

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

New Providence, NJ

October 2009

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FROM THE RECTOR

Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
when he delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.

Psalm 37:23-24

Dear Friends,

Each of us has been affected by the changes in the economy, some of us quite severely. Job loss and major declines of our life savings cause us great anxiety about the future. Some conditions of comfort we have known may not continue. Many of us will need to make do with less, and adjust our expectations of what will happen in the months and years to come. In these uncertain times, life is changing all around us. The question for believers is: where is God in the midst of this uncertainty and disruptive change?

Psalm 37 encourages us to hold fast to our faith. We may feel that we are stumbling now, but let us not forget that God walks with us on every step of the journey, holding us by the hand. To walk by faith is not to know what the future holds, but to know that God is always with us. We will not be abandoned.

So let us keep moving forward in faith, and by doing so, our steps will be made firm by the Lord. Trusting in the loving presence of God that has been made known to us through Jesus Christ, we carry on cheerfully, giving thanks for that which we have been given.

You and I are the body of Christ, bolstering one another on this faith journey. When we can orient ourselves toward faithful thanksgiving, we strengthen our community's ability to be supportive to those in need, no matter how difficult the times. May this season bring a renewed and joyful commitment to our God.

Faithfully,

Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Rector

A SEASON OF JOYFUL COMMITMENT

The month of October is our pledge season at St. Andrew's: "*A Season of Joyful Commitment.*" The Stewardship Committee was pleased to present the Oktoberfest Dinner on September 27, to launch this year's campaign with a special word from the Rev. Wayne Smith, our guest speaker. Father Wayne (father of our parishioner and Vestry member Jennifer Jogodnick) inspired us with these words: "We have everything we need to do God's work in this place. It's in our pockets!"

Please consider pledging generously to St. Andrew's a proportional amount of your income, along with your time and talent. The tithe (or 10% of our income) is the biblical standard for giving of our own abundance back to God and to the ministry of the church. If you gave 3% last year, strive to give 4% this year. If you gave 6%, strive to give 7%. In this way we grow in our giving & strive toward the tithe.

Pledge cards have been distributed to your mailboxes at church. During the week of October 12, they will be mailed to your home address. Each Sunday during October, a lay person from our pews will share their own story of stewardship at St. Andrew's. Thanks to Dave Morris, Judy Davies, Ralph Miano, John Wong, and David Hasenkopf who have offered to give their personal testimonials.

Please return your pledge cards to the offering plate or to Stewardship Chair Tom MacDonald's mailbox, or to the parish office by All Saints Day, **November 1st**, our ingathering Sunday, when we will give thanks to God for all the goodness and love that we have been given.

With thanks from your stewardship team,
Tom MacDonald, Judy Davies, Cathy Egan, and John Wong

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW MUSIC MINISTER

Thank you all for the warm welcome Bruce and Philip and I received on our first Sunday, October 4. In addition to the manifest talent already in the choir, I suspect there is additional talent lurking in the pews at St. Andrew's. In fact, as I met folks on Sunday, I heard whisperings to the effect that there are some who used to sing in the choir or always thought they'd like to sing in the choir, to which I say, "Come on!"

Join us on Thursdays at 8:00 as we learn new music, review familiar music, and maybe you have some suggestions of your own to bring to the group. All are welcome.

Doris Merrick, Minister of Music

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Sundays

**October 4: 18 Pentecost
Blessing of the Animals**

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

October 11: 19 Pentecost

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, Joseph Tiedemann, president of Renaissance Restoration Studios, will discuss the Calderon Mural Restoration.
African Team Ministries will be selling items to support AIDS orphans and widows.

October 18: 20 Pentecost

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, Sister Barbara Jean Packer, Superior, Convent of St. John Baptist, will be presenting. She will also be our guest preacher.
1pm-CROP walk

October 25: 21 Pentecost

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, "Operation Christmas Child"

**Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 9:30am (except October 28)
Please note new time!**

OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

October 11: 3pm till 6pm (note time!) Combined gathering of the Senior and Junior Youth Groups at the Strongs' house. Please bring a dish to contribute to our dinner. Thanks again to the Strong family for their hospitality!

