

# St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

New Providence, New Jersey

December 2009

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## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Advent is a season of expectation.

What are you expecting this Advent?

Do you expect to complete a lengthy to-do list as the sun sets earlier and earlier?

Do you expect long lines at Best Buy and Macy's?

Do you expect a special gathering of your family?

Mary was expecting a baby. She felt him growing and kicking in her womb, and she knew the time of birth was drawing near.

We want to take the time this month to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child at St. Andrew's.

Despite the December distractions of errands, concerts, parties, we still wait and expect Jesus to come.

Come to church this Advent to sing the sacred songs of expectation. Hear the scriptures which foretell the coming of Jesus. Expect to meet him, expect to know his redemption and grace; his never-failing unexpectedly unconditional love.

For the promise of the prophets is, that if we expect him, and if we prepare for him, then when he comes again in power and great glory, we will without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Faithfully,  
*Peggy+*

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Rector

## WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

## Sundays

### December 6: 2 Advent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector  
 9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 5)  
 10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir  
 St. Nicholas visits during 10am service  
 Rite 13, J2A, YAC classes meet after Holy Eucharist

### December 13: 3 Advent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector  
 9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 5)  
 10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir  
 Chrismon Tree decorating during 10am service  
 Rite 13, J2A, YAC classes meet after Holy Eucharist  
 Christmas Narrative Rehearsal at 11:30am in Sanctuary

### December 20: 4 Advent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector  
 9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 5)  
 10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir  
 Lighting of Chrismon tree during 10am service  
 Rite 13, J2A, YAC classes meet after Holy Eucharist  
 Greening of Church at 11:30am

### December 27: Christmas 1

10am-Lessons and Carols  
 (No Sunday School, Rite 13, J2A, or YAC classes)

**Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 9:30am**

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Sunday, Dec. 13, 10am Service

Decorating the Chrismon Tree

### Sunday, Dec. 20, 10am Service

Lighting the Chrismon Tree  
 Greening the Church

### Christmas Eve, Thursday Dec. 24

Narrative and Eucharist, 4pm  
 Caroling, 9:30pm  
 Festive Choral Eucharist, 10pm

**Christmas Day Eucharist, Friday Dec. 25, 10am**

Bring your family and friends!

### **It's Advent!**

You can mark the days leading to Christmas, the Church's celebration of the Nativity, by clicking this link: [www.whywearewaiting.com/](http://www.whywearewaiting.com/).

## **UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS**

Peggy and I give thanks for all of our Youth who participated in the Youth Service on November 22, to the parents who provided transportation for the rehearsals, and to our parishioners who continue to provide encouragement and support.

Our Youth will be meeting on three of the four Sunday evenings in December and on January 3, as follows:

- December 6** Combined Junior and Senior Youth Group  
Ice Skating at the Richard J. Cody Arena, W. Orange
- December 13** Senior Youth Group  
Discussion of possible Appalachian Mission Project  
by Peter Muriello
- December 20** Junior and Senior Youth Group  
Greening of the Church (with lunch provided following  
the 10am service)
- December 27** No Youth Group
- January 3** Junior Youth Group

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#### Planned Future Events

- January 10** Begin Monthly Contemporary Service from 5:30-6pm  
Senior Youth Group Meeting, 6-8pm
- February 5** Combined Senior and Junior Youth Group  
Bowling Night
- February 19-21** Watchung Convocation Ski Trip to Stowe, Vermont

Brian Bussey

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### **It's Not Too Late!**

So you want to sing in the choir but think you can't stay out so late on a "school night"? Well, we don't stay out as late as we used to. We are now starting at 7:30pm and ending around 9:15pm, which isn't all that late.

Thursday nights, the place to be is in the music room at St. Andrew's! Every week, the happy group known as the choir makes music together, and I can personally attest, we not only sound pretty good, but we leave singing and keep on singing all the way home...and beyond, into the days following. It's a wonderful mood-enhancer.. One thing's for sure, a person cannot sing and be cranky at the same time.

Maybe you'd like to participate, but only occasionally, not every week. Maybe you have a special piece you'd like to do? Let me know about it. I'd love to hear it and see if we can work it into the schedule in the upcoming weeks. Send an email to me at [music@standrewschurch.org](mailto:music@standrewschurch.org) and let me know what you're thinking.

Or maybe your place to participate is right where you are, in the congregation. I hear some singing going on out there, but I want to hear more! Are we not picking the songs you really like to sing? Send me an email and let me know what they are. I'd like to start a gathering time before the 10am service where we can sing favorites. Look for that in the weeks ahead. Come a little early on Sunday and you just may hear your song.

Thank you to all the friendly folks who have made me feel so welcome here at St. Andrew's.

Musically yours,  
Doris Merrick

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

### **Sharing Faith at St. Andrew's Church and Sunday School**

Come and share the "Spirit of Christmas" which fills the air during the Advent and Christmas seasons! This is a time to share church activities, such as Advent Wreaths, The Crèche, St. Nicholas Festival, St. Nicholas Sunday, Chrismon Tree Decorating, and the Christmas Narrative...with LIVE sheep! Here is an opportunity to share our Christian faith with your child with experiences to keep for life!

### **Teacher Appreciation**

Much gratitude to our wonderful group of fall term volunteer teachers for serving God and teaching children about His Love and Word! Our winter teachers begin on **December 13**.

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts**

A huge THANK YOU to all who participated in filling the shoebox gifts with necessities, school supplies, toys and candy! The gifts will bring smiling faces and a message about God's Love!

### **Upcoming Seasonal Events:**

#### **Christmas Narrative**

Many thanks to Eileen Fairchild, her son Kevin, and Christen Simmons, as they guide our children and youths with the Narrative. Everyone attending this Christmas Story of the Birth of Jesus can sense the "Spirit of Christmas". Pauline Kodack, 4-H leader, will be bringing her sheep to the event as well, making all our Christmas Eves so special!

Narrative Sign-up Forms will be available until **Wednesday, December 9**.

Christmas Narrative Rehearsal Dates:

- **Sunday, December 13**, 11:30am in the sanctuary
- **Saturday, December 19**; 10:30am-11:30am in the parish hall

Christmas Narrative; **December 24** at 4pm

#### **St. Nicholas Festival and Open House at St. Andrew's**

Come to this new church and school event on **December 5** from 10am-noon for children's crafts, tours, refreshments, displays, and a special visit from St. Nicholas!

#### **St. Nicholas Visit on December 6**

Come and learn about St. Nicholas when he comes to St. Andrew's with Clementine oranges for good health and happiness!

#### **Chrismon Tree Decorating on December 13**

Chrismon means Christ's Monogram. Come decorate our 10th "Chrismon" Tree to honor Christ! Our 2009 theme is "Sheep and Shepherd," with sheep wool ornaments made with Pauline Kodack. The nine-foot tree will have gold and white ornaments from 10 years past decorated by children!

#### **No Nursery or Sunday School on December 27**

- Classes and Nursery resume on **January 3**

See you at St. Andrew's Church and Sunday School... a church community of all ages!

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

## DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Can that be the voices of excited children as they prepare for the annual St. Andrew's tradition of the Christmas Narrative?

It's almost that time of year!

This heartwarming tradition provides our younger church members with the important job of retelling the story of the first Christmas. It is always a joy to see the little ones shield their eyes and look with awe upon the angel of the Lord, gently cradle the Baby Jesus or present the gifts of kings. It is also a joy to see the older cast members directing the efforts of the younger children in roles that they themselves once played.

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

### Important Dates:

**December 6:** Sign-up sheets will be distributed during Sunday School.

**December 9:** The final day that sign-up sheets can be accepted.

**December 13:** Rehearsal following the 10am service.

**December 19:** Dress rehearsal from 10:30am until 11:30am.

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

Eileen Fairchild

## JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

There are three Youth classes meeting this year as the program continues to grow: **Rite 13**, under the leadership of Amy Evans and Christen Simmons for our 6th and 7th graders; **J2A**, under the leadership of Bob Ashmun and Denise Preston for our 8th and 9th graders; and **Young Adult Christians (YAC)**, under the leadership of Brian Bussey for our 10th, 11th and 12th graders. Special thanks to the leaders who have made the commitment to this wonderful program.

