

The eNET

St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

New Providence, New Jersey

February 2009

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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Getting involved in your parish helps you grow as a Christian witness and as a person.

As we pray and work together at St. Andrew's, we develop close relationships. I've noticed that friendships, on the Altar Guild or in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for example, are meaningful ones. "Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing," says St. Paul in the letter to the Thessalonians.

Sharing our faith with one another, we grow spiritually. Studying the Bible is key to our Christian development. So this month we begin our new Monday night and Wednesday morning Bible Study groups. Please come.

Our study and worship lead us to deepen our participation in community work. Every time you give of yourself to another, you perform an act of charity. You spread the Good News of Christ. How is God calling *you* to be a witness to Christian reconciliation and unity on a personal day-to-day basis?

Think of the personal fulfillment we receive from giving. We always receive more than we give. Our thanks can be a sign of salvation, a light to people outside the community, beckoning them in.

As February continues the Epiphany season of light and ends with the new season of Lent (a word that comes from the "lengthening" of daylight), may we spread our Christ-Light to people beyond our red door.

Faithfully,

Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins
Rector

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Sundays

February 1: 4 Epiphany

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
11:30am-Forum: "About the Episcopal Church" - Part I of DVD

February 8: 5 Epiphany

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
11:30am -Forum: "About the Episcopal Church" - Part II of DVD

February 15: 6 Epiphany

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
11:30am - Forum
3pm - Absalom Jones service, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

February 22: Last Epiphany

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
11:30am-Forum: "How Can Hospice Help?,"
a forum led by Michelle Cameron of Atlantic Healthcare & Hospice

February 25: Ash Wednesday

7:30am - Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
11:35am - Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
7:30pm - Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 11:35am

(Timed so that nursery school parents & teachers can join us.)

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Senior Youth Group

- Feb. 7 **Bowling at Plaza Lanes, Madison, 7:30-10:30pm**
RSVP to Rev. Peggy. Depart St. A's parking lot at 7:15pm.
- Feb. 14 **Acolyte Festival**, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
- Feb. 15 **Trip to Trinity Cathedral for Absalom Jones Service**
Depart from St. A's at 1:30, return 6pm.
Pilgrimage Planning - please bring your calendar.
- Feb. 27-28 **Youth at Diocesan Convention in Wildwood**
See Rev. Peggy if you would like to participate.

Junior Youth Group

- Feb. 7 **Bowling at Plaza Lanes, Madison, 7:30-10:30pm**
RSVP to Mrs. Macdonald or Rev. Peggy
- Feb. 8 **Sunday Night Meeting with Dinner, 6-8pm**
- Feb. 14 **Acolyte Festival**, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
- Feb. 22 **Sunday Night Meeting with Dinner, 6-8pm**
- Feb. 27-28 **Youth at Diocesan Convention in Wildwood**
See Rev. Peggy if you would like to participate.

Calling all acolytes and wanna-be acolytes....

ANNUAL ACOLYTE FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 14

Trinity Cathedral, 808 West State Street, Trenton

We will depart from St. Andrew's parking lot at 8am (festival goes from 9:30am-3:30pm); we'll leave Trenton at 2:30pm and return to St. Andrew's by 4pm.

Even if you are just thinking about being an acolyte, because it's a great experience and a wonderful group of people, you are welcome to join us on a trip down to Trinity Cathedral in Trenton.

Being an acolyte is being a leader: something you can put on your college application! **RSVP** to Rev. Peggy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

Godly Play Arrives!

On January 4, children had their first Godly Play class! In the past few weeks, children have enjoyed learning about the Holy Family, Baptism, and the Church Year using story sets. Therese Dalton is teaching wonderful guided lessons as the "storyteller" and Chris Dalton is the "doorperson" who helps with the children and leading the resource activities. The Bible stories and lessons are taught from a storytelling method using story figures to help them wonder, explore faith and become aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Godly play makes the stories come alive with key sacred stories, parables and liturgical practices using story set figures and resource activities which help children create and discover more about the lesson. Very positive comments are coming from parents, the teachers, and our student assistant Lexi Evans. Come join us!

Sunday School Supplementary Bible and Episcopal Studies

I developed a Supplementary Studies chart for all age-appropriate grade levels. The chart includes Bible verses, Lord's Prayer, Golden Rule, Ten Commandments, Psalm 23, Church Seasons, Creeds and overviews of the Holy Bible, Prayer Book, Hymnal and more! These are important for children to learn over the coming years. These will be reviewed each term along with the Lectionary curriculum and the Rock Solid curriculum.

Upcoming Events

Cards For Mariners

Children will make Easter cards for Mariners On the Sea and On the River for the Seamen's Institute. During the Easter season, many seamen are away from home and these cards bring cheer to those who are far from their families. The cards are included in bags of gifts for them. We will make the cards at the Shrove Pancake Supper on **February 24**. Come for pancakes and make some cards!

Youth Sunday

All Sunday School classes from Preschool-Grade 6 will participate in a Youth Service on **March 15** at 10am. They will be ushers, readers and singers. They will learn about the worship service and serving God by being a part of it! Come see and hear us!

Nursery Welcomes You

Parents, please feel free to bring your child to the nursery during Sunday services. Katie Evans is there to help you!

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

A DAY OF GODLY PLAY

Sponsored by the Diocese of New Jersey: Committee on Lifelong Formation.

Leader: The Rev. Emily Griffin, Asst. Rector, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Pennington.

This day-long workshop offers both an introduction to Godly Play and a refresher for those already using this method of spiritual formation. After experiencing a complete Godly Play session and exploring storytelling techniques, we will examine issues of classroom management and teacher roles, learn techniques for deepening wondering and art response with different age groups, and conclude with a session on classroom space and materials (aka, Godly Play on a budget!).

When: **Saturday, March 14 from 9am-3:30pm**

Cost: \$25 per person, lunch included. \$60 maximum per parish.

Where: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 300 South Main Street, Pennington,

(609) 737-0985

Register by Friday March 6

Registration by email is preferred to spaige@newjersey.anglican.org. Or fax registration form (see Joyce or Peggy) to (609) 394-9546, mail form, or phone Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281, ext. 10.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Young adults (ages 18-32) are needed as volunteers to serve at Diocesan Convention.

When and where: Thursday evening , February 26 (for training) through Saturday morning, February 28 at the Wildwoods Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ.

- ** Volunteers will be provided with lodging in a townhouse and meals.
- ** Responsibilities: Staff registration tables and assist with voting.
- ** Visit the Facebook Event for Young Adults at Diocesan Convention:
<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=69223145715>
- ** Benefits: support the Diocese of New Jersey; learn about the government, mission and ministries of the Church; spend time with other young adults; network with leaders from around the Diocese.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, please contact Ann Notte at anotte@newjersey.anglican.org or (609) 394-5281 ext. 41.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF SUPPORTS HOSPITAL IN GAZA

Since the recent upsurge on December 27, the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has left more than 550 people dead and 2,500 injured. Episcopal Relief & Development's partner, the Ahli Arab Hospital, reports devastating civilian casualties and a rising death toll in Gaza City.

During this time of crisis, Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) remains in close contact with its partner the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, sending initial emergency funds to the Ahli Arab Hospital.

"Please pray for the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Ahli Arab Hospital as they risk their own lives to provide life-saving emergency care to people injured in the ongoing conflict" said Rob Radtke, President of ERD.

COME CELEBRATE A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS Absalom Jones service at the Cathedral

Celebrate the life and witness of the Reverend Absalom Jones, the first Black to be ordained in the Episcopal Church, on **Sunday, February 15** at 3pm with Bishop Councill presiding at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. The Rev. Canon Leroy Lyons will preach. The Senior Youth Group is going! If you would like to carpool with us, we will be departing at 1:30pm from the parking lot of St. Andrew's. We'd love to have you join us.

Grace Church invites St. Andrew's to BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebration!

Grace Episcopal Church is located at 600 Cleveland Avenue in Plainfield.

Thursday, February 12 7:30 pm

Vigil of Absalom Jones, Holy Eucharist. Blessed Absalom was the first African-American Episcopal priest in the United States.

Guest preacher: Rev. Andy Moore, Rector, St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabeth.

Celebrant: Rev. Andrea R. Hayden, Rector of St. Augustine's Church, Asbury Park. Rev. Hayden will be the first African-American woman to celebrate the Eucharist at the Altar of Grace Church.

Saturday, February 21 6:00 pm

Gala banquet celebrating foods from the African Diaspora.

Featuring Plainfield Good News Community Gospel Choir, directed by Mark Miller.

Keynote Speaker: Adam Hunter, New Brunswick attorney, Harvard Law graduate, CNN guest commentator.

Pastoral Care Notes

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVERS

Caregivers need support, too! This support group for caregivers will offer social and emotional support in the way of problem solving and care management. If you are caring for a loved one and would like to share experiences, exchange practical information and acquire information on support services, please consider attending these sessions led by facilitator, Margaret Popovitch, RN, MSN.

Meetings will be held from 7:30pm-8:30pm on Tuesday evenings beginning

January 27 in the Youth Room of the Little Flower Parish Center in Berkeley Heights. You may enter through the front door of the Parish Center by the flagpole. For further information, please contact either Kay Stumbar (kstumbar@lfbhnj.org, 464-7444) or Margaret Popovitch (Mpopovitch@comcast.net, 464-6450).

Bereavement Group Meets

To help those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, a bereavement group will meet the first and third Wednesdays at 2 p.m., at St. George's Episcopal Church in Maplewood. Call Sue Hirner for more information: 908-273-8509.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR BOWLING FUN!

Bowling Night is February 7! Youth and adults are invited to Plaza Lanes in Madison to raise money for St. Andrew's School. \$40/person or \$150 for a team of four, includes 3 hours of bowling, shoes, good food and drink. To reserve a spot, adults should contact the school office at (908) 464-4878. Youth group member should contact Cynthia Macdonald at tcatmac@verizon.net. Pre-payment is required.

THE ST. ANDREW'S ENDOWMENT FUND celebrates its first birthday

The St. Andrew's Endowment Fund is now one year old! The fund exists to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating fund. Distributions are limited to capital needs of the Parish, outreach ministries or grants, to establish seed money for new ministries, special one-time projects and such other purposes as are specifically designated by donors. Funds are invested in a balanced investment account at Vanguard.

One of the missions of the Endowment Board is to raise the awareness of the fund and encourage long-term planned giving by parishioners of St. Andrew's. Donations can be made by outright gifts of cash or securities, bequest through one's will or trust, or by naming the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary to retirement accounts or life insurance policies. Anyone interested in making a gift can speak to any of the board members: Bob Ashmun, Amy Evans, Dave Hannaford, David Morris or Tom Kelsey. All gifts or bequests should be made in the name of St. Andrew's Endowment Fund.

NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASSES BEGIN THIS MONTH

St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

How do the issues of one of the first Christian communities relate to our church today?

Find out at our new Wednesday Bible Study with Dorretta Waite's leadership to be held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, beginning **February 4 at 10:30am** (followed by the 11:35am Eucharist).

Or join us at the Monday night Bible Study, led by the Brotherhood, to be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, beginning **February 9 at 7:30pm**, and followed by Compline prayers.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 24

6pm-7:30pm in the parish hall

Hosted by the Parish Life Committee

Pancakes Professionally Flipped by
The Brotherhood of St. Andrew!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES OF TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN

Financial aid is available for families with children who are ill with incurable or terminal diseases. The Diocese of NJ offers financial assistance through the Jane O.P. Turner Fund. The funds are available to all children, not just Episcopalians. Please see the rector for more information, or call the Diocesan Finance Dept. at (609) 394-5281, ext. 31.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

Saturday, March 28

9am to 4:15pm

Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon

A Quiet Day is an opportunity to step away from the structure and work-a-day world of daily life and spend some uninterrupted time with God and friends. The day will be organized around meditations on the meaning of the Latin word AVE as in the interpretation of its constituent letters: A - acceptance, V - vulnerability and E - expectation. There will be opportunities for corporate and private worship; times of silence for

personal prayer, reflection and meditation; and the use of the Labyrinth Walk. There will be time for reading and journaling, and several of the clergy will be available for anyone who desires to meet with them for the Office of Reconciliation. Silence will be observed throughout the day except at certain times of meditation reflections.

Coffee and a light fare will be provided on arrival and a light lunch will be served at midday.

There is no charge for the Quiet Day, but any free-will contribution would be appreciated. Space is limited and attendance will be restricted to the first 35 people who register. The event is open to both men and women of the parish and the larger community of the Diocese of New Jersey.

Leaders: The Venerable Canon Andrew M. France, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania; The Rev. John A. Rollins, Retired Priest of the Diocese of Newark; and L. E. "Jim" Keller, Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon.

Please contact Jim Keller at (908) 713-0724 or jim.keller36@comcast.net for further information, questions and directions, or to make your reservation for the Quiet Day.

**You are Invited to an
Open House
for our Church and School
Saturday, March 7
10am - Noon**

We need your help! Can you assist in any of the following ways?

Set-up at 9am, clean-up at noon, refreshments, being a smiling presence, representing a ministry or committee?

Please contact Rev. Peggy at hodgkinsp@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CONVENT OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST

Winter Search Program

A weekend live-in, Feb. 13 (5pm) - Feb. 16 (1pm).

Share the life of the Sisters and learn about Religious Life, a radical commitment to God. Write or email Sr. Eleanor Francis at serf@csjb.org.

What is Your Type?

Saturday, Feb. 28, 9am-4pm.

Are you a perfectionist? A caregiver? A romantic? A peacemaker? Learn more about your gifts and challenges through the lens of the Enneagram. Based on ancient wisdom, the Enneagram helps us to understand our God-given nature and how better to relate to others. Conducted by Sr. Laura Katharine. To register, call Sr. Barbara Jean at (973) 543-4641, ext. 1.

\$55, includes lunch.

Fabric of Faith

Thursdays, Feb. 5 & 19, 10:30am-3pm.

Learn about Ecclesiastical embroidery and the preservation of vestments. \$10, includes lunch. Contact Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth at (973) 543-4641, ext. 5 or srse@csjb.org.

Resting in God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer

Feb. 7, 9am-3:30pm.

A Preparation for Lent presented by the Rev. Elizabeth Eddy and Leslee Terpay. Do you seek the still, small voice of God? This workshop will help you to become more open to the God within and hear the "ear of your heart." \$55, meals included. \$25 deposit. Contact Sr. Pamela at sr-pamela@csjb.org or (973) 543-4641, ext. 9.

DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING YOUR PSE&G BILL?

The LIHEAP Program, through NJ SHARES, helps those who are experiencing a financial crisis pay their PSE&G bill. For guidelines and more info, please visit www.pseg.com/liheap, www.njshares.org or call 1-866-657-4273.

GARDENING NEWS

Just like our resident groundhogs, GOSA activity has been in hibernating mode lately. It seems as though winter arrived early this year. "Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow," as in the Christmas hymn "*In The Bleak Midwinter*." But alas, it is said that January is armchair gardening month.

Soon Joyce and I will begin planning the GOSA calendar for 2009. If you have any suggestions for the upcoming gardening season, please contact either of us. We would like to increase the number of parishioners taking part in gardening activities this year. Some days last year, we had only four or five people taking part on a Saturday. This does not permit us to complete the various projects that need to be accomplished in our gardens.

Please give us a try, even for an hour or two on a Saturday morning. Gardening experience or a green thumb not required, just a desire to use your other fingers to help us maintain the lovely gardens and grounds of St. Andrew's Church.

WE can do it, YOU can help!

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

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

- Feb. 11 **Youth Ministry Adult Workshop: Teenage Suicide**
- Feb. 12-14 **Analyzing & Understanding Systemic Racism-Intro Training**
- Feb. 27-28 **225th Convention of the Diocese**

For more info on these and other courses, please visit the Diocesan Website at www.newjersey.anglican.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on **February 21 from 9am-2pm** in the parish hall. More than 500,000 units of blood are transfused in New Jersey hospitals each year. In 2007, New Jersey used 45,269 more units of blood than it collected and had to borrow from other states. More than 60% of New Jersey adults are eligible to donate blood, yet only 2.5% donate on a routine basis. If New Jersey could double its donor participation to the national average of 5%, the state would eliminate its blood shortage. Please contact Diane LaPara at dlapara@verizon.net to register.

FLOWER ALTAR GUILD

The Flower Guild invites you to donate flowers for the altar during the coming months. We have lots of Sundays available, so pick a date, fill out a flower form located on the table in the Narthex, and drop it off at either the parish office or my church mailbox, or call me at (908) 665-1211.

Sara Jane Vignali

A RECIPE FOR ALL TO ENJOY!

There were so many compliments given on the pistachio bundt cake served at a recent reception that we thought we would share the recipe with everyone:

Pistachio Bundt Cake

Duncan Hines white cake mix
 2 packages instant pistachio pudding
 1 cup club soda
 ½ cup vegetable oil
 4 eggs
 1 teaspoon almond extract
 ½ cup - 1 cup chopped walnuts

Mix all ingredients (except walnuts) together until blended.

Fold in walnuts.

Pour into greased bundt pan.

Bake 350 degrees for 50 - 60 minutes.

Let sit 20 minutes.

Loosen, cool on rack.

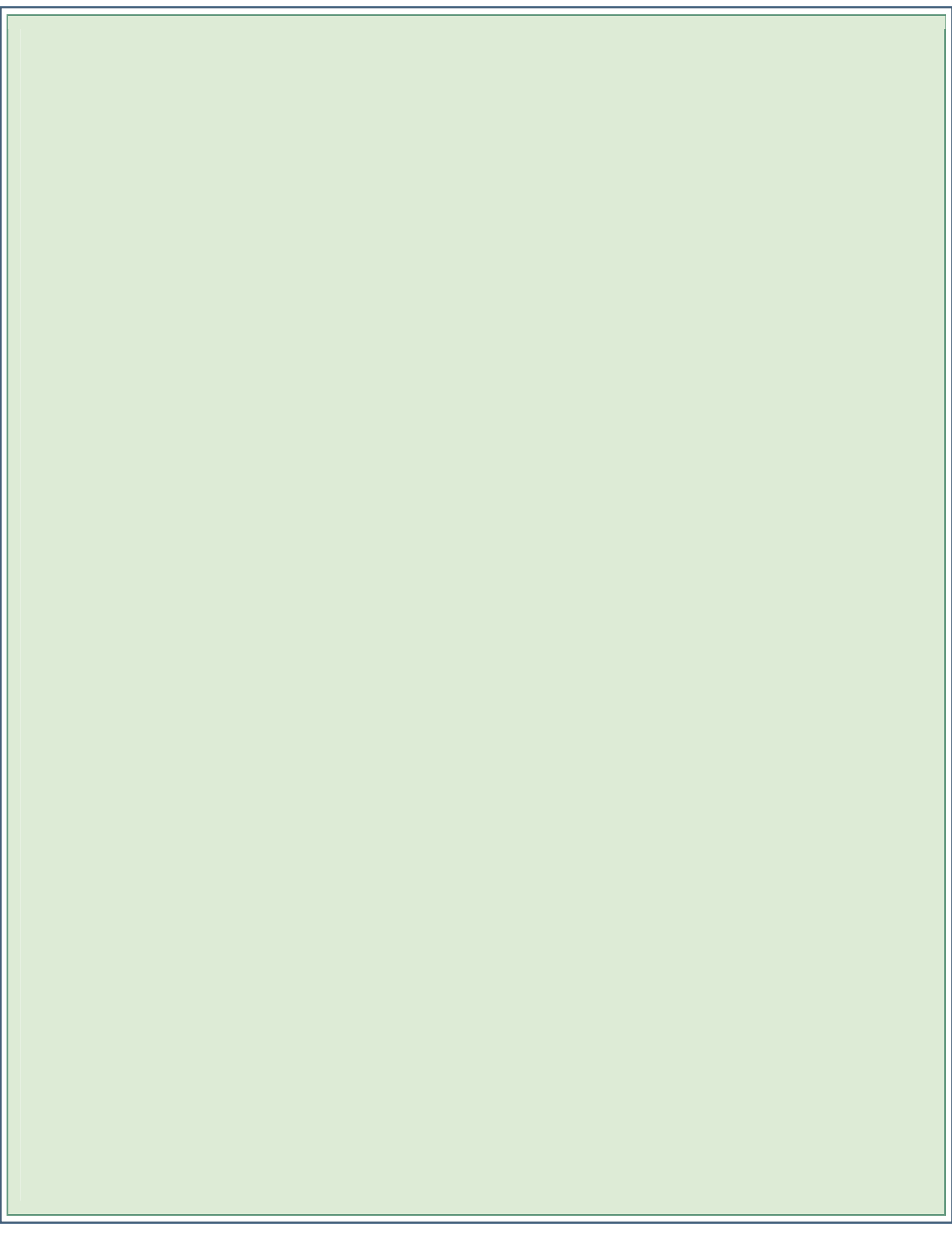
Sprinkle powdered sugar on top.

Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor*

ehjordan@comcast.net

Deadline for March issue of the eNET is February 20.

Submissions may be edited.



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