working, and the cancer is winning. I've got about six months."

Florence is a walking miracle. Twenty-five years ago she was diagnosed with cancer. She has battled it, it has been in remission (sometimes) but it has always lurked just beneath the surface. After the original diagnosis, she said "I'm not asking to live to be 80; I just need ten years to raise these kids." Sarah and Gordon were then 10 and 11. They are now in their 30's. I used to walk through Soho with Florence, babies in pram.

All of this flashed by me, as I tried to find my voice. Except I did not find it. I could just choke out some words. She wanted none of it. "I want to celebrate every day. I don't want a bucket list. I love where I live and what I have. I am so lucky. I have had so much love in my life. Let's have lunch and then let's plan another." We had that lunch and there were no tears. Later that day, I called Charmian and said "yes."

It will be spring soon, and Easter even sooner. Both are seasons of hope and renewal. And love. Especially love. A time to say "yes" and celebrate possibilities.

And Florence, you can bet we will have another lunch.

A Reflection from Tom Holcombe

*On the occasion of my retirement from a 56-year career of being
an organist-choirmaster*

From the beginning I was not cut out for this. My introverted temperament suited me O.K. as an organist, but not until my senior year in prep school did I get interested in the instrument and its literature—having pretty much missed the childhood training in piano technique which would have made my life's work so much easier.

Though it was natural for me as a member of an education family to go into prep school teaching, my introversion made aspects of that work not so easy for me, as well.

I worked hard at composing, but that, too, was difficult for me; I seemed to lack the gift of imagination. Arranging music for choral singing seemed to suit my talent better.

And yet, with two master's degrees in sacred music and theology, I had a long career in teaching Old and New Testament at Kent School, conducting four choral organizations there, and playing the organ in St. Joseph's Chapel; then, after a hiatus of four years, I ended up in retirement with the job at St.

Andrew's.

This has been a great blessing for me these last ten years, with fantastic people to work with, under gifted and understanding leadership. St. Andrew's (besides, of course, my family) has become my world. Thank God for the Christian Church!

But truth be told, my parting is the cause of sadness as well—parting from friends, and the vocation of my life which culminated here.

This Week at St Andrew's

Friday, 25 February	Prayer & Meditation	5:30 pm
Saturday, 26 February	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am
Sunday, 27 February	Holy Eucharist: <i>Epiphany Last (in person only)</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, 27 February	Holy Eucharist: <i>Epiphany Last (in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Sunday, 27 February	Tribute and Reception for Tom Holcombe's Retirement	11:45 am
Tuesday, 01 March	Evening Prayer	5:30 pm
Tuesday, 01 March	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 02 March	Ash Wednesday: <i>Imposition of Ashes</i>	7:30-8:30 am and 12:00-1:00 pm
Wednesday, 02 March	Ash Wednesday: <i>Liturgy of the Day (Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion)</i>	6:30 pm
Wednesday, 02 March	A.A. for Women (<i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i>)	7:00 pm
Wednesday, 02 March	A.A. Meeting (<i>Parish House</i>)	
Thursday, 03 March	Al-Anon Meeting (<i>resumes today</i>)	7:30 am
Thursday, 03 March		7:00 pm

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

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

Saturday, 05 March	Kent Singers Concert: Songs of the British Isles	3:00 pm
Sunday, 06 March	Kent Singers Concert: Songs of the British Isles	3:00 pm
Saturday, 19 March	Music in the Nave: <i>Manhattan String Quartet</i>	4:00 pm
Saturday, 26 March	"Her-Story," a cabaret celebration of famous women; performed by Suzanne Tanner, narrated by Katherine Almquist, dance by Lyra Wilder (Reception to follow)	4:00 pm
Sunday, 27 March	Open House at the newly renovated Christ Church Cathedral (Hartford)	3:00-5:00 pm

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

- Pursuant to CDC guidelines, we are asking ***everyone to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status***, because the level of community transmission in Litchfield County is **High**
- There is **congregational singing**, at the 10:30 service only

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.

Tom Holcombe's Farewell: Contribute Toward a Parish Gift



As you know, Tom Holcombe is retiring, and his last Sunday with us will be this Sunday, 27 February. Tom is planning some superb music—choral, organ and hymns—for this day, and afterwards, we will all adjourn to the Parish House for

a proper, heartfelt and bittersweet farewell.

Tom and Marty, together, have been both the backbone and the heart of St Andrew's music program for many decades, and we want to send them off with a tangible expression of our love and appreciation. We have purchased a gift from the entire parish that we'll present to them at the reception on the 27th. We want to keep the nature of the gift under wraps until then, but we know they will enjoy it. If you would like to contribute toward its cost, you may put a check in the plate (or drop it by the Parish Office) with the memo "Gift for Tom." Many thanks!!

This Tuesday: The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Returns!



After a brief hiatus, St Andrew's traditional final pre-Lenten hurrah returns this Tuesday, 01 March, at 6:00 pm in the Parish House! Please plan to join us for an evening of fellowship and good times, as well as the full Mardi Gras menu: pancakes, sausages, REAL maple syrup and butter, apple sauce, plus coffee, tea and milk. A free-will offering will be accepted.

(Evening Prayer will be read at 5:30 in the Nave, ahead of the supper. Come for one last opportunity to say "Alleluia" until Easter Day!)

Bob McDowell will be assuming the role of pancake-flipper-in-chief, and he is looking for volunteers to pitch in on the work. He is also looking for three or four flat-top electric griddles to use that night. If you can volunteer either your time and/or a griddle, please be in touch with Bob (860-488-1635 or <mailto:rmcd30@yahoo.com>).

Worship During Lent: Wednesday Evenings



This Wednesday, 02 March, is Ash Wednesday. Our principal worship on this first day of Lent will take place at **6:00 pm**, with the traditional liturgy of this day: the imposition of ashes, followed by Holy Communion. Ashes will also be offered in the Nave from 7:30 – 8:30 am and again from 12:00 – 1:00 pm.



On the remaining **Wednesday evenings during Lent**, our customary 6:00 pm Eucharist will be preceded by an opportunity for the Rite of Reconciliation (more popularly known as "Confession"; *Book of Common Prayer*, p 447), in private, at 5:00 pm; and, at 5:30 pm, by the *Way of the Cross*, a liturgy of 14 very short lessons that lead us to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and death ... and our need of the forgiveness He's already given us. (You may come for one, two or all three of these offerings. They are separate rites, and you needn't stay for all of them.)

If you have never attended a mid-week Eucharist ... or if you're interested in exploring Confession or the Way of the Cross ... Lent is an excellent time to 'try on' one of these new liturgical practices and reflect on how it draws you closer to God. Please come!

New for Lent:
A Small Group Journey Through
The Way of Love



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

Our primary Lenten offering this year will be a small group that will come together to journey through the Episcopal Church's *Way of Love*. The *Way of Love* is a set of seven very simple disciplines—shown in the graphic, above—intended to connect us with Jesus more regularly and more deeply in our daily lives. It is *not* a lot of reading or theology, but rather a call to personal reflection and experimentation (for example, trying to read the Bible for 10 minutes each day). A brief video introduction to the *Way* is available [here](#). While you can engage the *Way of Love* alone, it's an even richer spiritual journey when taken as a group: We are enriched by each others' experiences and supported by our commitment to the group.

Therefore, on **nine Tuesday evenings, beginning on 08 March**, a small group will come together at 6:00 pm in the Parish House. We'll share a simple supper and then take time to share with one another ... and discuss how to 'do' the *Way of Love* in our own lives. We'll close each evening with a brief service of Compline, and then be on our way home no later than 8:00.

This really is a low-cost, low-risk spiritual 'try-on' that stresses flexibility, do-ability and being gentle with oneself. It's ideal for anyone who's seeking to go a little deeper ... to live a little more intentionally ... to hold their faith in their heart and not just their head. And all are welcome!! If you would like to be part of St Andrew's *Way of Love* small group (or if you have any questions), please let Fr Douglas know.

**This Sunday:
Shakespeare at the Sherman Playhouse!**

Featuring
 Nathaly Abreu
 Katherine Almquist
 Matt Austin
 John Berghdahl
 Christopher Bird
 Shea Coughlin
 Noel Desiato
 Irine Dumitrascu
 Miles Everett
 Agnes Fohn
 Roger Grace
 Joe Harding
 Herman Harmelink
 Abigail Heydenburg
 Tom Heydenburg
 Andrew Joffe
 Sean Latasa
 Kyle Minor
 Emma Okell
 Lou Okell
 Christiane Olson
 Humphrey Rolleston
 Thomas Samuels
 Todd Santa Maria
 Maureen Sheehan
 Kevo Somerville
 Priscilla Squiers
 Lyra Wilder

The Sherman Players &
 Shakespeare in Sharon
 Present

An Evening of Shakespearean Monologues

Directed by: Jane Farnol

Sunday, February 27th
 @ 7pm



Tickets \$20

shermanplayers.ticketleap.com

If you happened to miss "Shakespeare and Spirits" at the Sharon Playhouse or the special performance and book signing here at St Andrew's last December, now's your chance to witness some of the Bard's greatest monologues! For one night only, Shakespeare moves into the Sherman Playhouse with some of St Andrew's very own: **Katherine Almquist, David Almquist, Herman Harmelink and Lyra Wilder** will take the stage with **Jane Farnol** directing.

If you haven't seen these wonderful, local talents (or even if you have!), consider stopping in Sherman on Sunday evening.

Let the Lent Madness Begin!

2022 LENTMADNESS.ORG

ROUND OF 32

SAINTLY 16

ELITE 8

FAITHFUL 4

THE GOLDEN HALO

Forward Movement

The illustration at the bottom shows a diverse group of saints and figures in various poses, including a man in a wheelchair, a woman with a crown, and a man with a halo. The text 'THE GOLDEN HALO' is written above them.

Lent Madness Begins February March 3rd! Want to be inspired by some saintly souls this Lent and have fun along the way? Join with thousands of Christians across denominations who have discovered the joyful online learning

community that is Lent Madness. With its unique blend of competition, education, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saints over the generations. Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament of a similar name, this online devotion pits 32 saints against one another in a single elimination bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout Lent. Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. This year we begin with St. Wenceslas and St. Stephen—get ready for the song to stick in your memory.....

St. Andrew's participants will meet on Wednesdays at 4 pm beginning March 9th. Zoom will be provided for those who prefer to stay remote. Votes will have been cast online by then and our meetings will discuss the saints we voted for or passed over. Holy Eucharist or Evening Prayer will follow at 6 pm. We could all have dinner after the service if there's more to talk about!

We have ordered Saintly Scorecards and will distribute them to those who respond to this tempting offer (marelrogers@yahoo.com). If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

www.lentmadness.org

Update from the St Andrew's Refugee Resettlement Team and an Opportunity to Welcome



The house in New Milford is move-in-ready. We anxiously await the family of six, including four children ages ten to fifteen. We expect them to be here in the next few weeks. Thank you to the Housing Team members and everyone who's been supporting us along the way.

As a way to welcome the family, Fr Douglas suggested that handwritten cards would be a great way to show the family that they are welcome and we are happy to have them here. Since the family speaks very little English, the welcome messages should probably be short and to the point. We think that the children in our parish could especially reach the children of the arriving family by creating cards with artwork and pictorial messages. Please bring your cards and creations to coffee hour at the Parish House **this coming Sunday, 27 February, or the following Sunday, 06 March**. There will be blank cards available on these Sundays if you would like to create a card on the spot. We will deliver the cards to the house.

Thank you, St Andrew's!

This Date in Our Parish History



We recently observed an important milestone in St Andrew's history. Tuesday, 22 February, marked the 214th anniversary of the meeting held to form and organize an Episcopal parish in Kent. While there had been Anglican, and then Episcopal, worship in Kent since the 1760s, it wasn't until 1808 that formal action was taken to establish a parish here. And look at us now!

(Our thanks to John Barton for pointing this out – and providing a parish newsletter from 1958 that marked the 150th anniversary of this occasion.)

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 Social Services Director. 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 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 Last Sunday After the
Epiphany**
Year C

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2



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)

Suspended until March

Fridays

A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)

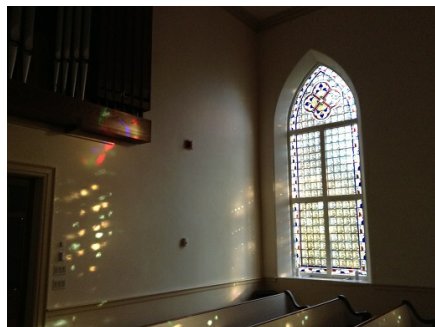
temporarily until First Church opens

resumed



Parish Staff

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**Thomas W Holcombe,
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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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