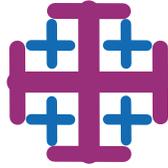


# The Messenger - December 2013

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  
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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

The Lord is coming! This was the promise given to Israel millennia ago. Israel waited for its Savior and God did not disappoint. Jesus is the realization of God's promise. The coming of the Lord is not just a past reality. Jesus is coming again to bring His perfect kingdom on earth and each day we come closer to that promise being realized.

So what about now? What does today mean? The Good News is that Jesus is here, and He comes to us in new ways each and every day. The problem is we are not very attentive and so often we miss the subtle but very real moments of grace that are constantly there. Advent is a time of slowing up and learning to pay attention - through prayer, Bible study, and silence.

Unfortunately, alongside this season of Advent is the Christmas season – a time of exhausting activity, of more than a little anxiety, when it is almost impossible to find any rest and peace. Often we set our minds to surviving this season and little else.

In the name of the Lord and in His Church, I invite you to a Holy Advent. Celebrate this season with prayer and peace. It may be a time to start reading your Bible or doing the Daily Offices or just spending 20 or 30 minutes in the morning or evening in silence with the Lord. This is also a time for developing family traditions of prayer to mark each day and each week of the Advent season.

One of the great traditions of the Church is the Advent wreath and the prayers that go with it. As part of our St Andrew's celebration, we will be decorating Advent wreaths (3:30PM on Sat Nov 30.) Please come and be a part of this wonderful activity. But even more importantly, make this wreath a focus of prayer for this very sacred season.

Just a reminder, the decorating of the Advent wreath is only the beginning of our celebration for St Andrew's Day. There will be a special Eucharist celebration at 5:00PM in honor of our patron but also in honor of who and what we are in Jesus Christ as St Andrew's Church. This liturgy will be followed by a pot luck dinner and a time to fellowship together.

Sunday December 1, we will begin our celebration of Advent, with the lighting of the first candle of the season, the singing of *O Come, O come, Emmanuel*. Come and begin this season in a holy manner with the prayer that the Lord will make this truly a blessed time.

## 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 - Exodus (soon to start the Gospel of Matthew)

Wednesday evening Bible Study - 6:45PM - Gospel of Luke (preceded by 5:30PM Eucharist)

## **News from Miss Carol's class:**

What a great time we all had at the pumpkin maze. Thank you to our anonymous benefactor for paying for all who went and even providing money for their lunch. Please try to join us next year. Chief Dave Ferris, thanks for using your firefighter skills to get those who were lost in the fort maze out. We have finished our unit on the sacraments- just in time for our Advent lessons. From now to Christmas, we'll follow the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus. We'll do lots of fun crafts and maybe even do a little baking. If you have children pre-school to grade one, please have them join in the fun!

## **Lessons and Carols:**

Watch the bulletin for information on this year's lessons and carols. Last year, the children did a great job. One member of the parish said it was the high point of their Christmas season!

## **First Communion:**

We will have at least one youngster receiving his first communion on Christmas Eve. If you would like your child to receive for the first time that night, please let Father or Carol Kiddle know.

## **ECW – ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD UNITED**

By the time you are reading this our Fall Bake Sale will be over and we offer our thanks to all who baked for it or bought the items for sale. Without your support we could not have nor can we continue to do the in-reach and outreach we have done for many years. Thank you everyone.

December 4th will be our annual Christmas luncheon at the Turf Restaurant here in Scotia. We hope many ladies will be able to attend and enjoy our time together.

Our next gathering will be January 8th, 2014! at noon in the lounge. It will be our last formal meeting as such and mark the "social" nature of our future as our main purpose. As always all ladies of the parish are invited – all you bring is a sandwich to share (or your own lunch if you prefer). Drinks and dessert are provided. We take turns bringing dessert for the group. We hope to see you there.

Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year to all, *Joan Acker, Co-Pres.*

## **From the Wardens**

**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 November, 12 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

Contact your Wardens: Callie Allard (cell – 926-9569; callielucretia@yahoo.com)

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

Vestry members for 2013 – Deb Battista, Christine Bissonette, Kathy Cioppa, Chris Crouse, Steve George, Rhonda Krutz, Wes Lavery, Simone Rockwell, Jeri Vincent

## **Adopt-A-family**

Again this year, we have adopted a family. This family was recommended to us by a member of the parish. It is a Mom, Dad, and children. They have hit very hard times. As we did last year, we will give them gift cards to allow them to do their own shopping. This way we are sure the children get what they want, sizes are right etc. If it is hard for you to get a gift card, I'll accept cash and purchase the gift card for you. We have also given them some help for Thanksgiving. Thank you. Carol Kiddle

## Cookie Sale



Our cookie sale is December 14th from 1 PM to 5 PM. Please have your cookies to the church by 11:00 so we may plate them and arrange the lounge. There is a sign-up sheet on the lounge door. Please let us know what you are making so we can be sure we have a variety. Cookies will be sold for \$5.00 per pound. If you make candy or other holiday treats, they can be sold as well. Like to help that day? Let Carol Kiddle or Nanci Wilson know what you'd like to do. Last year we made over \$500.00 and we hope to do even better this year. There are posters in the lounge. Please take one or two and put them around town. The more publicity the better.

### From the Events Committee:



Thanks to everyone who turned out for the Leaf- Raking Party on Saturday the 16th! We had a great turn-out this year, and it was a gorgeous day. Much hard work was a lot of fun with so many awesome people helping. If you missed out, you can get another chance to be part of the coolest group of cleaner-uppers ever, when we clean the church on Saturday, Dec 7! Details and another sign up sheet coming soon!



Many, many thanks for the wonderful soups and help with this year's November 9<sup>th</sup> soup sale! It was the most successful ever, with a sell-out and over \$597 made!  
Thank you for your *souper* support!



### Cleaning Day – Saturday December 7

We polish the pews, sweep and mop and vacuum everywhere in the church.  
A yearly THOROUGH job that gets our house ready for Christmas.  
Look for a sign up on the lounge door.  
Bring your supplies and get your cleaning day on!!

### From the Office:

**Altar flower schedule** is up (on the office door) for 2014. With the closing of Pedrick's Florist, the arrangement for vase delivery and pick up has changed. You will need to contact the office or Gail will contact you at least two weeks prior to the Sunday you are signed up for flowers. See Gail for clarification.

**Take Note - Calendar Highlights**

Please check the calendar for services and events  
and watch the Sunday bulletin for additions to the schedule.

Sunday, Nov 24 – ECW Bake Sale – after both services

Wednesday, Nov 27 – 7:00PM Thanksgiving Service

Saturday, Nov 30 – St Andrew's Day – 3:30PM Wreath decorating; 5:00PM Eucharist; 6:15PM dinner

Wednesday, Dec 4 – 12noon Women's Christmas Luncheon at the Turf Tavern Scotia

Saturday, Dec 7 – inside Church cleaning day

Saturday, Dec 14 – Cookie Sale fundraiser

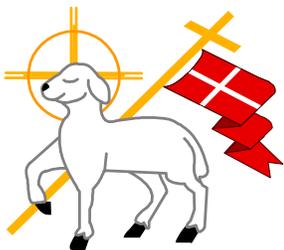
Tuesday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 5:00PM and 9:30PM

Wednesday, Dec 25 – Christmas Day Service at 10:00AM

Tuesday, Dec 31 – 5:30PM New Year's Eve Eucharist Service followed by a Pot Luck dinner and movie

Sunday, January 26, 2014 – one service at 9:00AM followed by the Parish Annual Meeting

December, 2013  
St Andrew's Church  
Episcopal Diocese of Albany  
50 Sacandaga Rd  
Scotia, NY 12302



***Disciples Making Disciples***