October 18: CROP Hunger Walk. Please arrive at the New Providence Methodist Church on Springfield Avenue at **1:15pm** for a 1:30pm departure. (There will be no Senior Youth Group Meeting that night.)

October 25: Junior Youth Group (grades 6,7,8) meets 6-8 p.m. in Parish Hall. Parent chaperone needed for this meeting: please contact Brian Bussey.

Friends are always welcome at Youth Group activities!

A Wondrous Time of Year
BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS
at our
OPEN HOUSE
for Church & School

Dear St. Andrew's Friends:

On **Saturday, December 5**, St. Andrew's Church and School will host a Breakfast with St. Nicholas. The Breakfast will also serve as an Open House for the church and school. This is the first time we are sponsoring an event such as this and we are very excited. It is a wondrous time of year for all children and a festive start for the Advent and Christmas season.

The Breakfast will run from 10am-noon in the parish hall. Families will be asked to pay a nominal fee to cover costs. This is not intended to be a fundraiser. During their visit, children will have the opportunity to participate in various centers: frame-making, gingerbread people decorating, ornament making...the activities will be appropriate for children ages approximately 3-8.

Clearly, to make this event successful we need volunteers to showcase all that St. Andrew's has to offer. Following is a list of ways to become involved. Please email Mary Donohue at director@standrews-school.org or Bridgett Golubieski at information@standrewschurch.org. Once we determine the number of volunteers we have, the necessary committees will form and meet.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas/Open House Volunteer Opportunities

Publicity

Decorating

Set-Up

Baking (for children to decorate sugar cookies/gingerbread people)

Crafts (work one hour shift during event)

Food and Beverage

Clean-up

Open House Guide

Miscellaneous

Please email Mary or Bridgett with your name, contact information and how you can help. Thanks for your support!

Mary Donohue, Nursery School Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

Sunday School Welcome

Fall is here and the beauty of God's creation can be seen as the leaves turn brilliant colors! We invite children from Nursery to Grade 5 to join us this fall at St. Andrew's Sunday School...a place to learn about God, Jesus' teachings, and Christian values, with fun lessons and activities!

Nursery News

There are many young children and parents enjoying the new room during the 10am service!

Registration and Festival Form Request

Parents, please be sure to fill out a registration form for your child and a Festival Form to volunteer to help with Sunday School activities. I have extra copies on my office desk.

Upcoming Events:

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

Look for a shoebox and join us with our annual Sunday School outreach project, which will begin on **October 25** and continue thru **November 22!** Shoebox gifts of school supplies, necessities, toys and treats will be sent to children around the world as they learn about God's love! Information and a DVD will be shown on October 25 for children to see!

Sunday School Sheep Program

Pauline Kodack, a 4-H leader and the person who brings the sheep for the Christmas Narrative offered to come and do a program about sheep on November 15 from 9:45-10:45am. With the children, she will make sheep ornaments using pure sheep wool. This event will be held during Sunday School for grades Preschool-Grade 5.

Godly Play

Would you like to be a Godly Play storyteller? We would love to have you participate in this exciting program. Story sets, leaders guides and stories are provided for you. The next Godly Play Workshop will be held on **Saturday, November 21**. Please contact Joyce Kern.

Joyce Kern, DRE

Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor*
ehjordan@comcast.net

Deadline for the November issue of the eNET is
Wednesday, October 21

UPCOMING RETREAT

Living With Christ at the Center: THE BENEDICTINE WAY OF HOPE

Saturday, November 7 , 9am-3pm

A one-day workshop conducted by the Rev. Jane Tomaine
at the Convent of St. John the Baptist in Mendham, NJ.

In these challenging and uncertain times, this retreat will explore the many
ways the Rule of St. Benedict can help us to live with Christ at the center.
Cost is \$75.

