



[Read this week's article in the Gazette about our new rector!](#)

From the Rector

St. Francis and walking

This Sunday we celebrate Saint Francis and his legacy. He is a beloved saint known for his humility, boldness, and love of animals and the created world. He experienced the power of the love of Christ and was so transformed that his whole life became a witness to that love. He taught with his actions. There is a famous quote attributed to him that says, “preach the gospel, and if you must, use words.” Love and kindness are best shared with one another through acts of love and kindness. But I heard a different translation, one that reads, “It is no use walking somewhere to preach if your walking is not your preaching.” As you can imagine, this motto is dear to my heart. There is something about walking that is humble and that is present to your surroundings in an important way. It means that preaching is as much about listening as speaking, that how you move through the world IS your witness.

This Sunday, with Janet Constantino’s help, I will be blessing the animals of this parish family in a service in the memorial garden after church. If you can’t bring your pet, bring a picture. After the blessing in the garden we will hit the road and be visiting some of your larger (and elder!) animals at home. We will be bringing the love of Christ in the church to animals who often show us the love of Christ!

And don't worry there will also be more chances for walking. October 18, join me after church for the rescheduled Rector's forum on The Order of Damaris: Parish Walking Club, and then we will join the Crop Walk. We will find a good time to walk MyToi before it gets cold.

Rev.Rita

Who knew?

Who Knew?

A lay reader prepares to deliver Isaiah 5:1-7 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, October 4, 2026:

When was this text written? Around 740-680 BC. The northern kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in that period. In this reading of Isaiah, God warns the southern kingdom of Judah to look out – it's next. Babylon sacks Judah and Jerusalem, its capital, about a hundred years later (leading to the Babylonian exile).

Why the sacking? Familiar biblical reasons: Regarding Israel, it's because of corruption. For Judah, it's iniquity, idolatry and oppression of the poor, among other big disappointments.

Who was Isaiah? One of the earliest Old Testament prophets. Initially reluctant to take on the job. But despite his personal sense of inadequacy, when God calls for a messenger to go to the people of Israel, Isaiah replies, "Here am I, Lord! Send me!"

The start of these verses sounds almost seductive! You mean: "Let me sing for my beloved / my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard / on a very fertile hill. . . ." Agreed. It's *shockingly* cheery for an Old Testament lesson.

Because what comes next is really quite frightful. Yes. It's the Old Testament lesson we've come to know . . . and brace ourselves for.

An example? "And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard / I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down."

Wow. Yes. The kingdom of Judah must not have read through to the end.

-- Tom Dunlop

Fall Cleaning Commences

From Wednesday, October 7th through Sunday, October 11th a small group of parishioners will be working in the Parish House cleaning and organizing. If you are able and willing to stop by at any point, just let the church office know. This is just one of the ***many*** opportunities this fall to lend a hand giving the Parish House some much needed love and attention and there is something for everyone, including closet and kitchen organization.

Stay tuned for more dates and times...
office@standrewsmv.org

Notice of Service

To our brothers and sisters of our St. Andrew's family:

An interment service for Tom Wilson will take place in the Memorial Garden on Saturday, October 17th at 1:00pm.

All are welcome.
Faithfully yours,

St. Andrew's Church

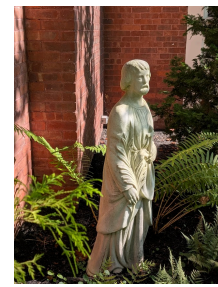
Celebrating St. Francis Day

Blessing of the Animals will take place this Sunday after the 9:00 service in the Memorial Garden.

Rev. Rita will be making house and barn calls after the garden blessing.

Reply to this email with your physical address and best phone number and when you will be home on those days.

A special way to honor the Saint that considered all living creatures his brothers and sisters!



ONA Group at West Tisbury Congregational Church

The Open And Affirming group is having an LGBTQ+ trivia night on **October 10 from 6:30 to 8:30pm** in the Pariah Hall of the West Tisbury Congregational Church. They are asking people to RSVP by sending an email to: fccowtpride@gmail.com.



And more walking with St. Andrew's

“Solvitur Ambulando” “It is solved by walking.”

Announcing ‘the Order of Damaris: a church walking club’

But, who, you ask, is *Damaris* and what does she have to do with this walking club?



Come to the Walking Forum with Rev. Rita at Coffee Hour on October 18!

[Read more about Solvitur Ambulando!](#)

MV Crop Hunger Walk:

The 2026 Martha's Vineyard CROP Hunger Walk takes place on **Sunday, October 18th starting at 1:30pm at St. Augustine's Church in Vineyard Haven.**

SUPPORT YOUR TEAM!

You can support our St. Andrew's Team by joining our walking team, contributing funds to support a walker, or just cheering us on! Every donation counts, no matter the amount.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/marthasvineyard>



This is a great way to get out there (literally or figuratively) and support efforts near and far to combat hunger and food insecurity.

Questions? Please email Sara at parishlife@standrewsmv.org



Walk with Rev. Rita through one of our island treasures: the **Mytoi Garden on Chappaquiddick**. Enjoy this beautiful and peaceful garden of both native flora and exotic plants. Not to be missed! **Stay tuned for a date and time!**

Faces of St. A's!

We're creating a "Faces of St. A's" bulletin board in the Parish Hall featuring photos of our parishioners near and far. It's a fun way to get to know one another a little better!

Please send a photo to parishlife@standrewsmv.org, or text it to Sara at (508) 496-8919 with your name(s) and correct spelling. I'll also be taking photos during coffee hour.

Couples and families are welcome to send or take a photo together.

Thank you for helping us put faces to names and build our parish community!

Blessings!
Sara Barrington

Please note that by sending your photos to us, you are giving St. Andrew's permission to post it. If you have any questions or concerns or special requests, contact the church office during office hours or reply to this email. Thank you!

Giving at St. Andrew's



Support our mission

You may now make a secure contribution to the ministry and mission of our parish by scanning the QR code above with your smartphone camera. The code will take you directly to our online giving page, where you can make one-time or recurring gifts safely and conveniently.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?
hosted_button_id=3ZNAWBG5ZM3NC](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=3ZNAWBG5ZM3NC)

If you have questions, they may be directed to: office@standrewsmv.org.

Your generosity supports the worship, outreach, pastoral care, and many ministries of this congregation. We are grateful for every gift and for all who share in the work of Christ through this parish.

Each must give as they decide in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Office Hours

The Rev. Rita Teschner Powell

For the week of October 4: Thursday 11am - 3pm

Please email: priest@standrewsmv.org

Heather Anne Slayton, Office Administrator

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday 8am – 1pm

Sunday 8am – Noon

office@standrewsmv.org

PLEASE NOTE: The Church offices are closed on Mondays

Photo above: Rev. Rita with Princess and Buttercup at Jo-Ann's house in West Tisbury.

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