

# The Messenger - February 2017

St Andrew's Church Episcopal  
50 Sacandaga Road  
Scotia, New York 12302  
Rector - The Revd Michael Neufeld  
Deacon - The Revd Raymond Rockwell



Office - 374-8391  
Rectory - 372-2255  
standrewscotia@yahoo.com

Parish Mission Statement:

*As members of St Andrew's Church Episcopal, 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.*

Reprint of Fr Mike's article in the Annual meeting packet

## **Rector's report for the year 2016**

The health of our parish is really quite simple. For those who find their way through the doors of this church, St Andrew's has been and continues to be a relatively healthy and vibrant Christian community. We are a pastoral size parish and yet we have a life here that is usually found in a parish that is far bigger than our own. In and of itself that is not that impressive. Those people who avail themselves of the many offerings and are growing in the Lord because of them seem to be greatly thankful. However, only a minority of our parish participates. Are we missing needs?

We have a great challenge here at St Andrew's. It is to bring our life as a community and even more importantly our Lord outside these walls. The people in our surrounding neighborhoods as well as our families, friends and neighbors are desperate to know the Gospel. We have been chosen and tasked to be Christ's ambassadors that the whole world might know of His saving love.

St Andrew's is good at living the Gospel but few of us are willing and able to share it. This church was built in 1909 and then expanded in the 1950's to be filled to overflowing with alive and motivated Christians. We have in the past used different strategies to take the message of Jesus Christ out and to bring new members into this body with not much success. Few find their way through the front door but only a few. Our future is only assured if we by word and deed witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ to all the people in our lives.

The old models of church are dead. In many ways they were never really alive. The myth that we live in a Christian country where everyone believed has long been dispelled. The church in our area is shrinking dramatically each year and many who believe have little or no connection to a church body. We have a vital mission to the world today to proclaim the news of salvation to everyone. Again, St Andrew's is in many ways a vibrant and healthy place but until and unless we embrace our ministry to the people around us, we miss the point.

What is needed at St Andrew's? First, we need to grow deeper as a body in our relationship with the Lord. We cannot remain faithful in our modern world, unless we are informed Christians. Secondly, we need to be outward looking. How has God called us to minister to the people around us while spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, etc.?

I have no quick and easy answers to any of these. We as a community need to prayerfully discern the Lord's will, if we are to be Christ's body and ministers of His salvation. I invite your prayers and input and I look forward to the miracles the Lord will perform in our midst in the days, months, and years ahead.

## **Christian Education offerings for all**

Church School Classes – 11:00AM on Sundays

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

Sunday evening Men's Study group – 7:00PM (occasionally at 5:30PM for dinner out)

Wednesday morning Bible Study – 9:30AM – Luke

Wednesday evening Bible Study – 6:45PM – Letters of John

# Annual Meeting Report for January 22, 2017

## St. Andrew's Church, Scotia, NY

Twenty-one (21) members of the parish, eligible to vote, signed the attendance sheets.

### Election results:

**Warden** (two-year term): Kevin McCarthy

**Vestry:** three-year term to expire in 2020 – Christine Bissonette and Jeri Vincent  
Thank you to Marji Edgar for her many years of service on the Vestry.

### Deputies to Diocesan Convention:

Carol Kiddle, Kevin McCarthy, and Jeri Vincent are the deputies

**Metropolitan Deanery:** a geographic portion of the Diocese that meets occasionally.  
Betsy Baxter was elected as the delegate.

**Columbarium Committee Treasurer:** Patt Goins was re-elected to a two-year term.

### Reports from the Parish:

**Annual Meeting packet** - Included are the following reports for the calendar year 2016: Rector's Report from Fr Mike (reprinted in February Newsletter); Warden's Report from Simone Rockwell (reprinted in February Newsletter); General Accounts; Treasurer's Report; Attendance/Revenue Report; Budget for 2017; Memorials Accounts Report; Columbarium Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports; Parish Reports – Men's Ministry, Daughters of the King, Church School classes, ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Extra copies of the Annual Meeting packet are available in the office.

### Vestry Directory for 2017

|          |                      |            |                         |
|----------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Wardens: | Simone Rockwell      | (370-3412) | srockwe2@nycap.rr.com   |
|          | Kevin McCarthy       | (399-2524) | kmccart343@gmail.com    |
| Vestry:  | Christine Bissonette | (374-1552) | cbissonette@hotmail.com |
|          | Jeri Vincent         | (377-5656) | luvsmusic415@yahoo.com  |
|          | Debbie Battista      | (370-4928) |                         |
|          | Karen Jarosz         | (393-8567) | zeback@msn.com          |
|          | Agnes Bukhala        | (261-1338) | abukhala@yahoo.com      |
|          | Todd Lavery          | (579-9379) | tlavery1@nycap.rr.com   |
|          | JoAnn Smith          | (858-7288) | teachaide40@yahoo.com   |

For monthly Vestry minutes and Finance reports, see copies posted on the bulletin board outside Fr Mike's office. As a member of the Parish, you are always welcome to visit Vestry Meetings.  
Next meeting – February 9 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

### Columbarium officers –

Rector - Fr Mike;  
2nd year Warden – Simone Rockwell; Vestry member – Christine Bissonette  
Secretary – Jack Martz (377-7234) jwcmartz77@yahoo.com  
Treasurer – Patt Goins (372-9803) dpgoins@nycap.rr.com

### ECW – Episcopal Church Woman - a note from Joan Acker

Women's luncheons are on hiatus for the months of January, February and March. Next gathering will be Wednesday, April 12

reprint of Simone's year in review synopsis article for the Annual meeting

## **From the Wardens: Vestry review by Simone Rockwell**

Our parish was active this year, with services, events, and fundraisers.

The year 2016 began with its usual New Year's Eve service and pot luck supper (even though we never made it to midnight—swinging group! – home before 9:00) Bishop Dan Herzog did a presentation on the healing ministry, sponsored by the Daughters of the King, but open to the entire parish. Later in the month, we had our Vestry sponsored social hour, and the Annual Business meeting. The Diocesan Leadership conferences were held in February as well as our pre-Lent pancake supper, which was extremely well attended. The Chili sale was its usual success, also held in Feb.

In March, we had a presentation by Torre Bissell on Evangelism as well as the ECW bake sale. We had a Seder dinner sponsored by the Daughters of the King during Holy Week, followed by our beautiful Easter services. A Landscape Committee was formed in the spring to plan maintenance and improvement of the church lawn and grounds. A long range plan was designed to replace shrubs and trees, as well as purchasing new fencing. We had brunches in April & May for both Mothers and Fathers day. In May we had presentations of the Living Gospel Ministry on "John's Passion" by Matt Zawesza at our services. We also had our parish picnic at the end of the month. June began with our annual Chicken BBQ and Book Sale and our Diocesan Convention the following week.

Our summer began with our very well attended Vacation Bible School. We also had dinner and attended a Water Ski show at Collins Park. Members of our parish also served lunch to children in Collins Park for several weeks in June & July.

With fall came our usual parish picnic in September. The month of October was busy with the Pulled Pork dinner and the Blessing of the Pets on the next day. A group also went to Liberty Ridge to experience the corn maze. The month ended with a successful Soup Sale on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The St. Andrew's Day dinner scheduled for November was cancelled for lack of attendance sign up. The ECW held its last Thanksgiving bake sale in order to provide support in future years for the Cookie Sale the next month.

In the church, the first two pews were modified for handicapped seating by providing space for wheelchairs and walkers. Mother Ellen has taken an assignment at St Christopher's in Cobleskill. We wish her well and God bless in this ministry. Sadly, the vestry lost two of its members this year: Claudette Mayer, who moved to Johnstown, and Rich Rapp, who resigned and passed away this fall.

As you can see, our parish participates in a great many activities, and this does not include the many wonderful spiritual opportunities we are offered. Join us this coming year at one, two, or all our fun activities.

**Please Note** – for monthly Vestry minutes and finance reports, see copies posted on the Vestry bulletin board. As a member of the Parish, you are always welcome to visit Vestry meetings.

**Next meeting – Thursday, February 9 at 6:45PM in the lounge.**

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

Kevin McCarthy (399-2524; kmccart343@gmail.com)

Vestry members for 2016 – Deb Battista, Agnes Bukhala, Christine Bissonette,  
Karen Jarosz, Todd Lavery, JoAnn Smith, Jeri Vincent

## **From the Office (Gail)**

Altar flower schedule is on the office door for the first half of 2017. If you are unfamiliar with donating altar flowers and would like to do so, see Gail for more information.

Newsletter – If you are receiving the newsletter by email and by paper copy (sometimes mailed) and would like to stop the paper copy, please let Gail know. If you have an email address and are not getting parish info via email and would like to, again please let Gail know.

## February Services and Events / plus

Any updates and additions will be listed in the Saturday/Sunday bulletin.

Sat, Feb 4 - Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference  
at Christ the King SLC; Burton Rd; Greenwich  
8:30am to 3:45pm (carpool at 7:30am from Church parking lot)  
Topic - *Introduction to Healthy Congregations*  
*There is no charge but registration needed to assure  
sufficient info handouts and lunch supplies  
register online at [www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org](http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org)*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper -- Tues, Feb 28 -- 6:00pm  
Ash Wednesday -- Wed, March 1 -- Services at 7:00am, 11:00am, and 5:30pm  
Chili Sale -- Sat March 11 -- Todd Lavery is chair

## Weekday Eucharist Service schedule -

Saturdays at 5:00PM

Sundays at 8:00AM & 9:45AM

Wednesdays at 11:00AM & 5:30PM

(both in the lounge - except Ash Wednesday which are in Church)

February, 2017  
St Andrew's Church  
Episcopal Diocese of Albany  
50 Sacandaga Rd  
Scotia, NY 12302



*Disciples Making Disciples*