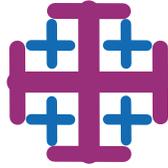


The Messenger - September 2014

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

With the coming of September, our minds become more focused as things get back to "normal." You will notice, if you look at the calendar, that there is a lot of activity here at St Andrew's, as there always has been. We are one busy church. In fact, most of our busyness is designed to charge our spiritual batteries so that we can better witness in our everyday lives. From Bible studies, to prayer, to worship, to fellowship, we are about being built into better Christians by our Lord.

However, as we begin our new year, I need to address a lethargy within our community. Our average Sunday attendance is down dramatically in the last few years – about 25%. Of those who attend, fewer seem inclined to participate in the full life of the church. Our attendance by the young has reached all time lows. We have a good Church School but fewer participate.

Quite simply, I am at a loss as to why. I have spoken to parish members and to the Vestry. For the life of me, I am unable to come up with the reason. I am asking your help to discern God's will for St Andrew's. The Lord would strengthen our relationship with Him if we would allow Him. We are also sent to proclaim the light of Christ in a world that has seen way too much darkness. We need to come together in the Lord, if we are to be and to do these things.

Please keep St Andrew's, the clergy, vestry, and all our ministries in your prayers

Christian Education offerings for all

Church School - resumes September

Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday morning Bible Study - 11:00AM - Sunday morning Lectionary readings & Essential Jesus

Sunday evening Men's Study group - 7:00PM (and occasionally at 5PM for dinner out)

Wednesday morning Bible Study - 9:30AM - Paul's letter to the Romans

Wednesday evening Bible Study - 6:45PM - some of the shorter Epistles

then starting Essential Jesus on Sept 21 (preceded by 5:30PM Eucharist)

Confirmation/Inquirers Class -- From Jeri Vincent

After our summer hiatus, Confirmation class will resume after services on Sunday September 14 (approx 11AM.) Even if you've not attended yet, it's not too late as we will spend the first week or two in review.

This curriculum and class are for anyone wanting to be confirmed (age 13 and older); anyone wishing to be received into the church from other denominations; and/or anyone wishing to brush-up on their faith. Please consider joining us to learn some cool stuff about our faith and denomination and there's always the prize box.

From the Wardens: *Thoughts from Simone Rockwell:*

It's hard to believe, but the summer we waited sooo long for is over! Take time to thank God for the beautiful part of the country we live in. We all tend to complain "it's too hot", "it's too cold", "it's too rainy" etc. Relish the bounty of the season and enjoy it's beauty.

With the summer comes work to be done outdoors. We need to say "thank you" to some of our parishioners who worked on the grounds here at church: Karen Jarosz, who tended the Cross garden, Steve George, Harlan Barney, and Joan Acker. Thanks again to Fran Carroll who finished hemming and put up our new drapes in the lounge! Negotiations have taken place for the work to be begin for the new sidewalks on some of the Church property.

We also had some summer activities: Thank you to those who worked the Summer Lunch Program at Collins Park; to Carol Kiddle and Nanci Wilson for an extremely successful Vacation Bible School; a good time was had by the groups that attended the dinner & ski show at Jumping Jacks, as well as several baseball games. In addition, we had a farewell dinner for Deacon Mary Carol in July. We miss her, but she is very happy at St. Ann's in Amsterdam.

Looking forward: on September 14th there will be a "Pulpit Switch" during which Fr. Mike will be preaching at St. David's Church in E. Greenbush and Fr. James Brisbin will be preaching here at St. Andrew's. The "Whine" and Cheese event scheduled for Sept. 20th has been cancelled.

The Welcome Back Picnic has been moved to Sept. 28th and will be held in conjunction with the Essential Jesus kickoff. Saturday, October 4th is the Pulled Pork dinner and Sunday, October 5th will be the Blessing of the Pets.

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, September 18 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

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

The Men's group has been meeting for six years. This is an outstanding accomplishment when one considers that we did not know how many men would be a part of this group when it was formed. It has helped each and every man who is a part of this organization. All are welcome, just be in the lounge by 7 PM Sunday evenings. It is interesting to find how caring and willing to share these tough men are. About once every other month, the group goes out for dinner which helps the single members get out and enjoy a dinner and socialize with friends.

Currently, the group is reading Chuck Colson's (with Harold Fickett) book "The Faith, What Christians Believe, Why They Believe It and Why It Matters". This book is providing some interesting insight into today's Christianity and how we all can reverse the downward trend of Church attendance. Also some very interesting discussions. Once we finish the book "The Faith", we will move to "The Essential Jesus" and complete the readings in that Book.

So, we ask that you please consider being a part of the Men's group, 7:00 to 8:00 PM Sunday nights.

Music Ministry

"Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord"

"God made music so that we sing and pray twice"

Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 14th following the 9:45 service. Anyone interested in joining the choir see Janet Gerbino, Organist/Choir director (phone: (518) 879-1800; email: jtgerbino@yahoo.com)

For the children and adults: Musicians wanted!

We need instrumentalists of all types (flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, violin, etc) for the upcoming church year. All are welcome. ***Please see Janet Gerbino for more information and to sign up.***

Praise the Lord with the harp; play to Him upon the psaltery and lyre.

Sing for Him a new song; sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet

Psalm 33:2,3

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) gatherings

Welcome back! On Wednesday, September 10th we will be resuming our monthly get-together lunches in the lounge at church. As before, you bring a sandwich to share (or your own lunch if you prefer.) The desserts, chips or other snacks, and drinks are provided. The hostess for Sept. is Patt Goins. We hope many of you will be able to join us in Sept. and often throughout the year. Remember, all the women of St. Andrew's are members of the ECW.
Blessings to all, *Joan Acker*

Events Committee - Upcoming Events:

On Sunday, September 28th, after the 9:45 AM Mass. we will have our 'Welcome Back Picnic'. The picnic will coincide with the 'Kickoff' of the continuation of The Essential Jesus. The signup sheets for the picnic will be on the lounge door.

On Saturday, October 4th, we will be holding our Pulled Pork Dinner from 4-7!. The sign up sheets for the dinner will also be on the lounge door. Your donations, volunteering, dedication and appetite will make this a success. Tickets will be: Adults; \$10; Seniors; \$9 and Children under 12, \$7! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Kiddle, foneldy2@aol.com or Nanci Wilson, Amethyst4292@aol.com.

On Sunday, October 5th we will once again have The Blessing of the Pets at 2PM., either in the Church lounge, or outside, depending on weather, and number of pets at the event. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Vines, topsoprano@aol.com; Marji Edgar, medgar2@aol.com or Fr. Mike.

God's Blessings Always! Nanci Wilson

Take Note – Other Calendar Highlights (not listed in Events article)

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

Sat, Sept 13, and Sun, Sept 14 - Fr James Brisbin, from St David's East Greenbush and the Burmese Resettlement Ministry, will be here as Celebrant. Fr Mike will be at St David's.

Sun, Sept 14 - 11AM Church School classes & Choir rehearsal resume

Sat, Sept 20, & Sun, Sept 21 - Essential Jesus continues for 9 weeks

Sat, Sept 27 - 9:30AM to 2:30PM - Bible Symposium at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany

*** please register at www.thecathedralofallsaints.org

September, 2014
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany
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Disciples Making Disciples