

St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

New Providence, New Jersey

November 2009

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FROM THE RECTOR

*"As of old, St. Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake." --Hymn 549*

Dear Friends,

The saints who went before us dared to listen to the call of Christ. They grew in faith and learned to trust God's presence beyond anything else.

This month celebrates the ministry of all the saints. Think of our own patron saint, Andrew the fisherman, who was called to leave his lakeside business and follow Jesus on the Way. He was the very first disciple to be called by Jesus. He was the very first to respond to the call. Andrew was so deeply moved by the saving presence of Jesus, that he ran and got his brother Simon Peter so he, too, could know the Savior. One disciple begets another.

In the sacred moment of water being poured over our heads in the name of the Trinity, we welcome Christ consciously into our lives. May we listen to the call of Jesus, who knows us each by name since that day of our baptism. May we discern where God is leading us amid the tumult of daily life.

Jesus calls us over the noise of spam, over the clanging of the stock market bell, over the manic restlessness of our culture, and over the idolatry of our own hearts. Over and above the confusion of modern life, he sets before us a Way of life. His clear voice calls to us, saying, "Follow me, be my disciple."

Blessings on your journey,

Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Rector

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Sundays

November 1: All Saints' Day

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
Rite 13, J2A, YAC classes begin for Grades 6-12

November 8: 23 Pentecost

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
4pm-Festal Gathering at the Tabernacle in Ocean Grove
(No Rite 13/J2A/YAC today - NJEA Conference weekend)

November 15: 24 Pentecost

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
11:30am-Sheep Workshop with 4-H Leader Pauline Kodak
Rite 13, J2A, YAC classes meet after Holy Eucharist

November 22: Last Sunday of Pentecost Season

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 5)
10am-Holy Eucharist, **Youth Service**, Rite II with Choir
Rite 13, J2A, YAC classes for Grades 6-12

November 29: 1 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
11:30am-Advent Wreath-making workshop (for all ages)
(No Rite 13/J2A/YAC classes today)

Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 9:30am

NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Senior Youth Group will meet in the parish hall from 6pm-8pm, dinner included, on **November 1, November 15, and November 29.**

Junior Youth Group will meet in the parish hall from 6pm-8pm, dinner included, on **November 8 and November 22.**

A SEASON OF JOYFUL COMMITMENT

Here we are nearing the end of our Season of Joyful Commitment. From here we are afforded the unique perspective of looking back at our success and forward to our challenges. As a frequently seen disclaimer in the field of advertising puts it, "past performance does not guarantee a similar outcome..." And so, compiled here, are some relevant points to consider:

- Various opinions and statistics state that 75% of annual congregation income comes from 12%-15% of members. Let's buck this trend and participate instead!
- Talking about God and money in the same breath is uncomfortable for most of us.
- The word "tithes" occurs 67 times in the Scriptures. Just one example is Matthew 23:23 wherein Jesus makes a powerful reference to the tithe.
- Sign on the line. While the pledge card is a courtesy to our treasurer for budgeting, on a deeper level, it is our own commitment and perhaps our only "hardcopy" giving witness to Jesus Christ our Savior.
- Hmm, where have I seen this: "In God We Trust?"
- And lastly, smile when you make that commitment! Think about it. If we can't smile, maybe we're trying to give too much... or not enough.

In this, our Season of Joyful Commitment, I hope these comments find a place in our conversations and prayer. Remember, we are a church family. Let's work together, do what we can, and keep the faith.

Tom Macdonald

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

"Look not only to your own needs, but also to the needs of others." Phil. 2:4

Sunday School Stewardship

The word "steward" means "to take care of" and during this year in Sunday School we are learning how to take care of God's world in many ways with time, talent and treasures!

Good News Coins

"Good News Coins" are collected to send our used lessons to missionary Theresa Hudler, who teaches children in Cambodia. Theresa is a relative of St. Andrew's member Frances Bellak. The lessons will be translated to teach the Cambodian children. Children can bring in coins during the year. Stephen Cropper brought in automatic coin counting containers that we will use to collect our money.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

This Sunday School Outreach Project that sends Shoebox Gifts to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse continues through **November 22**. Thanks to Andrea Bigelow and Nancy Cropper for volunteering to help. Please take an OCC folder on the Shoebox Gifts display table in the parish hall for instruction details and return the shoebox by November 22! All shoebox gifts will be taken on that day by the J2A youths to a collection church. Thank you!

Sheep Program

I am pleased to announce that 4-H leader Pauline Kodack has offered to do a program about sheep on **November 15** during Sunday School for our children from Preschool-Grade 5. She brings the wonderful sheep to our Christmas Narrative each year! We will learn about the importance of sheep, see how to spin wool from sheep, and make sheep wool ornaments. How special...be sure to come!

Godly Play Training Session

Learn how to teach the sacred stories of the Bible using story set figures. A training session for Godly Play storytellers and team members will be held on **Saturday, November 21** from 9am-noon. Contact Joyce Kern.

Advent Wreath Making

On **November 29**, the First Sunday in Advent, we will be make Advent wreaths from fresh greens with four candles, one candle for each of the four Sundays in Advent, to light the way as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thanks to Jean Lachowicz for coordinating this event.

Christmas Eve Narrative Sign-Up Begins November 22

Eileen and Kevin Fairchild will direct the Christmas Narrative with live sheep this year, with Christen Simmons assisting. All children and youth are invited to participate in acting out the Christmas story!

Upcoming Seasonal Event Calendar Dates:

Nov. 15: Sheep Program, by Pauline Kodack, 4-H leader; brings sheep to Narrative!

Nov. 22: Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Gifts Dedication Sunday

Nov. 22, 29; Dec. 6: Narrative Sign Ups; Last sign-up date December 9

Nov. 29-Dec. 20: Sunday School Singing of Carols; 10:20am in the parish hall

Nov. 29: Parish Advent Wreath Making; 11:30am in the parish hall

Dec. 6: St Nicholas Sunday; Visit from St. Nicholas with oranges and gold coins!

Dec. 13: Decorating and Lighting the Chrismon Tree; refreshments included

Dec. 13: Christmas Narrative Rehearsal; 11:30am in the sanctuary

Dec. 19: Christmas Narrative Rehearsal, Saturday, 10:30am-11:30am, parish hall

Dec. 24: Christmas Narrative, 4pm

Dec. 27: No Sunday School or Nursery

Jan. 3: Sunday School Classes Resume at 9:30am; Nursery open

Please join us at these seasonal events and activities!

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

MUSIC MINISTRY

No Experience Necessary!

That's right! You can be a part of the music of St. Andrew's no matter what your experience level (including zip, nada, and nil). It's your interest and enthusiasm that are most important.

Can you play an instrument? Let me know. We are in need of musicians. Do you like to sing? Join the choir. You do not need to know how to read music...you will quickly learn (and enjoy it, too!).

Music is an important part of worship at St. Andrew's. Our choir does a wonderful job, doesn't it? More voices would be welcome, and we are working on some lovely music for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. If you'd like to join us, let me know...or just show up on a Thursday at 7:30pm and join in the singing.

Musically yours,
Doris Merrick, Minister of Music

YUM! YUM! YUM! JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FUN!

Saturday, November 14

Prestige Diner is hosting a fundraiser to benefit St. Andrew's Nursery School & Kindergarten. Between 8am-4pm on Saturday, November 14, just mention St. Andrew's when you order and a portion of all proceeds will be donated to St. Andrew's Nursery School & Kindergarten.

Come for breakfast!
Come for lunch!
Bring the family! Bring a friend!
Support St. Andrew's!

Prestige Diner is located at 1318 Springfield Avenue, New Providence.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP IS STARTING UP!

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be sponsoring a men's bible study group beginning 8pm on **Wednesday, November 4** at the LaPara's house, 97 Sherwood Drive, New Providence, (908) 508-0577. The group will meet at participant's houses and will continue for approximately 6 weeks, meeting on Mondays or Wednesdays depending on the host's schedule. Please join us!

TREASURY TALKING POINTS

- September 2009 was a solid month financially for St. Andrews.
- September income finished ahead of our budgeted target:
\$32,708.95 vs. budget of \$30,234.73.
- Year to date 2009, total income is behind by \$4,237.58:
\$315,415.03 vs. budget of \$319,652.61 (98.67% of target).
- September expenses finished under budget:
\$25,328.63 vs. budget of \$28,866.85.
- Year to date, expenses are under budget by \$14,650.04:
\$289,904.50 vs. budget of \$304,554.54.
- For net ordinary income YTD, we are at \$25,510.23 vs. budget
of \$15,098.07 (ahead of target by \$10,412.46).
- YTD net income is on target by \$6,585.03:
\$29,183.07 vs. budget of \$22,598.04.
- On the balance, it totals \$561,291.05.
- Including retained earnings of \$275,339.69.

David Hasenkopf, Treasurer

HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR WHAT WE HAVE AND GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT

St. Andrew's Nursery School and Kindergarten, in conjunction with St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth, will again be participating in a Holiday Giving Tree to help teach our children the meaning of giving to those children less fortunate.

Starting **Monday, November 9**, please stop by the parish hall to select a tag from our Holiday Giving Tree (please know there is no obligation to participate in this event). Once you've selected a tag, please make sure to add your name and tag number to the sign-out sheet so we can keep track of the tags. Each tag will be designated for a boy or girl up to the age of 12. You can purchase a toy of your choice for the child marked on the tag. Please note that St. Joe's has asked that toys not be purchased that have anything to do with violence, including war toys, anything with guns/sword, Battleship game, GI Joe, Star Wars, etc. Sporting equipment, building blocks, educational items, and Black and Hispanic dolls are the items most requested by the Center's children.

Please bring the gift-wrapped toy, with the tag attached on the outside of the wrapped package, to St. Andrew's to be placed under the tree by **Wednesday, December 2**.

Thank you for your generosity!

This is the 7th year the school and church are participating in this community giving. We couldn't do it without you!

Mary Donohue, Nursery School Director

ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE

The Church's Role in Building a "Post-Racial" America Saturday, November 21

Keynote speaker Byron Rushing's long service in Congress as Representative from Massachusetts, and in the Episcopal Church as an outspoken advocate for human rights, civil rights, peace and justice, will inform his address. Mr. Rushing is uniquely qualified to move comfortably back and forth on the secular-sacred continuum. He will focus on anti-racism strategies in both church and state, and the conference may be expected to address some of the more controversial issues around racism in society, such as affirmative action, educational testing, and access to employment in such key public service professions as the police and public health.

Conference sponsored by the Anti-Racism Commission, Diocese of New Jersey.

Registration: 8:30am

Program: 9am-3pm

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Lunch provided

Address: Trinity Cathedral

801 West State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08618

(609) 392-3805

Deadline to register is Monday, November 16.

Register at spaige@newjersey.anglican.org or phone Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281, ext. 10.

DESPERATELY SEEKING USHERS!

ONLY ONE LITTLE HOUR A MONTH!

PLEASE HELP! We're seeking men, women and youth ushers for the 10am service. Ushering is an important part of the service, but not a difficult task for anyone. If you're currently not volunteering in a ministry to support the Sunday service or Sunday School, why not give ushering a try? Please help us out! We are flexible, and our monthly ushering schedule will fit your schedule. **GIVE IT A TRY!**

We welcome Bob Evans to our cadre of 10am ushers! If you have any questions, please contact Rick Anderson, 464-8911. Usher instructions are provided.

FESTIVE JAZZ VESPERS

Join in a celebration with the whole Diocese of NJ of God's ever-faithful and unchanging care for us at an uplifting worship experience **November 8 at 4pm**. The gathering is titled, "For I am sure . . ." -- taken from Romans 8, reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

This service is being held at Ocean Grove at the Tabernacle. You can get there very easily following directions from the Ocean Grove website: www.oceangrove.org.

The Rev. Dr. Francis Wade will be our guest preacher. Frank was Chaplain to the House of Deputies and former Rector of St. Alban's, Washington, D.C.
Bishop George Councill will be our Officiant.

Our purpose is to praise God as we gather together in one community. We invite all Lay Eucharistic Visitors to attend, along with other members of their congregations.

The Bishop will distribute the Fermentum -- an ancient practice of demonstrating unity. In the earliest centuries of the church, bishops would share the bread among other bishops and all the churches in their charge. At the service on November 8, each parish will receive unconsecrated Bread for use in the next week's service, which is intended to be shared not only with parishioners but also with the infirmed.

Our songs will be boisterous, our prayers courageous, and our fellowship wonderfully warmed!

GARDENING NEWS

Please don't LEAF us alone! Come out and lend a hand, even for an hour, and join us at one or both of the upcoming Leaf Collection And Transport Work Parties on **Saturday, November 7** and **Saturday, December 5**. Gardening experience not required. In November, we begin the annual gathering and transporting of fallen leaves out to South Street, and buttoning up the gardens for the season. We could use some extra hands.

Garden volunteers, with assistance from Scout Troop 1, help keep the church leaf collection costs to a minimum.

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

Weekday Lay Weeders

If there are any parishioners interested in doing some light gardening during the week, either in the morning or afternoon for an hour or so, please contact Rick. Our once-a-month GOSA gardening work parties are just not enough time to accomplish what we need to do.

Day Of Caring

A group of 8th grade United Way volunteers arrived on November 3 to help spread mulch around our lovely campus as part of the United Way Day of Caring.

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 to Sandy Davies soon!

GOSA Funds

This spring our gardening volunteers elected not to hold our annual April flower fundraising event, due to the economic situation and remaining funds in our account from last year. 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 next spring, to be called "GOSA Flower & Garden 2010."

2011 GOSA Garden Calendar

At our October meeting, we discussed the idea of creating a Gardens of St. Andrew's calendar for 2011. The calendar would include an appropriate photo of one of the church gardens/landscape/garden activity for each month. The calendar could also include GOSA/St. Andrew's Parish/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. No one at the meeting has had experience creating calendars, but software programs/websites must be available. We're not sure what the cost would be to create each calendar and whether this idea would work as a fundraiser or not. If you have had experience creating calendars, please contact Rick Anderson at rick243@comcast.net.

Remember our GOSA motto: **"WE can do it, YOU can help!"**

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

PIZZA NIGHT!

Come one...Come all
to St. Andrew's Nursery School & Kindergarten Pizza Night!
Pizza by Pioneer Pizza, 1260 Springfield Ave., New Providence
Enjoy having dinner at school with family & friends!
Enjoy a slice for \$2 or a whole pie for \$14.
Water will be provided.
Baked goods, made by our St. Andrew's moms, will be for sale.

When: **Thursday, November 19**

Where: St. Andrew's parish hall

Please contact the Nursery School office if you would like to reserve tickets. Payment must be made in advance.

GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION REPORT

The report of the 2009 General Convention deputation of New Jersey is now online in PDF form. You can find it here:

<http://newjersey.anglican.org/DiocesanConvention/2010/2009GC/Doc1-DeputationReport.pdf>

PARISH MILESTONES

Burials

Mary Mazzarelli Cassanos was buried in the St. Francis Memorial Garden on October 16. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

- Nov. 9** Monday, Nursery School Giving Tree Outreach Project, PH
- Nov. 11** Wednesday, 10:30am Bible Study, PL
- Nov. 11** Wednesday, 1:30pm Synthesis Study Group, PL
- Nov. 17** Tuesday, 7:30pm Vestry Meeting, PL
- Nov. 19** Monday, 3:30pm Tiger Scout meeting, SR
- Nov. 22** Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts dedication
- Nov. 23** Monday, **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**, Westminster Pres., BH
(Please bring canned goods for offering.)
- Nov. 25** Wednesday, 10:30am Bible Study, PL
- Nov. 25** Wednesday, 1:30pm Synthesis Study Group, PL
- Nov. 26** Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 29** St. Andrew's Sunday
- Nov. 29** Advent Wreath Making and Advent Calendars
- Dec. 5** Saturday, 10am-noon Church and School **Open House**
- Dec. 6** Giving Tree gifts due in parish hall

(Key: PL=parish library; SR=Shreve room, lower level; PH=parish hall)

Elizabeth Jordan, Editor

ehjordan@comcast.net

Deadline for the December issue of the eNET is Monday, November 23.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
419 South Street
New Providence, NJ 07974