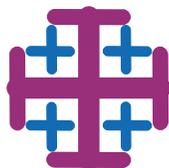


The Messenger – April 2015

St Andrew's Church Episcopal
50 Sacandaga Rd
Scotia, New York 12302
Rector – The Rev'd Michael Neufeld



Office – 374-8391
Rectory – 372-2255
standrewscotia@yahoo.com
www.jesuschristny.org

Parish Mission Statement:

As members of St Andrew's Episcopal Church, our mission is to:

GROW spiritually, rooted in Scripture and Sacraments,

BRING the love of Jesus Christ into the local and wider community

WELCOME all into the healing and worshipping family of Christ's Church

Good News from Fr Mike:

Holy Week is the most solemn, important, dare I say holy, week of the year. It is during this time that we celebrate the fullness of our salvation in Jesus Christ. The center of this week is what we call the Triduum - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter. Although three days with three different names, they celebrate one event – the Paschal Mystery, our Passover from death to life in Jesus Christ. Maundy Thursday is about our Passover meal, the Holy Eucharist. We eat this as a participation in Jesus Christ. He is our freedom, our salvation, our redemption. We encounter Him in the most intimate way possible as we come to the altar. Good Friday is all about Jesus being the Passover Lamb. Because of His shed blood, the power of sin is destroyed forever and we are offered forgiveness and new life. Easter Sunday is all about the resurrection of Jesus, but it is much bigger than that. As Jesus rises, He reaches out to take the hand of anyone who trusts Him and His saving love that they might rise. We experience the power of this in baptism, when we die with Christ and rise again, as we look forward to the fullness of our resurrection which lies in the future when Jesus comes again.

I invite you to encounter anew the fullness of your salvation by celebrating the whole of the Triduum. We at St Andrew's, as in many churches, have a tendency to show up at Easter but are absent on Maundy Thursday and especially Good Friday. After all, Easter is a joyous day; the other two tend to be rather somber. Yet there is no resurrection without the cross. There is no joy without anguish. Come and see the fullness of God's love for us expressed in Jesus Christ. Come and see a love of God so true that He was, in the person of His Son, willing to die that we might live. These three services are very ancient and have their beginnings in 4th century Jerusalem, yet they speak to us today in no less powerful a way than they did 1600 years ago. Come let us celebrate together.

Please note, we will have a special "Bring a friend to Church" Sunday on April 12. What better time to invite a friend to church than during the Easter Season. There will be a little more festive coffee hour. Who is the Lord calling you to invite?

Christian Education offerings for all

Church School – Sundays at 11:00AM

Adult Bible Studies: Sunday morning Bible Study – 11:00AM – Sunday Lectionary readings

Sunday evening Men's Study group – 7:00PM (and occasionally at 5PM for dinner out)

Wednesday morning Bible Study – 9:30AM – Gospel of John

Wednesday evening Bible Study – 6:45PM – Thessalonians & Timothy (preceded by 5:30PM Eucharist)

MEN'S MINISTRY submitted by Steve George

The Men's Ministry meets every Sunday night from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM in the lounge. We have many topics of discussion doing our best to stick with Christian and Biblical based topics. This includes reading books, magazines articles and viewing DVD's, all of which there is a discussing period afterwards. We offer prayers for family and friends during their time of need for prayers. This group has been active for the last six years with a steady number of nine participants. Approximately once every eight weeks, the group goes out to a local establishment to sample the food that's offered. Also, we will do a field trip to a place of interest that is a reasonable distance away. The meetings are open to any Christian man who wishes to attend to learn more about the Christian faith and the Bible or just to learn about life in general.

From the Wardens: thoughts from Marji Edgar

This is a very special time in our Church year. From early February until early April we are preparing for Easter. We begin with Ash Wednesday and go through some quiet but very meaningful days until we reach Holy Week – where we are now. We have Palm Sunday on March 29 (also celebrating at the Saturday service on March 28.) Holy Week continues ending with Easter on April 5. Use the address page of this newsletter to find all times and places for the services during this week.

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will begin our service in the lounge with the readings and the pot luck supper, then go into the Church for Eucharist. This all begins at 6PM.

Good Friday is the next day. There will be a walk with other churches around the Village – this begins at 9:30am at the 1st Reformed Church on Ballston Ave. Don't forget the 3pm Stations of the Cross and 7pm is the Good Friday Liturgy. Saturday is the Easter Vigil beginning at 5pm. Sunday Services mark Easter. Join us for one of these three services.

Many thanks to Deacon Ray and Simone Rockwell for their donation that enabled the overlay of the lounge floor. It is beautiful. Also special thanks to Harlan Barney for all he does – making things work or buying new. We are grateful for all these gifts.

Looking back briefly – a number from St Andrew's attended the Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference at Christ the King Center in February. About 300 people attended and worked in smaller groups looking back at meaningful experiences of the Lord working in our lives. It was a very well spent Saturday.

A quick update on the basement work – we are waiting for the flooring tiles to be installed. Once this and the finishing work are completed, we will be scheduling a belated pancake supper and blessing of the new construction. More information will be sent out as soon as we can set a date.

Please note – For monthly Vestry minutes and Finance reports, see copies posted on the bulletin board outside the office. As a member of the Parish, you are always welcome to visit Vestry meetings. Next meeting – Thursday, April 9 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

Contact your Wardens: Simone Rockwell (370-3412; srockwe2@nycap.rr.com)

Marji Edgar (370-1725; medgar2@aol.com)

Vestry members for 2015 – Deb Battista, Christine Bissonette, Chris Crouse, Tom Dowling, Steve George, Karen Jarosz, Claudette Mayer, Jeri Vincent

Reprint from March Newsletter -- **A Time to Share – Our Parish “Directory”**

The Vestry has decided to establish a bulletin board with the photos of the whole congregation. We want to post a photo and name of every member on the bulletin board so new members (and those of us with porous memory's) can keep track of who's who.

This is voluntary, but please do let us snap your photo. We will replace photos with a new one anytime someone asks, and all are welcome to send a “selfie by email or text to Tom Dowling. Christine Bissonette will be helping Tom.

Family group photos and couple's photos as well as individual pix are all welcome.

We plan to keep this simple and dynamic, simple, and easy.

Send Selfies to TomDowling1950@gmail.com or text to 935-0577. Tom or Christine can snap your pix anytime you see them.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St Andrew's

“The Ladies who LUNCH” – our lunches will resume beginning Wednesday, April 8th at noon in the lounge. All ladies of the church are welcome. All you do is bring a sandwich to share (or your own lunch if you prefer), beverages, chips and desserts are provided. Desserts are supplied on a rotating basis by those who attend. Please join us for food, fun and frivolity!

Thank you to all who brought us baked goods to sell and to those who bought them. We couldn't continue with our ministry without your help.

Happy Spring and Blessings to all, *Joan Acker*, Pres.

USHERS The Church services are in need of more ushers, for the three services. Training will be provided, all five minutes of it and you would start out working with an experienced usher for a few weeks until such time you feel comfortable handling the responsibility on your own. You do not need to work alone if you don't feel that you can handle it by yourself. This is a great opportunity for couples to do together. If there's an interest in this line of volunteering, please speak with the Clergy or Gail.

Take Note – Holy Week

Holy Week -

Palm Sunday Services – Sat, Mar 28 - 5:00pm; Sun, Mar 29 - 8am & 9:45am

Weekday Eucharists – Mon, Mar 30 – 7am; Tues, Mar 31 – 7am;

Wed, April 1 – 11am and 5:30pm

**Maundy Thursday – 6pm Eucharist with covered dish supper
starting in the lounge**

Good Friday – 9:30am Village Cross Walk – *In His Footsteps*

this begins at the 1st Reformed Church on Ballston Ave

3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Liturgy

Easter Vigil – Sat, Apr 4 – 5:00PM

Easter Sunday – Apr 5 – 8am & 9:45am

Diocesan Convention “A Family Gathering of Diocesan Proportions”

theme this year – Three Persons One God – Three Streams One Church

dates – Friday to Sunday; June 5 to 7

April, 2015

St Andrew's Church

Episcopal Diocese of Albany

50 Sacandaga Rd

Scotia, NY 12302



Disciples Making Disciples