



Call Out the Gospel that Sings

By Laurie Gudim

In an Ignatian fantasy, I imagine standing with the fishermen along the shore of the sea of Galilee. The smell of fish and lake water hangs in the air, and voices are raised in banter and laughter. "Look at the size of this one," says a fellow with wild hair streaked with gray. He is holding up a huge, floppy fish by its gills, and the muscles in his arms bunch under skin the color of steeped tea. Others laugh and make rude jokes. They are all exhausted, covered in sweat and fish scales and not much else.

Into their midst comes a man. What is he like, this non-fishing fellow? I imagine that most eyes see him and dismiss him. He doesn't appear to be either a merchant or a fisherman. His clothing is non-descript, a little the worse for wear. He's been sunburned recently; the skin on his nose and cheeks is peeling.

He stops by a certain boat and addresses the men working there. With an uneasy joke meant for the other workers, they drop what they are doing and join him. They all walk on until they come to another boat. Again there is an exchange and a couple of the men in that boat drop what they are doing and join him.

What did this man say to the fishermen to get them to come with him? It must have been some magnetic combination of his presence and his words. "I will make you fishers of men," is what we hear from Mark's Gospel. But what would that have meant to fishermen?

There have been very few people who have motivated me to make dramatic changes in my life, but there have been a few. They all had this in common: they spoke a truth my soul affirmed. They called me in ways I recognized in the depths of my being, and I couldn't help but follow.

Lately we've all heard that it is important to listen well to people who profoundly disagree with us, and I agree that this would be a helpful thing. But

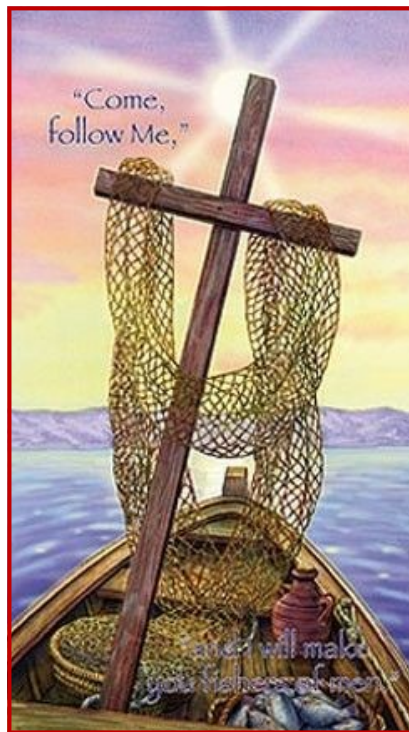
maybe even more important than listening is speaking. We are horrified that Christianity has been hijacked by a fringe group that has misunderstood its primary teaching – but what have we done to assert what WE now? When have we struggled to find words for and to express why we go to church on a Sunday morning, why we listen to our favorite spiritual writers, why we follow the Way of Love?

People need our voices and our understanding. And I really do believe that when they hear the call of Love they will respond. Their souls will leap for joy as they recognize our words. They may be

frightened and angry as well – the call of Christ brings a profound reorientation – but they will recognize, and, hopefully, be changed.

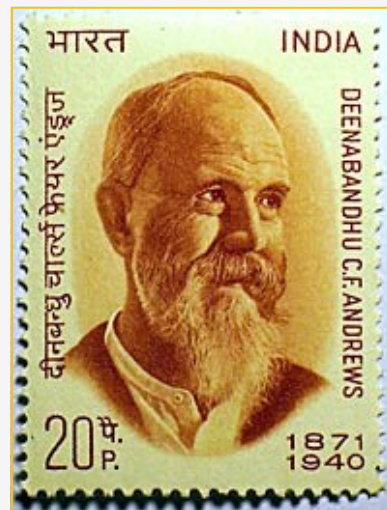
Call out what you know. It doesn't have to be perfect; people will respond as much to your presence as to your words. You belong to Christ, and he needs you to be the voice that calls his people who have gone astray. Call out the Gospel that sings in your heart!

Source: <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/call-out-the-gospel-that-sings/>
January 24, 2021



CHARLES FREER ANDREWS—PRIEST AND “FRIEND OF THE POOR” IN INDIA, 1940.

Charles Freer Andrews (1871 - 1940) was an English priest, educator and Indian freedom fighter who is best known as an associate of Mahatma Gandhi. Andrews greatly admired the philosophy of the young Mohandas Gandhi and was instrumental in convincing him to return to India from South Africa, where Gandhi was a leading light in the Indian civil rights struggle there. He was affectionately known as Christ's Faithful Apostle, and also, for his contributions to the Indian Independence Movement the Mahatma and his students at St. Stephen's College, Delhi named him, Deenabandhu, or 'Friend of the Poor'.



Andrews had been involved in the Christian Social Union since college, and was interested in exploring the relationship between a commitment to the gospel and a commitment to justice, through which he was attracted to struggles for justice throughout the British Empire, especially in India.

In 1904 he joined the Cambridge Brotherhood in Delhi and arrived there to teach philosophy at St. Stephen's College, where he famously grew close to many of his Indian colleagues and students. Increasingly dismayed by the racist behavior and treatment of Indians by British officials and civilians, he supported Indian political aspirations, and soon became involved in the activities of the Indian National Congress.

Well known for his persuasive ways, intellect and keen sense of moral firmness, he was asked by senior Indian political leader Gopal Krishna Gokhale to visit South Africa and help the Indian community there resolve their political disputes with the Government. He met there a young Gujarati lawyer, Mohandas Gandhi who was attempting to organize the Natal Indian Congress and the Indian community to protest the racial discrimination and police legislation that infringed upon their civil liberties.

Andrews was deeply impressed with Gandhi's knowledge of Christian values, and his espousal of the concept of ahimsa, non-violence - something that Gandhi mixed with inspiration from elements of Christian anarchism. He helped Gandhi organize an Ashram in Natal and publish his famous magazine, The Indian Opinion.

Following the advice of several Indian Congress leaders and, significantly, that of Principal S K Rudra of St. Stephen's College, Andrews was instrumental in persuading Gandhi to return to India with him in 1915.

When news reached India of the mistreatment of Indian indentured laborers in Fiji, the Indian Government, in September 1915, sent Andrews and W.W. Pearson to make inquiries. The two visited numerous plantations and interviewed indentured laborers, overseers and Government officials and on their return to India also interviewed returned laborers. In their report, Andrews and Pearson highlighted the ills of the indenture system which led to a stop of further transportation of Indian labor to the British colonies.

Andrews made a second visit to Fiji in 1917 and although reported on some improvements, was still appalled at the moral degradation of the indentured laborers. He called for an immediate end to

indenture and the system of Indian indentured labor was formally abolished in 1920.

About this time, Gandhi reasoned to Andrews that it was probably best for sympathetic Britons like himself to leave the freedom struggle to Indians. So, from 1935 onwards, Andrews began to spend more time back in Britain, teaching young people all over the country about Christ's call to radical discipleship. Gandhi's affectionate nickname for Andrews was Christ's Faithful Apostle, based on the initials of his name, "C.F.A". He was widely known as Gandhi's closest friend and was perhaps the only major figure to address Gandhi by his first name, Mohan.

Charlie Andrews died on April 5, 1940 during a visit to Calcutta, and is buried there. He is widely commemorated and respected in India, and was a major character portrayed by British actor Ian Charleson in the 1982 film *Gandhi* by Richard Attenborough.

Source: http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/cf_andrews.htm

This week at St. Peter's:

**'Screwtape Letters'
Read-a-Long Study**

Tuesday, February 16

6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17

Premieres 10:00 AM

**YouTube link available in
weekly email.**

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, February 17

6:00 PM—on Zoom

INPOSITION OF ASHES



If you would like to have the **imposition of ashes**, please call or email the church office and we will schedule a time for you.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS - SOCIAL REFORMER, 1895

Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, circa 1818 – February 20, 1895) was an American abolitionist, women's suffragist, editor, orator, author, statesman and reformer. Called "The Sage of Anacostia" and "The Lion of Anacostia", Douglass is one of the most prominent figures in African American and United States history.

He was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, Native American, or recent immigrant. He was fond of saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

Frederick Douglass was born a slave in Talbot County, Maryland. He was separated from his mother, Harriet Bailey, when he was still an infant. She died when Douglass was about seven and Douglass lived with his maternal grandmother Betty Bailey. When Douglass was about twelve, his owner's wife started teaching him the alphabet, which was against the law. Douglass succeeded in learning to read from white children in the neighborhood and by observing the writings of men with whom he worked. As Douglass learned and began to read newspapers, political materials, and books of every description, he was exposed to a new realm of thought that led him to question and then condemn the institution of slavery.

He was hired out to a number of owners before finally escaping north to freedom in September 1838. Douglass continued traveling up to Massachusetts. There he joined various organizations in New Bedford, including a black church, and regularly attended abolitionist meetings.

Douglass' best-known work is his first autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, published in 1845. The book received generally positive reviews and it became an immediate bestseller. Douglass published three versions of his autobiography during his lifetime (and revised the third of these), each time expanding on the previous one. The 1845 *Narrative*, which was his biggest seller, was followed by *My Bondage and My Freedom* in 1855. In 1881, after the Civil War, Douglass published *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, which he revised in 1892.

Douglass produced some regular abolitionist newspapers, including *The North Star*. Its motto was "Right is of no Sex – Truth is of no Color – God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren."

Douglass believed that education was key for African Americans to improve their lives. For this reason, he was an early advocate for desegregation of schools.

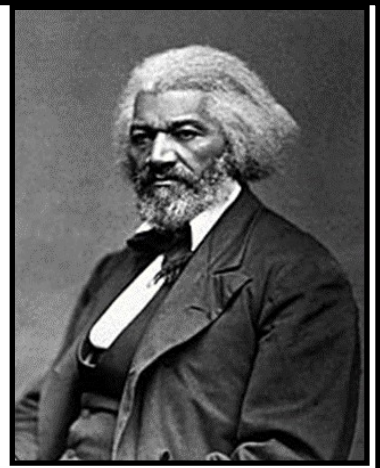
Douglass conferred with President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 on the treatment of black soldiers, and with President Andrew Johnson on the subject of black suffrage. His early collaborators were the white abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips.

In 1848, Douglass attended the first women's rights convention, the Seneca Falls Convention, as the only African American. Elizabeth Cady Stanton asked the assembly to pass a resolution asking for women's suffrage. Many of those present opposed the idea, but Douglass stood and spoke eloquently in favor; he said that he could not accept the right to vote himself as a black man if woman could not also claim that right. His powerful words rang true with enough attendees that the resolution passed.

By the time of the Civil War, Douglass was one of the most famous black men in the country, known for his orations on the condition of the black race and on other issues such as women's rights. His eloquence gathered crowds at every location. His reception by leaders in England and Ireland added to his stature.

After the Civil War, Douglass was appointed to several important political positions. He served as President of the Reconstruction-era Freedman's Savings Bank; as marshal of the District of Columbia; as minister-resident and consul-general to the Republic of Haiti (1889–1891); and as chargé d'affaires for the Dominican Republic. Douglass was an ordained minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Source: http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/frederick_douglass.htm



PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Paul Hatfield
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - Altar Guild
- For those who are sick: Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Scharck, Bev Wille, Marilou Haight, Gary Allen
- Happy Birthday Shawn Werner and Izzie Davis
- Diocesan search for next Bishop
- Prayer for difficult times (coronavirus)



To add someone to the parish prayer list, please e-mail the office at: office@stpetersfort.org, or contact Eda Wilson, our prayer net coordinator, edesw2@gmail.com. If you someone you know and love has Covid-19 we would like to pray for them. Please email Eda and she will add their name to the prayer list.

This prayer was developed by the Diocesan Standing Committee to pray as the search for our next Bishop progresses:

Gracious and loving God in whom we live and move and have our being, We pray for your guidance and wisdom that we may faithfully follow your calling in our own lives and as we as the Diocese of Milwaukee discern the calling of our twelfth bishop. We give you thanks for the service of Bishop Steven Miller in the life of our diocese and for the blessings that marked his ministry among us. We also pray for his family during this time of transition. We pray for those whom you have called to serve on our Standing, Search, and Transition Committees, and we pray also for those who will respond to your call to enter into discernment with us to be our next bishop. Give us all listening and prayerful hearts for this most important task. This we ask in the name of the One who said, "Come, follow me." Amen.

Prayer for a Time of Pandemic Illness:

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, in this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world. For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic around the world.

For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down and bonds of trust strengthened, to benefit the entire human family.

Grant to our nation and its leaders, public health officials and government the will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

St Peter's Annual Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)

January 31, 2021— Zoom Conference - 11:00 AM CT Fort Atkinson WI

Attendance:

Mother Mindy Valentine Davis
Scott and Judy Fernhaber
Breck and Laurie McHenry
Bill and Jolene Cannon
Bev Wille
Bob Krumm
Willie Imsland

Ellen Bogner
Terrie and Brian Knox
Matt and Janet Bills
Ginnie Laurent
Eda Wilson
Angie Hoffman
Cole Jones and Carmen Garces

Mother Mindy offered a prayer of remembrance for parishioners who died in 2020: Harrold Sawyer on January 7 and Darald Fairbrother on March 12.

Mother Mindy entertained a motion to suspend the reading of minutes. Bill moved to suspend reading of minutes; Eda seconded. Motion passed. Eda commented how nice it was to receive the minutes in advance. Brian moved to accept minutes; Eda seconded; motion approved.

Mother Mindy highlighted goals from Rector's Report: Grow the church, create disciples out of church goers, serve the community and love our neighbors, have St. Peter's known in the community for its service and helping those in need. "I cannot grow this church. WE can growth this church."

Mother Mindy encouraged parishioners to bring ideas to her—to be a part of the solution. "We are fertile ground with a layer of snow on top... We are waiting for COVID to be under control and that snow to thaw and then we are going to blossom; we are going to shine!"

Mother Mindy recommended all reports be presented and then approved at once.

Breck noted there was no mention of the welcome gift in the report of bread, salt and wine. Mother Mindy expressed deep appreciation and how much it made her feel a part of the community. She asked about the significance of the items and Bill offered insights.

Senior Warden Scott thanked the vestry for their contributions during this unprecedented time; noted it was ready for the next the challenge.

Junior Warden Breck McHenry suggested we discuss the furnaces in 2021 and noted Kim Pemper was out early this morning to clear the walks of snow. He posed a parliamentary question about whether the priest could be counted as a member of the quorum, noting that the meeting included 20 people including the priest and 20 is the required number for a quorum. Matt Bills cited Roberts Rules and indicated that it would be okay.

Cookie Cupboard: Mother Mindy noted the Cookie Cupboard was a great success as a result of broad parish participation; Laurie noted that it raised approximately \$2,200.

Flower Guild: Judy Fernhaber said she was sorry everyone could not be in church to enjoy the flowers, thanked those who had participated and hoped to see all in church again soon.

Food Pantry: Laurie McHenry noted not many people from the parish had been able to volunteer at the food pantry but that other members of the broader community and stepped in to help.

Prayer Net: Mother Mindy commended Eda for her efforts with the prayer net and requested everyone say a prayer for Eda to strengthen her in that ministry, noting how difficult it is. Eda thanked her for those words and noted her new email address is: edesw2@gmail.com.

Music Ministry: Mother Mindy remarked about how nice it was to have Shawn Werner back and noted he will

be accompanied by a student vocalist in the future.

Outreach: Mother Mindy commended Virginia Newcomb on the amazing outreach work she has done to identify those in need, rally community support beyond St. Peter's, and publicize those efforts in the paper.

Agape Essential Care Ministry: Mother Mindy explained how this grew from observations that the personal hygiene items provided through the Little Library in the Peace Garden were removed faster than they could be replenished, indicating an unmet community need. Laurie noted that while the Food Pantry sometimes offers such items, the supply is inconsistent and must be sufficient to meet the needs of all recipients in a given month or none is provided. Mother Mindy further noted personal care items are not covered by food stamps. St. Peter's applied for and received \$3,000 from the diocese.

Brian moved to accept reports; Bev seconded. Motion passed.

Budget Report: [Acting] Treasurer noted report provided in mailing was not complete, showing 2020 expenses were October—not the whole year, resulting in an incomplete comparison with prior year; otherwise, budget report was correct and reflected what had been approved by vestry. Budget calls for \$43,000 shortfall in 2021. Income for 2020 was similar to prior year, with \$60,000 received in last two months. Expenses in 2020 were lower than budgeted due to the gap between Father Andrew's departure and Mother Mindy's arrival. Laurie noted St Peter's stock portfolio increased \$15,000 which was treated as income because the portfolio is "working money" and not an "endowment." Laurie further noted that the 2020 diocesan assessment was high due to delayed payments accrued in 2019; the 2021 assessment payments will be lower than the prior year. Finally, Laurie noted cash accounts were about the same as the prior year. Mother Mindy reported that Milo had resigned as treasurer due to unavailability during COVID and that we need to identify a new treasurer in order to separate bookkeeping and check writing responsibilities—one individual should not be responsible for reconciling the books; Mother Mindy solicited interest among parishioners to become treasurer.

Bev questioned how long \$3,000 Agape ministry would last. Mother Mindy noted St. Peter's could apply again next year and noted a lot depends on local ministry partnerships and support within the parish; she noted that an additional fundraiser may be necessary. Breck observed diocesan grants might be likely to follow the pattern established by the music ministry grants which gradually decreased to zero over time. Breck moved to accept treasurer's report; Brian seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Mother Mindy observed that during the pandemic, vestries are proceeding with either a full slate or statis (no change). She noted that Ellen was leaving the vestry to devote more time to the Agape Ministry, as well as the Peace Garden and Cookie Cupboard. Ginnie Laurent is available to replace her. Brian noted a precedent for vestry membership terms: "serve until you are replaced." Mother Mindy indicated a desire to call a special meeting after the pandemic crisis has passed to elect new vestry members.

Breck motioned to elect Virginia Laurent to the vestry; Eda seconded. Motion passed.

Diocesan Convention Nominees: Bill and Jolene Cannon, Bev Wille, and Terrie Knox; Breck McHenry and Janet Bills, alternates. Mother Mindy noted all parishioners are welcome as guests.

Scott motioned to approve; Ginny seconded; motion passed.

New business: Matt Bills offered to represent St. Peter's at the Homeless Coalition where he is already representing local veterans. Mother Mindy indicated she is on the Coalition board and expects to be elected to a leadership position; she commended Matt for the service he is already providing as volunteer monitor for the overnight shelter.

Eda performed the doxology a capella. Brian moved to adjourn annual meeting; Scott seconded; motion passed at 12:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Cole Jones

February 10, 2021 Newsletter

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



**ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

302 MERCHANTS AVE.
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889

office@stpetersfort.org

www.stpetersfort.org

Rector: Mother Mindy

Valentine Davis

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.