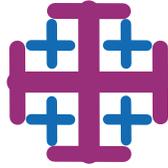


The Messenger - July/August 2014

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 prior to our great national holiday – the 4th of July. During this time of year, we focus our attention on what it means to be free. We look at our cherished documents, like the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, and we give thanks for the freedom of religion, assembly, of speech. We also bring to mind that freedom isn't free; for many during our history have given their time, their very lives, for the cause of freedom.

While our national freedom is of huge importance for all of us, it cannot contain the fullness of what it means to be free. Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians (chapter 5; verse 1): *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.* Freedom is found in salvation won on the cross and in the new life we share as we rise with Him in baptism. The fact is, we can have all the political freedom in the world and not be free. Likewise, we can lose all our political freedom, but if we know Christ we are free indeed. Take some time on the 4th of July, to look at your freedom – the freedom we share as Americans, the deeper freedom we share in Jesus Christ.

It is my hope that your summer is a restful and refreshing one. Take some time to kick back; but even as you do so, invite the Lord to be with you because the true rest we are looking for is only found in Him. Much of what we do during the year on a weekly basis will continue over the summer – worship, Bible studies, etc. Join a Bible study, come and have some fun with us. Also, there will be some special summer events and activities. There will be much more on this as the summer progresses.

For those who have children, Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 17 to 19. The theme of this year's VBS is Parables. Check Carol Kiddle's article for details.

It is with much sadness that we will say good-bye to Deacon Mary Carol this month. Deacon Mary Carol has been a member of this parish for her whole life (no I will not divulge how old she is.) She has served here with distinction as a Deacon, since her ordination in 2006. Deacon Mary Carol's ministry here has been wonderful and she will be missed hugely. We will have a special Eucharist and dinner, beginning at 5PM on Saturday July 12, to thank her for her ministry here. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Christian Education offerings for all

Church School - resumes in September

Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday morning Bible Study - 11:00AM - Sunday morning 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)

Return Home to St. Andrew's – from Deacon Ray Rockwell

Most likely, at one time or another, you arrived back home and said “It sure is good to be back home” this usually after a long trip. As you know, I was at Christ Church, Schenectady for a nine month traineeship, working with Fr. Brad Jones and Church's three Deacons. I enjoyed being there and made some good friends and learned that other churches have different but good practices that are also valuable. Both our Church and Christ Church are very faithful, Gospel based churches. But, it is good to be back home with all of you.

Thank you for your prayers and good wishes for a successful traineeship.

I am most grateful for the reception that my wife Simone held for me that followed the Ordination Service. Simone planned and worked for the reception for several weeks, that also included several sleepless nights. It was decided to hold the reception at the First Reformed Church, Scotia as there were more people planning on attending than our church could accommodate. Thank you to several members of the parish that helped Simone to make this happen: they are Nancy Wilson, Janet Godfrey, Betsy Baxter, Vicki Ramotar, Marji Edgar and Gail Noonan.

I was presented with a very special gift from the parish, two Deacon's Stoles that were made by the skilled hands of Fran Carroll. They are beautifully crafted and are exactly what a new Deacon needs. I will be using them for the rest of my life.

Thanks all who attended both the ordination and the reception. I am very glad to be back home with you.

From the Wardens: *Thoughts from Simone Rockwell:*

Well Summer is finally here! -- a time of vacations, relaxation, outdoor activities and maybe even some free time. This might be a good opportunity to spend some quiet time reading the Bible or just sitting and praying to God and thanking Him for the wonderful gifts of the summer's bounty or the beautiful environment in which we live.

June brought us the opportunity to attend the Diocesan Convention and those who attended said it was great! Thanks to the ladies who put on our Father's Day breakfast as it was a success again. Thanks also to Don Reid and Steve George for painting the bench in front of the Lounge.

As I am sure most of you know, Deacon Mary Carol will be leaving us in July. Her last official day will be Sun., July 6th, but there will be a service @ 5:00 pm on Saturday, July 12th followed by a dinner. Please sign up to attend and bring a dish. We want her to know how much we will miss her and how much we appreciate all she has done for St. Andrew's over the years. Carol Kiddle is again organizing Vacation Bible School which will be from Thursday to Saturday, July 17 to 19. Also, on Tuesday, July 22nd, we will be organizing a group to go to Jumping Jacks for dinner @ 5:00 pm and watching the Water Ski show at 7:00. It should be fun! If you are planning ahead, there will be a group going to the 5:00pm Tri-City Valley Cats baseball game on Sunday, August 3rd at the Joe Bruno Stadium.

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, July 10 at 6:45PM in the lounge. There will be no meeting in August unless deemed necessary.

Contact your Wardens: Marji Edgar (370-1725; medgar2@aol.com)

Simone Rockwell (370-3412; srockwe2@nycap.rr.com)

Vestry members for 2014 – Deb Battista, Christine Bissonette, Chris Crouse, Steve George, Karen Jarosz, Rhonda Krutz, Wes Lavery, Claudette Mayer, Jeri Vincent

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) gatherings

We were pleased so many of you could join us at the Memorial Service and the indoor "picnic" which followed. Since we decided a few years ago to make it a "thank you" event for the women (It began as a picnic for the St. Elizabeth's Guild), we are concerned that it is not convenient for the many ladies who work during the time it is held. Those ladies deserve our expression of thanks as well. Therefore we are working on a plan to have it at a time when many of those ladies can come as well. Thank you to all who help during the year.

Summer lunches –

The regular 2nd Wed. of the month lunches have been cancelled during July and August. Patt Goins has offered to make the dessert in September, when we hope more will be able to come.

Enjoy summer, be safe and well, and blessings to all. *Joan Acker, Co-Pres.*

St. Andrew's Men Group - submitted by Steve George

The Men's Group will meet throughout the months of July and August. There are two baseball trips planned through the Men's Group, with the first one this Sunday, the 29th of June, going to see the Amsterdam Mohawks. We'll meet at church at 5:30 to car pool to the stadium. The next game is Sunday, the 13th of July, once again to watch the Mohawks. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The regular meetings are Sunday starting at 7:00 PM in the lounge. Topics will include Bible study and a discussion of a Chuck Colson book. Please listen to the service announcements for notices of the Men's Group activities. Those that are interested in being a part of this group do not have to be members of the St. Andrew's parish.

Witness from Claudette Mayer:

Yesterday, June 19, 2014, when we were gathered around the altar on the hill outside the chapel for Benediction, singing #335 "And I will raise them up," etc., I looked up into the sky and saw the word "God" made by the wispy cloud between two bigger clouds! Wow! What a blessing to know that God approved and was watching over us!! I am so happy that I joined Father Mike, Janice, and her son to attend the Corpus Christi Festival at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich, NY

Take Note - Calendar Highlights

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

Monday to Friday, July 7 to 11 - SICM Summer Lunch Program (our week to serve at Collins Park)

Saturday, July 12 - Celebration for Deacon Mary Carol

5:00PM Eucharist Service with Dinner following

(everyone is welcome to come whether you sign up or not but if you can let us know if you plan to attend for seating count that would be fantastic!!)

Sunday, July 13 - 5:00PM Baseball outing to Amsterdam Mohawks game - hosted by Men's Group

Thursday to Saturday, July 17 to 19 - Vacation Bible School - see Carol's article

Tuesday, July 22 - outing to Water Ski Show at Jumping Jacks (show at 7PM; gathering for dinner at 5PM)

Sunday, August 3 - 4:00PM Carpool to the 5PM Tri-City Valley Baseball Game in Troy

Contact information for VBS cover article --

Carol Kiddle (377-7234; foneldy2@aol.com; Nanci Wilson (280-1061; amethyst4292@aol.com)

Vacation Bible School - 2014

Our theme this year is the Parables of Jesus. We will look at five of the Parables through stories, crafts, songs, and games. Friends and family are welcome to join us. Want to help? We can use teens and adults to help. We are also looking for scholarships for several participants who can't afford the trip. The cost of admission is \$19.95. If you'd like to sponsor a child, see Carol Kiddle, Nancy Wilson, or drop our donation off in the office. There are sign-up sheets on the lounge door for each days events. We sign-ups so we know how many to plan for,

July 17th- 6:00 PM Kick-off and dinner. All members of the parish are welcome to attend the dinner.

July 18th- 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Stories, crafts, songs, and cooking! Lunch and snacks are provided.

July 19th- 9:00 AM- Leave for the Magic Forest in Lake George. Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage. We will need a few adults to help drive.

Let's make this our best VBS ever. Any questions, please see Carol or Nancy. Thank you in advance for your support.

July-August, 2014
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples