

The Messenger - January 2016

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 worshiping family of Christ's Church

Good News from Fr Mike:

You will receive this newsletter just before the beginning of the new year. As we bring in the new, we focus on those things that work in our lives, as we also try to focus on challenges that we might better reflect the people we were called to be in Jesus Christ. It is no accident that we hold our Annual Meeting just after the new year. With the new beginning, we can focus on who we are, not just individuals but as a community and grow into the fullness of Christ.

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday January 24. Annual meetings are usually treated as if they were just a legal formality, with Roberts Rules being the order of the day. This year, however, I believe we are called to take a good look at St Andrew's the Body of Christ. We are all members of this parish. We all have gifts, ministries, and all are essential parts of the one body. We will hold our annual meeting this year, as we should. It is a very, very important part of who and what we are. All given by God to make the body of God stronger internally – each of us is important in every aspect of our Parish life. We will also be looking beyond the organizational into the spiritual gifts of each individual, all to make the body stronger internally, as we look outside our walls to bring the Good News to the people of Scotia and the surrounding area. I highly encourage all of us to be in attendance.

Our world is ravaged by any number of different threats, from ISIS to pollution. One of the great threats, in our world and in our area right now, is addiction. Our news each night tells us of the heroin epidemic that is unparalleled with an alarming number of overdose deaths. It is a rare family that has not been touched by alcoholism. And there are a whole host of more "socially acceptable" addictions - to food, gambling, the internet - that keep people in bondage. Addiction is not something that is just "out there," it is something that has found its way into our living rooms.

Jesus Christ is about breaking bonds and setting captives free. We as a church have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to respond to the great challenge before us. Mother Kathy Coombs, Rector of Grace Church in Waterford and an expert in addictions, will lead our Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference this year to better equip us and empower us to better respond to the pressing problem of addictions in our world. The Church needs to be at the forefront for those seeking freedom, real freedom. The Diocesan Parish Leadership conference will be held two times in this area – Saturday February 6 in Cooperstown and Saturday February 27 at the Spiritual Life Center. Please do everything in your power to be in attendance as these will be a blessing.

Christian Education offerings for all

Church School & Confirmation Class – Sunday 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 5:30PM for dinner out)

Wednesday morning Bible Study – 9:30AM – Hebrews (soon to start Colossians)

Wednesday evening Bible Study – 6:45PM – Isaiah

From the Wardens: thoughts from Simone Rockwell

It's hard to believe but 2016 is here. Time for new year's resolutions: exercise more, lose weight, etc. Let's take time to make a resolution about our "spiritual health". God would love to hear from us!

December was a busy month for all of us. Our parish schedule started out with the dinner for the Bishop's visit, Confirmation & St. Andrew's Day. The evening was very well attended and many thanks for all the wonderful food that was donated. It was great to be in the undercroft again. The Bishop seemed very pleased with the event. Also, many thanks to Carol Kiddle for being Chairman of the Cookie Sale again. It was very successful both financially and for the many cookies and other baked goods that we had for sale. Thanks again to everyone who donated for the event! Your support was greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone who helped on "Cleaning Day". Great job done, as usual. Thanks also to everyone who helped to decorate the Church for Christmas. It looked beautiful.

Please don't forget that on Sunday, January 24th we will be having our annual meeting after the 9:00AM service. Check your bulletin for details.

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, January 14 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

Contact your Wardens: Simone Rockwell (370-3412; srockwe2@nycap.rr.com)
Marji Edgar (370-1725; medgar2@aol.com)

Vestry members for 2015 – Deb Battista, Christine Bissonette, Chris Crouse,
Steve George, Karen Jarosz, Claudette Mayer, Jeri Vincent

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St Andrew's

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Thank you to all who have helped us in any way to carry out our mission at St. Andrew's in the past year. Also thank you to the many men who have helped us. So far we are still able to buy the church wine, baptismal candles and postage for the shut-ins and provide gifts for the clergy at Christmastime. We hope to be able to continue to do these things in the coming year as well.

Please remember that we will NOT be having our luncheons until April. Winter weather will show up sometime soon I am sure.

Stay safe and be well and many blessings in the coming year, *Joan Acker*

Notes from Carol Kiddle

Many Thanks.....

First to all who donated to our Adopt A Family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. All three families were fire victims who lost everything. Your generous donations helped them start to get back on their feet. If you didn't get to make a donation, I'm still excepting them. Your generosity is what makes St. Andrew's such a special parish. Beukendaal Fire Department Auxiliary added money to our fund for these families.

To those who donated toys and clothing for the four year old boy who was removed from his home and sent to his aunt and uncle with nothing. The members of Beukendaal Fire Department joined this effort and purchased a bed for him. His family says he now has everything he needs and thanks everyone who helped.

To all the bakers who made delicious goodies for our cookie sale. We sold out. We made about \$400.00 for the parish treasury and created a great deal of good will in the community. Special thanks to Nancy Wilson, Vicki Ramotar, Simone Rockwell, Chris Bissonette, Betsy Baxter, and Claudette Mayer who helped with set-up, selling, and clean-up.

To my church school class for the beautiful rendition of the Little Drummer Boy on Sunday, December 20th and the song Christmas Dreams on Christmas Eve. They are a delight every week and have some real talent!

Upcoming in January see calendars for full schedule of services and events

Thursday, Dec 31 - New Year's Eve "party" 5:30PM Eucharist followed by pot luck supper

Sunday, Jan 24 - one service at 9:00AM followed by the Annual Meeting

Saturday, Feb 6 - Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference in Cooperstown (topic on both dates is same)

Wednesday, Feb 10 - Ash Wednesday Services at 7:00AM, 11:00AM, and 5:30PM

Saturday, Feb 27 - Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference at SLC (topic on both dates is same)

Saturday, Feb 27 - possible date of Chili Sale

Weekend Eucharist Services

Saturdays at 5:00PM

Sundays at 8:00AM and 9:45AM

Other events will be listed in the Saturday/Sunday bulletin. Watch for additions and changes

January, 2016
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples