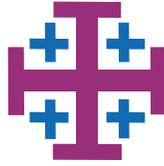


The Messenger – March 2015

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 is here: that holy time of fasting, prayer, Bible reading. Lent is not intended as a time of self-punishment, nor is it intended to bring us down. Rather, Lent is a time when we are invited to cut through all the stuff that doesn't matter in our life, or if it matters it is not important, that we may come to know the Lord in a whole new way. We fast that we might be filled with the only One that satisfies. We go into the quiet and away from all the hustle and bustle of our lives and there are able to hear the Lord's still small voice deep within. We pick up the Scriptures and encounter very personal love letters written by our Lord that each of us might know His love in a whole new way.

Lent is a great time of blessing if we let it be. It is never too late to engage this season and the blessings it promises. Stations of the Cross are done every Friday night at 5:30pm. What a powerful way to bring to memory our Lord's death and resurrection on our behalf. Jesus' death on the cross is not meant to make us guilty but to take away our guilt. In the Stations of the Cross, we encounter the person whose love reaches deep into our lives to transform us.

Lent is also a wonderful time to study the Scriptures. Are you involved in a Bible Study? If not, maybe now is the time to begin. Not only is it informative but it is time we together seek to understand the Lord's Word.

We are called to be a praying people. We have much to say to God and He has much to say to us. I invite you to participate in our Monday Evening Prayer Service at 5:45pm to pray the Office that wonderful prayer of the church and to pray the needs of the community. I have heard many in our community express the frustration of not knowing how to pray. The Daily Office gives a structure and a discipline that can be of great benefit in focusing our prayer life. As we learn to do it in a group, we also learn how to do it on our own.

We have all been called to a Holy Lent and it is important that we not allow this one to pass without engaging the Lord in a new way, for He has much to give us. The disciplines of Lent are made that we might receive all that He has to give.

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 John

Wednesday evening Bible Study – 6:45PM – Revelation (preceded by 5:30PM Eucharist)

From the Wardens: thoughts from Simone Rockwell

We have been blessed with a winter in the true sense of the word! It's hard to believe, but in about two months our little piece of the world will be starting to come into bloom. This Lent is a great opportunity to include thanksgiving for the wonderful earth Our Lord has given us. (He does have a sense of humor!)

We ended the month of January with our Chili Sale which was successful thanks to the donations of chili from our parishioners. Congrats to the winner of the Best Chili contest -- Betsy Baxter. The month of February brought us the beginning of the Lenten season. (Just a reminder: the Stations of the Cross are on Fridays @ 5:30 pm) We also had the second Parish Leadership Conference @ the SLC on February 28th. Thanks need to be extended to Todd Lavery for his work on our furnace. We would still be having services in the lounge without his help. Thanks also for the snow removal crew: Callie Allard for snowblowing, and Steve George and Fr. Mike for the shoveling.

In March we will be coming to the end of Lent, with Palm Sunday on the 29th leading us into Holy Week. Sadly, we will be unable to have our annual Seder dinner due to the undercroft repairs and post-construction cleaning. The DOK are looking forward to renewing the tradition next year. Speaking of the undercroft, the repairs are moving along quickly. The floors will be installed, cleaned and waxed as well as the finishing touches in the bathrooms. The Lounge floor will also be installed in March. We will be in need of help from the parish in two instances: To remove some furniture in the lounge to make room for the storage of the new flooring until it is installed; and also again, to remove the "remainder" of the furniture so that the lounge will be empty and available for the installation of the flooring. Fr. Mike will announce at services when we need parish help. STAY WARM!!!!

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 12 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 2014 – Deb Battista, Christine Bissonette, Chris Crouse, Tom Dowling, Steve George, Karen Jarosz, Claudette Mayer, Jeri Vincent

A Time to Share – Our Parish “Directory”

The Vestry has decided to establish a bulletin board with the photos of the whole congregation. We want to post a photo and name of every member on the bulletin board so new members (and those of us with porous memory's) can keep track of who's who.

This is voluntary, but please do let us snap your photo. We will replace photos with a new one anytime someone asks, and all are welcome to send a “selfie by email or text to Tom Dowling. Christine Bissonette will be helping Tom.

Family group photos and couple's photos as well as individual pix are all welcome.

We plan to keep this simple and dynamic, simple, and easy.

Send Selfies to TomDowling1950@gmail.com or text to 935-0577. Tom or Christine can snap your pix anytime you see them.

Oaks Café by Bob & Pat Hagen

On behalf of Mother Hanna and Mother Christina of Oaks of Righteousness in Troy, we would like to thank everyone for their generous donations this winter of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and skateboards. We will be collecting again next fall.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St Andrew's

BAKE SALE – early warning. Our semi-annual bake sale will be on March 22nd (the Sunday before Palm Sunday). While the temperatures are bottoming out, it might be a good time to do some baking and freezing if you want to get a head start on what we hope you will make for us to sell. We will need bakers and buyers on that day as always and rely on your support to be able to continue our ministry. You always do a great job helping us. *Joan Acker, Pres.*

Take Note – Other Calendar Highlights

Fridays in Lent – 5:30PM – Stations of the Cross

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2am on Sunday March 8. Make sure you set your clocks ahead (spring forward) before you go to bed on Saturday so we don't miss you at Church that Sunday

Sun, March 22 – ECW Bake Sale (after both services)

Holy Week -

Palm Sunday Services – Sat, Mar 28 - 5:00pm; Sun, Mar 29 - 8am & 9:45am

Weekday Eucharists – Mon, Mar 30 – 7am; Tues, Mar 31 – 7am;

Wed, April 1 – 11am and 5:30pm

Maundy Thursday – 6pm Eucharist with covered dish supper

Good Friday – 3pm Stations of the Cross; 7pm Liturgy

Easter Vigil – Sat, Apr 4 – 5:00PM

Easter Sunday – Apr 5 – 8am & 9:45am

March, 2015
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples