



SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford

1382 Middletown Avenue, P. O. Box 96, Northford, CT 06472

January 10, 2021
ANNUAL MEETING

My dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Andrew's,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for allowing me the privilege and opportunity to serve St. Andrew's as Senior Warden for the past year. And oh, my, what a strange year it has been! We had to suspend in-church services just prior to Holy Week due to the COVID pandemic. We are very fortunate to continue virtual services via Zoom. We hope to be back "in church" sometime in 2021, but we need to proceed cautiously, in order to do what is best for the health well-being our parishioners.

In March of 2020 St. Andrew's welcomed the Community Dining Room (CDR) satellite Homebound Meals home delivery program. The CDR continues to operate from our kitchen and parish hall once a week, providing meals to homebound folks in need within our community. This has been a wonderful addition to our food ministries, joining our efforts with Food Pantry of North Branford, located on the lower level of St. Andrew's parish hall, our support of North Branford Basket Share at Thanksgiving, as well as our support of St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen and Amazing Grace food pantry in Middletown.

St. Andrew's once again, in cooperation with the Northford Congregation Church, and in support of our Covenant To Care For Children program, provided Back To School backpacks to some local children of local families in need. Monetary donations were made to Amazing Grace food pantry as well as Food Pantry of North Branford.

In September we welcomed Vi Link to our MACM Network. Vi attends Yale Divinity School, and has been a great addition in not only sharing worship and sermons with us, she is instrumental in providing all the technical expertise in our virtual services. And speaking of our virtual services, our own organist, Ray Bishop, stepped up and provides exceptional music, preludes and postludes, for our virtual church services.

St. Andrew's typically holds a number of fundraisers during the year, which help pay for our community outreach programs and well as operating expenses. Due to the COVID pandemic, we were unable to do so this year. The Rhubarb Fest in Spring; Ice Cream Socials during the summer months; the Harvest Supper in Fall; the Angel Tree during Advent are all some of the events which we were unable to hold. Also, the clothing donation shed was closed for most of the year due to the pandemic, so St. Andrew's lost the usual funds received, as well as the suspension of yoga classes held in the parish hall, also resulting in loss of donations.

Our annual stewardship donations have been dwindling year to year. And with restrictions on holding our fundraisers this year, we have less money available for community outreach, maintenance and upkeep of our church facilities and operating expenses. I respectfully ask you again to give some serious thought to your annual pledge to St. Andrew's. Increase your pledge if you can. If you haven't done so already, please pledge generously this year. Contact me for a form if you need one. Donations in lieu of our fundraisers are also greatly appreciated.

What's new for 2021 is that the MACM Network is moving forward with its plan to change the clergy model. As a reminder, the plan is for each church to have a quarter-time priest. The priests will continue to rotate among all 3 churches, but will spend most time, and be responsible for, their "home" church. Rev. Jim Bradley will be retiring effective 1/15/2021. Our expectation is that Rev. Bryan Spinks will be called to St. Andrew's.

Thank you!
Have a blessed 2021,

Nancy Monde, Senior Warden, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
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ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 AT NOON VIA ZOOM. ALL ARE ENCOURAGED AND WELCOME TO JOIN IN THE MEETING. PLEASE PROVIDE ME WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY. A LINK WILL BE SENT TO YOU PRIOR TO THE MEETING. IF YOU WISH TO JOIN VIA PHONE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND I WILL CALL YOU WITH THE CALL-IN NUMBER.