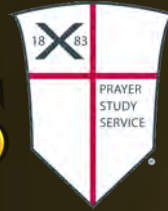


# THE CROSS



**JUNE 2023**

THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

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*Prayer, Study, and Service*

**The Episcopal and Anglican Newsletter of Men's Ministry**

A man's profile is shown in profile, looking down at a glowing green bottle. The bottle is emitting a bright green light. To the left, a scroll is partially visible. The background is dark and textured.

## PART TRIVIA, PART TREASURE

**SO, HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD OF  
ST. ANDREW?**

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**



## On My Mind...

# THE MESSAGE

Conrad Jones  
President, Brotherhood of St. Andrew  
conrad.jones@brothersandrew.net

It seems we live in a world these days where we are always messaging—be it text messaging or leaving a voice message for an unanswered phone call, Post-It notes left for someone, or even being subjected to subtle messaging in advertising on TV or print media. In short, a message is usually a short communication via words, signals, or other means from one person or group to another.

### Get The Message?

So, if messages are communication, and since communication is a vital part of *EVANGELISM* (oh, I know that Episcopalians are traditionally afraid of that word!), then can we draw a line (as crooked as it might seem) between *MESSAGES* and *EVANGELISM*?

Let's go back in time to when our Savior walked this earth. Remember the two disciples He encountered on the road to Emmaus? They were blind to know it was Jesus who walked among them, until their eyes were opened when he broke bread with them that night. **SUBLIMINAL MESSAGING!** And once they knew it was **HIM**, they ran to tell the others! **INSTANT MESSAGING!**

Each Sunday when we hear the epistle and Gospel readings, they are concluded by the phrase "The Word of God." A divine message. The prophets often stated that the messages they delivered were God's word. **(Luke 11:28)** He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

So, coming full circle now, The Word of God is the **MESSAGE!** And given that summarization, how are we as Brothers Andrew delivering that message? In Corinthians 1, 2:4, we read that ***our speech and our message should not be in words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit of power.*** And again in Mark 16:20, we read, "And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the **message** by the signs that attended it."

How are we delivering the message? Are we showing those around us every day that we are filled (and blessed) with the Holy Spirit within us? Are we willing (and we are certainly able) to witness and pray with another man who really needs it? Do we endorse and support our ministry and mission by *fulfilling our obligations of membership* in this fellowship of Christian men (financially and participatory)? Do we show outwardly that **WE ARE BROTHERS ANDREW** by proudly wearing our membership lapel pins and other logo items to give that outward message of who we are and what we are a part of?



Are we messengers, or are we bystanders who don't embrace the fact that **WE** each have an obligation to deliver the message? We have nearly 5,000 Brothers in our membership database. Can you imagine the impact we could make in this world if all of us (not just the 1,500 or so who are "active"), began to deliver that **MESSAGE** of who we are, what we are a part of, and how being a part of this Brotherhood can be transformational in the spiritual lives of men and youth? Sharing that message with just one other man immediately doubles our Brotherhood's community of faithful men!

The extraordinary embrace of love I feel is the Holy Spirit. I'm sure you feel it, too. I think Jesus' words to Thomas were a proclamation to us all, that you can **TRUST** that feeling, that the feeling is as real as it seems because it is a message from our God. It is Jesus, along with His Father, and the Holy Spirit, that is the **TRUTH**. You don't have to feel his pierced side and/or his nail holes, He is with you. And we are commanded by Him to share that message.

The Holy Spirit is knocking on all of our hearts. Will we open up and let the spirit in? Can we be the spirit's messenger? I am very blessed being surrounded by so much love. Others aren't so lucky. I want them to feel this same **JOY**. So, what am I to do? **LOVE OTHERS**. We are to **LOVE OTHERS**. Now, we all know that loving others is part one of the greatest commandment.

Our message must be about that **LOVE**. John 1, 3:11 – "For this is the **message** that ye heard from the beginning: that we should love one another."

Be a good messenger....

That's what's been on my mind.

