

**Warden's Corner****St. Andrew's: We Are the Future**

As we steer towards a new rector in the coming months, we will be discussing and praying about who we are as a community, looking back on where we have been, and dreaming about where we are headed. Changes in leadership encourage healthy self-reflection and a bit of introspection. At the same time it's important to look outwards and consider how we fit in the bigger scheme of churches today. Sitting in the pews every Sunday it's hard to appreciate how unique St. Andrew's is in the world of Episcopal churches and indeed in the world of mainline Protestant churches in general. Consider these points:



*Music.* At our second "contemporary" service we enjoy music from a variety of 20<sup>th</sup> century traditions, including Taize, and Iona. The music is joyful, celebratory and energetic—hey, it even leads us to clap sometimes. The music has been thoughtfully chosen, and bound into the separate "blue book." Music committee member Steve Van Ness noted recently that as far as he knows we are the only Episcopal church in Connecticut that has a second, homespun songbook. (Many other churches use *Lift Every Voice and Sing* but that is a published hymnal available around the world.)

*Liturgy.* But it's not just the music that is contemporary. Our liturgy also has contemporary touches—singing the South African creed instead of the Nicene Creed, singing the Lord's Prayer, using forms for Prayers of the People other than the six Forms in the Book of Common Prayer. At the same time we remain traditionally Episcopalian in celebrating the Eucharist.

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**Part-Time Salaried Positions****Church School Looking for a Director**

St. Andrew's is looking for a Christian Education Director to coordinate the Church School program, including the weekly Sunday School program, special events and the summer Vacation Bible School. The church is seeking a resilient, fun individual with a strong sense of faith and a love of children for this part-time, salaried position.



The church school coordinator interacts with children, parents and teachers as well as the St. Andrew's staff and rector. The coordinator helps select the curriculum, creates and tracks the church school budget, and manages supplies of arts and crafts material and other supplies. Communication is also a critical task for the church school coordinator, who must recruit parishioners to teach and assist in children's ministry, maintain contact with parents, and publicize the program. Weekly church school is the coordinator's primary focus but during the year there are special events and children's services that require planning and supervision.

Mary Merkle-Scotland, who has been the director this spring, estimates that the work requires about 15 hours a week.

To apply for this position, please send a letter of interest and resume to the parish administrator, Barb Gibbons: [barb@standrewsmadison.org](mailto:barb@standrewsmadison.org).

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*Two services, two styles.* What is especially unique, and a point that is easy to overlook, is that every Sunday we also have a traditional service. Nothing makes a more powerful statement about St. Andrew's: we celebrate diversity. There is room in our midst for both traditional Episcopalians as well as Episcopalians that like to innovate. Theologian Marcus Borg identifies these two groups as worshippers who follow the "earlier," traditional way of being a Christian, or those who prefer the "emerging" way.

*Theological Diversity.* This celebration of diversity at St. Andrew's goes beyond liturgy style. It spills over into *theology* as well. It's impossible to know for sure but St. Andrew's seems to be a comfortable home for both "conservative" and "progressive" Christians and all stripes in between. Parish members have differing views on all today's hot topics—same sex marriage, ordination of women, abortion and so forth—but that does not prevent them from worshiping side by side on Sunday.

Contemporary music and prayer, a mix of traditional and contemporary liturgy styles, a heterogeneous mix of theological beliefs—they all add up to something unique and special. But from my perspective there is something more fundamental and profound going on here at St. Andrew's. *We are modeling the church of the future.* Observers of today's culture and society tell us that today's younger, "millennial" generation are often unchurched but still longing for a spiritual connection. They are looking for a spiritual home that is open not dogmatic, a home that offers an uplifting, joyful worship experience, a place that is welcoming and not judgmental. A place like St. Andrew's!

It has taken a lot of work to get us to this good place where we are today. I love the words Fr. Steve offered in his letter: "we have encountered an array of joys, sorrows and challenges that have deepened our faith and brought us closer as a community." The task before us now is to share our story, tell the Madison community and our Episcopalian brethren everywhere what a special place St. Andrew's is. And it's a great opportunity for an Episcopal priest to serve as our next rector, and help us tell that story.



With a hand from Joe Burbela Fr. Steve blesses the St. Andrew's Community Garden. May the Lord make His face (and the sun) shine upon it!



At its May gathering members of the Men's Group bade farewell to Fr. Steve and caught the moment with a selfie. We men will miss you, Steve!