

THE CROSS



MAY 2021

THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Prayer, Study, and Service

The Episcopal and Anglican Newsletter of Men's Ministry

VIRTUAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION



THEME: THE JESUS MOVEMENT WANTS YOU

JUNE 24-26, 2021

WE ARE THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW, A LOCAL, NATIONAL,
AND GLOBAL MEN'S EPISCOPAL AND ANGLICAN MINISTRY.

OUR AREAS OF MISSION FOCUS: DISCIPLESHIP AND MENTORING, PRISON MINISTRIES, RACIAL RECONCILIATION,,
RECOVERY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, VETERANS MINISTRIES, YOUTH AND SCOUTING.

BROTHERSANDREW.NET



The President's Corner

WHAT HAS IT MEANT TO BE YOUR 29TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT?

Jeff Butcher, President

jeff.butcher@brothersandrew.net

As I look back over my past six years of service as your Brotherhood of St. Andrew President, my thoughts and experiences of learning and spiritual growth have been many. The theme of all of this includes my growing philosophy that "Leadership is a Contact Sport" and that my most important role was in direct one-on-one connection as a servant to those who comprise our Anglican and Episcopal Men's Ministry Community.

I have always felt especially humbled to discover the richness, beauty, and creativity of the Brothers Andrew ministry that is being carried out at the local parish level every day. Sitting in the national office tending to administrative work, it would be easy to feel a sense of disconnect from local ministry. With Jesus Christ as my role model---a servant leader who was always out in public seeking out those He had come to serve---I learned to stay very connected with others all across the church, in very different settings, as both a leadership and spiritual discipline. This has meant being personally present in 45 different dioceses, witnessing 21 regional workshops, and participating in countless gatherings in congregations, assembly gatherings, and provincial meetings. In the very beginning, I began asking myself, "Why are these brothers and sisters asking to take my picture with them?" So, I finally asked them, and heard many times over, "Brother President, we have never had a National President come to this parish." This characterized a privilege I will always remember and cherish.

Each time I returned home from my travels for Brotherhood gatherings, I felt enriched, excited, and determined to be the best servant possible. These personal encounters made me realize the spiritual journey Christ had placed me on---helping build a stronger, more robust men's ministry community. I quickly realized the Church needed the Brotherhood of St. Andrew more ever before.



Networking with other groups within the Church had been neglected to a point that no one, including many clergy, knew who we were anymore. Our dedication, resourcefulness, and our passion for service had become the best-kept secret in the Church. Do you remember those days?

I will never forget the time (winter 2017) when we were invited to join the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). This is a small group of financially-strong larger parishes, dioceses, seminaries,

and cathedrals. Their annual meeting was held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. and over 800 people had registered. I knew no one at this gathering except The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn from Forward Movement. I attended one breakout session with over 100 people. Participants who had a question stood and introduced themselves, their parish or organization, and where they were located. I raised my hand. The moderator recognized me. I looked around the room, realizing again that absolutely no one knew me. "My name is Jeff Butcher, I am the 29th National President for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. We have over 460 parishes and 5,000 members and we are growing." As I was making these comments, you could have heard a pin drop. Several participants were smiling.

Shortly thereafter, our Executive Director Tom Welch and I went to New York City to meet the Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry. It was the first time in 28 years since a National President met the Presiding Bishop in his office at "815." As we talked, he got up from the table, pulled a note pad off of his desk, and started writing. Then he got out his cell phone. I stopped our slide presentation, looked squarely in his eyes and said, "Bishop, you know we are not here to ask you for any money." He put his pen down and asked if we could stay longer.

Another milestone took place when we set up our new traveling display exhibit at the 2018 Episcopal General Convention in Austin, Texas. It was like old home week working our way through the convention center. Numerous attendees stopped in the booth. "Nice to have you back." and "We need you more than ever." Those comments were most welcome.

In between all of this, I traveled to the Anglican Church of North America Provincial Synod in Chicago, attended the ACNA Quincy Provincial Meeting, and journeyed to the ACNA retreat for Diocese of South Carolina. Meanwhile, the Brotherhood took the most important step of becoming life members with the Union of Black Episcopalians.

