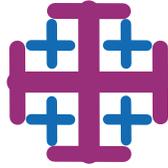


# The Messenger - March 2014

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 worshipping family of Christ's Church*

## Good News from Fr Mike

Lent begins this Wednesday, with Ash Wednesday Eucharist Services (7AM, 11AM and 7PM.) Although Lent is one of the more solemn times of the year, we all seem to look forward to it and embrace these 40 days joyfully. We do so, I believe, because Lent is a time to get "sane," to put our lives in a holy order, to refocus on the living God.

Each year we look for special disciplines to carry us through this season. It is my hope that we will all embrace the Essential Jesus program as a community. Is there a better way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter, than to focus on Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and to rediscover the power of His person, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension? I truly believe that God is interested in blessing all of us as we rediscover His Son, who is the Word of God, through reading the Bible. I pray that all of us will take the time and allow our Lord to bless us.

We have prepared many other events during the Lenten Season. Each Friday at 5:30PM, Stations of the Cross will be celebrated in the Church. What a wonderful way to meditate on the cross, Christ's body broken that we might be made whole, His blood poured out that we might know forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting. In the Stations of the Cross, we join Jesus on the road to Calvary, we journey with Him by telling the story of that Good Friday through Bible readings and prayers. We join our Lord on the way to the cross through our imaginations.

We will be showing the movie, Jesus of Nazareth (a movie produced by Franco Zeffirelli in the late 1970's.) This is a really good Bible film. It will be shown after the 5:00PM service on Saturday, March 15 (part one) and Saturday April 12 (part two.) Pizza and beverages will be supplied for all those in attendance.

On Saturday April 5, there will be a quiet day, culminating with Eucharist at 5PM.

My hope and my prayer for all of us is that this will be a truly Holy Lent and we will encounter our Lord Jesus and the power of His salvation in ways beyond all measure.

## Christian Education offerings for all

Church School - Sundays at 11:00AM

Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday morning Bible Study - 11:00AM - Essential Jesus

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 - Essential Jesus (preceded by 5:30PM Eucharist

starting March 12 - no Bible study on March 5 (Ash Wednesday)

## **From the Wardens:** *Thoughts from Simone Rockwell:*

It's hard to believe, but February with its Polar vortex, snow, etc. is finally over! We had some obstacles to overcome like a furnace that wouldn't do its job, but thanks to Todd Lavery and Larry Mose (and some prodding of Suburban Heating) we finally have our church warm and cozy again. We also have a new snow blower that got truly tested and performed beautifully for Dane Elwell who has been doing our seasonal maintenance. (Thanks to Steve George for getting estimates and making the purchase for us.) We also had an anonymous donation for replacement of our sidewalk, with work to begin in the spring.

February is also the month of our annual Chocolate Fest. It was a huge success both financially and in attendance. Many who came had never been here before and asked questions about our church. It would not have been a success without the parishioners who supplied wonderful homemade "goodies" and the hard working volunteers who assisted that day. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members, Carol Salvino, Nanci Wilson, Lori Azoia and Anne Simon who worked tirelessly for five weeks to make it a success. A huge thank you needs to go out to Janet Godfrey who washed the floors before the event, but more importantly, again after the event due to dirt that was tracked in that day.

Well, March is here and so are the opportunities of the "awakening" that comes with spring. The ESSENTIAL JESUS program begins for fifty days and what better time than Lent to heighten our knowledge and awareness of Jesus in our lives. Many thanks to Tom Dowling for spearheading this program. In addition, on Saturday March 15, we will be having a pizza & movie evening, watching the first half of "Jesus of Nazareth".

We also have some social get-togethers this month starting with the Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday March 4 (If you see about ten women sitting in the back looking very studious, it's only the Daughters of the King monthly meeting) and later this month, we have the Fish Dinner, Friday March 21.

A new Confirmation class will begin this month. We will also be having ministry training sessions for lectors, lay Eucharistic ministers, acolytes, etc. In addition, the vestry is in need of a clerk. Volunteer needed!

Steve George attended the Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference and has written some of his thoughts regarding the focus placed on evangelism and mission. See attached.

**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, March 20 at 6:45PM in the lounge.

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

## **Thoughts from the Diocesan Leadership Conference**

submitted by Steve George

At the 2014 parish annual meeting, we learned that one area of focus for the next year is evangelism. At the 2014 Parish Leadership Conference, the focus was on mission. When one takes a close look at both of these focuses, one should be able to say that they're closely related, that they should and do go hand in hand.

Let's take a look at mission. One of the primary functions of church is mission. Our primary function is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ but also to help the poor, the needy, the rich, the desolate, the sick, the friendless and many others. At some time in our lives, no matter how well we may currently live, we will have some need for help. And where do we get this help but from our almighty God, who does great things.

At the February vestry meeting, it was determined the importance of our parish direction towards mission / outreach. One could say that we currently do a lot of things. And that is true. Let's take a look - there's City Mission, the Scotia food pantry, prayer shawls, Alpha Pregnancy, contributions to the relief programs to areas damaged by natural disasters and a number of others that I can't think of right now due to the newsletter deadline. The question one may ask is how much more mission / outreach can our small parish do.

We would all agree and let us never forget that God is great. He is truly great and does many wonderful things. We pray for God to help others and each and every one of us. We pray and have faith in God that He will help us and others in our time of need. There may be times when we may wonder where God is, when pain and brokenness abound. However, we do believe that God is there even in the most tragic circumstances.

This is where mission comes together. There are a numbers of times where a good thing has happened to us personally and we take it as that's the way life is and maybe the way it should be. But, do we acknowledge the wonderful thing that God has done for us? These wonderful things could be a job, or extra funds for a timely purchase or some random act of kindness from your children or a friend. How about the time we make to help a friend or even a stranger and later finding out from that friend or stranger how important that help was to them, that they were having a very difficult time with their life. A lot of times all it takes is a smile, a pat on the shoulder and a how are you doing.

Friends, this is mission, thanking God and thanking God and thanking God. Thanking Him for our wonderful life, for others to help us and for us to help others even if it is a smile and a hello. Remember this from the Cursillo program – Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ.

## **Daughters of the King, St. Catherine of Siena Chapter**

This is a correction to the Annual Meeting packet. The 2013 DoK report was inadvertently used.

Submitted by: *Nanci Wilson* (President)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. We are a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. We are an Order, and as an Order, we are a community under a religious rule; especially one requiring members to take **solemn vows**. We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings; we take **life-long vows** to follow the Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service.

Our chapter, St. Catherine of Siena, was instituted at St. Andrew's on September 16, 2001. Sadly, on June 16, 2013, we lost one of our beloved 'founding' Sisters, Winnie Bartlett. On July 7, 2013, Lea Crow was inducted as our newest Sister. This past year we changed our meetings to the 1st Tuesday of the month with no meeting during July and August. In June, 2013, we graciously accepted an invitation to a Pot Luck hosted by the DOK at Calvary Church where we enjoyed delicious food and wonderful company. A good time had by all Sisters who were able to attend. We gather for prayer, presentations, pertinent book discussions or bible study, usually led by one of our Sisters.

As part of our extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism, we accept, with love, several 'callings' in Jesus' name. In August, 2013, several sisters (as well as Fr. Mike, Ray Rockwell & Steve George) helped serve lunch to the community at Christ Church in Schenectady. We continue to make prayer bracelets for the young women of the Alpha Pregnancy Care Center in Schenectady, and in the spring and fall (weather permitting) we get together for a walk in silent prayer around our village or at Collins Park. Our Beautiful Prayer Wall in the church yard is almost complete and all are invited to stop by to leave a prayer request, say a prayer, or just to spend a quiet moment. The planning and serving of our Seder Dinner, which will be held on Holy Thursday, April 17th this year, is a very important labor of love for us. Each year the Seder seating is filled to capacity, and everyone enjoys the delicious food prepared by Simone Rockwell, Betsy Baxter and Lynne Bansavage, with all the homemade desserts and extras supplied by our DOK Sisters.

*"Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world."*

*~Teresa of Avila, Patroness of Missions*

## **ECW – Episcopal Church Women - Spring Bake Sale**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6th will be the ECW Spring Bake Sale between and after services in the lounge.

We are letting everyone know early because we have to have it before Palm Sunday and Easter which makes it early in April and rather late for the next newsletter. We hope everyone will support us by baking and buying goodies and we will be reminding you during services in March. Blessings to all, *Joan Acker*

## **Take Note - Calendar Highlights**

Please check the calendar and watch the Sunday bulletin for additions to the schedule, especially Holy Week services and events.

March 4 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - serving at 6:00PM

donation is \$3.50 for adults; \$2 for children 11 and under

March 5 - Ash Wednesday - Eucharist Services will be at 7:00AM; 11:00AM and 7:00PM

Fridays in Lent - starting March 7 - 5:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 15 - after 5PM Eucharist - Pizza and movie "Jesus of Nazareth" Part 1

Monday, March 17 - 5:45PM Evening Prayer and Healing Service

Friday, March 21 - Fish Dinner

Saturday, April 5 - Quiet Day

Sunday, April 6 - Bake Sale

Saturday, April 12 - after 5PM Eucharist - Pizza and movie "Jesus of Nazareth" Part 2

Saturday April 12 & Sunday April 13 - Palm Sunday Services

Thursday, April 17 - 6PM Seder Dinner

Saturday, April 19 - 5:00PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 20 - 8AM and 9:45AM Easter Services

Saturday, May 31 - 11AM Ordination Service at the Cathedral - Ray Rockwell for the Diaconate

Friday to Sunday, June 6 to 8 - Diocesan Convention at Camp of the Woods

Saturday, June 14 - Chicken BBQ

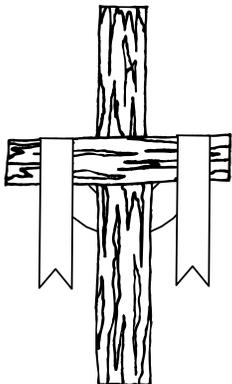
March, 2014

St Andrew's Church

Episcopal Diocese of Albany

50 Sacandaga Rd

Scotia, NY 12302



***Disciples Making Disciples***