To register, contact Sr. Barbara Jean at (973) 543-4641 ext.1 or email
srbj@csjb.org.

OUR YOUTH NEED YOU!

Help Wanted!!

We are looking to recruit new youth leaders! We now have 3 classes, each needing 2 to 3 leaders. All prior leaders helping with this ministry will be taking a break. Former leaders from our first 2 years are welcome, if they would like to be involved again.

For those of you who are not intimately familiar with the program, a leader works with 1 or 2 additional leaders and makes a two-year commitment to work with the same group of teens. The classes occur on Sunday mornings immediately following Communion. We will have a new Rite 13 class for children in 6th and 7th grade. Our current Rite 13 class will move up to the Journey to Adulthood curriculum. They are our 8th and 9th graders. Our current Journey to Adulthood class will move up to Young Adult Christians as they complete their high school years. They are now sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school.

If you're interested - or just curious - please let me know and I'll share more information.

Meanwhile...special thanks to Liz and David Strong who hosted a BBQ for the children in grades 6-12 in September. The next event to keep on the calendar is the Crop Walk on **Sunday, October 18**.

Also, we welcome Brian Bussey, a seminarian student from Drew University, who will be working with our youth throughout this school year.

Eileen Fairchild

DESPERATELY SEEKING USHERS!

Where: 10am service

Who: Women, men, youth

When: One Sunday a month, or whenever you're available

No pay; one hour on duty; be the first to greet newcomers; get to collect money; assist with the service; and be a member of our usher gang!

Please contact Rick Anderson at 464-8911 to join. Usher instructions are provided.

PARISH MILESTONES

Baptisms

We welcome Anna Grace Cianciulli, Logan John Griffiths and Alexander Francis Scott into our church family! They were baptized at St. Andrew's on Sept. 27.

GARDENING NEWS

Please lend a hand, even for an hour, and join us at an upcoming Garden Work Party (**October 10 and November 7***). We have plenty of projects to work on! Gardening experience not required.

In November, we will start gathering and transporting fallen leaves out to South Street. As the weather gets cooler, we begin to button up the gardens for the season, and we could use some extra hands.

The fall GOSA meeting will take place **Sunday, October 18** at 11:30am. Please join us to discuss our fall plans and maybe some thoughts of spring.

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

*Tentative date: the November Work Party date depends on the County curbside leaf pickup date, which has not been published yet. Details to follow.

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 all we need to do.

Day Of Caring

The director of the local United Way has contacted St. Andrew's offering volunteers to assist with various activities on our campus for the United Way Day Of Caring, **Friday, October 16**. GOSA has expressed an interest in taking advantage of this opportunity for outside volunteers helping in our gardens that one day.

GOSA Fashion Wear

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. We look forward to wearing T-shirts with our GOSA logo on the front. What better fashions to wear while working in the gardens?

GOSA Funds

This spring our gardening volunteers elected not to hold our annual April flower fund raising 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.

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

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

ATTENTION, COFFEE HOUR LOVERS!

We need your help! Please sign up to host a St. Andrew's Sunday Coffee Hour. Place your name on the bulletin board schedule near the parish hall OR email me at rash1111@aol.com. You'll be rewarded with many smiles and much appreciation for your efforts. Thanks!

Margery Ashmun

"NOW, WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?"

The ushers encourage parishioners, whether newcomers or established members of our church family, to please wear your name tags while attending church activities. This helps the ushers, as well as other parishioners, easily identify you and get to know your name. Name tags are located on the narthex table. Thanks very much.

Rick Anderson

HELP FOR BHUTANESE REFUGEES

We have a number of ethnically Nepalese families in the Edison NJ area who are currently in great need of winter clothing and school supplies. Their stays in displaced persons camps have caused a kind of "learned helplessness" which is being addressed, but the need is imminent as the weather changes and school begins. Please contact Fr. Ed Murphy at (732) 881-6282 if you can help.

There are 50,000 Bhutanese refugees being settled here in the U.S. About 100 families are in New Jersey.