Brother Conrad



**JOIN US FOR BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW MIDDAY PRAYER**  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 1 P.M. EASTERN TIME VIA ZOOM**  
**ZOOM MEETING ID 893 4148 8609**  
**PASSCODE: 0723**



# Directly Speaking

## “MIC CHECK”

**Tom Welch**  
Executive Director, Brotherhood of St. Andrew  
tom.welch@brothersandrew.net

*“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.”*

1 Peter 3:12(NRSV)

For nearly a decade I was a disc jockey or, as we called it in the industry, an “air personality” at my Mississippi hometown radio station. My last broadcast was when I was 25. We used the term “mic check” as we prepared to broadcast. Being the child of an English major, I often smiled at how my father would disapprove of the spelling to such an abbreviation. During those moments before broadcast, we would check for audibles; clear, precise, well-enunciated words. The thing about such efforts was not the audibles themselves, rather the silence before and after. It causes deliberate listening. When I look back at that “air room” I am chuckling at the changes since the 1980’s in that industry. Once a guy named Bob Pittman stopped by during my shift to see if the owner was still the same guy from years earlier. Bob was a Methodist preacher’s kid. He had once sat where I was when his mom and dad lived there. At the conclusion of a brief, but intriguing, conversation that day he handed me his business card, asking that I give it to Mr. Felder, the station owner. (I would see Mr. Felder the next night at our Boy Scout troop meeting.) It read: “President of NBC Radio Sports, Rockefeller Center, NYC.” A short time later he birthed MTV and the world was never the same.

The thing about silence is that it can change things. Moreover, when we pray to God, I believe it may move God to change the world, or at least how we see it and/or respond to it. I do know this. Actions in heaven begin when someone prays. A few years back, I began a five-year journal to a “daily question.” The same question is asked on the same day of the year for five years. The mission is to annually write an answer to the same question over those five years. What has been amazing to me is, as time passes, the answer to those same questions. In the silence between the 365 days since the prayer or question, it is amazing to see the change in me, the change in circumstances, the change in perspective, and the fruition of the answers.

As members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, by our very membership I believe many look to us for mentorship and discipleship. Just as God has ears open to our prayers, so also do those who come to us with deep, piercing questions have their ears open to our reply. How do we best reply? What is our best source for answers? I think our answers first start with what I call “holy silence,” a chance to listen deep within before we have our own “mic check” of an answer. Clear, precise, and well-enunciated articulated answers that can only come from the wisdom of holy silence before we broadcast. During June and July, I am going to have a chance to



be with some of you in-person, the first such opportunities on an expanded scale since the pandemic began. It is not up to me to come with the possible answers. It is only as important as you who come with the questions. In my life when I have questions, I have learned it is more critical I ask God about them first before I ask

others I can actually see. It gives God a chance to open those ears of mine, and others, to God’s answers and hopes. So, at any time or in any circumstance in our lives, it’s the silence between the “now” and “then” that we pose questions to God first, don’t you think? It doesn’t matter that a single person actually answers the questions, but that we asked God first to form the questions and to temper the questions in our hearts in such a manner that we may be open to the answers.

The thing about constant communion with God is that the more time we give God, the less worry we have, the more abundant our joy in Christ becomes and the more we live in communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Now, that’s what I call an “ear-opening, mic checking” experience. Don’t you agree?

Tending the vineyard,  
Tom Welch

# PART TRIVIA, PART TREASURE

## SO, HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW?

You've likely experienced it. Get a group of long-time Brothers together and the stories start to fly—sometimes much to the amazement of your younger Chapter members and others in your parish, too. So, what do you really know about the Brotherhood of St. Andrew? Here are some bits of part trivia, part treasure, you can share with your fellow Brothers the next time the situation seems to call for a good story or interesting Brotherhood fact or two. Enjoy learning some interesting new Brotherhood of St. Andrew tidbits, maybe even share this quiz at any upcoming Chapter gathering—perhaps earning yourself new status as the Chapter trivia king?!



### Where and when did the Brotherhood of St. Andrew begin?

It all started back in 1883 at St. James in Chicago when a group of young men began meeting regularly for prayer and Bible study. They soon expanded their circle by reaching out to men in the streets and bringing them in for Bible study.

This special combination of prayer, Bible study, mission, and evangelism was the impetus for what later became the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.



### Of all the saints, why was Andrew selected to be symbolic of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew?

Andrew was the first apostle called by Jesus. He dropped everything without hesitation and followed Christ, bringing his own brother with him. What better example to inform the emerging ministry of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew?



### What did the U.S. Congress have to do with the Brotherhood?

The United States Congress actually incorporated the Brotherhood in 1908 with an official congressional act later signed by President Theodore Roosevelt.



### What are the three parallel purposes of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew?

They have been known by many different descriptions over the years but Prayer, Study, and Service form the key disciplines and purpose of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew,

rooted in an overarching purpose to inspire, empower, and equip men to fulfill the Great Commission.



### What on earth do Episcopal Lay Readers have to do with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew?

Back in 1886, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew actually introduced the Lay Reader Program to the Episcopal Church. At that time, the Lay Reader Program meant lay men who went door-to-door to generate interest in starting an

Episcopal mission. These men met with the people they encountered and

read Morning and Evening Prayer on Sundays. They later planned for a priest to celebrate Eucharist and perform the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Literally hundreds of parishes now exist because of this early Brotherhood ministry termed the Lay Reader Program.



### How many areas of mission focus does the Brotherhood of St. Andrew have?

Seven. They include Discipleship and Mentoring, Prison Ministries, Racial Reconciliation, Recovery, Social Justice, Veterans Ministries, Youth and Scouting.



### Who was James L. Houghteling?

He was the lay leader from St. James in Chicago who first organized the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.



### With what church wide organizations does the Brotherhood of St. Andrew have primary partnerships in ministry?

In addition to the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew maintains special partnerships in mission with the Daughters of the King, Episcopal Church Women, and the Union of Black Episcopalians.



### What are two national action days the Brotherhood of St. Andrew observes?

The National Day of Prayer and National Day of Service result in many activities and observances in Chapters around the church, often in partnership with church or community partners



### What geographic areas does the Brotherhood of St. Andrew have a presence in now?

In addition to many areas of the United States, the Brotherhood now has a significant global presence, with Chapters in Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Great Britain, Canada, and Haiti.



### What were the Cadets of St. Andrew?

In 1889, junior Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapters were put in motion to develop young leaders in the church who would be expected to eventually fill the men's ministry leadership ranks. They were called the Cadets of St. Andrew.



### What milestone occurred with the Brotherhood in 1900?

An important one! The Brotherhood of St. Andrew reached the 1,000 Chapter milestone, with 17,000 men who were members.



### What did the Brotherhood have to do with George Washington's birthday?

For many years, the Brotherhood organized a national Washington's Birthday Corporate Communion service for men and boys, with the purpose of bringing men and youth back into the church.



### What are the two most recent Brotherhood ministry focuses and when were they embraced by the leadership and members?

In 2017, the issue of Human Trafficking became a focus of the Brotherhood's Social Justice emphasis. In 2018, Recovery—which speaks to recovery from all forms of addiction—became a mission priority.



### Do Brothers typically work on different types of mission outside of the seven primary mission focuses of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew?

Yes. While some Chapters are known for their concentration on just one area of the seven primary mission focuses, many others work on multiple Brotherhood mission priorities while also supporting the mission priorities of their own parish.



### So, when was *The Cross* first published?

*The Cross* debuted in 1886. So, congratulations! You are reading the longest-standing news magazine for men in the church. An especially interesting fact—over 100,000 copies of the magazine were sent to the troops serving in World War I.



### How many Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapters were either started or reconstituted last year?

There were 13 new or reconstituted Chapters last year. Best of all, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has gained almost 500 new members over the past 17 months!



### Is the Brotherhood of St. Andrew just for men?

No. Many Brotherhood Chapters are quick to say that they couldn't possibly accomplish their mission projects and goals without the leadership and assistance of women and youth in their congregation. Women clergy are especially invited to join as Associate members.



### Does the Brotherhood of St. Andrew observe a time for church wide prayer?

Yes. Brothers church wide convene each Wednesday at noon (EDT) via Zoom for twenty minutes of prayer led by volunteers from throughout Brotherhood leadership. Want to join in? See page two.



### Is the Presiding Bishop a Brotherhood of St. Andrew member?

Yes. The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, is a long-time member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew who provides critical support for our ministry locally, regionally, and globally.



### Who are Brotherhood Members-at-Large?

The category of Members-at-Large is actually the largest category of Brotherhood of St. Andrew membership right now. It is a place for Brothers to connect when they are in a parish, usually a small one, that doesn't yet have an active Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter. At-large members connect with other members throughout the Brotherhood via the use of technology and special assistance from the Louisville church wide offices. What does this mean? You can be a Brotherhood of St. Andrew member wherever you are, even if you are the only Brother in your parish. The National Board Member representing Members-At-Large is Lyn Reavis from Round Top, Texas. He routinely hosts Zoom meetings for Members-At-Large and anyone else who may like to join in. He can be reached at lyn.reavis@brothersandrew.net.



### So, what is the best way to connect with Brothers church wide and learn more about all the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has to offer?

You can check out the website at [brothersandrew.net](http://brothersandrew.net) and/or follow the Brotherhood of St. Andrew on your favorite social media. On the website you'll discover how you can sign up for Brotherhood of St. Andrew text updates, participate in monthly webinars, or subscribe to the e-newsletter *Lead Like Andrew*. Still have questions? Call the office at 502-450-5640.



# AROUND THE CHAPTERS

## MARIETTA, GEORGIA BROTHERS OFFER HUMAN NEEDS ASSISTANCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEIR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

By Tom Martin, Vice-President of Field Operations, Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter in Marietta, GA at the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Paul has been at work developing opportunities to bring others to Christ by forming Monday Morning Prayer, Thursday Bible Study, Sunday adult learning, and other small groups, as well as participating in several other outreach ministries through the church. Those ministries include Family Promise and Hope for the Hungry. Brothers help with a Friday breakfast at MUST Ministries (a local homeless shelter) and another Friday breakfast at the Extension (a residential treatment center for those experiencing alcohol and drug addiction). Brothers also are supporting the Salvation Army (especially their holiday bell ringing work to collect donations) and a local Spanish-speaking church in need of assistance.

The Chapter's most recent mission project has been assisting an organization called 2nd Helpings Atlanta. Brother Don Loeber is the point person for efforts with that organization. 2nd Helpings Atlanta (SHA) is a not for profit food rescue organization with a mission of reducing hunger and food waste in the metro Atlanta area by rescuing healthy, nutritious, surplus food and distributing it to those in need.

Three-hundred volunteers help SHA serve as the link between the network of food donors and partner agencies who feed the hungry daily. The metro Atlanta population is 6.1 million with one in seven children and one in nine adults facing food

insecurity. The food SHA rescues is diverted from landfills and used to feed those in need, making Atlanta a more environmentally responsible metropolitan area. Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter members are engaging with SHA in :

- **Retrieval and Delivery:** Retrieving food from a metro area grocery store and delivering that food to a metro area food bank for further distribution to those in need.
- **Packing and Distribution:** Each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 30 to 35 volunteers from all over metro Atlanta drop whatever they are doing and come together and collectively do something wonderful for those in need. At the SHA warehouse in inner city Atlanta they pack 8,000 meals with food procured from food donors and financial contributions. Meals are then distributed to those in need through local distribution outlets.

Other church ministries and activities Brothers participate in include Stephen Ministry, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, chalice and cross bearers, lay readers, Sunday school teachers, Vestry members, the Building and Grounds committee, Evangelism, Pastoral Care Meal Ministry, and the Stewardship and Finance committee. Brothers are discovering special meaning assisting St. Jude's Episcopal Church, a nearby Spanish-speaking congregation; and Holy Comforter, an inner-city Atlanta Church established by the Diocese of



Atlanta to support those challenged in basic living requirements.

Participating in these ministries helps our Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter members live out our mission focus on Brotherhood Prayer-Study-Service and helps our individual Brothers internalize Jesus Christ at the center of their lives. The work we do for others in the name of Christ strengthens our group of Brothers, as well as our community. We encourage all Brothers and Chapters to just take a look around your church and community, find some needs, and prayerfully consider how you and your fellow Brothers can fill them. What blessings you will have the opportunity to encounter as you grow together in mission.

## HOLY SMOKES! HOUSTON BROTHERS WIN SECOND PLACE IN TEXAS BARBEQUE COOK OFF

The St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church of Houston, Texas Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew placed 2nd in the second annual Holy Smokes barbeque cook off this spring. Holy Smokes is an event held to give the church's neighbors an opportunity to visit the church and meet some church members. All of the various ministries of the church participate in some fashion and, while it is gratifying to greet and meet so many local neighbors, the event also provides a great opportunity for the parish to join together in fellowship, fun and just a little healthy competition.



Brothers Owen Gill, Don Riggs, Chris Matthews, John Bergeron, Mitch LeJune, Don Ball, David Flores, and (not pictured) John Taylor and Gary Drum brought the heat in the barbeque competition.



# KINGDOM BUILDERS FIRST ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES HELPS FUND BROTHERHOOD MISSION

By Jeff Butcher, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Stewardship and Generosity Commission

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Stewardship and Generosity Commission drew five winning tickets on March 29 during a live Zoom webcast from the church wide Brotherhood office. Just a single \$10 ticket yielded \$1,546.50 in return for those five tickets drawn. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew raised almost \$8,000 from the sweepstakes and some winners quietly chose to donate their winnings back to the organization, as well.

The commission wishes to congratulate: Cline Armstrong, St. James, Houston, TX; Douglas Jackson, Church of the Ascension, Miami, FL; Jerry “Chris” Matthews, St. Dunstan’s, Houston, TX; Jeff Pitsenbarger, Grace, Galveston, TX; and Hans “Peter” Nafzinger, Trinity, Elkton, MD.

Overall, the men’s ministry community received 1,983 ticket stubs. To all of the participants, the commission offers a sincere word of thanks and praise for joining in this inaugural event. These gifts will live forever in the hearts of people’s lives who will be changed for the better because of this outpouring of support from so many people.

The need for our service has expanded greatly in this post-pandemic era. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is known for its ability to build relationships that foster fellowship in the local congregation. This 140-year-old organization provides all men and youth the feeling of belonging to something greater than oneself. It also offers a safe place to gather and share our strong belief in the risen Christ.

The Stewardship and Generosity Commission is exploring other innovative ways to keep pace with the demands for Building God’s Kingdom. Anyone who has ideas or suggestions, please text the commission at 502-889-6080.



## JULY WEBINAR FEATURES THE REVEREND DAVID PETERS



Wednesday, July 5, 8 p.m. EDT/7 p.m. CDST/ 6 p.m. MDST/5 p.m. PDST

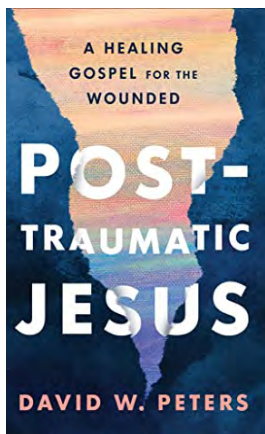
**Meeting URL:** [us02web.zoom.us/j/81854319259?pwd=VmNORjNIZWNoVXhoNlJkQWR6QTV3dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81854319259?pwd=VmNORjNIZWNoVXhoNlJkQWR6QTV3dz09)

**Shortcut:** [moreinfo.news/2ta](https://moreinfo.news/2ta)

The Reverend David Peters founder of Episcopal Veterans Fellowship, will present a review of his book *Post-Traumatic Jesus: Reading the Gospel with the Wounded*. The book takes the reader into the traumatic world of Jesus and offers hope for a wounded world.

### POST-TRAUMATIC JESUS: READING THE GOSPEL WITH THE WOUNDED

After twenty years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, a global pandemic, protests against racial violence, and frequent shootings, more Americans than ever are living with the effects of trauma. The good news is that Jesus was born and died in a traumatized world, and his story speaks forever to wounded people worldwide. Army veteran and Episcopal priest David Peters explores Jesus’ life story through the post-traumatic lens with which the Gospel writers first wrote it—as people who had seen their leader executed by the same oppressive government that had already shrouded their whole lives in anxiety and fear. Meeting the post-traumatic Jesus—the only Jesus the world has ever known—can be a balm to the wounds of modern Christians and spiritual seekers.



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## OUR TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM IS NOW ACTIVE

"Hello from The Brotherhood of St. Andrew! We hope you will choose to continue to receive our periodic texts. We can send reminders about important upcoming events, webinars, and links to our website and other communication. We will never share your info outside of our ministry, and you always have the option to STOP receiving texts."

Our new text messaging system will help us expand our communications efforts for our member Brothers (*it will have an opt-out option should you choose*).

Text: **BSTA Member** to 844-397-0817 or Scan the QR Code.



Message & Data rates apply. Text "STOP" to opt-out. See our website for SMS terms of service.



## STAY IN THE CONVERSATION

### Stay Connected with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew

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## HOW TO FIND YOUR MEMBER PORTAL ON BROTHERSANDREW.NET

The Member Login portal allows you to access your information as we have it in our database. You are able to view and update your contact information to ensure you are receiving emails and our print edition of *The Cross* magazine. You can also view your donations and renew your membership. Follow the steps below to access your member portal.

1. Visit our website, [brothersandrew.net](http://brothersandrew.net)
2. At the top of the homepage, click "Members"
3. Click "Update & Renew"
4. Scroll down until you see "Member Login" in a red box; click that button
5. This leads you to your online portal. You can login or sign up for the first time if you haven't logged in before. Follow the instructions on that page.
6. If you are unsure of the email address used for your account, contact the National Office at 502-450-5640.