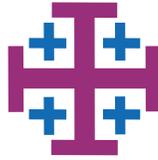


The Messenger - March / April 2017

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



Office - 374-8391
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standrewscotia@yahoo.com

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

Lent begins this week. You and I are called during this 40 days to holiness. At first glance, Lent can appear to be a time of great drudgery. After all, we do without. As Americans this goes against our very nature. Yet Lent is a time of feasting. As we let go of what does not matter, we can embrace the very one who is our life – Jesus Christ our Lord. As we fast, we make room for Him who is the bread of Life. As we let go of our sins, Jesus fills us with His abiding love, His mercy. Lent is not an easy time but is a time of great spiritual sanity. I challenge us all to be mindful, during this time, that we might come closer to the Lord who yearns to be close to us.

I highly commend to you the Stations of the Cross which will be celebrated every Friday night at 5:30pm during Lent. Walk in the way of the cross and come to know our Savior in a whole new way. We have a number of Bible studies throughout the week. How wonderful to encounter the Lord's Word and grow in our understanding. Take time for quiet throughout the day, for prayer, for Bible reading. What a wonderful blessed season Lent is. Don't ignore the call to grace, this time of blessing.

In last month's newsletter, I spoke of our need to grow as a parish in our relationship with the Lord Jesus and our need to be a witness in our community of His redeeming love. A committee is forming of those who feel called to discern Christ's will for St Andrew's parish. Is God calling you? If yes, speak to me. However, we all need to be praying that the Lord lead us and that we might be willing to live Christ's Word in a new way and to take that outside these walls.

From the Wardens: thoughts from Kevin McCarthy

Spring has sprung or at least it feels that way today, but be assured more winter is coming. I do know we received one sign of spring today as the gentleman who does our lawn care called for money to do the spring cleanup. I looked at Gale in surprise and blurted out, "it's not even the end of February yet!" Either way enjoy the nice weather while we have it.

Earlier in February a group, including Fr. Mike and Deacon Ray, spent the day in Greenwich at the Spiritual Life Center attending a Parish Leadership Conference. The course was presented by the co-pastors of St. George's in Clifton Park, and the essence of the course was how to be an effective Parish Leader and resolve conflict. It showed us how things could get out of control quickly, and how important it is to work together to resolve our differences without the "drama" that often times surrounds conflict. It is a good idea for all of us as Parish Leaders to utilize the lessons learned when discussing issues effecting our parish.

Also, we are in the very early stages of establishing a Evangelism Spiritual Committee that will ultimately lead to a renewed spirit and increased membership. Look forward to future information from the Committee and don't be afraid to volunteer to serve.

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 – Sunday, March 5 at 12noon in the lounge.

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

Kevin McCarthy (399-2524; kmccart343@gmail.com)

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

March / April Services and Events / plus

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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper — Tues, Feb 28 – 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday — Wed, March 1 – Services at 7:00am, 11:00am, and 5:30pm (in Church)

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

Daylight Savings Time resumes 2AM on Sunday March 12 (hint - set clocks ahead that Saturday evening)

Chili Sale – Sat March 25 – sale will be from 12noon to 3PM

Todd Lavery is chair Info will be posted on the lounge door soon

Holy Week Services and Events

Sat, April 8 - 5:00pm Palm Sunday

Sun, April 9 - 8:00am & 9:45am Palm Sunday

Mon, April 10 - 7:00am Eucharist Service; 5:45pm Evening Prayer

Tues, April 11 - 7:00am Eucharist Service; 8:30am Eucharist and breakfast

Wed, April 12 - 9:00am Morning Prayer; 11:00am & 5:30pm Eucharist Service

Thurs, April 13 - 6:00pm Seder Dinner

(reservation are needed; sign-up will be on lounge door)

Fri, April 14 - 3:00pm Stations of the Cross; 7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Sat, April 15 - 7:00pm Easter Vigil - *please note time change*

Sun, April 16 - 8:00am & 9:45am Easter Sunday

Weekday Eucharist Service schedule -

Saturdays at 5:00PM – except Easter Vigil on April 15

Sundays at 8:00AM & 9:45AM

Wednesdays at 11:00AM & 5:30PM

(both in the lounge – except Ash Wednesday which are in Church)

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 Peter

March / April, 2017

St Andrew's Church

Episcopal Diocese of Albany

50 Sacandaga Rd

Scotia, NY 12302



Disciples Making Disciples