

The Messenger - February 2015

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: *Reprint from January 2015 Annual Meeting*

We begin the year 2015, as a parish with a number of strengths but also an equal number of challenges. On the positive side, we are a community focused on Spiritual growth: there is vibrant worship, a number of educational possibilities for youth and adults, a tight fellowship, and most importantly a real commitment to the Lord Jesus. We are essentially a healthy community.

However, we face some real challenges. The first and most blatant is that we are a shrinking community. From a high in 2006 of 98 average Sunday attendance, we were at 80 ASA last year and 73 this year. There are young families in our community but so many of our members are graying.

We have looked at the reason for our shrinking numbers over the past years. Quite honestly, there are a number of reasons why the pews are emptier on any given Sunday. One thing is certain however, if the future for St Andrew's is to be a bright one, we all need to answer Christ's call to evangelize in a whole new way. There are people starving in our neighborhood, workplaces, families, for an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus, hungry to know new life in Jesus Christ.

None of us is very good at bringing that message out of Church building into the world but we need to be about evangelization. Not just the extroverts among us, or those with remarkable knowledge. No, we are all called to proclaim the good news by word and deed to those around us. We need to begin with prayer, as a community, seeking the Lord's will to form our faith and to give us the words - His vision. Christ is calling people to come to this place, to be a part of this community. But He has tasked us to invite them to "come and see" what that life looks like.

In the coming year, we need to be about learning how to evangelize in ways that are effective without being obnoxious. The solution to our problem is really rather simple, but oh so difficult and risky. We will only blossom when we take Christ's call in our life in a whole new way and become His witnesses in a much more definitive manner.

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)

Prayer Shawl Ministry from Alice Mose

The prayer shawls continue to be made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry and several ladies of the neighborhood who have contributed on a regular basis. We continue to need people to knit or crochet or learn how, supplies of washable knitting worsted or homespun weight yarn. Small balls of leftovers can be used also. We thank all who have been involved in this ministry.

From the Wardens: *Synopsis of Annual Meeting held Sunday January 25. There are copies of the Annual Meeting packet in the office.*

Annual Meeting Report for January 25, 2015 of St. Andrew's Church, Scotia, NY

Twenty-eight (28) members of the parish, eligible to vote, signed the attendance sheets.

Election results:

Warden: two-year term to expire in 2017 – Marji Edgar

Vestry: three-year term to expire in 2018 – Tom Dowling and Karen Jarosz.

Thank you to Rhonda Krutz and Wes Lavery for their service on the Vestry.

Deputies to Diocesan Convention: Marji Edgar, Betsy Baxter, Tom Dowling were elected deputies; with Simone Rockwell, Carol Kiddle, and Claudette Mayer as alternates.

Metropolitan Deanery: a geographic portion of the Diocese that meets occasionally.

Betsy Baxter was elected as the delegate; with Callie Allard as alternate.

Columbarium Committee Secretary: Patt Goins was elected as Columbarium treasurer.

Reports from the Parish:

Annual Meeting packet - Included are the following reports for the calendar year 2014:

Rector's Report from Fr Mike; Warden's Report from Marji Edgar; General Accounts balances; Treasurer's Report; Attendance/Revenue Report; Budget for 2014; Memorials Accounts Report; Basement report; Parish Reports – Men's Ministry, Daughters of the King, Church School class, Prayer Shawl, ECW (Episcopal Church Women);

Columbarium Finance Report; and ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Finance Report.

Vestry Directory for 2015

Wardens: Marji Edgar	(370-1725)	medgar2@aol.com
Simone Rockwell	(370-3412)	srockwe2@nycap.rr.com
Vestry: Debbie Battista	(370-4928)	dbattista1@nycap.rr.com
Chris Crouse	(877-8334)	ccrouns1@nycap.rr.com
Steve George	(381-4444)	svgeor1@verizon.net
Christine Bissonette	(374-1552)	cbissonette@hotmail.com
Claudette Mayer	(346-6279)	claudettem125@nycap.rr.com
Jeri Vincent	(377-5656)	luvsmusic415@yahoo.com
Tom Dowling	(935-0577)	thomascd63@nycap.rr.com
Karen Jarosz	(393-8567)	zeback@msn.com

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, February 12 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

Basement Work update

cause - water damage due to failure of a valve on the boiler furnace

- √ - **prework** – All items from basement have been put into storage so work can be done
Done by Bill Pitt Contractor; bill will be submitted to Insurance
- √ - **Flooring removed** (as approved by insurance company) asbestos remediation began on
Mon Jan 19 and was completed on Fri Jan 23 (Jupiter Environmental) (ins co has estimate)
- √ - **Air Monitoring Company** also paid for by insurance. Happened at same time as floor
removal. (ALECS LLC) (ins co has estimate)
- 3) **Walls** – repair of concrete and 2x4 framing for new walls. (Wm Pitt Contractor – work has started)
- 4) **Electrician** in to bring electric up to code and repair heat detectors Electric to be run in wall
not loose all over the place (Harlan has contacted Clune and coordinating that – start date 2/2)
- 5) **Walls** – insulated, wall board up (Bill)
- 6) **Flooring installed** (Johnson Flooring)
- 7) **Trim work** completed (Bill)
- 8) **Items removed from storage**
- 8a) **kitchen cleaned from construction dust**
- 9) **New work – remediation of tile in Furnace room** This could not be done this past week
as the furnace needed a full time shut down to complete work safely. This would have
compromised the unheated pipes in the building. Will be done in spring

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St Andrew's

The women are taking a winter break. No lunch gatherings in February and March. Next lunch gathering will be Wednesday, April 8.

Men's Tuesday Morning Eucharist / Breakfast

Taking a winter break. Resuming Eucharist / breakfast on Tuesday April 14.

Take Note – Other Calendar Highlights

Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference for 2015 – Same conference / 2 dates in our area.

Saturday, February 7 at Christ Church, Cooperstown

Carpooling from the Church parking lot at 7:15AM

Saturday, February 28 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, Greenwich

Carpooling from the Church parking lot at 7:30AM

pre-registration will be requested via the Diocesan website (albanyepiscopaldiocese.org)
link is on the left side of the Diocesan home page

Ash Wednesday, February 18: Eucharist Services at 7AM; 11AM; and 5:30PM

Fridays in Lent – beginning Feb 20; 5:30PM – Stations of the Cross

February, 2015
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples