

FALL AND WINTER  
2011-2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Visit the alumni page of the school website at [www.standrewapostle.org](http://www.standrewapostle.org)
- The Alumni Community is now on Facebook!

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SAINT ANDREW APOSTLE SCHOOL

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

*Animal Planet: Eastern Shore Edition*

By Bill Pino ('80)

About 20 years after graduating from St. Andrew's I ran into Mr. T. That's basketball coach Bill Taylor, for anyone who didn't participate in basketball at Saint Andrews during the past three decades. After exchanging pleasantries, I got to the meat of the bone I had been wanting to pick with him since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I said, "I can't believe you didn't choose me at Junior Basketball try-outs. I was the last one to be picked or not picked and I was not picked."

He looked me straight in the eye and responded, "First of all, that was a mistake. But more importantly, I now know that not picking you made you a much better person. You obviously held on to that motivation for many years."

Once again, Mr. T. was right. Sometimes even hard work will not get you the results you desire, but persistence and resolve will get you further in life than almost anything else. That was one of the many lessons I learned at Saint Andrew's.

After leaving Saint Andrew's I went on to Good Counsel, John F. Kennedy High School, and Montgomery College, finally graduating from Salisbury State University in 1991. I then became part owner of Maryland Tropical Pet Store in White Oak. I met my wife Jennifer at the store, we married in 1993, and, soon, our son Nicholas was born.

Raising an infant child amongst dozens of reptiles can be a challenge. It wasn't long before I realized the pet store couldn't support our family and that of my



Bill with a whitefaced monkey in the jungle of Costa Rica

partners and we parted ways. I next worked as a wholesale rep for pet supplier, dealing mostly in tropical fish and reptiles. Nicholas was bit older now, but we decided that I may need a new direction when Jen glanced into the living room and saw Nico swinging two Ball Python snakes over his head like an Argentine Gaucho swinging a lasso.

The deregulation of the telecom industry had made telecom a very lucrative profession. I secured a position as a door-to-door long distance salesman. This was definitely not what I had written about as an 8th grader when Ms. Kritzer (Schultz) asked us to write a paper on what we wanted to be when we grew up, but it was paying the bills. More importantly, it allowed us to enroll Nicholas as a student at Saint Andrew's.

I was floored when I found out his second grade teacher was to be Mrs. Gormley. Mrs. Gormley was my second grade teacher! I knew right then and there that he was in good hands.

Nico only spent a couple of years at Saint Andrew's because we soon decided to move to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, but before he left he received a life-long inspirational message from a teacher at Saint Andrew's.

Nicholas had been making a feeble, out-of-tune attempt at playing the cello and neither he, his mom, nor the cello thought that this instrument was for him. One day, Nico listened to his music instructor, Mrs. Trigiani, play the oboe at Saint Andrew's and Nico proclaimed that the oboe was the instrument he would master, just like Mrs. Trigiani! I wish I had heard that performance because he came home excited about music and the oboe and, thankfully, put an end to his cello career. What I have since learned is that the oboe is one of the most difficult instruments to master and that our son has used those moments listening to Mrs. Trigiani as motivation to not only master the oboe, but also to excel through many difficult and rewarding challenges in his life.

By this time, I had established a telecom and data consulting company. Jen had finally relented on moving away from her childhood neighborhood of Woodmoor in Four Corners. Her one condition was that she could have her horses at the house. I had fruitlessly attempted to move our family to Costa Rica, Florida, and North Carolina on many previous occasions. So, when she gave in to the Eastern Shore, I quickly found us a farm in the tiny town of Tyaskin, Maryland, just off the Nanticoke River.

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## Animal Planet: Eastern Shore Edition

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I would now be able to work from my home office and pursue my passion of fishing on a full time basis. Nicholas would ride his horses, play his music and enjoy the country life, and Jen would fulfill her dream of operating a small family horse farm. Well, the best laid plans are only a starting point from which to deviate.

Today, life is an adventure every single day. Our small horse farm has turned into a quasi-animal rescue. Jen has decided that her life's calling is to take care of unwanted animals. We currently have over 50 waterfowl, 8 horses, 4 donkeys, 2 goats, a sheep, 2 pigs, 4 dogs, 4 cats, a steer, a deer, and 9 alpacas. The alpacas are actually the only animals that were not a rescue of some kind.

Jen loves and guards her animals with a mother bear's fury and a pistol. She loves all animals, domestic or wild, until they try to eat her animals. So, she has taught herself to be an expert marksman and has had to rid the farm of some unwanted fox and raccoons. Most of her antics are documented on Facebook and she has become quite the celebrity, being featured on local TV and national news.

I have personally walked the docks of Guatemala, Mexico and Costa Rica and have had total strangers walk up to me and ask me what my wife has shot lately.

We have made midnight cow rescues, saved a deer hanging on a fence, and an owl that was run over by a car and lived to fly away after months of rehab. Jen has had a seagull survive after a successful wing amputation and saved a puppy from suffocating after he got his head stuck in a jar and fell in a ditch. We named him Jughead, and he lives with us and excels at sleeping on the couch.

We have brought traffic to a complete standstill on Route 50 on a

Sunday evening in August when we saw two goats stranded in the median strip of woods between Salisbury and Ocean City.

Her efforts are heroic, but have come at a high cost. We lost our barn to a horrific barn fire that was probably caused by a goat she had rescued. Had we listened to our rescue dog, Jughead, we may have saved the barn.

We have lost a few animals that came to us a little too late. The losses are always followed by tears and sorrow and a vow to do everything possible to help another animal. It is a complete joy to watch Jen love these animals with all her heart.

But I can't lie, she drives me nuts sometimes.

I have learned to keep my mouth shut and not doubt her abilities with these animals. In turn, I have never seen wild or domestic animals love a person so much.

Nico is now a senior in High School and has accomplished something that I joke about with him regularly. Neither he nor I ever got a B grade in High School. Those of you who went to school with me know that my grades were never that high and his have never been that low. He has been the first chair oboist for the Maryland All-Shore Band three times. The only time he wasn't an oboist for the Maryland All-Shore Band was when he tried out on the bassoon and won the honor of being the first chair bassoonist that year. He is currently the second chair bassoonist in the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra and an alternate oboist for the Maryland All-State Band and National Honors Orchestra. His dream is to attend Columbia University and go on to medical school to become an ophthalmologist.

I still have my telecom business along with a fishing lure company. Both are operating out of a little office in the back of the farm amongst the goats, pigs, alpacas,

ducks and sheep. I fish everyday I can and have traveled from Brazil to China in pursuit of my passion.

I owe this life to God and the things I learned as a kid.

Who knew that my son and I would draw such inspiration from a basketball coach and a music teacher from Saint Andrew's.

***"I owe this life to God and the things I learned as a kid."***

**Bill Pino ('80)**



Bill with his first ever Wreckfish caught on a rare beautiful January day 70 miles off of Ocean City, Maryland.



Jen was never one to play with dolls, but she loves to play dress-up with her horses.



Jen and Mario the Beagle take Sonny the Alpaca for a swim in the Nanticoke River.

## School News:

### Saint Andrew Apostle "State of the School": Bill Costa ('78)

**W**arm greetings to you as 2012 begins! May God's Grace be with you and bring you Peace all year.

Saint Andrew Apostle School is in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year! With the blessings of dynamic faculty and staff as well as a strong parent community, our optimism is growing for current students and the future of the school.

On November 30, 2011, parents gathered for Saint Andrew Apostle's "State of the School" meeting. Our Pastor, Father Dan Leary, and our Acting Principal, Susan Sheehan, led a presentation regarding the strategic vision. This is a defining time and an event which reflects the changes emerging from a new, spiritually dynamic pastor and a long time faculty member who has newly attained the leadership role of Acting Principal. The highlights from the meeting include:

**Bill Costa ('78) is an alumnus, a parent of Saint Andrew students, and currently serves as the School Advisory Board Chair. He is the third alumnus(a) to serve as Chair of the Saint Andrew School Advisory Board.**

- ◆ Enrollment has steadily increased the past two years as the school provides education from Foundation 3-year-old program through eighth grade.
- ◆ Academic performance has maintained the high standards which led to two U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards, most recently in 2007.
- ◆ Standardized test scores (Terra Nova) continue in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in Reading and Math.
- ◆ Eighth graders well exceed national averages on the High School Placement Test.
- ◆ We continue to meet criteria to apply for another Blue Ribbon Award.
- ◆ Additional educational enhancements include new laptops for teachers, a new "WeatherBug" station (we have a weather station on our roof that can be monitored online), lockers for the Junior High grades, and more. This is in addition to the Smart Boards, Safari Montage digital library (an integrated textbook and online digital educational library) and Foss science kits (an interactive, experimental science program) that Principal Sheehan shared in the previous newsletter.
- ◆ In spring 2012, an Early Learning Center will open and provide year-round care for infants to 3-year-olds. Several renovations of the previous convent have already been completed to accommodate this addition.
- ◆ Proposed further enhancements include additional technology to support each age group, implementing the Green Ribbon School initiative for environmental education, and applying for project-based grants.
- ◆ Character development programs will be integrated into the school activities and community. The objective is to achieve a wide-spread Christ-centered school spirit through faith-based character development consistent with the school mission.

For the remainder of the presentation, Father Dan Leary shared his plan for spiritual growth among the students and families as well as how it relates to the parish and community. Father Dan states his goal clearly: he is a spiritual father, one of God's shepherds responsible to guide his flock to salvation. Attendance at Saint Andrew's Sunday mass reflects an increase in 2011 after years of slow declines. Part of the change includes Father's relevant, life-changing homilies. For the school, Father Dan tailors messages and activities to the different school age groups. The plan integrates the following into the religious education, complementing the core curriculum: weekly masses, Christian Service Awards, periodic confessions, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a Spring Faith Rally and an off-campus retreat.

We want to share more with you, the alumni, as we expect there to be even more heartwarming news in the future. If you would like to get involved in any of the school activities, please contact Lisa Longacre, Principal Sheehan or myself. We are happy to respond! We are hopeful to share with you school pictures and videos through the alumni network in the upcoming months.

Finally, our alumni 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were heartwarming to see and hear. Many people connected with fellow alumni who were part of formative years while attending Saint Andrew's. We joyfully gathered as classes and at the gala event to share life stories and revive the memories. Many of you who were not physically at an event still connected through the alumni network. The ties that bind us together as alumni reflect the significance of our Saint Andrew experience. These ties are founded with God's blessings, which is why they last longer; why they prepared us better for the next steps in our lives; and why we still have a connection to the people and experiences. Christ was with us back then, filling us with blessings and hope for the future. My fellow alumni, in closing I wish for you Christ's presence today, to experience God's Grace and Peace now in this world and when we meet in heaven.

Link to State of the School Presentation:

<http://www.standrewapostle.org/School/2011-2012/stateOfSchool2.pdf>

# Upcoming Events

CHECK THE ALUMNI PAGE OF THE SCHOOL WEBISTE FOR PERIODIC UPDATES OF NEWS AND EVENTS

## JANUARY

◇ **Tony Melendez** will perform his Family Pro-Life Concert, "I Can Do It," at Saint Andrew's on **Saturday, January 21** at 8:00pm. Don't miss this evening of Faith, wonderful Music, and great Hope! Tickets are available in the parish office for \$5 per person. Call 301-649-3700 for more information.

## FEBRUARY

◇ Saint Andrew Apostle School will hold an **Open House on Wednesday, February 1** from 8:30am-11:00am for all who are interested in enrolling the next generation of alumni. Can't make this date? Additional Open Houses will be held on the first Wednesday of the month from 9:00-11:00am, or call 301-649-3555 for an appointment.

◇ The **Saint Andrew's Science Fair** will be held on **Saturday, February 4**. Are you able to provide your expertise to assist with judging? We are looking for alumni with background in engineering, math, biology, chemistry,

and physics. Judging will take place from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Lunch and refreshments provided. Contact Patricia Costa Gillis ('79) for more information at bgbeachbum@comcast.net.

◇ **Adult Bingo Night** will be held on **Saturday, February 11** at 7:00pm at St. Andrew Apostle School. Come and join a fun evening of good food, games, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are now on sale for \$25.00 per person; \$40.00 per couple. For more information, please contact Mary Philogene at mary.philogene@gmail.com.

◇ **Ash Wednesday Masses** will be held on **February 22** at 6:30am, 8:30am, 10:00am, and 7:30pm.

## MARCH

◇ Join your Saint Andrew's family for a beautiful evening of scripture, song, and silence. Saint Andrew's will hold a 30-minute **Tzai** service on **Tuesday, March 6** at 7:00pm.

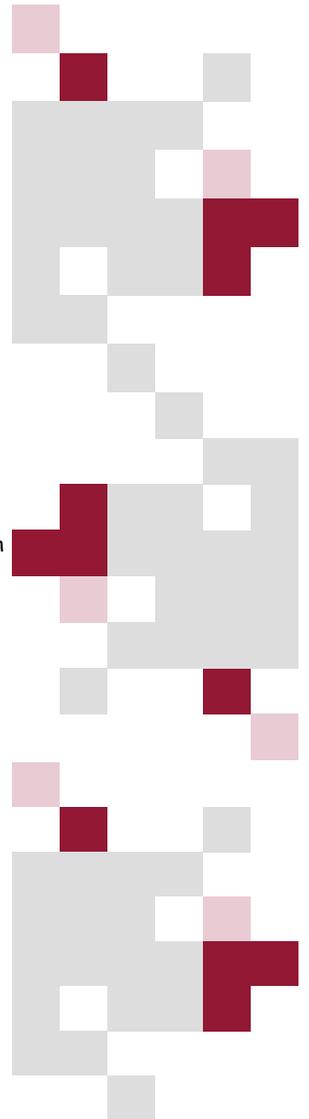
## APRIL

◇ Join your Saint Andrew's Family for **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**, which will be celebrated on **April 5th** at 7:30pm.

◇ Come and see **Born For This**, the school's performance of the Stations of the Cross to be performed on **Good Friday, April 6th** at 12:00pm. Also on **Good Friday, confessions** will be heard from 1:30-3:30pm, **Stations of the Cross** will be held at 3:00pm, and the service commemorating the **Passion of the Lord** will begin at 7:30pm.

◇ On **Holy Saturday, April 7**, confessions will be heard from 12:00 until 2:00pm. The **Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection** will begin at 8:00pm.

◇ Come and celebrate the most joyous day in the Church year on **Easter Sunday, April 8**. **Easter Sunday Masses** will be held at 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am, and 6:00pm.



The Saint Andrew Apostle alumni network is now on FACEBOOK.

Contact standrewalum@yahoo.com for information.



St Andrew

## Class Notes

1970 **Sean McArdle** and his wife, Judy, have moved to Bluffton, South Carolina.

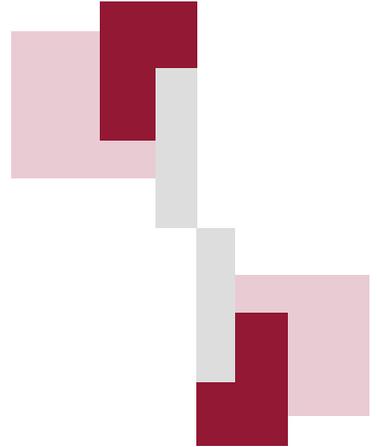
1974 **Jim Boicourt** has moved o Frederick, Maryland.

1986 **Howard Brooks** is a cosmetic dermatologist and director of SKIN Cosmetic Dermatology of Georgetown. Howard is an Associate Professor at Howard University College of Medi-

cine and has served as an expert source for local media outlets including CNN, CBS, Fox Morning News, NewsChannel 8, and WTOF.

1997 **Stella Eleni (Michael) Harrison** and her husband, Michael, joyfully announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Evie Sophia, on November 13, 2011.

2004 **Grant Gates** returned from a seven-month tour of Afghanistan with the U.S. Marine Corp. His homecoming was covered by the Gazette: <http://www.gazette.net/article/20111129/NEWS/711299999/1020/silver-spring-family-throws-hero-s-welcome-for-young-marine&template=gazette>



## Class Contacts

If no name is listed for your graduation year, let us know if you would like to volunteer to be a point of contact for your class.

<b>1966</b>	<b>1975</b> Elaine Tippett Treado treado6@yahoo.com	<b>1983</b> Kimberly Swift Carroll masonprops@gmail.com	<b>1997</b> Aminta Carter angelm12@yahoo.com
<b>1967</b> Rick Ellrod REllrod@verizon.net	<b>1976</b> Austin Conaty austin.conaty@gmail.com	<b>1984</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>1968</b> Mary Browning Passafaro MPASSAFARO@aol.com	<b>1977</b> Bill O'Rourke stag8132@msn.com	<b>1985</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>1969</b> Matt Ellrod mattellrod@verizon.net	<b>1978</b> Annette Johnson Bergmann annettebergmann@comcast.net	<b>1986</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>1970</b> Jeannine Mizell PokeKBT@aol.com	<b>1979</b> Andre Taylor divalibrarian2@aol.com	<b>1987</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>1971</b> Dennis McCarthy Dennis_Mccarthy@ahm.honda.com	<b>1980</b> Mina Farzin just1mina@aol.com	<b>1988</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>1972</b> Susan Hessmann Simpson Susan.Simpson@frontrange.edu	<b>1981</b> Teresa Farace Smith cntmd@juno.com	<b>1989</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>1973</b> Tom Agostinelli tomagomd@yahoo.com	<b>1982</b> Kerstin Treado Magee kjtmgagee@verizon.net	<b>1990</b> Billy Cannon cannon.billy@gmail.com	<b>2004</b> David Moore Icecreamman9013@verizon.net
<b>1974</b> Orlando Mozzano orla14@comcast.net		<b>1991</b>	<b>2005</b>
		<b>1992</b>	<b>2006</b>
		<b>1993</b> Eric Sorlie ericsorlie@gmail.com	<b>2007</b> Meg Tedder teddertotter@gmail.com
		<b>1994</b> Kate Shahan kate_shahan@yahoo.com	<b>2008</b> Caitlin and Caroline DeSantis dcfilm@verizon.net
		<b>1995</b> Caroline Sorlie carolinesorlie@gmail.com	<b>2009</b>
		<b>1996</b> Kristin Thorne kristin.n.thorne@gmail.com	<b>2010</b>
			<b>2011</b>
			<b>2012</b>

## In Memoriam

May their souls  
and the souls of all the faithful departed  
though the mercy of God  
rest in peace.

We have learned of the death of members of our Saint Andrew's family since our last newsletter. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.



**Michael J. Murphy ('67)**  
died on October 3, 2011.



**Jeanann Ross Wells ('78)**, sister  
of Charla Ross ('80) and Leann  
Ross Huff, died on October 12,  
2011.

**Mrs. Eva Cawthon Murphy**, mother of Michael ('67), died on January 9, 2012. Mrs. Murphy was among the original parish founders of Saint Andrew's and continued to be a very active member of the Saint Andrew's community.

**Mrs. Margaret (Peg) Weaver**, mother of Kathy Weaver Cannon ('69), Kevin ('71), Rob ('73), and Trish ('77) died on November 25, 2011. Mrs. Weaver and her husband, Arell, were among the original parish founders of Saint Andrew's. Mrs. Weaver was very active in the school and parish community. Per reports from her kids, she was the backbone of the family, created boatloads of love and support and, at her grandkids' urging, could be a wonderful goofball. Her family will celebrate her life and love by keeping it going.

**Mrs. Mary Miller Becker**, junior high school social studies teacher at Saint Andrew's in the 60s and 70s, died on November 7, 2011. At her Funeral Mass held at Saint John the Evangelist Historic Church, Susan Patschak ('74) delivered the following tribute to "Mares":

There's a bestselling book written by Robert Fulghum entitled, "All I Really Needed to Know About Life I Learned in Kindergarten." As for me, all I really needed to know about life I learned in Mrs. Mary Becker's American History class in grade school. I was 11 years old when I had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Becker. She was our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher at Saint Andrew the Apostle School. She always made learning fun and throughout those 3 years, she taught us so many life lessons, one doesn't know where to begin.

Our classes would always start with the textbook and then traveled onto many other topics.

She taught us the significance of our faith and believing in the Lord Jesus. She taught us the importance of education and was a great role model for us young women. She graduated from Trinity College long before it was the natural course for women to attend college. She spoke to and taught the females equally; reminding us we had a brain that should not be wasted. She taught us to voice our opinions and stand up for what we believed in; that we could do whatever we set our minds to. She was the best teacher I and many others ever had throughout our formal educational experience. And always the consummate educator, her signature baby gift was two wooden tablets of the alphabet and numbers to start the learning process early with our wee ones.

Mrs. Becker also taught us the importance of family. Early on as our teacher, we knew how proud she was of her two children as we got to know Billy Becker and Mary Margaret as if they were in our classroom day in and day out. And of course, it was never just Billy and Mary it was always Billy Becker and Mary Margaret. Even yesterday when I introduced Mary Margaret to a former classmate, she exclaimed: "Not the Mary Margaret! I feel like I've known you my whole life!" And thank goodness, Billy Becker married someone with a first name that went well with Becker. 'Cause you never heard Mrs. Becker just talk about Dee, it was always Dee Becker in keeping with tradition.

In her later years, Mrs. Becker reached that celebrity status whereby people worldwide know you just by one name: Mares!

Indeed, Mares loved her church, her friends, her students and above all her family. We will sorely miss her zest for life and her never ending life lessons. Rest well Mares, you did above and beyond in this game we call life. May the Lord keep and bless you, today and always.

Did you know...?

... you can make a donation of flowers for the Church at Christmas or Easter in memory of a loved one? Names of those remembered are listed in the parish bulletin. Contact Barbara Girolami at churchmusicmom@yahoo.com for more information.



Saint Andrew Apostle School  
Alumni Committee

## **FALL AND WINTER 2011-2012**

Saint Andrew Apostle School  
Alumni Newsletter (Attn: Lisa Longacre)  
11602 Kemp Mill Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Phone: 301-649-3555

Fax: 301-649-2352

E-mail: [standrewalum@yahoo.com](mailto:standrewalum@yahoo.com)

The Alumni Committee was established in 2000 as a means of increasing the involvement of our alumni within our school and parish community. Through efforts over more than ten years, we've reunited and formed a solid network to stay in touch, but the potential for what we can do together as alumni of Saint Andrew's School is limitless.

Are you interested in helping set the direction for where we go from here? For more information, please email Lisa Longacre at [standrewalum@yahoo.com](mailto:standrewalum@yahoo.com).

Interested in contributing to your Saint Andrew's Alumni Newsletter? We're very interested in hearing from you!

<http://www.standrewapostle.org>

## **The Newsletter Staff**

**Lisa Schwartz Longacre (Editor) ('74)**

**Jim Boicourt (Photo Editor) ('74)**

### **Fall and Winter 2011 Issue Contributors:**

**Susan Patschak ('74)**

**Bill Costa ('78)**

**Tony Marinucci ('83)**

**Bill Pino ('80)**

"If you want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it."

*-Mother Theresa*