ST. ANDREW'S
DENVER. COLORADO

Fall 2026

# Fall Journal



## Here for Good - Fr. Boyd Evans

St. Andrew's began a few blocks from its current location as Trinity Memorial Chapel in 1874. Over the past century and a half, St. Andrew's has been known for its dedication to worship in the ancient tradition, excellence in sacred music, and a commitment to outreach to those in need. Through these ministries, we have impacted thousands of lives since our founding. Thanks to the faith, generosity, and dedicated service of those who came before us, we are proud to remain a vibrant part of downtown Denver and excited about the future ahead.

As a church, we find ourselves at a crossroads, amid extreme political polarization in which our leaders have pitted us against one another for their own gain, amid an increasingly alarming climate crisis, reversals in the social and economic progress made in prior decades, and concerns about the dehumanizing effects of artificial intelligence. It is "for such a time as this," and in such a moment, that we have been called to bring the news of God's compassion and love to a world that hungers for such grace. The eternal and steadfast nature of our liturgical traditions is the solid rock we can cling to when we are buffeted by the waves of a chaotic world.

Our theme for the 2027 stewardship campaign, "Here for Good," speaks to the enduring presence St. Andrew's has had in downtown Denver for more than 150 years and to our determination to make a difference for our immediate

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neighbors and to the broader world for the next 150 years and beyond. Our greatest resource at St. Andrew's remains our people, the friendship and love we so generously share, and our passion for bringing God's Kingdom of Peace and Joy ever closer to the world we live in.

There are many ways that you can help ensure that St. Andrew's continues to be a beacon of hope for so many in Denver and the surrounding areas. Each of us is made in God's image, and we all have gifts to share for our community's well-being. As we combine our individual gifts of time, skills, joys, passions, and prosperity, we realize our shared treasure is more splendid than any one of us alone. As you pray about your offering for 2027, consider the ways you are called to share your joy through participation in our ministries, by making a financial contribution that reflects your faith and trust in our loving God, and how together, we can shine the light of peace, hope, and delight in the world around us.



*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.*

-BCP, 101

God bless and keep the faith! Fr. Boyd+



Father Boyd Evans presiding over the marriage of David and Jesús.




Mike Orr, speaking at our annual all-parish retreat.

HERE FOR GOOD

## *Stewardship Reflection*

BY MARGARET FLINT,
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CHAIR

People sometimes ask me why I do this. They also thank me for taking on the stewardship campaign, with a smile. I understand. There is plenty of work: organizing, writing, designing, planning, meeting deadlines, tracking pledges, and worrying about whether we will reach our goal. But this work also gives me a clear window into the heart of generosity at St. Andrew's. Through that window, I see something that keeps drawing me back.

I see people showing up. People preparing meals, tending the building, making music, welcoming strangers,

and caring for one another. I see gifts offered with joy and gifts offered through uncertainty. I see people returning, year after year, to the work of stewardship because, I think, they see what I see: a place worth sustaining, and a community whose goodness reaches beyond its walls.

Our theme, “Here for Good,” gives words to that conviction. We are here with a purpose. We are here to share God’s love. And we are here for the long unfolding of a story that began before us and will continue after us. When I think about St. Andrew’s being rooted in this place for 150 years, I find myself wondering about the people who came before. When a priest stood in this pulpit in 1926, did he spare a passing thought for the congregation of 2026? Could he have imagined us, with our joys, struggles, and questions? Did someone sitting in these pews wonder whether their gift would help keep this church open for people they would never meet? We are those people. We are the future someone else helped make possible.

One day, that thought opened into another: What future are we helping make possible now? Sometimes I wonder whether the Holy Spirit slips these grand ideas into the middle of our ordinary tasks, somewhere between a committee meeting and a spreadsheet.

Who will kneel in silent prayer in these pews in 2126? Who will gather in the undercroft for coffee and conversation? What will our neighborhood look like? What challenges will Denver face, and where will the grace of the Holy Spirit be most needed? What will become of our parking lot!?

I cannot picture every detail. But I can imagine a congregation still gathering, still praying, still finding ways to show up for each other and for the city. I believe we will be here.

That is why I do this.

And that is why your presence matters now. You are the living legacy of St. Andrew’s, carrying forward what others entrusted to us. Through your generosity, this ground remains a place where the Holy Spirit can move: through worship, through friendship, through care for our building, and out into our neighborhood and Denver. Our stewardship asks us to tend that possibility together, with gratitude for what we have received and hope for those still to come.

May they find a church ready to welcome them, because we were here, and we were here for good.

**Left to right**: filling in mulch with the garden guild; the undercroft floor midway through renovation; the newly painted and newly floored undercroft, ready to be used as a vibrant community space!













**2026 Confirmations:** St. Andrew's welcomed 4 new Confirmands into the faith in Spring of 2026. The ceremony was held at St. John's Cathedral, with Deacon Wib Garfield taking part in the liturgy. This is always one of the most joyous moments of the Church year!



**Feeding Others:** A group of parishioners, led primarily by several of our youth, made 50 sack lunches for our unhoused neighbors.



# *Becoming Beloved Community, Welcoming our Neighbors*




KATHY EVANS,
BELOVED COMMUNITY

This past year at St. Andrew's has been a season of growth. Looking back, it is easy to see where God has been moving among us as we've opened our doors and our hearts to the neighborhood, breaking down the walls between the church and the world around us.

Those that participated in Beloved Community saw God moving through the launch of Holy Donuts, a wonderful venture where we truly fed both human souls and animals. Gathering together to share great donuts, hot coffee, laughter, and fellowship brought a tangible warmth to our church grounds. It reminded me that spiritual nourishment often goes hand-in-hand with hospitality and care for all of God's creation.

Our Beloved Community felt that same warmth during our Christmas caroling and chili night. Coming together to sing carols with our neighbors and back to the church to share a hot bowl of chili began a new holiday tradition. It was a powerful moment of connection that bound our generations together and broadcasted the joy of Christmas to our surrounding community including our unhoused neighbors in Benedict Fountain Park.

Perhaps the most exciting seed planted this year has been the noticeable increase of younger adults wanting to participate in Beloved Community. We are witnessing a fresh wave of energy as younger faces lean into our community life, bringing new perspectives, questions, and a deep desire for authentic spiritual connection. God is clearly creating something new in our midst, drawing people who are hungry for a friendly, meaningful, and supportive church home.

As we look toward the future, the upcoming Beloved Community Block Party is a perfect bridge into our next chapter. The call I am hearing for our Beloved Community is one of joyful invitation. I see a future where St. Andrew's becomes a gatherings place for our neighborhood where people know they are welcome before they even step through our beautiful red door.

Over the next year, our venture must be to nurture these new seeds. We need to intentionally cultivate spaces where our growing population can lead,

Images from Beloved Community events. From top to bottom: **1)** Ministry Fair, **2)** and **3)** offering blessings during "Holy Donuts".
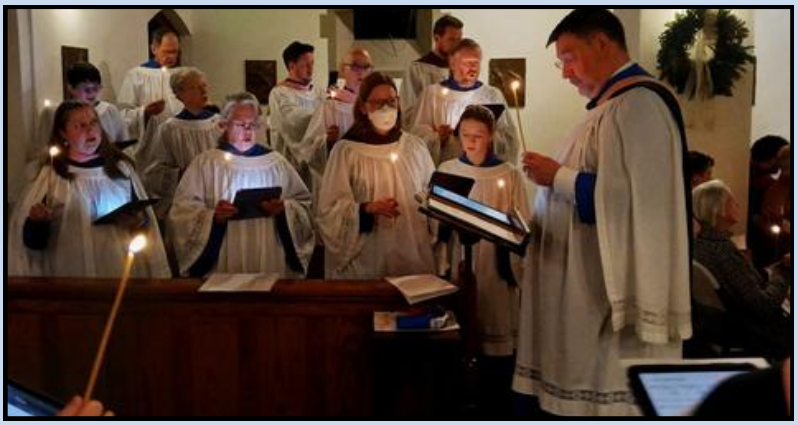






question, and belong. We are being called to take the spirit of Holy Donuts and turn our future activities into a year-round posture of service and presence.

My hope is that St. Andrew's will continue to discern where our Beloved Community is leading us into our neighborhood, and respond with the same love, creativity, and joy that defined 2025. God is already on the move and the horizon looks incredibly bright.

Amen.

## *The Choir as Ministers*

TIMOTHY KRUEGER - CHOIRMASTER



In many Protestant denominations the music ministry is seen as adding the occasional piece of worshipful entertainment, to set an atmosphere, to provide an outlet for musically-inclined congregants, etc. In the typical liturgical church, however, the choir is seen as a co-minister of the liturgy, along with clergy, acolytes, and all others who take part.

The liturgy is like a thread, a narrative strand, that is held by all participants simultaneously (including the congregation), with certain participants doing the "heavy lifting" at any particular moment. Hence, when the celebrant sings a bidding and all sing a response, it is a conversation where both parties are necessary; when the altar is being prepared for the consecration of the elements, an anthem is sung to signify the importance of what is about to come; when the elements are being presented, along with the people's offerings, the congregation sings an Offertory Hymn; when the celebrant fractures the host in the eucharistic prayer, the choir responds to the action with an appropriate fraction anthem that adds emotional depth and meaning to the sacramental moment.

All this is to say, it's not just that "We need some music to fill this silence here," or, "Isn't it nice that the choir has offered to sing a song for us here." Each piece of music serves a liturgical function; each utterance, spoken or sung, has a purpose in the overall narrative of the service. This denotation of function is why we Episcopalians use such nerdy words, like "Gradual" and "Sequence" and "Proper Preface." This aspect of being a co-minister is historically why a choir is vested -- to signify the sacramental part it plays in that conversation. It is this fact that makes each and every choral service at St. Andrew's a special task for me -- the enactment of a critical and sacramental role, not just the provision of entertainment.

This makes the beauty and propriety of the music especially important -- not just for pride or enjoyment; but because we offer our very best in the worship of our God. We use gilded chalices to administer the sacrament (even though a paper cup would be just as efficacious) because the vessel contains what we believe to be the consubstantiated blood of Christ. Likewise, we strive to make the music as professional and beautiful as possible, because it brings us before the very throne of the Divine.

**A Place of Inclusion:** images from Pride Month at St. Andrew's. We have always strived to be a voice of welcome and inclusion.









**So Much Music:** images from some of our many Friends of Music concerts, and our Community Concert Series.







# *Learning to Share Our Faith*

BY SCOTT COULTER - MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION AND FORMATION

"Why are you still a Christian?"
"Actually, I converted into the faith."
"Wait, you what? You converted into Christianity?!"
"Mm-hmm."
These are the opening lines of many conversations I've had since joining the staff of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Conversations with fellow musicians, fans of my band, and other folks who have been completely turned away from the faith by what they see in the media. After the somewhat awkward, timid openings, many of these interactions have blossomed into sincere and expansive discussions of theology, spirituality, God, and sacred ritual. Over and over, I have encountered people who loved Jesus, but were traumatized by the church; people who felt a sincere closeness with God, but walked away scarred by the shame and guilt laid on them by religious leaders.

This kind of open, loving, non-exclusive faith is nothing new for us here at St. Andrew's. As one of our parishioners said during a recent formation series exploring spiritual trauma, "we are a church of refugees" – refugees from spiritual abuse, religious trauma, messages of shame and exclusion and judgment. We are a place where people have found real and whole welcome. That such an idea seems contrary to the Christian faith in these times is a tragedy, a testament to how badly we have shepherded Jesus' message of love, reconciliation, basic goodness and kinship. And when I say "we", I do mean "we".

Our Episcopal faith is a beautiful home, and we are becoming a voice of love amidst the tide of bad religious actors. But we have so much farther to go. Though we have become more comfortable sharing our faith, we can remain reticent messengers. I include myself in that statement. Sharply aware of the ugly history of colonialism, and the old model of "saving souls" by "collecting conversions", I have no desire to convert people to the "true faith", as if my Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, or unaffiliated siblings are destined for eternal torment unless they sign on the dotted line. I don't believe that. I don't believe the Kingdom of Heaven is a gated community with a "belief test" before one can gain entry. Love is the entry, and it is universal.

And yet, I do believe Jesus transformed my life. I do believe that Jesus is a good teacher, and a good guide into the spiritual life. We all do – otherwise, we wouldn't come together each Sunday in worship. And that conviction, that story, is worth sharing. Not forcefully, but joyfully. We don't need to hold a plane full of our piers hostage to hear our testimony (cringe!), but we can and we should share our faith with others. We can share the faith that has transformed us – our shared faith of openness, love, compassion, equality, boundless forgiveness, and inclusion. Because that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So let us shed the fear, the shame and reticence that can stop us from sharing this Pearl with others. We have good news, and it's worth sharing!
Amen.

**Top to Bottom:** 1) the Altar of Repose during Holy Week, 2) joyful conversation in coffee hour, and 3) another photo from the lunch-making ministry.







