

# THE CROSS



SEPTEMBER 2019

## THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

*Prayer, Study, and Service*

The Episcopal and Anglican Newsletter of Men's Ministry

A photograph showing three men sitting in a circle on chairs. The man on the left is wearing a black polo shirt and has his hands over his heart. The man in the middle is wearing a light blue polo shirt and dark blue pants with yellow lettering, also with his hands over his heart. The man on the right is wearing a light blue scrub top and dark blue pants with yellow lettering, also with his hands over his heart. The background is a plain wall with a whiteboard.

# BROTHERS SUPPORT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND PRISON MINISTRY

WE ARE THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW, A LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL MEN'S EPISCOPAL AND ANGLICAN MINISTRY. OUR AREAS OF MISSION FOCUS: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, SCOUTING, VETERANS, DISCIPLESHIP/MENTORING, RACIAL RECONCILIATION, RECOVERY, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

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## Guest Editorial

# THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW AND THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS: PARTNERING IN RACIAL RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

By The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman

President, Union of Black Episcopalians "UBE – For Such a Time as This"

Why? It's a question I hear often during this time of heightened sensitivity and concern over matters of race and racism. Why are we still talking about racism? Why are we still dealing with these issues? Why dredge up the past? Why should I get involved?

Several weeks ago, I found myself pondering the same question. Across the nation, people were finding ways to mark the 400th anniversary of the beginning of chattel slavery in what became these United States of America. One event took place in Alexandria, Virginia, at a place called The Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial. This site serves as a final resting place for almost 2,000 escaped slaves. Upon arriving at the site, I learned that what had been a sacred burial ground over the course of time had been covered (and I would say desecrated) by a gas station and then an office building. Meanwhile, another nearby cemetery remained untouched. I saw hundreds of names inscribed on stone slabs. I could feel the weight of oppressed souls whose dignity had been robbed and who never had opportunity to experience the freedoms I now enjoy. Clarity came. By being present, I was doing what my Episcopal baptismal vows require. Not only was I respecting the dignity of every human being, I was doing my best to restore dignity and honor that had been taken away.

As the newly-elected President for the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), I was invited to address the nearly 100 people who gathered for the vigil and silent march before we started out. Perhaps the most poignant words I shared came from a poem I quoted called *The Bridge Builder*, attributed to Will Allen Dromgoole.

The poem chronicles the journey of an old man as he comes to the end of his life. With ease this old man crosses a deep and vast chasm that he does not fear, but then turns back and builds a bridge to the other side. When asked why he would stop to build over a tide he will never again cross, the old man shares the hope and promise we have for eradicating racism in generations to come. The bridge he builds is not for himself. It's for the youth who will come

behind, youth for whom that chasm would present a challenge.

In The Episcopal Church, September 8 is designated as UBE Sunday. For 51 years, UBE has been the bridge builder striving to navigate the complexities and realities of racism that have impeded blacks for 400 years. Within the church and beyond, we have worked toward building God's Beloved Community where everyone has equal access, seat and voice. We and The Episcopal Church have come a long way, but much remains to be done. That's one reason why we celebrate the work the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has been doing with men and youth since 1883 and the partnership we are now forging. The work of racial reconciliation is best done when we struggle together to understand its necessity and to embrace its discomforts. We are looking forward to building many more bridges with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and to celebrating the victory of knowing we have shown our black men and youth, in particular, that they, too, matter. Why become involved? Not for you or me, but for those who come after.




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## The President's Corner

# ARE YOU READY TO ANSWER THE CALL?

President Jeff Butcher

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The Brotherhood's 29th Administration is entering year four. We continue to be a change agent in people's lives. Numerous personal testimonials keep coming in from you for our current contest. We thank all contributors. Your stories are very heartwarming.

This is our third year at 620 South 3rd Street, Suite 203, Louisville, KY. It has been a blessing! We are now fully staffed: Executive Director (Tom Welch); Business Consultant (Trisha Sikkema); St. Andrew Cross Editor (Kathy Copas); Support Staff Specialist (Jessica Shelton); and Office Manager (Michelle Gelok). This gives us much joy. Our success here also provides us with a feeling "we have arrived." Kudos to all who have made this possible with your ministry pledges.

C. S. Lewis once wrote, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." Yes, this has been a very humbling experience from the beginning. Thank you for your prayers, letters, and phone calls urging us forward.

The last time the Brotherhood's president, Courtenay Barber, was invited to address of the House of Bishops (HOB) was in 1932. Ha! What would you say to the church leaders at this time? The stars are coming into alignment—a Brother in the Presiding Bishop's chair, a Bishop's Advisory Council, and now, after 87 years, an address to the HOB this month.

We change peoples' lives. We are creating a Men's Ministry that is contributing to local communities. Meanwhile, we are leaving a legacy for the next generation coming behind us. We are becoming God's journeymen, mighty men of God, once again. We are no longer the best-kept secret in the church.

Come October 1, every Bishop will have heard about us. Each received a personal letter highlighting men's ministry in their diocese. In those 38 dioceses where we have no presence, we will ask Bishops to provide us recommendations for an interim diocesan coordinator.

With this new recognition also comes greater responsibility. Are you ready to answer the call?

### What can I do at the local parish level?

- ▶ **Have you prepared** an elevator speech on your Chapter's mission.
- ▶ **Do you have a banner** displayed prominently on the church campus?
- ▶ **Have you made plans** to celebrate the November 30 Feast of St. Andrew?
- ▶ **Do you have** a Brotherhood of St. Andrew white baseball cap, polo shirt, and/ or dress shirt with tie?
- ▶ **Have you applied** to be a Veteran-Friendly Congregation?
- ▶ **What is your Legacy** mission that corresponds with our Brotherhood seven missions?
- ▶ **Is there a men's ministry** retreat planned in your diocese?
- ▶ **Do you have plans** to celebrate Clergy Appreciation Month in October?
- ▶ **Have you looked** at the Mentoring Program at BrothersAndrew.net?

If you have questions on any of this, please contact your assembly president, diocesan coordinator, and/or province president. We are here as a resource to you at the grass roots, too. Ask. We want to be your partner as we build out the future for men's ministry together.

## Fall Is Here!!! Tips you can use now. Tip #1

*The church year is back in full swing. Creatively invite men and youth to your next Brotherhood gathering by purchasing a box of mini-pumpkins from a local farm stand, painting or using markers to create faces on each of them, and attaching a handwritten invitation to each pumpkin, inviting newcomers to join you for your next event. Distribute the pumpkins to men at the church door before or after church or at coffee hour. Are pumpkins too hard for your group to manage? You can also use small bags of candy or even a Halloween candy bar. The idea is to be visual and compelling.*



## Directly Speaking

# “TEACH A CHILD THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO” OR VICE VERSA?

**Tom Welch, Executive Director**  
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*In recognition of one of our seven ministries, Racial Reconciliation, I have asked the National UBE (Union of Black Episcopalians) President to offer the first “Guest Editorial” since I began working with you (see page two).*

I keep coming back to “racial reconciliation” through the eyes of my own experience. Brothers my age and younger represent only about 25% of our ranks. So, for those of us (a minority of the readers here) this issue is truly a different story.

For me, I was blessed to be born in a time when integration of the schools was already underway. What I didn’t realize at that time is so very apparent to me now in how my parents were “teaching me the way” to live in community with all peoples. I clearly recall having an American of African descent educator/colleague of my mother’s in our home for a Christmas party when we lived in Dallas. I was in elementary school then.

Vivid is the memory a few years later from our home in Mississippi of another such educator of color, colleague and friend, coming to the back door of our home with his wife to attend another party. I wasn’t even old enough to have a driver’s license. When my mother answered the back door, it wasn’t to let them in. It was to let them know they had to come in through the front door like everyone else. Coming in through the back door was simply unacceptable. From that moment forward I believe the respect her colleague had for her went to a new level.

Well do I remember my father getting backlash from one irate acquaintance over his paying Social Security taxes for our “help” at the house. All these things were “the right thing to do.” I remember asking daddy why was that half bath out in the garage. He said the house was built at a time when blacks weren’t allowed to use the same toilet facilities as whites in public places and how many had taken that notion to their own homes. He said our “help” wasn’t allowed to use it and that one day that garage bathroom would be part of a game room and office so that “nobody would ever know its original intent.” Indeed, that came to pass.

All of these expressed showing dignity and value to every

human being to me at an early age. So, it was easy for me to have black friends. I even had one share an apartment during college at Ole Miss. Wonderful memories. We are still friends to this very day.

With this backdrop, look at the next generation of leaders in the church. We should be aware that the injustices of the civil rights era were primarily centered around the area of race. Today’s young look at any injustice with a passion for equality and inclusion. I have a remarkable 21-year-old child who constantly points me to these other areas of injustice.

What does this say to us today? Remember the words from Proverbs 22:6 referenced in the title. By God’s grace I was systematically shown “the way I should go” as I became an adult. By God’s grace our own young of today systematically show us “the way we should go” even if some of us do so kicking and screaming. A final postscript from my daughter: “Everybody talks about John 3:16. Don’t forget the next two verses, Daddy.”

Is it the parent that teaches the child or vice versa? Thanks be to God they can show us “the way to go” as well.



*Brotherhood Executive Director Tom Welch spoke this summer at the Union of Black Episcopalians meeting in Los Angeles. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is now a life member of the Union of Black Episcopalians.*

### Tips you can use. Tip #2

*The Feast of St. Andrew is November 30. Plan now for what your Chapter can do to commemorate it. Consider developing an approach with several tools, including a Minute for Mission, skit, or presentation during church announcement time, coffee hour, or church school time. Go to [thecross.online](http://thecross.online) for some helps in developing everything from a bulletin insert to signage. Talk with your clergy and your church communicator and enlist their help and ideas.*



## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Conrad Jones, Province III President  
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Who is that guy? He seems to be everywhere I go. Sometimes, he's hidden in plain sight. All I have to do is just really open my eyes and I can see him... everywhere! And he's been to every single Brotherhood meeting I've ever attended. He never misses one. In fact, someone told me he once said, *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the middle of them"*. He's that "perfect attendance" guy we all know about. I even hear his voice in my head whenever I'm in trouble, anxious, afraid... he whispers, *"Have no fear, for I am with you"*. And, it amazes me that he attends every one of our three different church services each weekend plus every single special event or ministry meeting we have!

Our church has three services and, like other churches with the same format, parishioners feel more comfortable and attend the same one of those the majority of the time. And even though we all are a part of the same covenant community, it's not always easy to recognize someone who attends a different service time on the weekends. Likewise, we found a similar circumstance in our Brotherhood meetings... especially to newer Brothers who have just begun to attend our regular Saturday morning meetings. There were some unfamiliar faces sitting around the table. Then, Brother Richard Nutwell had a brilliant idea: create a "name tent" for all Brothers, and have them in front of us during meetings! But we recognized that there was that one guy who came to EVERY meeting and, even though we all knew him, we wanted him to have a name tent also...

Jesus. It wasn't long before everyone had Jesus sitting beside them. He was in our meeting room, having a meal with us and



*Continued on page 11*



## BE FED AND BRING A FRIEND

The Rt. Rev. Paul Lambert  
National Chaplain

*"God is feeding me and I am praying for an appetite"*

*(A Prayer Journal- Flannery O'Connor and W.A. Sessions)*

I found this quote above in my Lenten reading in a book by Flannery O'Connor. It is her journal written while in graduate school in Iowa at the ripe old age of 21, or there about. For those of you familiar with her novels her insight in God will not come as a surprise to you. For those of you who have not savored her writings I would encourage you to do so.

So much for introduction. The reason I chose this quote is because I think it speaks to each of us in regards to our journey with Jesus Christ regardless of where we are in that journey. God does feed us, constantly, through Word and Sacrament. The problem is we often lose our appetite. When we lose our appetite for God then our lives begin to shrivel into nothingness. We are weakened by the trials and tribulations of the world, and in time, they get the best of us. They define us and soon we are misdirected on our journey with Christ, losing our way into the darkness of our own shadows.

Each day provides you with an opportunity to use that appetite for God to feast on his Word and Sacrament, being nurtured by his grace and love along the journey. We have to be intentional about this. Our Lord Jesus Christ called us to "seek" and you shall find. It's not difficult, but we have to have the "want to's" to "taste and see that the Lord is good".

My Brothers Andrew, any time is a time to reconnect with our Father through the divine guidance of his Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Walk with one another in the way of the Lord and be strengthened by his presence. Oh, and while you are at it; bring a friend along with you, you owe it to them!

May God bless and keep you always.

*Bishop Paul E. Lambert*

### Tips you can use. Tip #3

*Get out and meet the church neighbors with a Brotherhood sponsored "Trunk of Treat" event. To take it to the next level, build a bonfire or fire up the grill and offer roasted hot dogs or s'mores to passer-bys. There's nothing like introducing the work of the Brotherhood to men who stop by to sit around a fall bonfire!*



# ASK NOT WHAT THE BROTHERHOOD CAN DO FOR YOU BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

By Jack Hanstein, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Senior Vice President

Last evening, I had a conference call with a Brotherhood committee planning a regional workshop. As we discussed what they wanted to hear from me at the regional conference, here were some of their questions. Tell us what the Brotherhood has done for us. What do we get for our \$40 each year? Why should we be supporting an organization that only serves the east coast and the south? Why do we never see articles about what is happening on the west coast?

As I listened to their concerns, I reflected on the work this Chapter continues to do. These men are actively involved with youth programs and with Kairos Prison Ministry. This is the second regional workshop they have sponsored. They financially supported victims of the Camp Fire in Northern California. And, on and on the list goes. They are one of the most active Chapters on the west coast and their questions were legitimate.

I started to explain all of the things the Brotherhood does. How the Brotherhood supports local chapters, the valuable resources on the website, the monthly editions of *The Cross*, the partial funding of the regional workshops. And then I said, "I will work on putting those things into my address at the conference."

But wait a minute! Why was I getting up tight? In fact, why was I becoming defensive and angry after the call ended? What I wanted to say, but didn't, was, "Wait a minute. What have you done to support the church wide Brotherhood? When was the last time you sent in an article for *The Cross*? When was the last time you served on one of our national committees? When was the last time you sent in even \$5 to help with the finances? When was the last time one of you agreed to serve on the National Council? When was the last time you brought a new member to your Brotherhood meeting? How much time do you spend praying daily for the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men and youth? How much time do you spend making continuous efforts week by week to bring men nearer to Christ through His church?

**Now, how is that for being judgmental?!**

As my wife often reminds me, "There are always two sides

to every issue." All of our Chapters are busy and involved in their own congregations, in their diocese, and in their local communities. The other side of the story is also true. At the national level we have more than 150 men (out of some 6,000 members) from all over the country who serve not only their local Brotherhood Chapters, but also **volunteer their time to serve** as Diocesan Coordinators, Province Presidents, Members of National administrative committees such as Funds Development, Communication, one of our seven Ministry Program Committees, our Training Task Force, our Constitution and By-laws Committee, and often as members of the Executive Board of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. These 150+ men not only spend 10 to 30 hours per week on national and regional Brotherhood activities, they also send in weekly or monthly financial contributions (\$5, \$20, \$50) over and above their annual ministry pledge to help with running a national organization of more than 500 Chapters and our growing group of members.

The bottom line is—this is our ministry. Yours and mine. We serve because Christ called us to serve, whether that is at the local, diocesan, regional, or national level or at all levels. Our call is to serve Christ by serving others. The sole purpose of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is to bring men and youth to Christ. We have a charge from the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, "to encourage and support dioceses and congregations in their efforts to develop and expand Ministry to Men, and to mentor and raise up the next generation of young men throughout the Episcopal Church." (D045)

Let us all work together for the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men and youth.

## Tips you can use. Tip #4

*Think about what you can do as a Chapter to commemorate Veteran's Day in November. There are dozens of different possibilities from nursing home visits to Veterans to prayer vigils to meal events. When you decide what to do, don't forget to contact your local media via a news release and some follow up to draw attention to your Chapter's emphasis on Veterans.*



# “WALKING EVANGELISM” IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

by Jim Carlock, Trinity Episcopal Church Chapter

When the leadership of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, learned a stretch of the downtown street alongside one of their church parking lots would be temporarily turned into a gigantic waterslide, they saw the opportunity to do some visible service to people who may not otherwise ever be on church property, otherwise known as “Walking Evangelism.”



The waterslide, which was initiated last year at a different location, would bring a three-lane, 1,000 foot slip-and-slide open to the young and the young-at-heart alike. The event titled “Slide FXBG” enabled Trinitarians to share God’s love and hand out free bottles of water to droves of participants.



The Trinity Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew partnered with their sister organization, Daughters of the King, to bring a team effort, along with other Trinitarians. Members of the Brotherhood also voted to purchase two large ice chests to keep water bottles cool. Church members wore a Trinity turquoise or red t-shirt or a Brotherhood shirt for easy identification by all.

Walking Evangelism proved to be an overwhelming success, with over 1,000 bottles of water handed out. It was a hot day, with the temperature reaching ninety degrees, and



*John Tyler of Trinity handing out water to an adult participant. Claire Curcio, Trinity Senior Warden, is in the background.*

participants were quite thankful for a cool drink as they stood in line waiting for their waterslide turns. Both children and adults were respectful and thankful for the refreshing treat at no cost to them.



*Trinitarian Pat Farr giving out a bottle of water to a happy young participant.*

Many people asked who the ones were handing out water and why they were doing such a kind and thoughtful service. One participant even said, “There’s no such thing as free water” and tried his best to pay for the water, which church members respectfully declined to accept. The Trinity Campus Ministry Chaplain, who attended in his collar, had a tongue-in-cheek

request or two to turn the water into wine.

The Trinity church crew took special care to be sure Fredericksburg City staff, event volunteers, and law enforcement officials had plenty of water, so some good will was undoubtedly built in the community.

Church leadership has already received a note of appreciation from the Fredericksburg City Parks and Recreation Department, asking what weekend might work for the waterslide event next year – another opportunity for Walking Evangelism!



# MINISTRY BEHIND BARS AND BEYOND: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN ACTION

By Dan West, St. Luke's Episcopal Church Brotherhood Chapter, Anchorage, KY

So—there he was—years-old with the last eighteen of those years spent in a penitentiary.

Suddenly, there are some folks from something called Mission Behind Bars and Beyond. They say they're a Nurture , Support, and Accountability Group (or team) and they're committed to working with him for a minimum of six months through a series of weekly (and other times as needed) meetings. The goal is to assist him in again becoming a useful, contributing member of society.

He likely thought—"You've got to be kidding! Who gives a hoot about me? Prison sure didn't contribute to my well being in ANY way. Well, OK, so I learned to make about anything you might want out of leather, including backpacks and purses, but that's about it."

You see, it is different for all who are incarcerated. One may be incarcerated in a state prison where no trade school classes are available. Others may have minimal programs that don't develop real job or life management skills. One may have had some classes or programs available but just never took them for a variety of reasons.

**Here are some stories from some of the brothers and sisters we have encountered who have walked an incarceration path.**

*"I'm 40, an Eagle Scout, and was a swimmer on my high school and college teams. I had great grades. But, I decided to make some big bucks so discovered a source, loaded my car's trunk with pills, and sold them for \$10 or more EACH after only paying \$2. I was arrested with a pistol in my glove box. Bam—a 22-year sentence. Now, I'm out and have a supportive family but NOTHING else. No money, no job, no place to stay, no ID card, and no driver's license."*



*In prison for almost 20 years and now on parole. Just bought a home and now has a good job.*

*"I'm 37, a single mother, and have only had one job in my life—at least I thought of it as my job. It started when I was 14. I'd buy some pills, sell them on the street whenever I felt*

*like it, and in a couple of days make a few thousand dollars. When I was released on parole I found myself in a crazy environment. People actually had jobs they had to be at on-time, EVERY DAY, and my 14-year-old son was a bundle. We had nowhere to sleep so a relative let me sleep on a mattress in her living room. This was a four-room house where another 11 folks slept and my son slept on the sofa beside me. We had absolutely NOTHING else. No money, no clothes but those on our backs (I owned two t-shirts) no job, no place to stay, no ID card, and no driver's license."*



*Here is a photo of our first parolee. She was in for three years. She now works two jobs, has her own apartment, a Jeep, a bicycle, and necessities from food to furniture. She wants no part of the illegal drug trade which put her in prison. This shot was taken at her pre-graduation party. At age 39, no one had ever bought her pie and ice cream before.*

*"I'm 58 and was in "there" for 18 years. My wife divorced me and my two children have nothing to do with me. I have worked in restaurants and have a GED but am not educated otherwise. I learned no trades in prison. I have no life skills and no job. I have no place to stay and NOTHING else. But, my aged mother still loves me."*



*Another proud program graduate.*

All of them heard about Mission Behind Bars and Beyond from various sources along their journey. As they began to re-enter society, they took steps to reach out for help and were sent "Re-entry Application Forms," The not-for-profit,

faith-based, ecumenical organization was formed in Kentucky to educate and equip every community in the Commonwealth to welcome, support, mentor, and equip every “returning” citizen to successfully re-build their life.

The Mission Behind Bars and Beyond program was introduced to me at a Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting. An associate rector shared with us about prison ministries of all kinds. I then took the step to contact the Mission Behind Bars founder, the Rev. Dean Bucalos (Mission Behind Bars, P. O. Box 22034, Louisville, KY 40252). He thought I should start by attending a class. So, one Saturday about three years ago I ventured into a part of town I certainly was not familiar with and went to a 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. training session. They gave me a training manual and said if I wanted to attempt offering this service to our fellow men/women to talk some more with the trainer.

I did and decided to establish a Nurture, Support, and Accountability Group out of our church, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Anchorage, KY. I recruited three ladies and a gentleman and we were in business. Our group included a retired Kentucky Commonwealth Business Development Manager, a retired Parole Officer from Cleveland, OH; a dentist, an Assistant Jefferson County Prosecutor from the family court system and me—a retired businessman with sales and managerial skills with both large and small companies.

Our first assignment was almost a debacle. We were trained but initially overlooked the sensibilities of a woman who wanted and anticipated immediate answers during our first times together. She constantly dissolved into tears, overwhelmed by all she was facing. We almost lost her several times. But, we hung in there and learned and prayed together, all of us taking our turn, and the good Lord came through. After about nine months, that wonderful woman proudly moved into a place of her own after going

through at least seven jobs and finally settling into one earning about \$12 an hour. We found clothing, furniture, and food for her. One friend came up with an old Jeep. She is now successfully raising her son and enjoying a productive life. She is not, in any way, considering a life of crime anymore.

God works in interesting ways and I think it has been because we have all committed to listening, both individually and together, to continue this work effectively. This ministry is probably far more gratifying and rewarding to us than to those with whom we interact.

Here are some of the things I, personally, have experienced or done to interact with our returning citizens through this ministry.

- Collected food for holidays.
- Rounded up clothing.
- Moved donated furniture.
- Driven folks to many, many meetings.
- Taken them out to pie and ice cream places for their birthdays or just because we all wanted a treat.
- Had dinners at nice restaurants with them and invited their families to join us—and they did.
- Took one man to a golf course to settle him down and actually let him hit a few balls off a t-box. He had never even seen a golf course prior to that experience.
- Taken them to many job interviews.
- Talked with them on the phone innumerable times at all hours of the day and night, any time they needed a listening ear.
- Taken them to get free bicycles from a church organization, so they would at least have some mode of transportation until they could earn money for a car.

Our group constantly directs and does referrals to all sources of additional help outside of our ministry. There is help with

## Helping Your Brotherhood Chapter Reflect on Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice

- 1. Read and reflect on Matthew 25: 34-40, and the Beatitudes, Matthew 5.** What does this scripture seem to say to your Brotherhood Chapter members about being present to those who are incarcerated?
- 2. Talk with some local law enforcement officials** in your community or connect with the administrative offices of your nearby state or federal prison. Ask them what they see as needs and opportunities to engage with those who may need you.
- 3. Ask questions about those who** may represent collateral damage to those who are incarcerated or recently re-entering society. What is happening with the children of persons who are incarcerated? What about their older or infirm parents? Who most needs you and your Chapter and how might you be present?
- 4. Invite in some former inmates** to share their experiences with your Chapter. What needs for advocacy do you see coming out of what they have to say about their own experiences? How might you lead your entire church in advocacy?
- 5. Ground yourselves in prayer and** silent reflection for a time, discerning what God may be calling you to do. How can your Chapter be Christ’s hands and feet in the midst of this issue?
- 6. Think about partnerships.** Who might your Chapter enlist, from both the church and your community, to engage in this work?
- 7. Share with other Brothers what** you did and how it worked.  
editor@brothersandrew.net

*Continued on page 12*



# A BROTHER'S STORY: HOPE AND HEALING MANY MILES FROM HOME

By Ken Courter, St. David's Episcopal Church, Ashburn, Virginia

This summer, my wife and I planned a two-week Russian river cruise to celebrate her retirement. We were looking forward to not only exploring St. Petersburg and Moscow but the villages in between. When we arrived, I did not feel well but I chalked it up to the long flight from Washington D.C. and I was certain that a quick nap would bring me back to life. I was wrong. My wife called the ship's doctor and—before I knew it—I was being whisked away by ambulance to a hospital in St. Petersburg. I was admitted to the ICU with a diagnosis of Sepsis and Pneumonia. My wife was horrified when the doctor told her that my survival depended on the following 48 hours. The next few days I slipped in and out of consciousness. My time on earth was uncertain and I knew it. Interestingly, I was not panicked nor was I scared. I felt a sense of peace knowing that God had control and all I had to do was trust.

My wife, on the other hand, was frantic as she was dealing with doctors who spoke limited English, an international health insurance carrier, and foreign living quarters. Even though she was frightened she reached out to the Brotherhood on my behalf. Within minutes she received a phone call offering support. In fact, she received many phone calls and multiple emails from those in the Brotherhood checking on my progress while reassuring her of my certain recovery. When I regained consciousness, I was touched that my Brothers were there for not only me but for my wife, as well.

I was moved from ICU to the general ward the second week where my wife got to stay with me. Allowing family members to stay with the patient is just one example of how the Russian medical system is in many ways more humane than perhaps what we have in America. The doctors were immediately available and eager to answer our questions and concerns. Apparently, the doctors reside at the hospital versus making rounds and then returning to their offices. I had various tests and all were conducted quickly and the results were provided immediately. I will admit, however, that their food was horrendous and without my wife's daily trips to the corner grocery store I would have starved!

Once I started to feel better I was eager to get home but the hospital director would not release me until I acquired a

“travel” nurse that could administer oxygen for the return flight. This was a heavy request because we not only had to locate a nurse but we had to get permission from the airline to board the plane with oxygen. We had no choice but to agree to his demand because our visas had expired and an emergency visa would require his assistance. Additionally, we were required to pay the hospital bill before we could depart. Being prevented from returning home, albeit briefly, was scary and lonely but the support from the Brothers, plus family and friends, helped alleviate our stress. After several days we were able to secure a nurse and were able to pay the bill in full. We celebrated our flight home with hot fudge sundaes and, yes, oxygen. The director was right—I needed oxygen on the flight home.

This experience taught me a lot about myself. I learned that men are good regardless of their origin of birth. Russians and Americans have more in common—concern for our families, faith in God, and being good to our neighbors—than we have in differences. Politics aside, the Russian people were gracious and the care I received was top notch. In fact, it kept me alive. My faith in others deepened as I was truly engulfed by the kindness of so many people. Whether it was through medicine or prayer, I felt God's hand. And while I knew my Brothers loved me, I failed to realize just how much. The messages of love I received from them were genuine and intimate. And, that's something men don't often find with each other outside of a group like the Brotherhood.



SHARE YOUR BEST STORIES OF FAITH,  
MINISTRY, AND/OR THE BROTHERHOOD  
AND WIN A PRIZE!

**Deadline: December 31, 2019**

Send stories to:

Membership Committee  
Brotherhood of St. Andrew  
620 S. 3rd Street, Suite 203  
Louisville KY 40202

OR [Jeff.butcher@brothersandrew.net](mailto:Jeff.butcher@brothersandrew.net)

# Westward Expansion

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is growing and some of our newest expansion is happening out west and especially in the state of California. Executive Director Tom Welch and Brotherhood Senior Vice-President Jack Hanstein are currently taking some intensive development time out west to get to know Chapters old and new and offer assistance, information, and encouragement around issues of mission, growth, and development.

Could your Chapter or area use some additional help and support? Contact the Brotherhood of St. Andrew national office at 502-350-5640.



*Executive Director Tom Welch and Senior Vice-President Jack Hanstein meet with Bishop Michael Hanley of the Diocese of Oregon.*



*Bishop Megan Traquair from the Diocese of Northern California met with Brothers Welch and Hanstein in Sacramento. Jack Hanstein also serves as Province III President of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.*

*Watch for more information and photos in the October issue of The Cross.*

## COMING IN 2020

In response to a number of requests, *The Cross* will begin offering limited advertising space beginning in 2020. You and your ministry can reach over 5,000 dedicated readers churchwide, including key leadership in congregations, dioceses, and church-affiliated organizations. Full and half page ads are available and include digital editions as a bonus. Ad prices will range from \$300 to \$600. For more information, contact [editor@brothersandrew.net](mailto:editor@brothersandrew.net)

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

*Continued from page 5*

inspiring our scripture discussions. He was present as we developed our service projects. And, of course, always for our prayers. He has the most special seat at all of our tables. He is a part of every conversation and discussion of Scripture we study. He is among us.

The overwhelming appeal that Andrew felt when Jesus said to follow Him, walk with Him and become a fisher of men, resonates with our Brothers more than 2,000 years later! Bishop Curry said in his very first address as Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, "This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world." Let us remember to keep Jesus at the center of all we do, and thank Him for the opportunity to be a part of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. For as our opening Collect says, "Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow Him without delay, and to bring those near to us into His gracious presence; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever." Amen.

## Tips you can use.

### Tip #5

The holidays can be hard for men who are away from home, who have recently ended a relationship, or who have suffered the death of a parent or other loved one. Now's the time to ask yourselves: "Who among us may be alone for Thanksgiving?" "Who may be going through a hard time?" "How can we be more intentionally present to these men or youth during the next couple of months? Make your plans now and start extending some invitations.

### Tip #6

Work with your clergy to help set up a Secret Prayer Pal program between now and the end of the year or Epiphany. This is a ministry of encouragement that works sort of like an old-fashioned "Secret Santa" program. Only, in this case, you take the same of a man or youth in your congregation and covenant to pray for them each day. If you wish, you can send them notes or cards with encouraging messages during the time you are praying for them. At the designated end of the program, Prayer Pals are revealed. This is a great way to offer spiritual encouragement while bolstering your own prayer disciple. And, at the end of the program, you will likely discover you have gotten to know a new friend or deepened an existing friendship.

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## MINISTRY BEHIND BARS AND BEYOND

*Continued from page 9*

health care, food stamps, all kinds of jobs, ID and Social Security cards and birth certificates, and more.

### WHAT DO WE DO THE MOST?

A lot of our ministry involves discussing and advising them on simple life choices including places of employment, relationships, handling money, and--- probably most importantly—the road to deinstitutionalizing themselves, taking the bull by the horns, and meeting courageously meeting life on their own, with God’s help.

Just one outcome: the gentleman who sold pills out of the trunk of his car now has a fine job that pays \$20 an hour with raises and advancement in sight. He has his own automobile now and just purchased a home. He also has a wonderful girlfriend.

You, too, can help with any and all of this. I KNOW your community needs it.

Feel free to contact me anytime. I will be glad to help out in any way as, Brother to Brother, we work to be present in a big way to those who really need us.

*Dan West can be contacted at [dtwest36@yahoo.com](mailto:dtwest36@yahoo.com)*

## STAY IN THE CONVERSATION

### STAY CONNECTED WITH THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW.

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([@brothersandrew.net](https://www.facebook.com/brothersandrew.net))
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- **Submit news** for *The Cross* by the first of each month to [editor@brothersandrew.net](mailto:editor@brothersandrew.net). Check out additional Brotherhood of St. Andrew program resources at [TheCross.online](http://TheCross.online)