The most recent significant turnabout was an the invitation in September 2019 to produce a podcast for the House of Bishops. The last time a National President had addressed this group was in 1932. We were so very humbled by this opportunity to bring everyone up to date on our efforts to bring greater awareness to the men's ministry community at work throughout the country. Tom Welch went to Minneapolis to engage in several one-on-one visits with the Bishops during break time following our five-minute presentation.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused all travel to cease in March of 2020. The Executive Board of the Brotherhood

had been meeting monthly since August of 2015. The last two years were always on Zoom. Consequently, we moved forward to further establish a monthly pattern of meeting with every province, members-at-large, and the ACNA Brothers. This had tremendous impact. Bible studies have sprung up all over the United States reflecting our strengthened array of connections in this time of the pandemic.

The only somewhat disappointing milestone we will encounter soon is the 2021 Triennial next month. It will be the first time since 1883 in which we have not met in person, not experiencing the important opportunities that being physically gathered together with handshakes and hugs often brings. Nonetheless, we hope you will register now to participate in this historic conclave welcoming new leadership, being inspired by new ideas, and sharing in our vision for a bright and blessed future to come.

So, these last six years have been very humbling, immensely heartwarming, and---without a doubt---an enormous privilege to encounter along my spiritual journey. I never dreamed it would have happened to me. And, I know it wouldn't have without God's Grace and your support. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. My God... my Lord.

Carpe Diem!

Thank you, Brother Jeff Butcher

For your six remarkable years as National President of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Your fellow Brothers churchwide and worldwide appreciate your constant leadership, vision, spiritual care, compassion, and love.





Directly Speaking

COLLISION COURSE

Tom Welch, Executive Director
tom.welch@brothersandrew.net



Many years ago, I came across this Psalm. In the months that followed I had practically memorized it. I couldn't get it out of my head. Then one morning while I was doing some household chores an "unowned" tune I had also been carrying in my head, and these words now, collided in my heart. I found a piano and composed a tune. To this day, it's the only piece of music I have ever written.

Fast forward to 2017. Four years ago this month, I heard from the Search Committee for Brothers Andrew. One interview led to another. The process was all by Zoom. As I went through the third interview, I shared that if I were to make the cut I couldn't make a final decision without an in-person handshake and cup of coffee with the Board Chairman. I thought that might have been it. A day later, I got a phone call from President Butcher saying, "Tom, tomorrow my wife and I are on our way to Marco Island, Florida. I'd like to swing by and have that cup of coffee with you. Will you meet me at the downtown Marriott there in Jackson (Mississippi)?" I was both surprised and delighted to be able to say, "Yes." Now, I don't know how Mr. Butcher was taught geography or orienteering, but a soul isn't just "passing through Jackson, Mississippi," on their way from Louisville, Kentucky, to south Florida. This man was serious.

In June, we will hold our first-ever virtual triennial national convention hosted in Louisville with limited in-person attendance. This convention is the last convention for the current Board of Directors team who hired me. President Butcher and well over half the seats on the board will be handed over to other good souls. For those of you who will attend our virtual convention, you will hear some reflections from both of us.

For now, and for our larger audience, I'd like to bid you to read all of Psalm 34. Do so from the context of where you are in your own lives, where you've been, and where we who call Him, "Lord" are ultimately going. It's only 22 verses. Take a moment to read it, then come back. I'll still be here. I promise.

The world has been living through a pandemic for over a year---a collision course of a previously unknown changing the known. We aren't past it yet. It has claimed millions of lives. It has softened millions of hearts, turning many of those hearts to God for solace, understanding of the bigger picture, and refuge. We do not have a clear picture of the future. Have we ever? As the psalmist wrote, God has conquered every fear. That is a constant in all of our days.

The worst month I have ever had working with you was simply wonderful. The rest of them were "over the top" with joy. What a phenomenal ministry you have. What a phenomenal set of stories you have as you "let your Andrew out" in your own lives. Never underestimate the difference you can make, whatever chapter of life you are in, throughout the Kingdom of God. We have more evangelism to do now, more than ever before in more ways than ever before. Look to the words of what is known as the Brotherhood hymn: "Rise up you saints of God, who've done with lesser things. Give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings."

Rise up. Rise up! Rise up for Christ and show Christ to your world, bringing others to "taste and see the Lord is good." That's a collision course with a heavenly end.



VIRTUAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION IS COMING

JUNE 24-26, 2021

CONVENTION THEME: THE JESUS MOVEMENT WANTS YOU

Thursday: June 24

(OPEN TO ALL)

2-4 p.m.

- I. **Opening, Call to Order & Welcome by Dick Hooper, MD, National Council Chair & Emcee**
 - A. Annual Chapter Reports filed and in good standing by 4/20/21
 - B. Registered participants for Friday & Saturday filed & quorum established (if needed)
- II. **Greetings from the National Office by Tom Welch, Executive Director**
- III. **Special Greetings from Brother Michael Curry, Honorary President (previously recorded)**
- IV. **Board Meeting Chaired by Jeff Butcher, XXIX National President**
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Minutes by Charles Craven, Board Secretary
 - C. Treasurer's Report
 1. Budget Approval or Rejection confirmation
 2. May Financials/Performance Report
 - D. Election Results by Jack Hanstein, Sr. VP/Adm. & Nominations Chair
 - E. Presidential Awards by Jeff Butcher, National President & Board Chair
 - F. Announce officers/Administration oath of office.

Virtual Break (15 minutes)

4:30 p.m.

- V. **Virtual Eucharist & Homily (previously recorded) from Incarnation Cathedral, Baltimore Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, Diocese of Maryland, presiding**

5:30 p.m. Stand in Recess

FRIDAY: JUNE 25

(REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY)

10 a.m.

- VI. **Reconvene, Dick Hooper, MD, presiding**
- VII. **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**
10:10-10:40 a.m. **Keynote Address Ford Rowan/ St. Anne's, Baltimore, MD (previously recorded)**
Virtual Break (10 Minutes)
- VIII. **Missional Workshops for Friday (all workshops are virtual/ interactive Zoom)**
11- 11:50 a.m. **1st Workshop Session**
Presenter: Ed Davis, PhD, VP/Restorative Justice
12-1 p.m. **Lunch**
1-1:50 p.m. **2nd Workshop Session**
Presenter: Rory Smith, Interim VP/Racial Reconciliation
Virtual Break (10 Minutes)
2- 2:50 p.m. **3rd Workshop Session**
Presenter: Lee Wright, Esq. Interim VP/Recovery
Virtual Break (10 Minutes)
3- 3:50 p.m. **4th Workshop Session**
Presenter: Everette Price, VP/Veterans

3:50 p.m. Closing Announcements & Recess for the day by NCC Dick Hooper

Saturday, June 26

(REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY)

10 a.m.

- IX. **Call to Order by NCC Dick Hooper**
- X. **Morning Prayer Presented by The Rt. Rev. Carl Wright, National Cathedral Brotherhood Chaplain & Bishop to the Armed Forces/Federal Ministries**
- XI. **Missional Workshops for Saturday**
10:30-11:30 a.m. **5th Workshop Session**
Presenter: John "JTQ" Thompson-Quartey, Interim VP/Social Justice
11:30-12 p.m. **Lunch**
12:15- 1:10 p.m. **6th Workshop Session**
Presenter: Ed Milbrada, VP/Scouting
Virtual Break (10 Minutes)
1:20 - 2:20 p.m. **7th Workshop Session**
Presented by: Tom Martin, VP/Discipleship & Mentoring
Virtual Break (10 Minutes)

3-4:15 p.m.

- XII. **Closing Session & Adjournment**
 - A. Processional Hymn
 - B. XXIX President Farewell Address, Jeff Butcher
 - C. Closing remarks by NCC Dick Hooper
 - D. Handing of the gavel to Billy Harrison, new National Council Chairman
 - E. Introduction of National President Conrad Jones by Billy Harrison
 - F. Brief remarks by Conrad Jones, National President, XXX
 - G. National Council Chairman Billy Harrison
 1. Announces Next Meeting in Baltimore
 - a.) Meeting concurrently with Daughters of the King
 - b.) Will be open beyond Brothers Andrew to partner men's ministry groups
 - c.) June 29 - July 2, 2022, Royal Sonesta/ Waterfront in Baltimore
 2. Adjournment of the National Convention
 3. Blessing by National Chaplain, The Rt. Rev. Carl Wright
 4. Closing Hymn: Brotherhood Hymn

VIRTUAL CONVENTION 2021

Tips for your best meeting experience!

HOW WILL I PARTICIPATE?

You will chose your laptop or tablet or cell phone



Be sure you have a strong WI-FI signal!

