



ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Prayer, Study, and Service

September 2026

The Episcopal and Anglican Magazine of Men's Ministry



BEYOND TURKEYS AND HAMS

PLANNING FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON OF COMPASSION

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



PLAN NOW FOR BROTHERHOOD HOLIDAY

COMPASSION SEASON: HOW TO PUT A GENUINE HUMAN FACE ON THE COMPASSIONATE HOLIDAY MINISTRY YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS DO

With the Labor Day holiday now in the rear-view mirror and parishioners and Brothers slowly beginning to drift back into the fall parish routine, the time for planning for our holiday season of compassionate ministry with others is upon us.

Some Brotherhood or men's ministry groups do the same thing every year like clockwork. Some are not quite sure what to do and drift from one project to another. Many Brothers find themselves leading others in their parish through these ministries. Whatever the approach, now is a great time to take a pause, reflect, and consider how we might imagine or re-imagine our holiday ministries of compassion.

Compassionate ministry around the holidays is often measured in numbers: turkeys or hams distributed, meals served, families helped, food baskets distributed, or dollars collected and gift cards or toys given. Those numbers matter, but they can never tell the whole story. Behind every statistic is a person with a name, a story, a struggle, and a God-given dignity.

One of the most basic but powerful ways to communicate the impact of your Brotherhood or men's ministry compassionate work around the holidays—and draw support for it—is simply to put a human face on your ministry. Tell the story of the father who found hope while receiving assistance during a difficult time. Share how a young man discovered a sense of belonging and hope through contact with some of your Brothers. Describe the mother without a church family who found yours through your efforts. When people in your Brotherhood group and whole parish can see the person behind the ministry, compassion becomes personal rather than abstract. It takes a frantic afternoon of distributing turkeys or hams to the next level. It gets to knowing and being known. Establishing mission relationships that begin with a compassionate act and develop into mutual, human, longer-term connection

Making stories known doesn't mean turning someone's hardship into publicity. Always protect dignity and privacy. Ask permission before sharing

personal details, photographs, or stories with your group or parish, and allow people to decide what they are comfortable revealing and their own openness to longer-term connection with you. The goal is not just to showcase or sensationalize need and your recipients' experiences with you; it is to celebrate God's work and the worth of every person you serve as a catalyst for mobilizing resources to serve anew this holiday season and beyond.

As you begin to formulate a holiday-focused Brotherhood ministry (and budget) for 2026, recall the results of any of your prior year holiday efforts. Was your compassionate act anonymous or temporary? Think to moments that perhaps revealed genuine human transaction or transformation: a burden lifted, a relationship restored, a prayer answered, a new opportunity for hope discovered. Then think to your 2026 holiday season situation—challenges and opportunities—you see ahead in your community. **How can you go deeper?**

Consider also these very practical questions—**What financial and additional volunteer resources do we need? How can we effectively ask others, in our church and our community, to help us?**

Who are our potential partners in both our parish and our community?

Who and what do we need to be in prayer for? From here—what are our goals and what does our timetable and total plan of compassionate action look like for the holiday season 2026? Yes, it is September. And, effective creative planning for truly meaningful relationship-building based holiday ministry (the kind that transcends turkeys and hams) begins with your men's ministry group right now.



SCRIPTURAL AND SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR OFFERING BROTHERHOOD MINISTRIES OF COMPASSION DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER AS BROTHERS TOGETHER CAN HELP LAY THE GROUNDWORK



SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 9:36 (NRSV)

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

The holidays can be a joyful season, but they can also magnify food and housing insecurity, loneliness, mental illness, grief, family conflict, and unmet expectations. As men who follow Christ, we are called not simply to notice the temporary struggles, but to respond with longer-term compassion.

Matthew tells us that Jesus looked at the crowds and was moved by what he saw. He did not reduce people to their circumstances or judge them for their difficulties. He saw their deeper need, their longer-term suffering, and responded with a shepherd’s heart. Compassion begins with seeing people as Jesus sees them.

The holidays give us many opportunities to practice this kind of compassion. Beyond turkey and ham giveaways, there are the smaller but just as important moments. A neighbor may be spending Christmas alone. A coworker may be grieving. A single parent may be overwhelmed. Even someone in our men’s ministry group or parish may quietly be struggling to pay the bills. We may not be able to solve every problem, but we can offer presence, encouragement, practical help, prayer, and dignity. And we can consider strategies for how we can use relationship building to be in it for the longer haul.

James 2:15–16 reminds us that faith should move beyond words when someone is in need.

Compassion asks, “What can I do?” rather than simply, “Is someone else handling this?”

As men, we sometimes feel pressure to appear strong and self-sufficient. But Christ shows us that strength includes tenderness and continued presence. Real compassion is not weakness; it is long-haul love put into action.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who might be experiencing loneliness or hardship during this holiday season that we haven’t yet considered? How are we hearing them?
2. How would we rate our past efforts at connecting—and staying connected—with those we serve with compassionate ministry during the holidays? What could we have done better?
3. What generally keeps us from noticing or responding to people in need?
4. What is one new practical act of compassion our men’s ministry group could offer during the upcoming holiday season?
5. How can we reflect the compassion of Christ, and proclaim human needs challenges in our midst, without seeking recognition?

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, give us eyes to see those who are hurting and hearts willing to respond. Make us instruments of your compassion during the holidays and beyond. Help us serve quietly, love generously, and point to the more enduring sense of hope and promise that is found through you alone. Amen.



OFFERING COMPASSION DURING THE HOLIDAYS

A 45-MINUTE BROTHERHOOD OR MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

Theme: Seeing people as Jesus sees them and putting compassion into action

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 9:36 (NRSV)

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

1. OPENING — 5 MINUTES

Begin with prayer.

Opening question:

What is one word you associate with the holidays?

Invite each Brother to answer briefly. Point out that while words like joy, family, and celebration may come naturally, the holidays can also bring grief, loneliness, stress, or financial pressure.

Explain that today's focus is learning to notice those who may be hurting and responding as Christ would.

2. READ THE SCRIPTURES — 10 MINUTES

Read Matthew 9:35–38 together.

Then read James 2:14–17 and 1 John 3:16–18.

Ask the group to listen for what these passages teach about compassion.

Key thought: Biblical compassion is more than feeling sympathy. It moves us toward loving, practical, enduring action.

Jesus first saw the crowds. Before we can serve others, we have to notice them.

3. DISCUSSION — 15 MINUTES

Use these questions:

1. Why do you think Matthew emphasizes that Jesus saw the crowds?
2. Who is especially vulnerable to loneliness or hardship during the holidays?
3. What kinds of suffering are easy for us to overlook?
4. Why can it sometimes be difficult for men to show compassion?
5. What's the difference between helping someone and trying to "fix" someone?
6. How can we offer help while preserving another person's dignity?

Encourage honest discussion without pressuring anyone to share personal experiences.

4. PUT COMPASSION INTO ACTION — 10 MINUTES

Give each Brother a moment to consider:

Who is one person God may be asking me, personally, to notice this holiday season?



Then ask:

What is one specific thing I can do?

Examples include:

- Call someone who is grieving.
- Invite someone who may be alone to share a meal.
- Provide groceries or a needed gift anonymously.
- Visit someone who cannot easily leave their home.
- Offer practical help to an overwhelmed family.
- Pray with someone rather than merely promising to pray.
- Welcome someone who feels disconnected from church.

Challenge the group to choose one new collective act of compassion they can complete together this holiday season.

5. CLOSING CHALLENGE & PRAYER — 5 MINUTES

Challenge: During the coming week, don't simply ask, "Who needs help?" Ask, "Lord, who needs me to see them? Who needs me to listen to them? Who may need our Brothers to respond in some significant way during the upcoming holiday season and beyond?"

PRAY:

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us what compassion looks like. Give us eyes to see people who are hurting, hearts willing to care, and the courage to act with new resolve during the upcoming holiday season of compassion. Keep us from defaulting to the easy, the always, or the convenient. Challenge us to creativity and boldness in how we minister. And, keep us, as individuals, from becoming so busy with our own celebrations that we overlook someone who needs encouragement, friendship, provision, or hope. Use us as men who reflect your love—not only with our words, but through what we do as a beginning and then how we continue it. Amen.

OFFERING COMPASSION DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

A BROTHERHOOD OR MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY HANDOUT

Theme: Seeing people as Jesus sees them—and responding with compassion.

KEY SCRIPTURE

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

—Matthew 9:36 (NRSV)

WHAT DOES COMPASSION LOOK LIKE?

Jesus did not simply notice people's struggles. He saw them, cared about them, and responded to their needs.

The holidays can be especially difficult for people experiencing food or housing insecurity, grief, loneliness, financial hardship, family conflict, illness, or isolation. As followers of Christ, we have an opportunity to reflect God's compassion through our words, presence, generosity, and practical service. We recognize that human needs challenges took time to develop and will require time and attention to mitigate.

James 2:15–16 reminds us that compassion should move beyond words.

1 John 3:18 calls us to love “in truth and action.”

DISCUSSION

1. Who might be struggling quietly in our community during the holiday season that we, as Brothers, may not yet have considered?
2. What prevents us from noticing people who need encouragement? What can real encouragement look like?
3. Why can showing compassion sometimes feel uncomfortable for men?
4. How can we help someone during the holidays and beyond without making them feel embarrassed or indebted?
5. What new thing could our men's group do together to further demonstrate Christ's compassion in our community?

MY OWN PERSONAL COMPASSION CHALLENGE

Someone I can intentionally notice:

One way I can encourage or help this person:



When I will take action:

REMEMBER: SEE. CARE. ACT.

As Brothers, we don't have to solve every problem. Sometimes compassion begins with a phone call, a meal, a listening ear, an invitation, a prayer, or simply letting someone know:

“You are not alone.”

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, give me eyes to see people who are hurting and a heart willing to respond. Help me slow down, listen well, serve humbly, and love generously. Use me and our men's ministry this holiday season to bring your compassion, hope, and presence to those who truly need it. And help us stay with them for the long haul. Amen.

This week, look for someone who needs to be seen—and be willing to see them. Consider how what you saw or experienced, out of this prayerful consideration, can inspire new ideas or approaches for our group of Brothers as we consider bold and creative holiday ministries of compassion.

Root Causes

How Your Brothers Can Help Address the Root Causes of Food and Housing Insecurity Among Those Your Holiday Ministry Serves

As Brothers, we are called not only to respond to immediate needs but also to walk alongside people as they continue to work toward stability and hope. Food and housing insecurity are often symptoms of deeper challenges, including unemployment, low wages, debt, family crisis, health concerns, lack of transportation, and limited access to community resources.

Meeting immediate needs remains essential. Providing meals, groceries, emergency assistance, or temporary housing can offer critical relief during a difficult season. But effective ministry goes a step further and deeper by asking, “What is causing this need, and how can we help address it?”

Start by building relationships. Listen without judgment and allow those you serve to identify the barriers they are facing. Then connect individuals and families with trusted resources such as job-training programs, employment opportunities, financial counseling, affordable housing programs, transportation assistance, and educational services.

Brothers can play an important role through mentoring, accountability, practical skills, and encouragement. Sometimes a person needs more than a meal—they need someone willing to help them complete a job application, repair a vehicle, develop a budget, or navigate a housing application. How could you and your Brothers be present in that?

Partnerships are also important. Churches do not have to solve every problem alone. Collaborating with local nonprofits, food banks, housing agencies, employers, schools, and government programs can expand your ministry’s reach and provide specialized assistance. Who may be some partners your men’s ministry and your parish can cultivate in this way?

Most importantly, our response should reflect the love and dignity of Christ. People experiencing hardship should never be defined by their circumstances. Our goal is not simply to provide temporary relief, but to help create pathways toward stability, independence, healthy relationships, and renewed hope.

When we combine compassion with practical action, our holiday ministries of compassion can address both the immediate crisis and the underlying causes—serving our neighbors faithfully while helping them move toward a more secure future.



THE ASK

HOW TO INVITE THOSE YOU SERVE THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON TO JOIN IN WITH YOUR
MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP

The holidays give us special opportunities to serve others but also to help build men's ministry relationships that can last well beyond Thanksgiving and Christmas. Whether your men's ministry is serving meals, delivering gifts, helping families in need, or volunteering in the community, remember that the people you serve are more than recipients of your generosity. They are people God loves and wants us to know and include.

Start with small talk, basic conversation. Ask questions, listen to their stories, and look for common interests. A genuine relationship creates a natural bridge to an invitation. Don't make the invitation feel like an obligation or an expected "next step" after receiving your help. Instead, simply let them know you enjoyed meeting them and would welcome the opportunity to see them again.

Be specific about your group. Explain what your men's ministry does, when and where you meet, and what a typical gathering is like. Speak with contagious love and pride for your Brothers and all that you do together. If your group offers Bible study, shares a meal, serves together, or simply provides a place for men to encourage one another, tell them. People are more likely to accept an invitation when they know what to expect. As you are describing your group, try to picture points of concern the person you are inviting might have and name and diffuse them.

"None of us are experts on the Bible but I always learn a lot from just listening and reflecting."

"I really appreciate our times of prayer. It isn't anything crazy or over the top. There aren't any participation requirements. But I find even just sitting quietly and listening to the prayer requests of others gives me a greater sense of purpose and a feeling of peace."



"One thing is for sure—our Brothers accomplish a lot for our community but they also sure know how to have a whole lot of fun together!"

Most importantly, invite them personally. A simple, "I've really enjoyed talking with you. We have a men's group that meets on Saturday mornings. I'd love for you to join us sometime," can go a long way. Remember that many men, particularly those who are shy or who have had prior negative experiences with church before, may not exactly feel comfortable walking into a church and joining in an unfamiliar group meeting. If you sense this, casually suggest you would be delighted to pick them up and bring them with you to your next gathering, maybe get some lunch afterward.

Another tip—sometimes it will be easier to first invite a man to an activity that is more casual and less meeting-like. Think about a hike and bonfire, a games night, or a pizza party. Those types of activities can introduce a man to more of your Brothers and make coming to a Bible study and Brotherhood meeting seem much more comfortable.

When you extend an invitation, remember to follow up. Send a text, make a call, or confirm with them when you make plans to see them. And follow up after they have participated in one of your events or meetings. Thank them for coming. Ask how they are doing. Encourage them.

Your invitation and follow up may be the beginning of a friendship—and an opportunity for someone to discover a community of Brothers who will walk alongside them in faith.

Compassionate Holiday Ministry Ideas

16 IDEAS TO BRIGHTEN AND BROADEN YOUR MINISTRY



IDEA #1: ADOPT AND LISTEN

Adopt a family. Listen to them, really get to know them, and build a relationship. Adjust your holiday gift-giving to best meet their needs.



IDEA #2: TURKEYS AND HAMS

Giving out turkeys or hams? Ask some important questions of those you will be serving. How many people do you anticipate feeding with your turkey or ham? A two-person household likely would not prefer a 27-pound turkey; a turkey breast may work much better.

Do you need a cooking pan or foil? Do you need instructions for cooking your turkey or ham? Do you have questions about how to cook it? Would you prefer that someone from our church prepare it for you?



IDEA #3: ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

Consider your Thanksgiving or Christmas food baskets. Do you have recipients with dietary limitations? It is always kind to ask and to be prepared for common scenarios, such as diabetic diets, vegetarian preferences, or particular food allergies. Be ready to offer substitutions when needed.



IDEA #4: A CHURCH STORE WITH CHOICES

As an alternative to food baskets or boxes, set up a food-shopping area or “store” and allow recipients to shop privately for what they really want and need. Having genuine choices is empowering, and it also helps ensure that unwanted food is not simply discarded.



IDEA #5: HOME DELIVERY OR CHURCH PICKUP?

Offer recipients the option of home delivery or church pickup. Some people you are serving may feel uncomfortable having someone visit their home. For various other reasons, others may simply prefer coming by the church. Provide as many choices and as much flexibility as you can.



IDEA #6: EMBODYING HOSPITALITY

Embody amazing hospitality. Do not relegate your giveaways to the dark back pews of a deserted sanctuary late in the afternoon or to the storage building behind the fellowship hall. Curate the brightest, most comfortable, and most welcoming space you can for your guests.

Offer holiday music. Wear name tags. Introduce yourselves. Start genuine conversations. Extend hospitality with a cold drink, hot chocolate, or cookies. Encourage guests to stay and visit. And do not let anyone leave without extending a genuine invitation to return—one that removes barriers such as a need for transportation, child care, or elder care.



IDEA #7: CULTIVATING CONVERSATION

Cultivate real conversation that gets at the root causes of food or housing insecurity. Listen for ways you may be able to offer additional assistance or referrals.



IDEA #8: WATCHING FOR WARNING SIGNS

Train yourselves to be alert for signs of life-threatening or urgent conditions among recipients, such as substance misuse, depression, abuse of children or seniors, impending eviction, loss of employment or benefits, or a need to see a doctor without the funds to do so. Work with your clergy to determine how to handle these situations and offer assistance when you can.



IDEA #9: NEGOTIATING EXPENSIVE TECH TOYS

Enlist church youth or tech-savvy members of your parish to help parents navigate their children's requests for expensive technology, toys, and tools. For example, one child may ask for a \$1,600 device. Knowledgeable tech specialists in your parish may be able to help parents identify alternative, affordable gifts that the child may still appreciate. Many parents feel overwhelmed by gift requests they do not even understand.



IDEA #10: INVITE POTENTIAL BROTHERS AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Always invite the men you serve to upcoming Brotherhood activities. Follow up on that invitation with additional contact, and remove possible barriers to participation, from a lack of transportation to a need for child care. Think creatively about what a barrier may look like.

For example, someone with limited reading skills may worry about being embarrassed in a weekly Bible study. If you sense that could be an issue, casually mention that someone will read aloud and the group will simply discuss or listen. Put yourself in their place. Remove any impediments to their participation.



IDEA #11: THINK VALUE-ADDED

Think about free or extremely low-cost but value-added ministry. As you prepare gift-box or basket offerings, remember that it costs nothing for children in your church school to make construction-paper greeting cards. You can easily tuck in a few candy canes or packets of hot chocolate.

Invite members of your men's ministry group or parish to offer a small extra gift, such as a jar of jelly, an ornament, toiletries, warm hats, or gloves. Tie things up with a touch of pretty ribbon. It is all about the extra touches that elevate the presentation and show recipients that you truly care.



IDEA #12: LET IT GO

Let it go. Yes, toys will sometimes be returned, and parents will sometimes use the money to purchase something for themselves. Gift cards may be sold or used for something your men's ministry group did not intend. When it comes to compassion, the system may sometimes be abused. Just let it go.



IDEA #13: NOURISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH PRAYER

Pray without ceasing. Gather prayer requests and first names early in your ministry project, if possible. Tell participants that you have been praying for them—and do it. Continue to pray for them regularly.

From time to time, send a note card or letter saying that you are remembering them in your prayers and are there if there is anything your men's ministry group can do. Tuck

copies of prayers they can use themselves into the packages you distribute. Nourish an ongoing relationship through prayer.



IDEA #14: CONSIDER GIFTING EXPERIENCES

Consider gifting experiences. Many people are giving food, toiletries, or clothing this time of year. What if you built strategic partnerships that could help you affordably offer experiences for people in need?

For example, partner with a local movie theater, ice-skating rink, or bowling alley to provide a family activity. Or perhaps partner with a hairstylist in your community to provide free family haircuts. When people are experiencing tough times, simple family activities and self-care services are often among the first things to go. Be creative, and call upon the professionals in your parish who may have helpful connections or who can provide services themselves.



IDEA #15: SHOPPING AND BREAKFAST OPTIONS

Consider creating shopping experiences in which recipients are invited to shop with a couple of members of your men's ministry group. Set an amount per family member, and offer shopping assistance if they are open to it. Otherwise, let them make their own selections while you pay—and perhaps treat them to a simple breakfast and some conversation afterward.



IDEA #16: IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Stay in it for the long haul. Make that commitment. Do not just pass off a turkey and disappear. Send a card or make a call a few times each year. Keep up with how people are doing, and remind them that you are praying for them and are there for them.

If you get signals that they would prefer more space, respect that. But always default to lasting care and concern.



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW TO RECOGNIZE DEDICATION AND GOOD WORKS WITH ANNUAL AWARDS

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is seeking nominations for several annual awards for achievement by Chapters and individuals. Here is a listing of the annual awards for 2026.

CHAPTER AWARDS

Nominations may be made by Chapters, who may self-nominate for the award.

Golden Compass Award – For membership growth, sponsoring new and re-chartered Chapters, service in the community, and participation in the mission of the Brotherhood.

Silver Anniversary Award – For continuous Chapter service over a 25-year period.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Nominations may be made for an individual by an individual, Chapter or Assembly. A person cannot self-nominate.

Kingdom Bulder Award – For an individual who has given outstanding service and dedication to men's ministry. Eligibility for this award includes Brothers and non-Brothers who have demonstrated these qualities.

Presidential Citation Award – For a Brother recognized for a special project beyond their normal routines.

Associate Recognition Award – For a female who, through her efforts, has supported Brotherhood activities locally, community-wide, assembly, diocesan, provincial, or on a national level. She also should be a paid Associate Brotherhood Member from the clergy or a congregational church member.

Saint George's Award – For an individual who has given exemplary volunteer service for a substantial period to the various youth Scouting programs. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Scouting Commission team will review all such applications. In October 2017, the Brotherhood and Boy Scouts of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding stipulating that Brothers Andrew would be the official liaison organization representing the Episcopal Church.

An **Awards and Decoration Commission** is being formed. We are searching for additional volunteers to fill out the Awards and Decorations Commission. The game plan, according to Chairman John Curtis, calls for representatives from each of the geographic areas within the Brotherhood.

Each award will have a separate application process and applications are currently being finalized. Watch future issues of the magazine for more information or write johncurtisdg2324@gmail.com.

The deadline for applications will be November 1, 2026 and awards will be made on St. Andrew's Sunday, November 29, 2026.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR MONTHLY WEBINARS

October: Sam Black, Director of Recovery Education for Covenant Eyes and author of *The Healing Church*, addressing topics including Human Trafficking and Pornography

November: TBA

December: The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY WEBINARS, ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

HERE'S THE LINK: [BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT ANDREW MONTHLY WEBINAR](#)

MEETING ID: 851 3889 2685

PASSCODE: 0723

WE'RE SEARCHING FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHERHOOD CHAPTER OR MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP: WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR STORY

For General Convention to Triennial and many other Brotherhood of St. Andrew opportunities over the next year and beyond, we're working on a larger communication piece anticipated to be both electronic and print/direct mail that—among other things—will exhaustively highlight what's been happening with our Chapters and men's ministry groups church wide. We want to highlight YOU and have every state in the US represented. Please help us!

To that end, by October 31, write to editor@brothersandrew.net with a two-three line description of one thing your group has been doing, from a standard Saturday morning Bible study to some sort of special mission project. Here are just a couple of examples to inspire you.

Men at St. Swithin's in Bozeman, Montana just helped build a hometown Habitat for Humanity house for a family of six.

St. Jim's in Newport, Rhode Island led weekly Sunday night summer Evening Prayer on the beach as a way of reaching out to both members and tourists.

ALSO CALLING OUT....

To share the incredible breadth and depth of Brotherhood ministry across our church, we are seeking at least one parish, group, or person to highlight for EACH of our areas of Brotherhood of St. Andrew mission focus. To refresh your memory about these ministries, they include:

- Discipleship and Mentoring
- Prison Ministries
- Racial Reconciliation
- Recovery
- Social Justice
- Veterans Ministries
- Youth and Scouting

Who do you know who is doing impactful ministry in any of these areas? Might that even be you and the Brothers in your own Chapter?!

Please help us cast a wide net, however you best communicate in your diocese or regional area, and help us gather ideas for who and what should be lifted up when we highlight this mission work. **Send your suggestions by September 30 to editor@brothersandrew.net and put MISSION FOCUS SUGGESTIONS in the subject line.** Please be sure to include full contact information for yourself and anyone you are nominating. Blessings and thank you!

JOIN US VIA ZOOM FOR WEEKLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Open to everyone

SUNDAYS, Compline Service

9 p.m. Eastern / 8 p.m. Central / 7 p.m. Mountain / 6 p.m. Pacific

us02web.zoom.us/j/87561851713?pwd=UJ5ok56elbb5aZGcZaNQQZtaaxaand.1

We begin with a few moments of silence or meditation followed by the service from the *Book of Common Prayer* Page 127.

WEDNESDAYS, Mid-Week, Mid-Day Prayer

1 p.m. Eastern / Noon Central / 11 a.m. Mountain / 10 a.m. Pacific

us02web.zoom.us/j/85663208398?pwd=UG0vTkj2OXAwKzBEEdGpYcTBCanZEZz09

Let's spend 20 minutes to pray for the Brotherhood, for our Brothers, and even share some stories of how Prayer has impacted you or someone you know! It's like stopping at the

faith service station to fill your prayer tank! It's simple ... we already have the script made out (in our devotional handbook or the *Book of Common Prayer*)! If you'd like to help lead one of the prayer sessions, contact roy.benavides@brothersandrew.net

THURSDAYS, Bible Study

8 p.m. Eastern / 7 p.m. Central / 6 p.m. Mountain / 5 p.m. Pacific

us02web.zoom.us/s/4485027479

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Brooklyn and Queens Assemblies, and the Diocese of Chicago wish to remind you to join the weekly Bible Study on Thursdays. Joining this group will allow you to continue to gain deeper knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the Bible. If you have questions, please email nychibiblestudy@gmail.com.



GET READY FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

A new ministry year each fall brings fresh opportunities, new ideas, and a chance to make a lasting impact. But before we fill the calendar with meetings, events, and activities, we should first ask a more important question:

What is God calling us

to accomplish together?

Setting a spiritual tone for your men's ministry group begins with prayer. Rather than planning first and asking God to bless our plans later, we should seek Christ's direction from the beginning. Gather your ministry leaders for a time of prayer, scripture reading, and honest conversation about the needs of the men, families, and the community you serve.

Next, establish a clear spiritual purpose. A successful men's ministry is about more than attendance at Saturday morning Bible study or other events. Our goal is to help men grow in their relationship with Christ, strengthen their families, serve others, and become faithful disciples. Every

activity on the calendar should support that mission, using the Prayer-Study-Service purpose statement and mission focuses of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew as our guide.

It is also important to continue to create a culture of encouragement and accountability among our Brothers. Men need places where they can be honest about their struggles, celebrate their spiritual development, and challenge one another to live out their faith. At the beginning of the new church year, consider building prayer partnerships, mentoring partners, or new or renewed service projects, attaching dates early to your annual plan.

Finally, leave room for God to interrupt your schedule. Good planning provides direction, but spiritual sensitivity allows us to respond when unexpected needs or opportunities arise.

As you plan the coming church year, remember that the "it's time to do this again" calendar is not the mission. Christ is the mission. When Brotherhood Prayer-Study-Service truly undergird your planning, your program year can become much more than another typical meeting schedule—it can become an array of opportunities for men to regularly encounter God and grow together in faith.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS loves to share photos and news from you or your Brotherhood group. Send them along anytime. Here are a few basic ideas to help you.

We welcome...

- ▶ General stories and photos about your Chapter or men's ministry activities.
- ▶ Stories and photos about your Province meetings or activities.
- ▶ Reflections about how you solved a common Brotherhood challenge, such as building attendance or increasing involvement in your project or ministry.
- ▶ Points of pride about your Chapter milestones.
- ▶ Personal spiritual or biblical reflections.
- ▶ Ideas related to the Brotherhood seven areas of mission focus.
- ▶ Stories about how you helped mobilize partnerships in your community.
- ▶ Practical tips/helps related to common Brotherhood activities out of your own expertise or experience.
- ▶ Photos of Brothers you have encountered in other places. *For example—at a church you attended during your summer vacation.*

Send your contributions in standard MSWord 12 point type with no formatting.

Attach photos—don't embed them in your story.

Attach a separate Word document with photo ID's, from left to right, that correspond to your photos. Don't forget to double check the spelling of any names you include. If it isn't obvious, describe what we are seeing in your photo/s and where/when they were taken.

Email your material to editor@brothersandrew.net. If you have questions or just want to brainstorm an idea, call Kathy at 502-345-6406.

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