

# THE COMPANION

...of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
Waterford, Michigan

## September 2023

To my sisters and brothers in Christ,

As I write this, we are approaching the end of August, and as many would say, the end of summer. Soon the clouds will hang heavily, the temperatures will cool, the leaves will turn color, and we will think about changing our wardrobes to something that will keep us warmer. This is a part of the cycle of the seasons in Michigan. We ask each other what our favorite season is. Mine is autumn...or maybe summer...spring is a good time, too. But definitely not Michigan winter! Obviously, there is no permanent perfect time in Michigan that everyone agrees on and perhaps that's God's way of letting us be grateful for the beautiful changes of the seasons.

We also compare our life cycle to the seasonal cycles of the year. Spring is a time of birth and of re-birth. Summer is a time of growth. Autumn is the time of maturity. And winter is preparation for our earthly end and the beginning of a new cycle. Following our earthly end, we look forward to a new spring...a re-birth into God's heavenly kingdom. And so the cycle continues as it has from the beginning of time.

God's creation...what a wonder! When I think about all that God has made from the microscopic creatures that live in the soil to the vast expanse of the universe, I'm in awe. And when I realize that I'm only one of billions of individuals who live on this planet, it's a real shocker! In terms of geographical size and population and the universe, it's amazing how insignificant we can feel.

Yet, God made each one of us...God knows each one of us...God loves and cares for each one of us no matter how insignificant we think we are. God has given each one of us purpose for living even if we question what that purpose may be. Some of us may fit into a "niche" in life and others don't have a clue...but God knows his purpose for everyone. Not everyone has a readily identifiable talent or gift, but that doesn't make us any less of a valuable part of our world. Many of us possess hidden assets that we may not be aware of but that we use on a regular basis. Sometimes God works in unusual ways!

The point of all of this is that we are God's beloved, his chosen, otherwise we wouldn't be here. Our purpose is part of God's plan and we are not insignificant in God's eyes. As we travel through the cycles of our lives, we learn, gain experience, gather wisdom, and...most importantly...we learn how to love. Love knows no season..."love makes the world go round."

Go in peace,  
Mother Sharon+

# Senior Warden's Update

*What happens when you try to please all the people all the time? Actually, it can't happen, so everything ends up failing, and lots of people become very upset. The solution is to either give up and go home, or minimize the damage and move Forward.*

*St. Andrew's is in a time of transition, and change is inevitable. A serious self examination is going to be required so we, as a parish, can determine how we see ourselves, and how we want other people to see us. We have secured an interim priest to help guide us through this process. She is not new to parish work and her experience means she does not need a long time to come up to speed with our family.*

*The next couple of months will see meetings with Ellen Ekevag, the commissioning of the Transition Committee, and the starting of meetings upon meetings upon meetings to discuss and deliberate the answers to the questions of who we are and where we see ourselves in the future, as well as a path to take us there will be discussed at length.*

*Increasing our population is a goal. Broadening our age range is another. What can we do to move toward those goals? Thanks to a dedicated group we have an established church school program. Outreach is another starting place. We already have a presence with the Chamber of Commerce, and the township office is quite aware of what we are doing. It is also necessary to involve local organizations. Oakland Camera Club has been quite happy having a comfortable meeting place. Forest Brook Home Owners Association also holds there meetings here. As soon ast he pavilion is closer to completion, we will get on the agenda for the Waterford Board of Education to discuss how they would like to take advantage of the resource.*

*Raising our visibility is also happening with a new round of t-shirts and hoodies with our name emblazoned in large print. Please wear them proudly. We had a successful run at the concerts in the park, and in September, we will be having a second Blessing of the Animals event. Our website has had increased traffic since the beginning of the year and two new contacts have been attending services because they found us on line.*

*More ideas for ways to contact those who are not yet members to think of coming here and seeing our smiling faces is desired. Don't be afraid to ask people to come for a visit. Ideas for the sign out front providing a clever enticement is also helpful. This is an everybody job.*

*—Jack Chaney, Senior Warden*

# Transition Team Member Search

## Tasks

- Organize Church Assessment Tool Survey
- Conduct Small Group Meetings
- Prepare the Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) Portfolio
- Work on website updates with Vestry
- Write Parish Profile

## Members

- Interpersonal skills
- Leadership skills
- Communication skills
- Listening skills
- Reporting skills

## Fill out the questionnaire

- Name
- Why I want to be on the committee
- What do I bring to the group
- What are your interests and concerns

## Process will take about 18 months

- The work is continuous, not just once a month for an hour.
- Initial startup will require frequent meetings, potentially weekly.
- Additional work between meetings will be required.
- Meetings will be closed to team members only.
- Meetings will be in person.
- Additional meetings with small groups (general membership).

## Back Benching is discouraged.

- Fully active participation is necessary by all members.
- All views need to be expressed and discussed.
- Be open to other ideas without shutting down.

## Constant communication (over communicate).

- Ellen Ekevag's number will probably be on everybody's speed dial.
- Vestry will be kept informed of all decisions.
- Status of Transition Team and not detail of what is being discussed.
- Some information must remain confidential and is only for Transition Team and Vestry

This process is a marathon and not a sprint!

# News From Our Waterford Chamber of Commerce

\*ANNUAL LONGEST BREAKFAST TABLE Saturday, September 9th: 8:30am—11:00am Lifepoint Christian Church proudly hosts the Annual Longest Breakfast Table in Waterford on September 9th. This outdoor event allows the community to connect with our local police and firefighters, thank them for their service, and raise money for their worthwhile benevolence funds. We encourage our local businesses and residents to partner with us, supporting these selfless first responders by sponsoring this event. Here is an opportunity to meaningfully give back to the community and honor those who faithfully serve us

\*Through our membership, we are major supporters of Waterford Youth Assistance, an organization which offers a “hand up” to the youth, who through no fault of their own are in difficult living situations. In fact, in September, we will be hearing from them during a Sunday service. We also participate in their biggest fundraiser, gathering new and gently used shoes. This runs September through Mid-November. They sell the shoes to a world wide organization who then distribute the shoes to the poor in third world countries. Imagine how far your donation reaches!

—Lois Vestuto

# From The Back Pew

Them times, they are a changin'.

As we head into the fall and return to some normalcy, we are looking forward to upgrading our presence on our corner with a new pavilion. Sunday school and choir are resuming, and the search for the perfect Pastor will soon begin. By the way, nomination forms are still available on our website for the transition committee on the "About Us" page.

We encourage everyone at the 8 and 10 am services to get involved. Volunteering our time and talents to this Body of Christ by teaching Sunday School, or, proclaiming God's Word as a Lector. Lois would love to have you in the Sunday 10am and hand-bell choirs. Ushers are always needed and back-ups for the production of ZOOM services are being sought. I'm not ready to quit electronic sign and website maintenance, but it has been suggested that I find back-up parishioners for those important communication platforms just in case.

Of course, my first installment in the Companion mentioned volunteer burnout. This will always be a factor with the size and age of our congregation. That being said, we are told by our Master to evangelize. Pastor Sharon talked about that in a recent sermon. I know I ain't no Billy Graham, so I feel the need to spread the good news using whatever talents I have and using all the resources our Father gave me. As the new guy, I recognize many of you have served and served and served throughout the decades at St. Andrew's Waterford. I wish to thank you all for leaving us a legacy and a wonderful place to worship, serve, and build upon to keep our parish providing for this Episcopal community.

And don't forget, our fireside chats are on Fridays 8-11pm through September. (Weather permitting). I've been asked what the subjects are we are chatting about. My response is always, "Whatever you wish to talk about". It's simply a way to get to know one another better in an informal setting and eat smores. The public is invited. Bring a cooler and a chair.

—Greg Walter



***Saturday, Sept. 30 11am—1 pm***  
***on St. Andrew's lawn (or maybe in the new pavilion)***

***Critters of all kinds are welcome!***  
***If your pet travels by means other than feet, fins, or feathers, a special area will be a designated for them.***

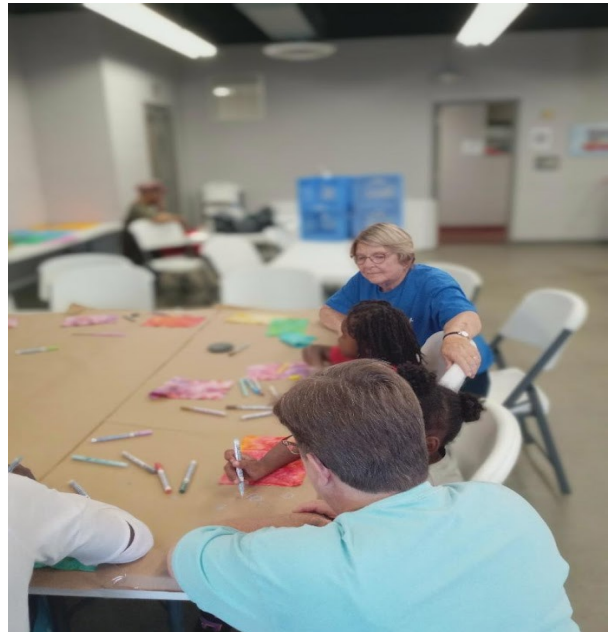
***Your donations of pet food and supplies will be greatly appreciated. Donations will be blessed and given to the local animal shelter.***



# Volunteer News

One of St. Andrew's volunteer activities is providing lunch for the Vacation Bible School at Cross Roads Church in Detroit. On Wednesday, July 19, 2023, five folks from St Andrew's (Donna Andrzejewski, Worley Smith, Rob & Judy Stevens, Ellen Zeisloft) took lunch to Cross Roads. We served lunch and helped with a fabric painting activity. We served about 85 meals to youngsters and adults.

—Worley Smith



## Mother Sharon Wants To Know...

You might say that I'm nosey (and I probably am), but I'd like to get to know everyone much better. So, here's a bunch of questions I'd like you to answer in person. Remember, things said to the priest as confidential can't be used as criminal evidence.

Being much less than a millionaire, I'd like to know of a good restaurant with good food and atmosphere. And what restaurant should I stay away from?

Is there a downtown Waterford?

What brought you originally to St. Andrew's? (Not the vehicle you drove.)

What is your favorite season of the year and why?

What is a deep, dark secret that you haven't told anyone? (Ha, ha)

Have you ever jumped out of a perfectly functioning airplane?(while it was flying)

What do you love to do?

I know you are already forming your answers to these questions, so please share them with me. On Mondays and Thursdays you can find me in my office. Please stop in and visit!



# Sunday Assistance 10am Service

## Sunday, September 3rd

*Ushers: Dianne Hammond, Scott Slocum*

*Readers: John Ferris Jr., Carin Shaughnessy, Francine Klein*

## Sunday, September 10th

*Ushers: John Ferris Sr., Midge Ferris*

*Readers: Carole Wollard, Lois Vestuto, Greg Walter*

## Sunday, September 17th

*Ushers: Justice Moor, Carole Wollard*

*Readers: Gail Fleming, Pat Kent, Char Wall*

## Sunday, September 24th

*Ushers: Donna Andrzejewski, John Ferris Jr.*

*Readers: Pam Morrison, John Ferris Jr., Carin Shaughnessy*

# Pawprints Left By Gracie Anne

Hi Everyone,

I hear people talking about the dog days of summer, but I'm really confused about it. It seems like there should be lots of parties and dog treats and fun things for us to do. But so far, none of that has happened, so I guess I'll just wait and see.

Mom has been busy in the office and there have been oh so many people coming in that I need to bark at. I have to sound my loud obnoxious alarm when I first see them in the parking lot and then I just do my regular annoying bark when they come inside. Mom doesn't like it when I jump on people and I've been trying my best not to do that. I think I'm getting a lot better, but I guess I still have some work to do on that behavior.

Please come in to say "Hi" to me; I love to meet people! Oh yeah, it might be nice to say "Hi" to Mom, too, while you're here!

Barkingly yours,



*Gracie Anne*



# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost <u>Happy Birthday</u> Suzanne Foster, Jim Richardson, Ken Sasse	4 AA Meeting 7pm	5 <u>Happy Anniversary</u> Jack&Joelle Chaney	6 Choir Practice 7pm	7 Yoga 3:30pm	8	9 Longest Breakfast Table 8:30-11AM at Firestation
10 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Church School Annual Potluck	11 AA Meeting 7pm	12 Grief Support 6pm	13 <u>Happy Birthday</u> Francine Klein Clergy Gathering Mother Sharon gone Choir Practice 7pm	14 <u>Happy Anniversary</u> Bill&Sue Foster Yoga 3:30pm	15 <u>Happy Anniversary</u> Rob&Judy Stevens	16
17 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Handbell Practice	18 AA Meeting 7pm	19 Vestry Mtg 7pm Camera Club 7pm	20 Choir Practice 7pm	21 Yoga 3:30pm	22 <u>Happy Birthday</u> Richard Contreras	23 <u>Happy Birthday</u> Jessica Seaton
24 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Handbell Practice	25 <u>Happy Birthday</u> Peggy Hartke Worship Comm Noon—zoom AA Meeting 7pm	26	27 <u>Happy Birthday</u> Merelyn Mallett <u>Happy Anniversary</u> Kevin&Emily Hack Choir Practice 7pm	28 Yoga 3:30pm	29	30 Blessing of the Animals 1PM

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