



Five Loaves. Two Small Fish. Enough for a Multitude.

Volume 8, Issue 1 Published 10 times a year

December 2016/January 2017

Alison Brown: Remembering...Why and Why Not

I've been casting a lot of backward glances lately. Passing the burned-out shell of what was once the Friendship House has me remembering all the ways that little farmhouse welcomed the events in our communal life. I'm thinking of comforting Women's Spiritual Formation Group meetings, spirited Youth Group events, stimulating EfM discussions, contemplative prayer gatherings, exciting Christmas pageant costume changes and makeup applications, nervous fashion show fittings, and joyous VBS stations. That sacred place held so many moments, full of laughter, tears, and fragile grace, that made up daily life for our church family. And I'm reminded of all the saints, some that we see every Sunday and some separated from us, who shared those rooms and our hearts.

So, it was in a nostalgic frame of mind that I met with Alison Brown, a St. Andrew's family member who describes herself as a "low-key person" not inclined to "climb Everest". However, Alison's story intersects with some of the more momentous events in our history, proving that our collective past is composed of individual lives.



Alison was born and grew up in northwest London. She was nine years old when World War II started. When I asked her about her memories of that time, Alison responded with characteristic British understatement, that it was "noisy". She remembers going to school bomb shelters, but her family also had a shelter in their house. At one point, most of the block on which her family home was located was damaged by high explosives and incendiary bombs. As a child, Alison remembers that it was "frightening but exciting and fun." When London became too dangerous, Alison was sent to live with one of her

mother's cousins in the Costwolds and then lived with her grandmother in North Wales.

Back in London after grammar school, Alison was trained and qualified at Westminster Hospital as a radiographer, which in the days before specialized medicine combined disciplines in oncology and radiology. She worked in Edgware General Hospital for three years doing a variety of X-ray work.

Brought up in the Church of England, Alison met her future husband, David, at a youth club in St. Barnabas. David, also a native Londoner, studied aeronautical engineering at London University. The couple married in 1953 and moved to Toronto, Canada, where David worked for a Canadian engineering company, AV Roe Aircraft. As newlyweds and expats, Alison and David made some good friends and had a lot of fun. Expecting their first child, Penny, the couple moved back to London for a year to be with family and returned to Canada with baby Penny in tow.

AV Roe Aircraft closed its doors after two more years, but that was fine with David as he'd set his eyes on working

on the American space program and joined NASA in 1960. Alison, David, and Penny moved to Columbus, OH, where David, as a foreign national, went through the security clearance process at North American Aviation. Middle son Paul was born there in 1960. Finally, ready to work with NASA, the family moved to Newport News, VA and then to Houston, Texas in 1961. David loved working for NASA through the early days of Mercury and Apollo, finding it exciting and rewarding. In 1962, Andrew was born, and the Brown family was

continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

December 4
Family St.
Nicholas Service,
10am

December 8
XYZ's Christmas
Luncheon, 12pm

December 11
Advent Lessons &
Carols, 10am

December 14
Liturgy of Light &
Remembrance,
7pm

December 18
Parish Breakfast

December 24
Pageant, 4 pm
Candlelight
Service, 9pm

December 24
Holy Eucharist,
9:30am

January 8
Family Epiphany
Service, 10am

January 10
Aging Gracefully,
9:30am

January 15
Confirmation
with Bishop
Mathes, 10am
Parish Breakfast

January 15
Annual Meeting

Letter from the Rector: Remembering & Anticipation

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month's theme is "remembering why." I write this post-election, so I'm guessing some of you are still trying to remember why every four years we go through this process, which seemed even more contentious than in previous years. We do it, of course, because we believe in democracy. As I referred to in a recent sermon, maybe it's helpful to remember that part of the "why" is that we are still "becoming" a democracy, in the same way that we continue to become Christians.

It's also the time of year when it's important to remember why most Episcopal priests are such sticklers for observing the difference between Advent and Christmas. When the world around us has been playing holiday music since October and some retail shops started displaying seasonal decorations in August, a common complaint is "we hardly get to sing Christmas hymns in church at all!"

One of the hallmarks of being Episcopalian is that we are a liturgical people. If we skip over the penitential nature of Lent, for example, our Easter festivities aren't as meaningful. Before we celebrate Christ's dying for our sins, we spend

some time contemplating those transgressions so that we better understand the limitlessness of God's generosity. Our faith journey is informed and deepened by these very purposeful movements.

Likewise, we spend the season of Advent in anticipation—looking forward to the arrival of the Christ-child with expectancy, while noticing the parts of our lives that need a little fluffing up before we welcome our honored guest. That way, when Christmas finally arrives, we can really celebrate.

As you sing along with the Advent hymns this month, notice how they are paired with the scripture readings to help refocus our attention on inner preparations. Then join us on Christmas Eve or Christmas day to joyously sing the beloved hymns that welcome Christ in our midst. And if you're around for the rest of the Christmas season, which lasts until Epiphany, you'll get to sing a lot more of your favorite Christmas hymns. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ's Joy,

Mother Brenda

Parish Servant Leader Nominations

Is there someone at St. Andrew's who you look to as an example of a true servant leader? Nominate them for the parish servant leader award to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Nominations may be sent to Mother Brenda at rector@standrewsepiscopal.org through December 21.



Leslie Hernandez, center, receives a Servant Ministry Leader award at the Diocesan Convention.

Congratulations, Leslie, and thank you for all you do at St. Andrew's!

Alison Brown *continued from the front page*

complete. Living in La Porte outside of Houston, the Browns joined St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, where Alison was very active, teaching Sunday School and serving on the Altar Guild, eventually becoming Altar Guild directress.

Alison's time was spent raising the family: life was all an adventure. One of the happy times she recalled was when she and the children picked up David from the Johnson Space Center after work and headed to Galveston to enjoy picnic suppers on the beach.

David retired from NASA in 1975 and went to work at Martin Marietta in Denver, Colorado. The family attended Christ Episcopal church. Alison really enjoyed the time in Colorado, indulging in her love of the outdoors with hiking and cross-country skiing. After four years in Denver, David was transferred to Vandenburg Air Base to work with the Air Force. So, the family followed to Santa Maria, CA, where they were members of St. Peter's Episcopal. David and Alison attended their first Cursillo in Santa Maria and became very active in the St. Peter's Cursillo group.

David's transfer to Vandenburg ended, and the Brown family returned to Colorado, where they attended St. Gregory's Episcopal in Littleton and where Alison trained in Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers are non-judgmental listeners, who develop relationships by bearing witness to the lives of others, offering a reassuring example of God's unconditional love. After spending time with Alison, it's no wonder that this service project appealed to her; Alison's compassionate nature dovetails so well with the ministry's goals.

After a short stint in Florida, David and Alison moved to Huntsville, Alabama, so David could work at Boeing. They joined St. Matthew's Episcopal, which was then a mission church. Alison describes the experience as an exciting time with everyone pitching in to build the church community. Alison was a lay reader and was active in Cursillo. She also worked with the Laubach Literacy Association, helping to give children and illiterate adults the joy of reading.

After David retired (for good, this time!) from Boeing, the couple moved to Elk Grove, California as all three children had relocated to the state. They attended St. Mary's Episcopal where Alison served on the Altar Guild and as a lay Eucharistic

minister and David was a member of the vestry. As David's health declined, they moved to Encinitas to be near Penny, who was living here and wanted her folks close by. And to our good fortune, David and Alison became members of our St. Andrew's church family!

Sadly, Alison's beloved David passed away three years ago, a loss which Alison says "leaves such a void in your life" but also a lot of happy memories. Alison credits her good friends at St. Andrew's for seeing her through and making her feel at home, and her daughter, Penny, with whom she lives and who "is such a spark of life". These days, Alison helps with the rummage sale, prepares the Epistle for mailing every month (she may have folded the very issue you're holding!), and is a cherished member of the XYZ's. Connie McIntire was happy Alison's story was being told, because, says Connie, "she's such a sweet person and she's lived through a lot!" Her daughter, Penny, calls her mom a "life-long beauty". Alison has led "a busy but happy life" and enjoyed weaving, macramé, photography, and knitting (she made several of our St. Andrew's prayer shawls). Now she loves it here in Encinitas where she gardens, walks, and reads. Says Alison "I feel very lucky - fortunate to marry the man I did, have the children I have (including 5 grandchildren and 7 greatgrandchildren), and be where I am."

Alison emphasized that she and David approached each job opportunity and its accompanying relocation with prayers for discernment. Brigid E. Herman writes "The true motivation [of prayer] will now be to get nearer to God, to know him better, to experience his friendship, to enter more fully into his thoughts and purposes." We are blessed to have Alison's model of spiritual acceptance; by seeking God's guidance, she uses her gifts to meet the needs of God's people, from combatting illiteracy to serving on the Altar Guild. Alison's journey shows us how to take from our past what we need to venture more fully into God's kingdom. Jeremiah says, "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." As we view the Friendship House through the burnished glow of remembrance, may we hold to Alison's example, prayerfully reimagining that consecrated space as a shelter of Divine hope for us all.

~Gigi Miller

“

I feel very lucky - fortunate to marry the man I did, have the children I have...and be where I am.

”

Four Candidates to be Confirmed

Introducing the four young men who will be confirmed in January. We are so lucky to have them as part of our St. Andrew's family.

Chad Alden Hines



14 years old
Attends La Costa Canyon High School as a freshman

I have really enjoyed the collaboration with the other kids in the class and enjoyed my service project reading to young kids.

What has surprised me the most about confirmation preparation is that I thought it would be more uptight and not as much fun. I know kids who have been confirmed and taken classes at churches of other denominations and it is a lot on top of everything else they are doing and is not something they seem to enjoy.

I am glad I am being confirmed at St. Andrews because I like it here. I like the people and it is a relaxed atmosphere. It isn't strict and uncomfortable.

Liam Hankins



Grade 9

Age 14

What I've enjoyed the most about confirmation preparation is all the fun activities we've been going to. What surprised me the most is that the Friendship House burned down. I hope the government finds out what happened. I'm glad I'm making my confirmation at St. Andrew's because it's a place where I know people and I feel at home there. St. Andrew was humble, and found himself not worthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus, so he was bound to an x. He was the brother of St. Peter, and the legend has it that Saint Peter was the first bishop of Rome. (Now called the Pope.)

Chris Van Winkle



14 years old
9th grader at La Costa Canyon High School

I didn't exactly know what to expect from confirmation class. Through this process, I've often found myself thinking about God, my faith and what it all means to me (which is probably the purpose of our meetings). Confirmation class has allowed me to meet new people and created an opportunity for me to further my relationship with my mentor. Being confirmed at St. Andrew's makes me feel like a part of a family.

Senior Warden's Corner: Your Inner Saint

I can't believe its December....again. It's the time of year when I reflect back on what happened, what was accomplished and what could be done better. I started this practice at work when we began self-assessments as a part of our annual performance review process. Employees have the opportunity to take stock of what they achieved prior to discussing the topic with their managers. I have found over the years that the discussions with my managers have varied widely in effectiveness (have any of you had that experience? ☺), however the self-reflection has always been a useful exercise to appreciate the year's ups and downs, remember why we are here and prepare for the next year.

So I will reflect briefly on our St. Andrew's year: We voted in an awesome vestry, welcomed Chris Bingham and enjoyed new music and spirit. We celebrated Easter at St. Andrew's, drove a plethora of outreach and formation activities, raised over \$25K at the playground fundraiser, celebrated births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings and many personal achievements. We also mourned the loss of friends and loved ones, were saddened to hear of our beloved staff members leaving and witnessed our community's supportive response after fires in both the Friendship House and the preschool. We were determined to find the opportunities and possibilities with these changes, so we hired our interim Youth minister, Marisa Smith, engaged in a new outreach ministry, Showers of Blessings and are thinking through plans for an improved

campus. It's been quite a year! We nurtured our community, were good stewards of our property and kept Jesus in our hearts. I have never been prouder of our vestry and congregation, and am confident in Mother Brenda's leadership and excited about the future of St. Andrew's.



Our future begins on January 22, 2017, with the Annual Meeting. We elect new vestry members, who will have fresh ideas and a wealth of experiences. We share and approve the annual budget, answer questions and discuss topics of interest. We will work hard to keep the meeting engaging to ensure that our parishioners are knowledgeable about the inner workings and have a voice in our church. This is your opportunity to give us your thoughts and opinions. We want to hear from you.

So please join me at the Annual Meeting on January 22. Engage with us in planning for 2017 and dreaming about the next few years. Remember why we are here and imagine what we might be reflecting upon **next** December!

~Betsy Vaughn

Confirmation Candidates, cont.

Zachary Kindel



13 years old
Grade 8

I have enjoyed learning about different religions. I was surprised that I would enjoy learning about other religions. I am glad that I am being confirmed at St. Andrew's because I was baptized here and I went to preschool here so it is my church home.

My great-grandfather was raised in an Episcopal orphanage which is why my family is Episcopalian.

Joyful Therapy or Therapeutic Joy

On a Tuesday in mid-October, the parish hall was filled with the sound of Christmas songs. While it seemed a bit early, it was hard not to smile as the Tremble Clefs started preparing for their holiday concerts. Each Tuesday afternoon finds the office staff going about their work humming along to popular songs as the Tremble Clefs, a therapeutic singing program for people with Parkinson's and their care partners, practice for their next performances.

The members of the group, under the guidance of energetic and talented director Kathleen Hansen, share in a joyful activity with therapeutic results and work toward a common goal. Says Hansen, "I've been the director for about 3 years and have enjoyed the impact the program has on not only the participants, but the communities that we perform for."



The group is more than just singing: Participation in a Tremble Clefs singing program can help address voice and communications problems caused by Parkinson's through breathing, stretching and posture activities, vocal exercise, rhythm and movement, and a strong social support system. The group performs about 12 times per year for assisted living centers, schools, community events and church groups.

There are two Tremble Clef groups in San Diego County. The North County group meets at St. Andrew's on Tuesdays from 1-2:30. It is a free program and they always welcome new participants. To find out more, visit their website at <http://www.trembleclefs>.

Christmas Flowers

The Altar Guild is most grateful for donations to help decorate the church for Christmas. Gifts may be given in memory of the faithful departed, as a thank offering, or anonymously. If you wish to contribute, please complete the form below and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the church office with your check made payable to St. Andrew's.

Name of Donor:

In memory of:

and/or

In thanksgiving for:

In the amount of:

Pledge Envelope # (if applicable):



Remembering Why I was Baptized

I remember when I was baptized only a year and a half ago at St. Andrew's on the Great Vigil of Easter. It was a special and unique service, one that I had never attended, but I'm glad to say that I now have. I remember the blessing of the new fire, and our bright candles and dimly lit church as the first part of the service took place. This was a peaceful and reflective time for me. I remember the second part of the service when I was baptized and took communion. I felt joy when my husband and younger son presented me, and I was glad they were a part of this special day. My son had a big smile on his face after I was baptized, and his expression said, 'You finally did it, Mom'.

Why wait all these years till I'm an adult to be baptized? Well, I grew up going to a community church that is a part of the United Church of Christ in the Protestant faith. I enjoyed going regularly to Sunday school, then the junior and high school groups, and singing in the carol and junior choirs. I was never baptized when I was young and really didn't think about it. After high school I moved here to San Diego to go to college. I didn't go to church as a young adult until I met my husband. He is a cradle Episcopalian and soon had me attending services with him. What a shock that was to me! I wasn't used to the liturgical service

and the kneeling, but enjoyed the singing and the hymns that were familiar to me. It took a little bit of time for me to feel comfortable attending the St Andrew's services. After we were married and had our son, I became more involved with the church as he grew. We had our son baptized at age four and I soon found myself teaching Sunday school and helping with VBS. As the years passed, he became more aware of what it means to be a part of the church and learn God's way and Jesus' teachings. We would go up for communion and I would cross my arms for a blessing, and he would ask why I wasn't taking communion. I told him I wasn't baptized, and his comment was that I should be.

I asked myself, why shouldn't I? Part of me felt that if I became baptized in the Episcopalian faith I would lose my own church upbringing that was so near and dear to me. I look back now and see that I was worried for nothing, as we are all Christians no matter which church we go to. We are embraced by God's love wherever we worship and sing. It is hard to transition to something new to you, but I am at peace at St Andrew's, and feel blessed to have a wonderful place to call my church home.

~Amy Burnett

Planting Seeds of Hope and Faith

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

Martin Luther

Planting seeds for future fruit is both an act of hope and an expression of faith. We plant in hope that the small seeds will one day produce a tree whose fruit will bless future generations. We plant in faith by entrusting those who follow us to nurture our tree, harvest the fruit properly and use it for the best purposes.

Making a planned gift to our church is a similar undertaking. A planned gift is a seed whose promised fruit will support the church well beyond your lifetime.

Planned giving is often part of an overall estate plan to distribute your assets and possessions to the people and causes most dear to you. Planned gifts come in several forms. The simplest planned gift is to make a bequest to the church in your will.

Other options, such as charitable gift annuities through the Episcopal Church Foundation, provide a guaranteed income for life and substantial tax savings. Planned gifts are funded from accumulated assets of your lifetime.

Planned gifts are generally used to foster the long-term health of the church. These gifts empower ministry beyond what is possible through annual operating funds. They provide future parishioners with the means to continue to worship, learn, and serve the community and the world as we have been blessed to do.

Planned giving is a powerful opportunity to ensure your most sacred values and commitments are part of your legacy. Your planned gift represents your hope for the future mission of our church and your faith in generations to come. If you'd like to know more about planned giving at St. Andrew's contact Pam Whitaker at pamwhitaker@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle

890 Balour Dr.

Encinitas, CA 92024

Phone: 760-753-3017

E-mail: contact@standrewsepiscopal.org

Website: www.standrewsepiscopal.org

December 2016/January 2017

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Encinitas, CA 92024
Permit #115

Change Service Requested

Five Loaves. Two Small Fish. Enough for a Multitude.

Youth Move Forward After Fire

The October 22 fire that destroyed the Friendship House was an overwhelming loss to all of St. Andrew's, but was especially hard on the St. Andrew's youth. To our youth, it was a comfortable, safe place with many good memories. It was where they truly met in friendship every Sunday to discover new relationships and find out more about their growing faith.

The youth came together for a special youth service the Sunday after the fire to join in community and to share wonderful, happy memories of the friendship house. Many of the youth and its leaders came to share. It brought the youth together, reminding them that if they have one another they do not need a building to have a home--they just need each other. In forests, fire is necessary to begin new life and growth. I reminded them of this and how this experience mirrors the changes we see in nature. This fact always gives me comfort reminding me that even in the loss of a fire there is new life and experiences.

Two things that are very important to the youth were saved from the fire: a cross that is always with the youth while they worship and a piece of pottery that was made in their honor on the 2014 Summer Mission Trip. This gives them comfort, and also shows not all things are lost when we go through a big change.

The youth community all over San Diego has shown their support. I recently went to the San Diego Episcopal Diocesan Youth Collaborative leadership retreat at the beautiful Camp Stevens up in Julian. The youth and children directors and leaders from ten different San Diego churches came together. During this time, they communicated their condolences and that they are here to support our youth. They expressed they would all be sending care packages from their youth to ours to let us know that we are in their thoughts and prayers. We have received a care package already from St. Bart's in Poway, with notes of encouragement, cross necklaces, and (most importantly) candy! When the youth from the San Diego area who were attending Diocesan convention in Palm Desert heard about the second fire, they wanted to come up to St. Andrews and worship with us, so we will be welcoming guests soon. Our youth are so grateful for the support and the love from youth all over San Diego.

~Marisa Smith

