

# The eNET

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter New Providence, NJ

### In This Issue

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

NURSERY SCHOOL AND  
KINDERGARTEN

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER  
OF MUSIC

FRIENDS OF TRINITY CATHEDRAL

ALL ABOUT YOUTH!

YOUTH MINISTRY

GARDENING NEWS

WINTER WONDERLAND OF  
WARMTH

SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS  
NARRATIVE!

HOLIDAY GIVING TREE 2008

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT ST.  
ANDREW'S

PARISH MILESTONES

YOUR NAME IS...?

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

SAY CHEESE!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FROM THE RECTOR

### ADVENT BEGINS

"Sleepers Wake!", written by Philipp Nicolai 500 years ago, calls us to fill our lamps with oil so that our light can shine to welcome the Child of hope. The words of this hymn still send an urgent summons to Advent preparation.

The word "Advent" literally means "before the coming." The sacred story of the prophets foretells the coming of the Savior. This coming is the greatest gift we can ever receive. As the church's new year begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving, before November is over...how shall we prepare?

**We can Wait** - to see how God is acting in our midst; to where the economy is going; to see where our new President will lead us.

**We can Watch** - in the rush of this busy and darkening season, where are the signs of holy Presence? How we are called to serve and let our light shine brighter?

**We can Pray** - that a forlorn world might see the Light of Christ coming; that those who struggle for basic needs might be served.

**We can Prepare** - to create a place within our hearts for the Christ Child to be born within us.

Join us for Advent worship on Sundays, as we journey into these four weeks before Christmas with a sense of quiet listening and anticipation.

On Advent I (Nov. 30) we can make an Advent wreath to take home and light as we say grace with our family or friends at dinnertime. We can take some quiet time on Wednesdays at the 11:30am service to pray in this season. We will share a candlelit Advent Evensong on December 7 at 5pm to mark the season's special witness of sacred music not heard at the shopping mall.

We all have much to do...but to make meaning out of this season, it's the inner prayerful preparation that counts. May we "sleepers wake" to fill our lamps with oil, clean house in our hearts, and make room spiritually to greet the Savior who has promised to bring hope, justice, and joy to a weary world.

Faithfully,  
Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins  
Rector

## WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

### Sundays

December 7: 2 Advent  
8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector  
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)  
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir,  
St. Nicholas Visits  
5pm-Advent Evensong & Potluck Supper

December 14: 3 Advent  
8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector  
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)  
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir,  
Chrismon Tree Decorating  
11am-Rite 13 & J2A Classes (7-12 Grade)

December 21: 4 Advent  
8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector  
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)  
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir,  
Chrismon Tree Lighting  
11am-Rite 13 & J2A Classes (7-12 Grade)

Wednesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve  
4pm-Christmas Narrative and Holy Eucharist  
9:30pm-Caroling  
10pm-Festive Eucharist of Christmas

Thursday, December 25  
Christmas Day  
10am-Christmas Eucharist

December 28: Christmas I  
8am-Morning Prayer  
10am-Morning Prayer  
No Sunday School or Youth Group

Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 11:35am  
(Timed so that nursery school parents and teachers can join us)

## STEWARDSHIP 2009

### *Is Anything Too Wonderful For the Lord?*

Thank you to all our St. Andrew's Church family who have pledged during the 2009 Stewardship drive. Your support is greatly appreciated!

The hard reality is that we have reached only 70% of our pledge goal or \$260,000 for next year.

The vestry met on November 18 to begin taking a hard look at funding many of our important ministries and what will need to be done if we can't meet our budget goals. At our December meeting we will have to make some very tough financial decisions, reduce funding and pass a 2009 budget.

For those of you who have not pledged, you should have received a letter and pledge card from me asking for your support. In the coming days, members of the vestry will be reaching out to you directly to discuss pledging as an important commitment to St. Andrews and to the Lord's work. We need the support of 100% of our congregation.

Please take a few minutes out of, what I know, is your hectic day and pray about what St. Andrew's Church means to you, fill out your pledge card and mail it back to the church office or put in my mailbox.

Please feel free to call me or any member of the vestry with any questions.

St. Andrews is our spiritual home. Please support all that makes us work.

Nancy Murray, Stewardship Chair

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

Share the Christian Faith

The "Spirit of Christmas" fills the air during the Advent and Christmas seasons with anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ! Stories, themes and activities that children experience in Sunday School and worship can lead to conversations, projects and devotions at home. At St. Andrew's, the Advent and Christmas seasons are a time for family-related activities such as Advent wreath making, St.

Nicholas Sunday, Chrismon tree decorating, the creche, and the Christmas Narrative...with LIVE sheep! This is an opportunity to share the Christian faith with your child, which will sustain your child all through life!

#### Christmas Narrative

Thanks to Eileen Fairchild, our Christmas Narrative director, for her fine leadership of our youth in bringing the "Spirit of Christmas" to all who attend this Christmas story of the birth of Jesus. Pauline Kodack will be bringing her 4-H sheep to the Narrative, making all our Christmas Eves special!

Narrative Sign-up forms will be available on Nov. 23, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7.

#### Christmas Narrative Rehearsal Dates:

Sunday, Dec. 14, 11:30 am; sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 20; 10am-11:30am; parish hall

Christmas Narrative: Dec. 24 at 4pm

#### St. Nicholas Visits December 7

Come and learn about St. Nicholas when he comes to St. Andrew's with oranges for good health. St. Nicholas did good deeds for others, giving gold coins and oranges for health and happiness!

#### Chrismon Tree Decorating is December 14

Chrismon means Christ's Monogram. Come decorate our special "Chrismon" tree to honor Christ. The tree will be filled with ornaments about the Trinity, designed to be decorated by Sunday School children! They will learn about the meaning of the Trinity from the ornaments.

#### Thank You, Sunday School Teachers!

Many thanks to a fine group of fall term teachers! Winter teachers begins on December 14. Each Sunday they teach our children with lessons prepared to develop a Christian faith!

There is no Nursery or Sunday School Dec. 28.

Classes and Nursery resume on January 4.

Come to St. Andrew's Church and Sunday School, where we learn, celebrate, worship and pray together as a church community for all ages!

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

## NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

This fall we enjoyed a wonderful start to the school year in our Nursery School and Kindergarten. Thanks to our warm, nurturing teachers all of our students transitioned successfully into their classrooms - even our 2 ½ year olds! While it was difficult to say good-bye to mom or dad initially, they are all doing splendidly and growing in so many ways.

We had a great turn out at Back-to-School Night. I delivered a presentation to parents before they headed off to hear what their children do on a daily basis. Parents left with a clear overview of the program and were reminded of why St. Andrew's offers such a quality educational program.

Halloween was truly a highlight. The students proudly walked the "orange" carpet and were camera-ready for all their family and friends.

Many families participated in the Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at the Broadway Diner in early November. The Wamsley family graciously hosted and donated all pancake proceeds to our school's outreach efforts. Thank you!

In November, the teachers provided rich learning opportunities relating to Thanksgiving and we as a school worked to give back to the community. We collected over 200 food items for the Star-Fish pantry, we began our Giving Tree campaign, and we launched our drive to collect new mittens, hats and scarves for children in need.

I have been very busy giving prospective families tours for next year. It is a pleasure walking parents through the halls and showcasing what makes our program exceptional.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mary Donohue, Director

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

As usual, this is a busy season for our music program. Sunday, November 30 marks the beginning of the Advent season - a beautiful season of scripture and music as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. We will have a different ceremony to mark the lighting of the Advent candles at the 10am services. This will help reinforce the significance of the new candle we light each week.

The choir will participate in the Advent Evensong on the second Sunday in Advent, December 7. This wonderful Anglican service is one we all enjoy. Mark the service on your calendars - we would like to have a full church. There will be a potluck supper afterwards in the parish hall.

We are also preparing to join the other churches in New Providence at an Advent Lessons and Carols service at 5pm on December 14 at Our Lady of Peace church. While plans are not fully in place as of yet, this should be a wonderful opportunity to join with fellow choristers in town to celebrate the Advent season.

Christmas Eve will see an influx of additional choir members as some of our families come to New Jersey for the holidays. The music will include a new arrangement of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Robert Lau and new Carol, "A Cradle Carol", by Dan Forrest. This, of course, in addition to the opportunity to sing many of our favorite Christmas carols. We look forward to seeing you there!

The choir will take a vacation from rehearsals the week after Christmas, but will resume on January 8 at 8pm. Please feel free to join us, either to sing or just to try us out. You will be surprised at the lift this will give to you at the end of a busy day!

Howard Dreizler

## FRIENDS OF TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Last spring Bishop Cancell launched his "50-10-50" campaign to raise funds for the support of Trinity Cathedral, our Diocesan home. His intent was to get 50 parishes in the Diocese to enlist 10 parishioners to give \$50 each in support of the cathedral. St. Andrew's accepted the challenge of the Bishop's campaign and can be extremely proud of what we did.

On just two Sundays in June a request was made at the two services conducted at St. Andrew's. Twenty-eight families and individuals responded to the call and provided \$1,510 of support for Trinity Cathedral! We far exceeded the Bishop's expectations and showed him how willing we are to assist the cathedral in recognition of all that it does for the Diocese.

In his thank you letter, the Dean of Trinity Cathedral, the Very Reverend René John, said in part, "Bishop Cancell and I want to thank you so much for your very generous response to the 50-10-50 campaign of the Friends of Trinity Cathedral program. We hereby acknowledge your parishioners' combined charitable contribution of \$1,510 to this program! We are blessed by the outpouring of support from your parish."

To all those who participated, let me add my thanks for being so understanding and so generous. You have made this parish very, very proud.

We will try to keep you updated on the activities and progress of the cathedral with information posted on the parish bulletin board. So please take a look from time to time.

Tom Kelsey, "Friends of the Cathedral" Ambassador

## ALL ABOUT YOUTH!

Congratulations to our Rite 13 Celebrants!

We celebrated the attainment of age 13 on Sunday, November 16 for Lexi Evans, Jenny Morris, Amy Macdonald Kim Evans and Tyler Macdonald. The kids made posters sharing the things that are important to them. Stop by the parish hall and enjoy their work!

Teens Serving the Needy

Members of the Rite 13 and J2A classes loaded cars with the many shoeboxes donated by church members for Operation Christmas Child. On November 23, we drove and unloaded them at the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains for further shipping to ensure they get to a needy child for Christmas.

Narrative Christmas

The Christmas Narrative will take place on Christmas Eve under the direction and guidance of Rite 13 and J2A class members. This is a great opportunity for the older children to guide the younger ones in roles that they played in the past.

Eileen Fairchild

## Junior and Senior Youth Group News

Generation is an event geared for teenagers but open to all ages. Generation is Saturday, December 6 from 11am-2pm at St. John's Church in Elizabeth. It will begin with a rockin' concert by Paula Larke -- a musician, storyteller and recording artist from Stone Mountain, GA. The concert will be followed by lunch and festivities. The whole day is FREE (including lunch) and all are invited. You don't need to bring forms or money, just bring yourself! Please call Rev. Peggy for a ride.

### December Youth Groups Schedule

Dec. 7: 6-8pm-Senior Youth Group-meet at church.

Dec. 14: 6-8pm-Senior and Junior Youth Group-meet at the Rectory, 41 Colchester Road, for a Christmas party!

A Senior Youth Group Ski Trip is being planned for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, January 16-19 at Mt. Snow, Vermont for grades 9-12. Please let Rev. Peggy know if you would like to attend. You don't have to be a skier to enjoy the trip!

### GARDENING NEWS

Please join us for our Parish-wide Leaf Pickup Party on Saturday, December 6!

WE ARE ESPECIALLY SEEKING PEOPLE WITH LEAF BLOWERS! We will be raking and transporting leaves from the campus to South Street, and will also be preparing the gardens for winter. We hope to have the Boy Scouts of Troop 1 assisting us that day as well. Hot chocolate and donuts will be available for all hardy helpers!

At the Gardeners of St. Andrew's (GOSA) work party on Saturday, November 8, there were four adult parishioners and a youth member in attendance. We could have used a few more people! There are numerous projects that are on our to-do list and we WELCOME additional help.

Although a cloudy and damp day, we were able to rake/blow and transport a number of tarps of leaves out to the South Street curb before the rain began falling heavier. We also drained and rolled up numerous garden hoses, ready for storing.

Since the next day, Sunday, was such a nice day, an announcement at the 10am service brought out more GOSA members ready to rake/blow additional leaves.

Thanks to Dave Morris, Jan Miller, Joyce Kern, Barbara Pape, Ian Jordan, Elizabeth Jordan and Rick Anderson for all their help!

Please contact Joyce Kern or Rick Anderson, GOSA Co-Chairpersons, with any questions.

## WINTER WONDERLAND OF WARMTH

St. Andrew's School and Church will begin collecting new children's winter hats, scarves and mittens to help those less fortunate.

Drop off your donations in the box by the school office beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving, December 1 through Friday, December 12.

A clothesline full of warmth will surround the gym as our collection grows to create a real Winter Wonderland! The Community Food Bank of New Jersey will distribute the items for us, bringing a smile to warm little people.

## SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE!

Working with older children from the church, this heartwarming tradition provides our four and five year olds with the opportunity to retell the story of the first Christmas. It is always a joy to see the little shepherds shield their eyes and look with awe upon the angel of the Lord or to see the angels raise their hands in honor of the birth of Jesus.

Plan to join us as a cast member, adult helper, or as a member of the audience!

### Dates to Remember:

Now through December 10: Sign-up sheets will be available in the Nursery School office. Children must be attending a four-year-old class to participate.

December 10: The final day that sign-up sheets can be accepted.

December 14: Rehearsal following the 10am church service (approximately 11:15am).

December 20: Dress rehearsal from 10am-11:30am. Please plan to remain at the church throughout the rehearsal.

December 24: The Narrative begins at 4pm. All cast members are asked to arrive at 3:15.

Please note: your child must be able to attend all rehearsals to participate. Thanks!

## HOLIDAY GIVING TREE 2008

For the 6th year, St. Andrew's Church and School, in conjunction with St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth, offers a Holiday Giving Tree to help teach our children the meaning of giving to those less fortunate. Select a tag from our tree in the parish hall, make a purchase and return the wrapped package by Dec. 3. There are still some tags left on the Giving Tree! Please help grant the wishes for all the children.

## TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT ST. ANDREW'S

Last Sunday in church I thanked all the special people, by name, who helped me provide a beautiful and memorable service for Rich on Saturday, November 15.

Again, I would like to express my thanks to Bridgett for all her help with the service leaflets for Saturday and also for the next day's service at Arbor Glen.

Jacque Hasenkopf and her committee arranged the reception in the parish hall and did it beautifully.

Peggy was wonderful throughout this difficult time and helped me with her guidance and certainly her prayers.

Sara Jane Vignali selected just the right flowers for the altar -- just as I knew she would.

I can never say enough about my dear Altar Guild friends. They did their usual careful and prayerful preparations for the altar and the Communion service.

The music was marvelous. Howard played all the music that we suggested and the choir sang all of our favorite hymns -- the music that means so much to us. THE MALOTTE RENDITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER WAS MAGNIFICENT!

I feel blessed that I could give Richard such a beautiful service here at his beloved St. Andrew's Church.

It's very comforting to know that, when we needed help, our St. Andrew's family was there for us. I needed all of you and we did it together. I felt your support and prayers. THANK YOU.

And, especially to Peggy ... I thank you and I love you.

Allie Weidener

## PARISH MILESTONES

### BAPTISMS

Lucas Joseph Tallone, son of Christine and Joe Tallone  
Christian Patric Calise, son of Jennifer and Jim Calise

### BURIALS

Richard Arthur Weidener, husband of Allie Weidener  
Eugene (Casey) Geismer Spiegle, son of Gene and Jane Spiegle

## YOUR NAME IS...?

The ushers encourage parishioners to please wear your name tags while attending church activities. This helps the ushers, as well as other parishioners, easily identify you and remember your name. Name tags are located on the narthex table. Thanks!

Rick Anderson

## KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

Keep your home toasty this fall by supporting the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Men's Group Fall Firewood Sale. A number of trees, some of which were dead, were recently taken down and cut up by Springhouse Tree Service. The Brotherhood has been splitting the firewood and offering it to parishioners for a donation of \$20 per trunkload.

Some wood is ash, which makes for a nice hot fire. Delivery can also be arranged. The funds will be used to support future Brotherhood ministry activities.

## SAY CHEESE!

Church Function Photographer Needed

Our parish activities need image media recordings, such as baptisms, special services, St. Francis Blessing of the Animals, fundraisers, Children's Time during 10am service, Bishop's visit, Confirmation, Welcome Back picnic, etc.

We are looking for an active member of the parish who enjoys photography, to take photos of various church events throughout the year, sometimes on a candid, impromptu basis. These images would be stored for use on posters, publicity, eNET, church website, and St. Andrew's historical archives. Any interest, please contact Rick Anderson.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Synthesis Study Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month in the library at 1:30pm. Please join us! If you have any questions, call Frances Bellak at (908) 233-2899.

Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor*

[ehjordan@comcast.net](mailto:ehjordan@comcast.net)

Deadline for the January issue of The eNET:  
Monday, December 15  
Submissions may be edited.

## USHER NEWS

Only One Hour a Month is All it Takes to be an Usher!

We are seeking adult and youth ushers for both the 8am and 10am services. Ushering is an important part of the service, but not a difficult task for anyone. Please help us out! We are flexible, and our monthly ushering schedule will fit your schedule. We welcome youth members to help with ushering, too. GIVE IT A TRY!

Please contact Les Medford (8am) at 582-4676 or Rick Anderson (10am) at 464-8911. Usher instructions are provided.

## A LITTLE CHURCH HUMOR!

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

*(Thank you, Tom Kelsey, for submitting this!)*



## ARE YOU NEW TO OUR CHURCH?

Please join us for:

Advent Evensong & Potluck Supper  
Sunday, December 7 at 5pm

Our vestry & staff look forward to getting to know you better!  
Please RSVP to the parish office at (908) 464-4875  
or [information@standrewschurch.org](mailto:information@standrewschurch.org).

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