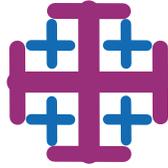


# The Messenger - December 2014

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



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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

You should be receiving this just prior to a very important day in the church calendar, the first Sunday of Advent. On this day, we begin a new church year, as we look forward to being presented yet again the power of our salvation in Jesus Christ. I invite you, in this new year, to participate more fully in the life of the Church. It is the Gospel that gives our life meaning, as we draw closer to our living Lord and each other.

It is all too easy for all of us to forget who we are and whose we are. We walk around anesthetized in the "stuff" of our life, when our real life is anchored in a love so great, a salvation so complete that is beyond our imagining.

On our secular New Year's day, we tend to make resolutions – we are going to lose weight or read the great novels. So often we fail. God is calling us, right now, to a deeper intimacy with Him and a greater participation in His life. All the other "stuff" of our life is important, but secondary to this. Indeed, He is challenging us to open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts, that we might know Him anew and know the fullness of life that He has planned for each and every one of us, as individuals and St Andrew's as a community.

We will celebrate our patronal feast on Saturday December 6. We begin at 5:30pm (please note time) with the Eucharist and pot luck dinner to follow. I hope we can all be there and celebrate together.

There is a mission for all of us this Christmas. The greatest gift that there is to be received is the Lord Jesus. How many of our friends, families, and acquaintances know nothing of His love. Invite a neighbor, a loved one, a co-worker to Christmas services. How many people are desperate to know our Lord? We are called, you and I, to bring them in. 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 - Revelation (preceded by 5:30PM Eucharist)

## Church School submitted by Carol Kiddle

My daughter's classes have made stocking for us and we are going to fill them to send to local nursing homes and to our shut-ins. If you have sample size toiletries, small ornaments etc. we will be filling them up to December 15th. Items can be left on the table in my classroom.

Watch for news of our annual Lessons and Carols. The children enjoy this and we hope for 100% participation from the church school classes. Our first youth Sunday went well despite a few illnesses which kept participation a bit low. We hope to have a monthly youth Sunday.

Several families have asked about children making their first communion. We will start to prepare for it in January with the celebration being on Easter Sunday. Let me know if you would like your child to be included.

## **Adopt-A Family** coordinated by Carol Kiddle

Each year we adopt a one or two families. I have one family already and know of a family burned out recently in the Glenville Area and think they would be a great second family. As we have done in the last two years, I will be collecting gift cards from markets, the Mall, Target, and Walmart to give the families so they can do their own shopping. If you'd like to participate, I will need the gift cards by December 14th to give the families time to shop.

## **From the Wardens:**

The Wardens took a break this month. Simone is still on the mend from hip surgery.

**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, December 4 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

Contact your Wardens: Marji Edgar (370-1725; medgar2@aol.com)

Simone Rockwell (370-3412; srockwe2@nycap.rr.com)

Vestry members for 2014 – Deb Battista, Christine Bissonette, Chris Crouse, Steve George, Karen Jarosz, Rhonda Krutz, Wes Lavery, Claudette Mayer, Jeri Vincent

## **Note from the Office**

Thanks go out to some of our parishioners for helping with various items that needed to be done around Church. Chris O'Neill helped us dispose of a few really old containers of cleaning chemicals. Larry Mose figured out the pilots were not lit on the stove ovens downstairs and fixed that issue. He also fixed both the Education Wing door crash bars. Thanks to Harlan Barney, Steve George, Pete Jendzeizyk, Todd Lavery, Larry Mose and Fr Mike for helping with the water clean-up and damage control in the basement following the furnace pressure relief valve failure. Again, Harlan for much continued additional help downstairs.

Then there was our fun Leaf Raking Party! Thanks to Betsy Baxter and Vicki Ramotar for organizing this essential event (and raking too) Also raking and hauling leaves were Harlan Barney, Christine Bissonette, Tom Dowling, Marji Edgar, Steve & Gail George, Cavan Gormley, Bob Hagen and his grandson, RJ, Karen Jarosz, Tom Malaney, Larry Mose and Sid Ramotar. We also thank Janet Godfrey and her nephew, Ethan, who raked under the apple trees a few weeks ago.

Our next event will be where our cleaning talents will be needed. Our pre-Christmas cleaning morning will be Saturday December 6 from 9 to 11ish. See ya then!

## **Cookie Sale** submitted by Carol Kiddle

We will have our second annual cookie sale on December 13th from 1:00 to 4:00 or sold out. Last year we sold out in an hour. As it looks like there may not be a chocolate festival this year, we hope to try to make the cookie sale bigger and better. Fudge was a big hit last year and holiday type cookies are a must. If you make sugar cookies, if you can add a holiday decoration, rice krispie treats can be made green and shaped like a wreath, peanut butter cookies can have a Hershey kiss etc. If you have any holiday crafts, we can have a holiday table with stocking stuffers etc. Cookies will be sold for \$6.00 a pound. A sign-up sheet for workers and bakers will be on the lounge door. Let's make this a fun and successful event. Any questions see Carol Kiddle or Nanci Wilson.

## **ECW (Episcopal Church Women) gatherings**

Our Nov. luncheon was attended by a few more ladies which was pleasant indeed.

The CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON is scheduled for Dec. 10th –Wed. at noon at the San Souci (on Mohawk Ave. in beautiful downtown Scotia, next to Cumberland Farms and across from the bowling alley). We will be ordering from the menu and receive individual checks according to my understanding. I have a list of those who have told me they are attending and I need those who have not told Gail or me but plan to go to please let one of us know so I can give the restaurant an approximate number. Thank you.

Notice: In Jan., Feb. & March there will be no regular luncheons and we will start up again in April. Winter weather can be tricky and travel risky – thus this decision.

Thank you all who helped with our bake sale on Nov. 23rd. As always, we couldn't be successful without your help. Best Christmas wishes to all and a healthy, happy 2015. Blessings to all, *Joan Acker*

## **Take Note – Other Calendar Highlights**

Saturday, December 6 – 5:30PM St Andrew's Day Celebration Service  
followed by Covered Dish Supper in the lounge

Wednesday, December 10 – 12noon Women's Christmas luncheon at SanSouci; Mohawk Ave

Saturday, December 13 – 1pm to 4PM Cookie Sale – see Carol's article

Sunday, December 21 – at the 9:45AM Eucharist service – Christmas Lessons and Carols

12:15PM Decorate Church for Christmas

Christmas Services – Wednesday December 24 – Services at 5:00PM and 9:00PM

Thursday, December 25 – Service at 10:00AM

Wednesday, December 31 – 5:30PM Eucharist Service

followed by pot luck supper and fellowship

Sunday, January 25, 2015 – Annual meeting -- 9:00AM Eucharist Service; 10:30AM meeting

December, 2014  
St Andrew's Church  
Episcopal Diocese of Albany  
50 Sacandaga Rd  
Scotia, NY 12302



***Disciples Making Disciples***