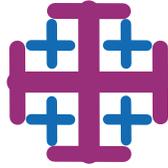


The Messenger - January 2014

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 worshiping family of Christ's Church

Good News from Fr Mike

Many of the world's religions speak of our search for God as if faith were a totally human endeavor as we seek out a divine being that wishes to remain hidden from our experience. Voyage far enough, try hard enough, and maybe just maybe you will encounter God.

Our faith as Christians begins in a very different place. We will never find God on our own terms or on our own steam. However, there is good news. Our God seeks us out that we might know Him and be known by Him. We see this great Truth at Christmas as we celebrate the Incarnation. We may not be able to reach up into the heavens but our God's arm is not too short, as He reaches down to touch us and more than touch us, to become one of us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God takes our humanity to Himself, never to let it go. By grace, He has taken your humanity and mine through His salvific love. His home is with us and ours with Him. This is the true meaning of Christmas. We, who were once lost, alienated from God, have now been found. What a powerful Truth to celebrate.

I invite you to celebrate the fullness of this day and this season, for Christmas lasts for 12 days.

Christmas Eve (Tues, Dec 24) Services are at 5:00PM and 9:30PM

Christmas Day (Wed, Dec 25) Service is 10:00AM.

Saturday, December 28 – Christmas 1 – 5:00PM Eucharist

Sunday, December 29 – Christmas 1 – 8:00AM Eucharist
9:45AM Eucharist with Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve – 5:30PM Eucharist

January 4 & 5 (Saturday 5PM; Sunday 8AM & 9:45AM) Epiphany celebration

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 Matthew

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

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.

Cookie Sale update (from Carol Kiddle)

Thanks to all of the cookie bakers. We sold out by 3:00 and made close to \$400.00. If you see Simone Rockwell, ask her about the Christmas Miracle! Next year, we will raise our price as we were told we were the lowest price for such an event in the area. Special thanks to the ladies who helped out on Saturday.

Hope you saw our new sign which was purchased with the proceeds from the book sale and is available to be used for all parish events.

From the Wardens

Thoughts from Marji Edgar:

As the year winds down there have been some major events in the life of our Church. On November 30th we celebrated St. Andrew's Day with a 5 PM Mass followed by a potluck dinner in the lounge. It was well attended and everyone had a good time. We have not done that in quite some time, and several people mentioned that it would be fun to get together more often. Prior to the Mass a number of people gathered to make Advent wreaths for their homes.

Fr. Gray, our priest for 26 years, passed away on December 5th and his wake was held in the Church on December 10th with the funeral service on the 11th at 11 O'clock. Both the wake and the service brought many people together to remember him. Thanks to all who contributed food for the luncheon following the service.

A snow blower was purchased as the old one had gotten to be very unpredictable. Looking at the way winter is getting started here this year (and it isn't officially Winter yet) it seems to have been a wise decision.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting which will be on January 26, 2014. Remember that it is the one day that we have only one service, starting at 9:00AM with the meeting to follow in the church. A brunch will be served just prior to the opening of the meeting. We look forward to many of you attending on that Sunday and participating in the Annual Meeting.

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, January 9 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

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHWOMEN of ST. ANDREW'S

Happy New Year to all and welcome to the "new" ECW going forward in 2014. We are the same and still have our monthly lunches for fun and fellowship, but only two bake sales a year for our special projects.

We were pleased to have about 20 ladies join us at the Turf on Dec. 4th for our annual Christmas luncheon. The collection taken for the Scotia Relief is expanded to equal a \$100 donation. Thank you all.

Our pre- Thanksgiving bake sale, which included chili sauce and day planners and some misc. items yielded \$471.50. Thank you to all who baked or bought or both – it was one of our best ever!

We welcome all women who are able to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the lounge. All you need to bring is a sandwich to share (or your own lunch if you prefer). We take turns bringing dessert and chips (or similar) and beverages are provided.

Blessings to all, *Joan Acker*

Take Note - Calendar Highlights

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

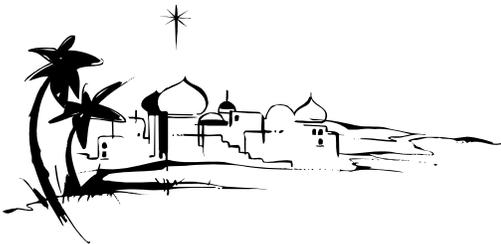
For this month's calendar highlights, please see Fr Mike's article on the front page
and don't forget the Chocolate Fest committee will soon be looking for help with making chocolate goodies and
selling on the day of the event (Sat Feb 8) Sign-up sheets will be on the lounge door soon

Home Town Visit at Christmas

by David P. Reid

*Memories of Magic
found under the tree
Wishes appearing
Wonders unwrapping
Not always, what you wanted
But truly, what you needed
Those choices are made from above
A Birthday Celebration
for Jesus
God is "sending His Love"
Merry Christmas to All!*

January, 2014
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples