

The Messenger - January 2017

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



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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.

Good News from Fr Mike:

You will receive this at the very end of the secular holiday season, but in the very middle of the Christmas season – Christmas lasts 12 days. We are invited to celebrate all 12. The Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, as God becomes man and lives among us, is a mystery that should be savored.

With the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, a whole new season begins. The readings of this season tell of Jesus showing forth who He is and why He came, by what He did and what He said during His ministry. Each teaching, each miracle, was an epiphany, a showing forth.

Our lives are filled with epiphanies. God shines through the veil that we may see Him clearly and know His love. During this time of year, we are called to pay attention, because each and every day is filled with light, filled with truth, healing, mercy, wisdom. Ours is a living Lord, a Lord who has drawn close and draws closer each and every moment of our lives. We are called to wake up, open our eyes, our ears, our hearts.

Just a heads up – the Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference, open to all parish members, is on the calendar for Saturday February 4 at the Spiritual Life Center. The theme for this event is *Introduction to Healthy Congregations*. This workshop will be presented by the Revds Tom and Elizabeth Papazoglakis, priests in charge of St George's in Clifton Park. I strongly encourage all members to be in attendance.

Our Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 22. Just a reminder, there will be only one service that day at 9am with a breakfast and meeting to follow.

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

From the Wardens: thoughts by Simone Rockwell

It's hard to believe, but 2017 is here. With it comes all kinds of resolutions, some to be very short-lived. But what about our spiritual ones? Spending daily time in silent prayer; reading the Bible or joining a Bible study; being kind to one another; or lastly, donating time or effort in a charitable venture. Give it some thought.

The month of December was a busy one for all of us, but thanks are due to the ladies who cleaned the church on the 3rd. The cookie sale was very successful—mostly sold out very quickly. Thanks to Carol Kiddle and her army of bakers! The church looks lovely thanks to those who participated in decorating on the 18th. Special thanks to Harlan Barney and Pete Jendzezyk for creating a handicapped pew in the church. Job well done! Thanks also to those who contributed food for the New Years Eve potluck supper.

The big event in January is our Annual Meeting on Jan. 22nd. There will be only one service at 9:00am, followed by a breakfast provided by the vestry, and the meeting at 10:30am. Hope to see you all there!

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 12 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

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

Marji Edgar

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

Episcopal Church Women of St. Andrew's

Our Christmas luncheon was held on Dec. 14th in the lounge and about 20 women (and some grandchildren) were able to join us. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the camaraderie. We took up our usual offering for the Scotia Relief and "rounded it up" to \$100 as we have in the past.

At Christmastime the annual clergy gifts were distributed to Father Mike, Mother Ellen and Deacon Ray to say thank you for their service and caring.

Please remember that we are NOT meeting in January, February, or March due to the unpredictability of the weather at this time of year. We hope to see you all – and hopefully some more ladies- in April. Remember all women of the church are members of the ECW and welcome to join us.

Good health and Blessings to all in the New Year, *Joan Acker*

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.

January Services and Events / plus

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

Sun, Jan 22 – Annual Meeting Sunday – One Service at 9:00AM
followed by the Annual Meeting – approx 10:30AM
Vestry provides snacks
Please note – there will be the usual Saturday evening Eucharist Service that weekend.

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*

Tues, Feb 28 – 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Lent starts March 1 this year – with Ash Wednesday.
Service times will be in the Sunday bulletins and February Newsletter

Weekday Eucharist Service schedule -

Saturdays at 5:00PM

Sundays at 8:00AM & 9:45AM (except for Christmas Day)

Wednesdays at 11:00AM & 5:30PM (both in the lounge)

January, 2017
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples