

# The e-Net

## St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

### New Providence, NJ

<b>In This Issue</b>	<b>FROM THE RECTOR</b>
<a href="#">WORSHIP &amp; EDUCATION</a>	Dear Friends,
<a href="#">SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT</a>	The great writer J.D. Salinger was discussed in <i>The New York Times</i> last week on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. The key question of his novels was raised: <i>How do we lead a spiritual life in a vulgar material society?</i>
<a href="#">HOSPITALITY</a>	Salinger tried to figure this question out in his early books, such as <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> . Some speculate that he struggled mightily to find an answer, but ended up disillusioned. Finally he went totally silent. He has not issued a new novel in over forty years.
<a href="#">GARDENING NEWS</a>	This question of <u>how to lead a spiritual life</u> is one on which the church cannot afford to be silent. As church people, the life of following Jesus Christ <i>is</i> the way we have chosen to lead a life with meaning in this world.
<a href="#">YOUTH GROUP NEWS!</a>	In this New Year, we can resolve to lead a more deeply spiritual life by renewing three basic disciplines:
<a href="#">DIOCESAN YOUTH NEWS</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Come to church every Sunday.</li><li>2. Start praying every day at a set time, and in a set place.</li><li>3. Read the Bible.</li></ol>
<a href="#">ANTI-RACISM TRAINING</a>	Most of us are adults who are no longer in school, and so no one is grading us on our spiritual knowledge. No one is taking attendance at services. Spiritual discipline is really between you and God.
<a href="#">THINKING OF BAPTISM?</a>	As 2009 gets off to a hopeful start, the Vestry is challenging us to grow as a church. Inner growth is the platform on which outer growth is manifested through our relationships in and through the light of Christ. Our personal inner spiritual growth is magnified when we come together as a faith community.
<a href="#">CHRISTIAN FORMATION DAY</a>	Let's resolve to make our life together a spiritual experience that we are able to share with passion and purpose beyond our own red door.
<a href="#">RECTOR TO ATTEND CREDO CONFERENCE</a>	May you and your loved ones have a blessed New Year. Faithfully, Peggy+
<a href="#">A HEARTFELT PRAYER</a>	The Rev. Margaret R. Hodgkins, Rector
<a href="#">ST. ANDREW'S HOSTS FORUM ON LOW-INCOME FAMILIES</a>	
<b>If you would like to access the church website and our calendar of events, please click here:</b> <a href="http://www.standrewschurch.org">www.standrewschurch.org</a>	

## WORSHIP AND EDUCATION Sundays

### **January 4: Second Sunday of Christmas**

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

### **Tuesday, January 6: The Epiphany**

(also known as Twelfth Night)  
7:30pm - Evening Service of Holy Eucharist

*O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

### **January 11: 1 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  
11am-Rite 13 & J2A Classes (7-12 Grade)

### **January 18: 2 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,  
Celebration of a New Ministry with John Hartman  
11am-Rite 13 & J2A Classes (7-12 Grade)

### **January 25: 3 Epiphany**

9am-**Annual Parish Meeting**  
with Child Care provided  
Mrs. Kern will advise about Sunday School (PreK-Grade6)  
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir  
11am-Rite 13 & J2A Clases (7-12 Grade)

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

## **Sunday School Spirit**

### **Advent and Christmas Spirit Memories**

Advent was a time of helping other children around the world with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts as our Sunday School outreach project. During Advent our Sunday School children met in the parish hall and enjoyed singing favorite Christmas carols that

are in the Narrative. Maureen Kelleher accompanied us beautifully on the piano and Eileen Fairchild led the singing. We made Trinity symbol ornaments and decorated the Chrismon tree. This was a time to remember... full of events to share the "spirit" at St. Andrew's Church and Sunday School together!

### **Christmas Narrative Gratitude**

We had a wonderful group of children and youths of all ages participate in the Christmas Narrative at St. Andrew's! My appreciation to everyone involved with it: the outstanding leadership of Eileen Fairchild and Kevin Fairchild; the enthusiasm of the student assistant directors; the wonder of the cast; the readings by the narrators; the adorable wooly sheep; the support of the student props managers; the fine efforts of Rick Anderson, props manager and set up/clean up crew; the great costume volunteers, the delicious refreshments provided by parents; the cover of the Christmas Narrative bulletin by Ellie Mencke, the music of Howard Dreizler, with Carl Santiago; and the guidance of our rector Peggy Hodgkins. I want to express my gratitude to all of you for creating the Christmas Story at St. Andrew's Church and sharing the "Spirit of Christmas" to all who were there to be on a journey with us on Christmas Eve!

### **Season of Epiphany**

Our next church season is Epiphany. What does the word Epiphany mean? Here is some information you might want to share with your child about Epiphany, which is observed on **January 6**. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "showing forth."

This is the story of the three magi who came from the East following a special star to bring gifts to the baby Jesus. They were Gentiles, not Jews, and they worshiped him. Their names were Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, and they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The eve of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night) marks the end of the Christmas celebration. A child might learn that: Jesus called his friends to be with him and to help him with his work; Jesus came for all the people of the world; Jesus is like a light, helping us to see better; we are baptized into God's family, the church.

### **Welcome Winter Term Teachers!**

We are thankful to the following volunteer teachers for their service in the Children's Ministry. Preschool: Christen Simmons, with student assistants Lexi Evans and Kathleen Simmons; Kindergarten/Grade 1: Chris and Therese Dalton; Grade 2 and 3: Maureen Kelleher; Grades 4, 5 and 6: Joan Morabito and Anne Marie Hannaford.

-Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

## HOSPITALITY

For many, great fellowship and good food offered during St. Andrew's Sunday Coffee Hour is a highlight of the churchgoing experience. Our Coffee Hosts play a vital role in making our church a warm and welcoming place. Thank you to those who made a contribution to this important part of church life during September, October, November and December.

### **Families/Groups/Individuals who hosted:**

Anderson, Ashmun, Dalton, Davies, Mr. Robert Evans family, Friedlander, Macdonald, Milbrodt, Pape, Strong, J2A/Rite 13, and the 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Sunday School Class.

Opportunities to host Sunday Coffee Hour during January, February and March are now available. It's easy, fun and you'll receive much appreciation! Please sign up for an open Sunday on the list located on the bulletin board outside the parish hall.

-Margery Ashmun

## GARDENING NEWS

The gardening season at St. Andrew's has come to a close for this year. December 6 was our last Garden Party, where the main tasks were raking, blowing and transporting leaves from the gardens to the South Street curb.

We had many St. Andrew's parishioners in attendance, along with a good group of Boy Scouts from Troop 1. Our crew was fortified by a delicious homemade hearty breakfast created and served by Judy and Sandy Davies -- and assisted by Lizzy and Neal!

We had a successful day, moving loads of leaves. We also completed some final winterizing projects in the gardens as well.

Thanks to the following parishioners who took part that day: Dave Morris, Drew Vignali, Tom Kelsey, Jan Miller, Barbara Pape, Elizabeth Jordan, Ian Jordan, Joyce Kern, Rev. Peggy Hodgkins and Rick Anderson. Also thanks to Cheryl Petroski for organizing the scouts of Troop 1.

GOSA will go into dormancy now, but we're looking forward to popping our heads above the soil come spring!

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

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!

*Teens Deliver Christmas Gifts to Help Needy Children given by our Church & School Through Operation Shoebox Service Project.*



In December, both Senior and Junior Youth Groups celebrated a fun Christmas party with our Rite 13 and J2A leaders at Rev. Peggy's home. Both youth groups were fantastic stagehands and producers on Christmas Eve at the Narrative, guiding their younger proteges in roles they once starred in. Thank you Kevin and Eileen Fairchild for directing a wonderful pageant!

This fall, the Junior Youth Group learned some contemporary Christian songs led by guitarist Christen Simmons. The Senior Youth Group has spent time studying what a teenager named Joseph did in the book of Genesis, and also examined several versions of Bible translations this fall. We look forward to fellowship and some exciting excursions in 2009!

### January Schedule

#### Junior Youth Group (grades 6-8)

Jan. 11 and 25 - Sunday night meeting with dinner from 6-8pm  
Jan. 23 - **Bishop's Ball** at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton 8-midnight

#### Senior Youth Group (grades 9-12)

Jan. 4 - Sunday night meeting with dinner from 6-8 pm  
Jan. 16-18 - Mt. Snow, Vermont **Ski Trip**. (Required meeting for ski trip is Sunday Jan. 4 at 12 noon with parent(s) or guardian.)  
Jan. 23 - Friday 8pm-midnight - **Bishop's Ball** at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton

Youth: remember that your friends are always invited to Youth Group!

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**Dear Parents of Jr. and Sr. Youth Group members:**

I need one Parent Coordinator in each youth group to help me schedule dinners for our regular Sunday night meetings from January thru May. If you can help, please contact Rev. Peggy: [hodgkinsp@gmail.com](mailto:hodgkinsp@gmail.com) or (908) 464-4875.

Also: drivers needed for Bishop's Ball on Jan. 23!!

**Sr. Youth Group Parents:** The Youth and I need your assistance to plan the dates this spring for the Journey to Adulthood Class Pilgrimage. As our youth attend several schools, the coordination of dates would be a big help!

Many thanks to all our parents for their support!

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**SKI TRIP MEETING**

All who plan to go on the Senior Youth Group Ski Trip on Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend to Mt. Snow, Vermont (Grades 9-12) and their parents must attend the Ski Trip Information Meeting on **Sunday, January 4** at 12 noon in the parish library.

**DIOCESAN YOUTH NEWS**

**The 50th Annual Bishop's Ball!**

Teens are invited to join this diocesan-wide tradition of gathering for music, food, dancing and fun! With recording artist Fran McKendree (who has worked with Fleetwood Mac, Elton John and James Taylor, and brings excitement and depth to the stage), followed by a big dance, food and reception. Bishop Cancell and Bishop Romero will both be there and the night promises to be unforgettable! \$15/each advance tickets or \$20 at the door. **January 23** from 8pm till midnight at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton. See [www.newjerseyyouth.org](http://www.newjerseyyouth.org).

**Youth at Diocesan Convention**

**February 27-28** in Wildwood, NJ. See Rev. Peggy if you would like to participate.

**ANTI-RACISM TRAINING**

Anti-Racism Training at Ocean Grove, **Feb. 12-14**, free room and board. Offered by the Anti-Racism Commission, this introductory 2 1/2-day training is for all teens and adults, lay and clergy, interested in learning about racism and potentially joining the team to fight racism in our diocese. Register with Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281 ext. 10, or [spaige@newjersey.anglican.org](mailto:spaige@newjersey.anglican.org).

## THINKING OF BAPTISM?

**These are the appointed Sundays for Baptism in 2009:**

**January 11 (The Baptism of Jesus)**

**April 11 (The Great Vigil of Easter)**

**May 31 (Pentecost)**

**November 1 (All Saints' Day)**

This list should not be considered as the last word on when we might have baptisms, but it is a good place to start. Preparatory classes for parents and godparents of infants and young children are generally held the day before the baptism. Preparation for adult baptism can be done privately or through participation in an Inquirer's class. If you are interested in learning more about baptism - at any age - please call the Rev. Peggy Hodgkins at (908) 464-4875 or email her at [hodgkinsp@gmail.com](mailto:hodgkinsp@gmail.com).

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION DAY

Build teaching and leadership skills at Christian Formation Day on **Saturday, January 17** from 9:30am-3:30pm at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. Workshops include: Children's Formation and Curriculum Choice; Adult Studies; Strategies for Youth; Does the Episcopal Church Welcome...Young Adults?; Working with Special Needs Children; and, Facilitated Planning for Group Process.

Cost: \$10/person, \$25 maximum per parish (includes lunch). Register to [spaige@newjersey.anglican.org](mailto:spaige@newjersey.anglican.org) or call Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281 and indicate which workshops you wish to attend. **Deadline is January 12.**

## OUTREACH

**Following are the 2009 food drive dates:**

**Jan. 18, Feb 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15 and Dec 20.**

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We would like to thank each and everyone for making the 2008 pantry food drive such a success! Due to your generosity we have made a difference in the lives of our fellow neighbors! Our Thanksgiving drive went above and beyond all expectations. We were able to purchase and deliver **20 turkeys** to Grace Church in Elizabeth and we collected enough food from the congregation and the Boy Scouts to deliver over **100 bags of non-perishable food** to the Star-Fish Pantry in Plainfield.

We would like to personally thank Marty Dragos, and Sarah and Marlin White for delivering the turkeys, and Carolyn Glatz for helping to deliver the bags of food to the pantry. Diane and I would like to invite all of you to continue your generosity in the coming new year!

We would also like to thank the congregation for helping to make Christmas feel a little more joyful to our needy families in our community.

On behalf of the outreach committee we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

-Sandy Davies and Diane LaPara, Outreach Co-Chairs

## Rector To Attend Credo Conference

The Rev. Peggy Hodgkins has accepted an invitation to attend a CREDO conference from **May 11-18** at the Lake Logan Conference Center located in Canton, North Carolina.

The eight-day conference provides participants with the means to find direction and clarity in four component areas: spiritual, physical, vocational and financial. CREDO provides a foundation for participants to embrace wellness and to prayerfully discern the direction of their vocation.

CREDO was founded in 1997 as a pilot program funded by The Church Pension Group. Episcopal clergy, deacons and bishops from virtually every diocese in the country have taken advantage of the CREDO benefit. Participants are selected at random from all active clergy with more than one year in the Pension Fund. The Church Pension Fund pays all but \$500 of the conference costs.

The Rev. Hodgkins will join approximately 30 other clergy in the CREDO conference. Over the course of the conference, participants will meet in plenary sessions, small groups and private consultations with faculty members. Participants also have ample quiet time to reflect on their personal and professional lives.

Each participant commits to extensive reflection through pre-conference instruments and surveys that focus on personal and professional wellness. The work of CREDO is organized around four major areas in each person's personal and professional life. Each of these components is explored as an integral part of the whole:

**Spiritual** - offers a sacred space where each participant can reflect on his or her interior life and relationship with God in Christ.

**Vocational** - provides opportunities for reflection, discernment and planning in the professional areas of vocation, career and work.

**Health** - encourages reflection on physical and emotional health and well-being, stewardship of the body, and development of a plan to address the individual's health needs.

**Financial** - explores all aspects of personal financial management and encourages reflection on God-given resources and how best to use them in response to God's call.

Through this discernment and visioning process, and with the help of a faculty team of professionals, each participant builds a CREDO Plan - a personal covenant based on his or her CREDO work and a formal expression of the CREDO experience. The CREDO Plan provides a personal baseline and strategy for effective implementation.

## A HEARTFELT PRAYER

*May we discover through pain and torment,  
the strength to live with grace and humor.  
May we discover through doubt and anguish,  
the strength to live with dignity and holiness.  
May we discover through suffering and fear,  
the strength to move toward healing.  
May it come to pass that we be restored to health  
and to vigor.  
May Life grant us wellness of body, spirit, and mind.  
And if this cannot be so,  
may we find in this transformation and passage  
moments of meaning, opportunities for love  
and the deep and gracious calm that comes  
when we allow ourselves to move on.*

-Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro

## ST. ANDREW'S HOSTS FORUM ON LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

### **Congregation engages with Just Neighbors® Interactive Curriculum in December**

"Our congregation was amazed at the statistics of how many working American families are struggling with basic needs," said Rev. Peggy Hodgkins, Rector of St. Andrew's. Enthusiastic about the Just Neighbors experience, she added, "The December 7th presentation was an excellent way for us to see how ordinary things, which the middle class take for granted-- such as child care, enough food for the family, and transportation to work-- can be a stretch for neighbors with a low-wage income,"

Created by Family Promise of Summit, Just Neighbors is an interactive, multimedia curriculum that educates about the root

causes of poverty and homelessness in the United States.

Just Neighbors challenges people to respond to the reality that one in eight Americans—including one in every six children—live in poverty. In the session "Who Is My Neighbor?" members at St. Andrews watched a video about three working families who are struggling to make ends meet. The participants identified the obstacles low-income families face and discussed ways that they could respond. "As Wall Street woes begin to trickle down to every economic level of society, the presentation was timely and relevant to our faith community, and hopefully will spur us on to deeper social action," said Rev. Hodgkins, who plans to use the additional eight Just Neighbors sessions as a Lenten series this coming spring.

"A common misconception about people living in poverty is that they do not work or do not know how to manage their money. But a minimum-wage worker in New Jersey would have to work more than 57 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, just to keep a family of four at the unrealistically low federal poverty line." says Frank McCann, Director of the Just Neighbors program; "There just isn't enough money to go around!"

Surprise emanated from the participants as they completed a 10 question quiz called: "How Many of My Neighbors..." Few realized that urban child care is more costly than a public college in all states but one. Shock set in, realizing that among industrialized nations of the world only Mexico has a higher percentage of children living below the median income level than does the United States.

Future sessions will include balancing a family's budget, and walking in Annie's shoes, a mom with two children, who has just lost her husband. Sessions also look at the impact of poverty on children and consider the influence of prejudice, privilege and housing policy as root causes of poverty.

As active advocates for those in need, a common goal for St. Andrew's and Family Promise is to put faith into action, and promote activities that encourage people of faith to see low-income families as neighbors in need. "We want to end persistent stereotypes about low-income individuals and families and to support policies and programs that would benefit those living in poverty," said Cara Townsend, an associate with the Just Neighbors program.

Family Promise was founded on the belief that Americans are compassionate people who want to make a difference. Just Neighbors educates on this issue and more, asking its participants to be more than 'just another neighbor' - be a Just Neighbor.

#### **ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE**

With 136 affiliates mobilizing 120,000 volunteers in 39 states,

Family Promise harnesses the existing resources within a community to assist low-income families in building sustainable futures. Through its affiliates, Family Promise serves over 25,000 homeless and other at-risk clients annually. The Just Neighbors curriculum is one of five interconnected programs supported by Family Promise: Interfaith Hospitality Networks (IHNs) provide shelter and comprehensive services to families in immediate need; trained volunteers counsel guests through Family Mentoring; Community Initiatives foster the creative use of existing resources in IHN communities; and the Voices United program supports public policies that promote economic stability for low-income families.

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Andrew's Church will be held on **Sunday, January 25** at 9am. Please submit annual reports from all church groups and committees to the parish office email, [information@standrewschurch.org](mailto:information@standrewschurch.org), as soon as possible. See you there!

*Elizabeth Jordan, Editor*  
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**Deadline for February issue of the eNET is January 20.  
Submissions may be edited.**

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