The kids have been busy raising money to fight world hunger by participating in the Crop Walk. They also had fun carving pumpkins and making pies at the Strong's home. Thank you to the Strong's for organizing and hosting these activities. They were enjoyed by all who attended.

On November 22, members of the J2A and YAC classes loaded up cars with the

many shoebox gifts donated by parishioners for Operation Christmas Child, and brought them to the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains, where they will continue on their journey to needy children around the world.

Everyone in the congregation enjoyed the Youth Service Sunday on November 22. Brian Bussey, Doris Merrick, and Peggy organized the effort, which gave us all an opportunity to appreciate the many talents of our youth.

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

It has been a busy and joyous fall for everyone participating in these programs.

Eileen Fairchild

See the Living Nativity on **Sunday, December 20** at our neighbor church, Faith Lutheran, on South Street. Refreshments at 7pm, Nativity at 7:30pm.

## TREASURY TALKING POINTS

- October 2009 was a solid month financially for St. Andrews
- October income finished ahead of our budgeted target:  
\$34,552.77 vs. budget of \$30,984.73
- Year to date 2009, total income is slightly behind budget by just \$886.20: \$350,637.34 vs. budget of \$349,751.14
- October expenses finished higher than budget:  
\$42,535.54 vs. budget of \$32,783.33
- One-time phone expenses explain most of the overage
- Year to date, expenses are under budget by \$4,897.83:  
\$332,440.04 vs. budget of \$337,337.87
- For Net Ordinary Income YTD, we are at \$17,311.10 vs. budget of

\$13,299.47 -- ahead of target by \$4,011.63

- YTD Net Income is within \$487.71 of target:  
\$21,145.06 vs. budget of \$21,632.77
- On the Balance Sheet, it totals \$545,273.10
- Including retained earnings of \$275,339.69

David Hasenkopf, Treasurer

## AN ADVENT QUIET DAY

Advent Quiet Day at All Saints' in Scotch Plains will be held on **Saturday, December 12**, with Sister Lura from the Community of St. John Baptist. This year, her theme is the importance of discernment and trust. Says Sister Lura, "This is a great time to take a break from hectic holiday preparations and center yourself in prayer, and remember what it is we are celebrating at Christmas time."

The Quiet Day will include short talks interspersed with periods of quiet for reflection and prayer. A simple lunch will be served, and the day will end with Holy Eucharist.

For reservations or more information, please call (908) 322-8047. There is a small fee of \$5.

## GARDENING NEWS

We had 14 parishioners come out on the November 7 Leaf Collection And Transport Work Party. We accomplished a lot. Thanks to ALL! On Saturday, December 5, the last Leaf Work Party took place with assistance provided by Scouts of Troop 1.

This pretty much wraps up the gardening season for 2009. GOSA members will take a break from gardening until late winter. By then we get an irresistible urge to get our fingernails into some soil!

A special thanks to those garden volunteers who have been giving of their time in the gardens during fall weekdays. We appreciate your dedication.

### **GOSA Does Pizza**

5 GOSA members attended the Nursery School Pizza Party in the parish hall last month. We enjoyed pizza, wine, salad, and each others' company.

### **GOSA Fashion Wear**

Order forms for GOSA garments have been distributed. Red T-shirts were agreed upon as the official garment color, with white GOSA logo. In the near future we look forward to GOSA members having their own easily recognizable fashions to wear while at work in the church gardens. Don't wait, get your completed order form in to Sandy Davies soon!

### **GOSA Funds**

GOSA does not receive funding directly from the church. All our funding comes from loyal parishioners and garden volunteers. Thanks for your past support. We always welcome contributions of any amount to support our gardening ministry throughout the year. We are planning to sponsor our April flower fundraising event in the spring, to be called "GOSA Flower & Garden 2010."

### **2011 GOSA Garden Calendar**

At our last meeting, we discussed the thought of creating a Gardens of St. Andrew's calendar for 2011. The calendar would include an appropriate photo of one of the church gardens, landscapes, or garden activities for each month. The calendar could also include GOSA, St. Andrew's Parish, and Episcopal church dates of interest, and a scripture statement each month. We would incorporate photos taken by GOSA members as well as parishioners willing to share their visual media.

Not sure what the cost would be to create each calendar and not sure if it would work as a fundraiser or not.

It was a surprise to receive an email from Jennifer Lynn Woodruff Tait in Indiana, who read the GOSA article last month and suggested we look at Snapfish for creating the calendar, which we will do. (Editor's note: Thanks, Jennifer, for taking out time to read our newsletter! We miss you and Edwin!) If you have had experience creating calendars, please contact Rick Anderson at [rick243@comcast.net](mailto:rick243@comcast.net).

Rick Anderson

## **THE DIOCESE NEEDS YOU!**

The Nomination Committee of the Diocese of NJ has the following positions still open. If you are interested in applying for any of them, please go to [www.newjersey.anglican.org](http://www.newjersey.anglican.org) and in the left column click on "Diocesan Convention." An attractive convention page will come up and you can click on the Nominating Committee icon for the information and form to submit.

The deadline for application submission has been extended to **December 18**, but please apply soon. For information on any of the offices to be filled, please contact Rev. Petrina Pyatt at [pniknu@aol.com](mailto:pniknu@aol.com).

Please consider nominating for these offices:

### **Diocesan Council**

3 lay needed for 3 years, 1 for 1 yr. unexpired term;  
3 Clergy needed for 3 yr. term

### **Cathedral Chapter**

2 clergy needed for 3 yr. term; 1 lay needed for 3 yr. term

### **Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation**

2 clergy needed for 3 yr. term

**Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation**

2 lay needed for 3 yr. term

**Finance and Budget**

2 needed (clergy or lay) for 3 yr. term

**Audit Committee**

2 needed (clergy or lay) for 2 3 yr. term.

**Diocesan Review Committee**

Clergy needed for 2- 3 yr. terms, 1- 1 yr. unexpired term

**Trial Court**

4 clergy needed for 1 yr. as member, 2 yrs. as alternate

**Trial Court**

3 lay needed for 1 yr. as member, 2 yrs. as alternate

**Church Attorney** - 1 needed for 1 year term

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR'S DAY WITH BISHOP COUNCELL

Leaders: The Rev. Caroline Fairless, Director, Children at Worship-Congregations in Bloom, Wilmot, New Hampshire; Jim Sims, Project Manager, Musician, Song Writer, Artist, Children at Worship-Congregations in Bloom, Wilmot, New Hampshire.

This conference is for everyone involved in education and worship, laity and clergy alike. Come and learn how to integrate education and worship, particularly for the small church. This event will give you practical suggestions and experience in designing "weekly liturgies that call out the participation of each member of your congregation, no matter your age, through our common life of prayer and confession, story-telling, art, music, and, where applicable, Holy Communion," so that your congregation will experience transformation and growth. Sponsored by the Committee on Lifelong Christian Formation and the Right Onward Visioning Committee.

**Saturday, January 16, 9:30am-2pm**

coffee and registration at 9am

Cost \$15, lunch provided

Trinity Cathedral

801 West State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08618

(609) 392-3805

Deadline by **Monday, January 4**. Check payable to the Diocese of NJ must be received by this date. To register, email [paige@newjersey.anglican.org](mailto:paige@newjersey.anglican.org) or phone Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281, ext. 10.

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## Save the Date!

Wednesday, January 6

### Feast of Epiphany

Holy Eucharist with Visit of the Three Kings, 6:30pm

Covered Dish Supper, 7pm



## THANKSGIVING FOOD DELIVERY TO STARFISH PANTRY

A bountiful thanks goes out to Berkeley Heights Boy Scout troops 268 and 368 for their outstanding efforts to help feed the hungry this Thanksgiving. On Saturday, November 21 these scouts took to our neighborhoods of New Providence and Berkeley Heights and collected 273 bags of non-perishable food, which were then delivered to St. Andrew's. Along with the 273 bags, a monetary donation of \$45 was also received. Thanks to the scouts' efforts and members of St. Andrew's Church, Starfish Pantry in Plainfield received a total of 300 bags of non-perishable food and 48 turkeys.

A special thanks goes to the following St. Andrew's parishioners who filled their cars with these bags and delivered the food to Starfish Pantry: Rick Anderson, Sandy Davies, Marty Dragos, and David and Dorretta Waite.

## THOUGHTS AT ADVENT

This year has been a change for us  
 A move from our life-long home  
 Forty years in a house we raised a family in  
 And a state where we spent our youth

And now at the beginning of Advent  
 We find ourselves in a different place  
 A land of whispering palm trees  
 Wearing shorts, is it really December?

Our minds and bodies are trying to adjust  
 To this season that seems like summer  
 Christmas lights encircling palm trees  
 In a land where it never snows

As we sing familiar Advent hymns  
 And practice for lessons and carols  
 I know that Christmas will come again  
 I can feel excitement in my heart

In this land that always stays green  
 I give thanks for the chance to learn  
 How Christmas comes and changes your heart  
 No matter the temperature outside

We miss our friends at St. Andrew's  
 And think of them often as we sing  
 Knowing they too are waiting  
 To welcome home the King

The songs we sing unite us

And remind us who we are  
So sing for joy this Christmas  
We'll do the same from afar

--Georgia Jervey

## ACOLYTE FESTIVAL

The tenth annual Acolyte Festival of the Diocese of NJ will be held **Saturday, February 13** at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. The theme of this year's day-long event will be the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the ministry of the acolytes in your parish. Brochures and registration forms are available on the diocesan website.



## THANK YOU, KNITTERS!

Dorretta Waite and June de Bang loaded up knitted items made by church volunteers to be delivered to Seamen's Church Institute in New York City. More than 200 hats, scarves and vests will be distributed to mariners who visit the New York port as part of the Christmas-at-Sea ministry. To volunteer to knit for this program, call (908) 464-4875. Yarn and simple patterns are provided.

## A DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Sponsored by the Atlantic Convocation of The Diocese of NJ

Topic: "Nipped in the Heel by the Hound of Heaven"  
 Retreat Leader: The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold,  
 XXV Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Ocean City Tabernacle  
 550 Wesley Ave., Ocean City, NJ

**Saturday, January 16**

9am-3pm

\$10 (for lunch)

Free will offering to be taken

To register, email The Rev. Mantelle Bradley at [revmmb@comcast.net](mailto:revmmb@comcast.net) or call (609) 652-6222. Please register by **Monday, January 11.**

## PARISH MILESTONES

### Baptisms

We welcome Jonah Zachary Chludzinski, who was baptized at St. Andrew's on November 1.

### Burials

George John Gray, Jr. was buried in the St. Francis Memorial Garden on November 28. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

## ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

Dec. 14/16	Mon., Wed. Nursery School Ornament Sale, PH
Dec. 15	Tues., 7:30pm Vestry meeting
Dec. 18	Last day of Nursery School & Kindergarten until Jan. 4
Dec. 19	Saturday, 10:30am Christmas Narrative Rehearsal
Dec. 20	Sunday, Lighting of Chrismon Tree, Greening of the Church
Dec. 20	Sunday, 7:30pm The Living Nativity, presented by Faith Lutheran South Street, NP (Refreshments at 7pm)
Dec. 21-22	Holiday Child Care at St. Andrew's
Dec. 23	Wed. 10:30am Bible Study, PL Weds. 1:30 pm Synthesis Bible Study, PL
Dec. 24	Thursday, Christmas Eve services at 4pm and 9:30pm
Dec. 25	Friday, Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10am
Dec. 27	First Sunday after Christmas, Morning Prayer 8 & 10am
Jan. 1, 2010	Happy New Year!
Jan. 3	Sunday, Christmas II, 8am & 10am Morning Prayer
Jan. 4	Monday, Nursery School resumes classes
Jan. 6	Wednesday, Epiphany service and dinner
Jan. 10	Sunday, The Baptism of Our Lord, 8 & 10am Eucharist
Jan. 16	Saturday, 8:30am, Brotherhood breakfast meeting, PH
Jan. 18	Monday, Martin Luther King Day, Nursery School & Offices closed
Jan. 19	Tuesday, 7:30pm, Vestry meeting
Jan. 22	Friday, 8pm-Midnight, Diocese of New Jersey Bishops' Ball, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

Jan. 24	Sunday, ANNUAL MEETING
Feb. 13	Saturday, Acolyte Festival, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
Feb. 17	ASH WEDNESDAY
April 24	St. Andrew's 50th Anniversary Celebration-Save the date!

**Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor***

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

**Deadline for the February issue of the eNET is Monday, January 25.**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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