The Thursday, June 24, sessions are open to the public. Join in from our homepage: brothersandrew.net

Note: Brothers registered for convention will have a specific link assigned for sessions on Friday and Saturday.



For practice with Zoom, join us for a monthly province meeting. To find yours, go to moreinfo.news/province_zoom

IMPORTANT LINKS

PROCEDURAL MANUAL-VOTING
moreinfo.news/voting

MEET THE CANDIDATES
moreinfo.news/candidates

2018 TRIENNIAL MEETING MINUTES
moreinfo.news/2018minutes

ZOOM MEETINGS
moreinfo.news/province_zoom

CONVENTION REGISTRATION
moreinfo.news/registration

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS CHANGES
moreinfo.news/changes

2021 BUDGET
moreinfo.news/2021budget

Keep informed and practice your Zoom skills with the regular Province meetings.

BROTHERHOOD RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND HEALING TASK FORCE CONTINUES WORK

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Task Force on Racial Reconciliation and Healing continues to meet on a weekly basis, spending not only 1.5 hours for a meeting but more than four-six hours each week in preparation for the meetings with the videos and readings prescribed by the Sacred Ground Curriculum.

The current Task Force consists of ten diverse members representing all but one of the Provinces in the Brotherhood. The task force is completing a strategic plan for presentation to the Executive Board this spring.

During the past month, Task Force members have attended several national webinars. One was presented by the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, and hosted by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Catherine Meeks titled, "A Response to the Rising Hatred and Violence against Asian Americans: A Conversation with The Right. Reverend Diana Akiyama, the first Japanese American woman to be ordained as a Priest and a Bishop in the Episcopal Church." ([moreinfo.news/response](https://www.moreinfo.news/response)) The Zoom conference had more than 350 people in attendance from all over the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.



The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing

RESPONSE TO THE RISING HATRED & VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN-AMERICANS:

A CONVERSATION WITH THE RT. REV. DIANA AKIYAMA, Ph.D.

THE FIRST JAPANESE-AMERICAN WOMAN TO BE ORDAINED AS A PRIEST & BISHOP IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Task Force is recommending that each Brotherhood Diocesan Coordinator visit their diocesan website and become aware of the resources available locally through their Diocesan Racial Reconciliation and Healing Task Force.

SHARING OUR STORIES AS BROTHERS

The April meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Executive Council included a time for Brothers to share their stories of faith and personal involvement in the ministries of the Brotherhood. These powerful stories may inspire you and the members of your own Chapter to reach out and share with others in the spirit of Brotherhood evangelism. The link below will get you to the archived version of the Zoom session where the stories were shared. Enjoy these stories and, if you or your Chapter decides to work at this type of story sharing, let us know what you did and how it went! Contact editor@brothersandrew.net to tell us more.



Archive on YouTube: [moreinfo.news/story](https://www.moreinfo.news/story)

SOME THOUGHTS OF THANKS FOR YOUR BROTHERHOOD MINISTRY PLEDGES

Did you know that almost 50% of our Brotherhood of St. Andrew operating budget comes from your faithful ministry pledges at the parish/Chapter level?

We offer special prayers of thanksgiving for those Chapters that, when a member is struggling for whatever reason, offer his ministry pledge from the local Chapter itself. This is a loving act of respect and support for local Brothers who are experiencing adversity yet still want to stay active in the Brotherhood locally and globally. It strongly supports our Brotherhood value of modeling mutual ministry. If you are a part of one of our many local Chapters that supports your own members in this very special way, thank you for your generosity and caring.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10



Brothers Andrew, We need your help..literally!

We have over 5,500 members nationwide. That is an amazing talent pool of professionals in education, business, clergy, medicine—the full gamut of all the professions, occupations, and walks of life. And we are Brothers in Christ.

We all have talents we were born with, instinctual skills and abilities that drive our interests and what we can do. Talent is set apart from knowledge in that it is not a learned behavior, although it can be strengthened and practiced. When you discover the talents

Continued on page 11.

BROTHERS AROUND THE CHURCH

2021 DIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA MEN'S RETREAT LED BY FATHER MATT MARINO AT SAINT CRISPIN'S EPISCOPAL CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER APRIL 29-MAY 1

By Bob Baker, Diocese of Oklahoma Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter



You may remember Father Matt Marino's online presentation in November, "Engaging Millennials," that was organized by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for a nationwide audience. Father Marino has a great understanding of how we can best connect to younger generations in our work to grow the Church and carry on our traditions of prayer, study and service. He was scheduled to lead our 2020 Oklahoma Men's Retreat, and, fortunately, he was able to carry out that plan with us a year later instead.

His thoughtful retreat theme was "Encounters with Jesus," introducing five encounters with our Lord in John's Gospel, using these catchy titles for each session: 1) Nic at Night; 2) A Woman at Noon; 3) Sight for the Blind; 4) Life for the Dead and 5) Returning Well. We also discussed the seven "I am" Statements in John: the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Gate for the Sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way and the Truth and the Life, and the True Vine.

Friday evening was especially poignant with the sharing of a video production from Trinity Parish/Saint Augustine's compelling "Service of Shadows," in the tradition of Tenebrae, concluding with our Holy Eucharist. We had eighteen men attending from several churches throughout our diocese.

There was also some free time for any who chose to hike up to the stone labyrinth or around the lake to appreciate God's gorgeous scenery on this beautiful weekend.

As Saint John's/Tulsa Brotherhood has organized a number of our diocesan men's retreats, we have taken the opportunity to invite retreat leaders to preach at our church on the Sunday following the retreat. Father Marino

preached a homily on the vineyard that was very well received.

Father David Bumsted, our new rector at St. John's in Tulsa---having moved recently from Orlando---had the opportunity to visit informally with Father Matt about their ministry experiences in both Florida and Oklahoma. A "fun fact" is that our guest's visit was bracketed by hamburger lunches at the famous Arnold's in Crystal City on the way from the airport to Saint Crispin's and at Society Burger on Cherry Street in Tulsa en route back to the airport. It was a great joy having Father Matt visit us and lead us in the important work of examining and strengthening our outreach to Millennials.

BROTHERHOOD CHAPTER IN COLORADO SUCCESSFULLY COPES WITH PANDEMIC IMPACT ON SAMARITAN OUTREACH

By Steve Packard, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Brotherhood Chapter; Centennial, Colorado

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Centennial, Colorado participates in several Samaritan Outreach programs throughout the year that offer a variety of "hands on" opportunities to benefit the community. By helping others, outreach volunteers find joy through service and carry out the teachings of Jesus to make their faith active rather than passive.

The St. Tim's Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter #5058 supports an annual Mardi Gras fund raising dinner for the youth group and, in 2020, it happened before shutdowns limited group gatherings. The Brotherhood Chapter members helped the youth raise \$400 that evening.

In normal times, one of the ministries the church sponsors and the Brotherhood supports is Family Promise, a metropolitan Denver program dedicated to assisting families during times of housing crisis. The church offers sleeping space, laundry services, and meals in its facility to families in urgent need of shelter. Our Brotherhood of St. Andrew members typically serve among the chaperons, cooks, and in other roles. With the restrictions in place due to the pandemic, this ministry was forced to make some adjustments and eliminate direct engagement with the struggling families. Instead, guests were housed in motel rooms or other locations. In response to the increased expense, parish members donated \$12,800 to Family Promise to help keep these families housed.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on face-to-face ministry, the church and its Brotherhood members provided additional support through a variety of other successful activities in 2020. For example, a collection of

\$310 from the Brotherhood was used to provide meals and other support for mothers and children at the House of Hope, a local no-cost safe shelter with supportive services for women with children experiencing homelessness.



Our Brotherhood Chapter also participated in a church-sponsored Loaves and Fishes food drive to benefit two local food banks. In partnership with neighboring Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, the two parishes were able to raise \$6,393 in financial support. And during a “pop the trunk” donation event, 43 vehicles dropped off groceries at the two churches.

Brotherhood members also contributed to the HAAT Force this past Christmas season, allowing St. Tim’s to send a check for \$3,525 to the Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force (HAAT Force). Brotherhood member Bob Fullerton notes, “The HAAT Force provides severe weather shelter by offering motel rooms for families and people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness in the south metro area. Without our support, many would suffer.”

The church and its Brotherhood members also coordinated “Blessing Bags” in 2020 for distribution to people in need who came to the doors of the church. Bags for adults contained snacks, toiletries, a grocery store gift card, information on where to receive further help (in both English and Spanish) and a daily devotion. Bags for infants contained diapers/wipes, baby food, lotion, and a toy.

And Brotherhood members continue to support the community on their individual time with one 84-year-old member still delivering Meals on Wheels and another tutoring students working to achieve their GED certificates.

These actions, and other direct support to the local and extended community, have helped energize the parish and generate a spirit of kinship with those in need. Our Brotherhood Chapter looks forward to increased physical engagement with the disadvantaged in 2021 and asks your prayers for the grace to continue to issue forth the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

OHIO BROTHERS IN KINGFISHER CHAPTER ASSIST THEIR PARISH FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

By Brother Clifton S. Spencer III, Christ Episcopal Church, Shaker Heights, Ohio

With the pandemic conditions creating a very different approach to Ash Wednesday this year, our Brotherhood Chapter gathered early (socially distancing on the church’s south parking lot) to prepare unused palms from the previous Palm Sunday to burn for Ash Wednesday. We began by cutting the palms into strips about two to three inches in length and placing them in a fire-safe tin pan. The palm strips were then placed on an unlit open grill as a holding base. The palms were burnt by a small blow torch to create the ash elements in the fire-safe tin pan and all embers were then tapped out with metal spatulas.



The last step was to place the ash elements into kitchen strainers to get the fine, smooth texture needed.

The ash elements were then lightly patted with spoons through kitchen strainers to create the final presentation of the ashes. We thank our rector, The Rev. Peter Faass, who provided quarter-size bags for the ashes to ready them for our congregation’s pandemic-safe Ash Wednesday ash pick up. Our Brotherhood Chapter was pleased to serve in this simple way for a very important time in the life of our parish during the challenges of the pandemic time.

REMEMBERING BISHOP BRUNO



The Right Reverend Joseph Jon Bruno, former Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles, died April 23. Bishop Bruno was a lifetime member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew who supported our Brotherhood commitment to Prayer, Study, and Service and was a friend and encourager to many. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

PODCASTS OF NOTE



Elmo Winters “Building the Bridge” Podcast, examining how we can build greater unity during times of disagreement: moreinfo.news/bridge

“The Importance of Amplifying Contemporary Indigenous Voices”: moreinfo.news/voices

COMMUNITY POLICE WITH A NEW UNDERSTANDING

HOW A CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) APPROACH IN ONE BROTHER'S COMMUNITY IS CHANGING AND IMPROVING THE WAY LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS RESPOND TO A POLICE CALL

By Jim Happ, Member, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

LET US TRAVEL THROUGH A FREQUENT SCENARIO ASSOCIATED WITH A TYPICAL MUNICIPAL POLICE SITUATION.

At 10:25 p.m., a call comes into the Emergency 911 Center. A man is threatening his family and some adjacent persons. Yelling and wielding a large stick, he is clearly out of control. The 911 Center notifies two local municipal squad cars, officers Tom and Bill, who race toward the address, sirens blaring as they speed to the scene. Officer Tom presses to get there first, since the call has been tagged "mental subject" and he is a trained Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer. Officer Tom has a greater distance to travel, thus Officer Bill was on the scene first.

A veteran officer of almost 18 years, Officer Bill's initial training would be to confront the threatening person, whose name is Chas, subduing him, handcuffing him, making an arrest, and posting some charges. Fortunately, moments later, Officer Tom arrives. He quickly recognizes a person in crisis, so he assures Officer Bill that he should take charge. "I know I can help the situation with this guy," he said to Officer Bill. Recalling the role play modules of his CIT training, Officer Tom remains calm, speaks softly to Chas, assures him that he is safe, and considers what all of this means to his family, a process which takes some time and patience. Most times, a good deal of patience is necessary in a situation like this, which is emphasized in the program on how deal with crisis situations. Finally, a calm is achieved. Now, Officer Tom will tell Chas about Crisis Services with the Lenape Valley Foundation, located in his county (Bucks County, PA), and will strongly advise Chas to contact them for help.

The CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) concept in policing was developed in Memphis, TN in the late 80's. It was created in response to the fatal shooting of a man with a known history of mental illness and substance abuse issues. CIT is more than just police training. Its mission is to enhance officer and consumer safety, encourage jail diversion in favor of treatment, and maintain ongoing community collaboration. The three key components of a CIT program are law enforcement, behavioral health, and advocacy. Representatives from these three components drive the implementation and the ongoing program development.

The CIT training curriculum is designed to give officers the knowledge and skills to more accurately identify situations when a person is struggling with mental illness or substance abuse and guide them to appropriate treatment. The de-escalation skills officers

acquire and practice throughout the course decrease the chances they will need to go "hands on," thereby enhancing the safety of all involved. Exposure to additional local cooperative resources prevents unnecessary and inappropriate incarceration by providing CIT officers more options for a safe resolution of a call. Despite some widespread belief to the contrary, people do not get mental health treatment in jail, or the proper medications they may have already been prescribed. And, people with mental illness tend to remain incarcerated much longer, even for minor offenses, because they do not have the support system or resources to post bail.



Throughout the CIT course, officers are exposed to a variety of alternative strategies and resources, namely the signs and symptoms of mental illness or substance use disorders by subject-matter experts and people who are living in recovery. CIT training presents instructions for performing various active listening techniques to empathetically engage a person in order to more accurately assess their needs. The training role plays situations based on real police calls to help practice new active listening skills. It includes information and examples offered by representatives from various Bucks County mental health and substance abuse professionals, who share how to access their vital services.

The goals of CIT are for law enforcement first responders to treat mental illness as a disease, not a crime. This paradigm shift results in a decreased number of officer injuries, decreased use of force, improved use of alternatives to arrest and jail, decreased time officers spend in the crisis unit, (i.e. facilitating involuntary commitments), and generally improved relationships for officers and their communities. Persons with behavioral health disorders and their families experience fewer injuries and have better relationships with law enforcement officers. The stigma of unnecessary incarceration is lessened and improved access to treatment is achieved.

Bucks County's CIT Program (Bucks CIT) was established in April of 2008, with six-hour introductory courses held in early 2009. The first 40-hour certification course was held in September of 2009 and, since then, twenty-two 40-hour certification classes have been completed. So far, 487 Bucks County police officers have been certified. Another 78 Bucks County probation/parole officers, emergency medical service providers, hospital security personnel and corrections officers have also received the training. There is an overwhelmingly positive response to the course by officers who attend. Here are a few comments excerpted from course evaluations:

- "I came to the class not really looking forward to it, I left very impressed and feel I learned a lot."
- "I really enjoyed the class. All of the info was useful and beneficial. Extremely beneficial"
- "I wish I had this training 25 years ago when I first started on the job."

The Bucks CIT Task Force includes stakeholder representatives from four different county police departments, NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a consumer and family advocacy group), the Lenape Valley Foundation (a behavioral health provider), the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, and the Bucks County Office of Behavioral Health Development. The county is comprised of 42 municipalities with roughly 850 officers. At least one patrol officer in every department has completed the course. Several departments have reached the Memphis model goal of having 20% of patrol officers trained. Some departments have met or are working toward their stated goal of 100% patrol officers trained.

In 2016, Bucks CIT participated in a study conducted by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, (UPMC), aimed to determine two objectives:

1. The degree to which CIT programs in Pennsylvania maintain fidelity to the original Memphis Model. Bucks County CIT was one of seven CIT programs across the state to participate in this portion of the training.
2. The effectiveness of CIT Programs in Pennsylvania. Bucks County CIT was one of four CIT programs across the state to participate in this training.

THE RESULTS SHOWED:

Bucks County CIT has implemented into the training and program the vast majority of the essential elements defined for fidelity to the model. Bucks County CIT trained officers are less likely to go "hands on" than non-CIT trained officers, thus reducing the risk of injury to all concerned. In addition, Bucks County CIT trained officers are more likely than non-CIT trained officers to resolve a "mental subject" call with a non-criminal justice disposition even if charges are filed. In other words, regardless of whether the behavior led to charges, if mental illness was a factor in the call, the person was

more likely to be directed to treatment rather than incarceration at the time of the incident.

The Lenape Valley Foundation, a comprehensive behavioral health service provider, now offers several options for Bucks County residents in need of crisis intervention. The phones are answered 24/7/365 by Crisis Call Center staff who can offer support in the moment or briefly assess the need for a more thorough evaluation by our Mobile Crisis Team or at one of our walk-in centers. If recommended by the assessment team, Lenape offers short-term treatment at The Lodge Crisis Residential Service. This is a stabilization unit of 12 beds, located on the Lower Bucks Hospital campus, where clients can voluntarily receive individual and group therapy and coordination of aftercare.