# *Senior Warden's Corner*

FROM MIKE OGBORN



The theme for the 2027 Stewardship Journey entitled "Here for Good" is so appropriate for our Parish. It not only recognizes our past but also our future. Over the many years of our existence, we have faced many challenges, including a devastating fire, a pandemic, infrastructure needs, and many others. In each situation, together we have risen to meet those challenges and others, remaining as a steadfast community for the good of our members, our neighbors, and our partners.

The theme also portrays our commitment to be here for the future. We have a vibrant, active, and welcoming community composed of people who are inclusive, and loving, dedicated to sharing God's message of love, compassion, and support. We accomplish this in so many ways, including an active Social Justice Ministry, our Mission & Outreach Ministry, our Blessed Community outreach, and in so many other ways.

In short, throughout over 150 years or our existence as an Episcopal church, we have offered and provided a sanctuary in the City, watched the Tree of Life grow, and provided succor and support for those in need. Because of our dedication to follow the commandment of love thy neighbor as thyself, we will be here into the future – hence the theme of "Here for Good."

Stewardship is important to ensure this Parish continues to meet our mission and vision. This year's Stewardship Journey provides us with an opportunity to do that. Stewardship consists of offering our gifts, be they treasure, time or talent, to St. Andrew's. During this time of your discerning what gifts you can offer, please prayerfully consider your offering to help support us by making a financial contribution and through volunteering your time and talents to any of our ministries, events, and other activities.

As it says in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

Blessings,
Mike Ogborn
Senior Warden



A meeting of Episcopalians for Justice and Mercy, an emerging multi-parish network for advocacy.



Behind the scenes during the filming of our parish profile video.



Exploring Thomas Merton's biography during "Meeting the Mystics".

# *An Invitation... or Maybe a Homework Assignment*

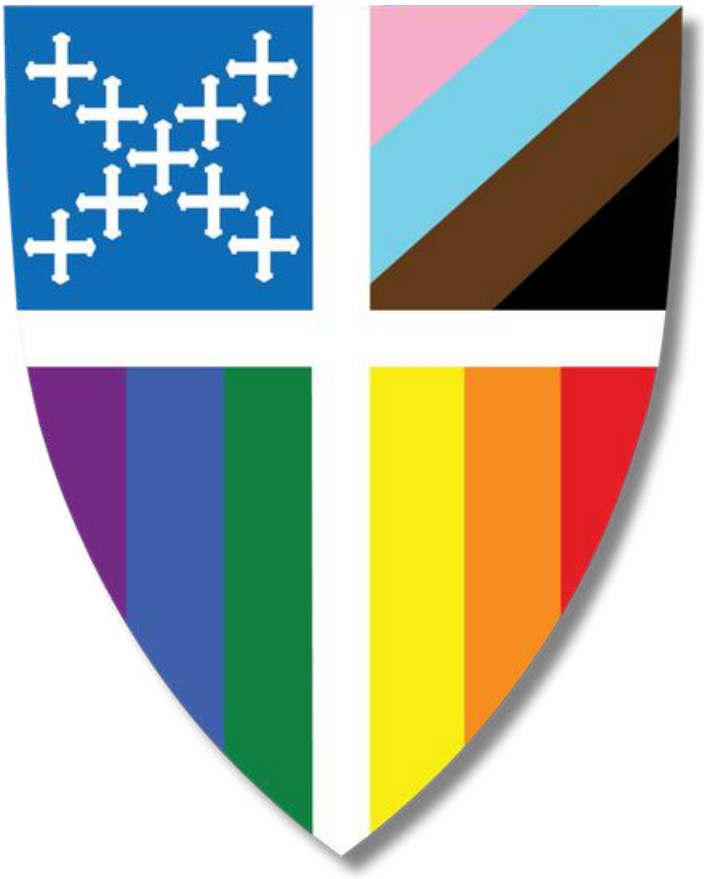
A blank page. That's what we'll leave you with at the end of this Fall Journal. A blank page for *you* to add your thoughts, your hopes, and what it is *you* love about St. Andrew's. And here's the "homework" - share this journal, and share *your* thoughts, with someone outside of our parish. AND SHARE THEM WITH US, TOO! Use the form below to share your St. Andrew's stories so we can share them with others!

SHARE YOUR ST. ANDREW'S STORY IN THE FORM BELOW



# ST. ANDREW'S
## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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