BACK TO CHAS FOR A MOMENT:

Since he was threatening people with a weapon, Officer Bill would have been well within protocol to take him into custody, charge him with a number of criminal offenses, and transport him to the county jail for a period of incarceration. Chas would likely lose his job and now, with a record, find it difficult to secure a new one. As the stressors continued to mount and Chas' mental health continued to decline, the prognosis would be dismal and the likelihood of future police interactions would increase. However, Officer Tom was able to deploy the knowledge and skills he learned in CIT training. He learned that the family did not want to press charges. They knew he had been extremely depressed, not sleeping, and using alcohol to cope with overwhelming thoughts and feelings. Once Chas realized he had options, he began to calm down and eventually agreed to go with Officer Tom to a crisis center for an assessment.

For more information about Bucks CIT, and how its work may inform the policing situation in your own community, contact Nicole Wolf at 215-458-4220 or nicole.wolf@lenapevf.org

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. *How could the work of this community's CIT training and policing program inform policing in your own community?*
2. *What do you personally think of this approach to community policing? What strengths and weaknesses do you see if this were to be introduced in your own community?*
3. *What could your Brotherhood Chapter do to call attention to this approach to policing?*
4. *What action steps would you and your Chapter like to take next? How could your Chapter better assist your local police in finding strengthened support and solutions?*



LET YOUR ANDREW OUT!

Order these favorites now and proudly show your love and support for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Miscellaneous



- Silver 16 oz. Travel Tumbler
- Note Cards (includes envelopes) Pack of 15
- Golf Towel

Pins



- Associate Lapel Pins
- Lapel Pin
- Partner in Ministry Pins
- Jerusalem Cross Pins
- American & St Andrew's Flag Pins



Apparel

- Brotherhood Blazer Patch with Anchor
- Tie
- White Ball Cap

Shirts



- Chambray Blue Easy Care Dress Shirt: Sizes XS - 4XL
- Riveria Blue Rapid Dry Polo: Sizes: Sizes XS - 6XL
- Navy Blue V-Neck Wind Shirt: Sizes XS - 6XL



- Sport Grey Crew Neck Sweatshirt: Sizes XS - 5XL
- Sport Grey Gildan Tee Shirt: Sizes XS - 5XL

Pricing and Ordering Information

For ordering information, availability, and current pricing, use the order form at moreinfo.news/orderform.

The Brotherhood Needs You - Continued from page 6.

that God has given you and you use them to glorify Him, you will experience a full life!

We need to draw upon your robust skills to lend advise, strategize, enrich and invigorate the committees within the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. It's not a huge investment of your time. Perhaps offering one hour a

month (or more if you can spare it!) But we need help to "refresh and restock" our committee participation.

If you could spare 12 hours a year (that's only about 0.1% of the year!) to share your talents in helping the mission of The Brotherhood to bring men and youth to Christ, please reply back to me!

Br. Conrad Jones, President Province III
Brotherhood of St. Andrew

THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW
620 South Third Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 1528



STAY IN THE CONVERSATION

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Cross is the official publication of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Inc. It is printed quarterly with digital issues published every month. Copyright ©2021 by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, USA. Louisville, Kentucky.

PHONE 502 450 5640	FACEBOOK
..... 724 266 5810	BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW USA
PRAYER LINE 502 450 5809	FACEBOOK.COM/BROTHERSANDREW.NET
EMAIL INFO@BROTHERSANDREW.NET	TWITTER @BRSTANDREW
#BRSTANDREW	INSTAGRAM @BROTHERHOO1883
WEBSITE BROTHERSANDREW.NET	
ADDRESS	
620 S. 3RD STREET, SUITE 203	
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202	

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

Your purchases can help make a difference. Kroger and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchases to the Brotherhood.



- Go to smile.amazon.com/about.
- Read how the program works.
- Follow the directions to enroll and choose The Brotherhood of St. Andrew as your charity.



- Go to www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/
- Log in to your account or create one if you don't have one.
- Click on the **Enroll** button then search for Brotherhood of St. Andrew or the code YE249.
- Click on the **Enroll** button on the result to complete the process.

Note: Some geographic areas are not eligible for this Kroger promotion. Consult your local store or contact the Brotherhood office if you have questions.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

The deadline for our next edition is June 5, 2021. Share your stories, photos, and ideas with us at editor@brothersandrew.ent.