Background of the Bhutanese Refugee Crisis

In the late 1980s, the government of Bhutan began the execution of its ethnic cleansing policy. Consequently, the southern settlers known as the Lhotshampas, who are ethnically Nepalese, were deprived of their fundamental rights. Schools were shut down in almost all the southern districts denying the Lhotshampas' children access to education. Nepali language was lifted from the school curriculum in other districts of Northern and Central regions. The Royal Bhutan Army was deployed in every village to terrorize the public and ethnic cleansing ensued.

In the mid 1990's, nationwide public demonstration against these developments erupted. The government tried to stop the voice of the Nepali speaking citizens with all its might. Those involved in these demonstrations were arrested and imprisoned, their homes demolished and burnt, and they were coerced into signing voluntary emigration forms and finally compelled to leave their homeland.

ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

Oct. 20 Monday, 7:30pm Executive Committee Mtg - Rector's office

Oct. 20 Tuesday, 11:00am Seminarian Teaching Cmte Mtg. – PL

1:00pm Interfaith Clergy Mtg., PL

7:30pm Vestry Mtg., PL

Oct. 20/21 Nursery School back-to-school nights

Oct. 24 Saturday, Equipping the Saints workshops for ministry, Cathedral in Trenton

Oct. 25 Sunday, Operation Christmas Child, Sunday School outreach project begins

Oct. 28 Wednesday, **No weekday Eucharist** - *Rector away*

Oct. 28 Wednesday, 11:30pm Bible Study Group with Dorretta Waite, PL

Oct. 28 Wednesday, 1:30pm Synthesis Study Group with Frances Bellak, PL

Nov. 1 All Saints Sunday, Ingathering of Pledges - End of stewardship campaign

Nov. 19 Monday, 3:30pm Tiger Scout meeting, SR

Nov. 30 St. Andrew's Day

Dec. 5 Saturday, Church and School Open House

(Key: PL=Parish Library; SR=Shrove Room, lower level; PH=Parish Hall;
RR=Rector's Room)

AA Meetings: Mondays 8pm; Wed., 7:30pm; Thurs., 7:30pm & 8:30pm

New PLAY GROUP for young parents and their children meets every Wed. at 9am in the Nursery. All are welcome.

Donate to the StarFish Pantry in Plainfield! Bring canned food for the needy to the basket outside the church doors in the narthex. Thanks for your support.

Prayer List: We pray for Matthew, Frances, Jeff, Eileen Fairchild, Richard Weidener, Jr., David Temple, Bill, Tom Corrado, Enid Taylor, Angie, Tom Kelsey, Angelo, Donald Smothers *servicing in Iraq*, John Peterson, Cullen Burris, Jane Weltmer, Marian Wittnebert, Bob Selbach, and Wan Tse Change (*Vivien Chow's brother*).

For I am sure...
that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

Jazz Vespers!!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8 at 4pm

A Festal Gathering of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Tabernacle at Ocean Grove

Purpose: To praise God as we gather as one Community. The theme "For I am sure" is taken from Romans 8 reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

All Lay Eucharistic Visitors are especially encouraged to attend. 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 Nov. 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 some to be included in those communion kits going out to the infirmed.

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

Guest preacher: The Rev. Dr. Francis Wade, former chaplain to the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church, & former Rector of St. Alban's, Washington, DC.

Officiant: Bishop George Councill

We need 3 or 4 people to represent St. Andrew's at this special service to renew the spirit of our diocesan life.

Please contact Rev. Peggy if you would like to attend at hodgkinsp@gmail.com or (908) 464-4875.

Fall Youth Event

Justice for All - Christianity, Poverty, and the Road to Jericho

When: November 6-8*
**registration deadline: Nov. 3*

Where: Camp Lebanon, NJ

Begin: 7:00 PM (11/6)

End: 12:00 Noon (11/8)

Who: 6-12 graders and their adult sponsors

Lodging: Beds - heated cabins

Cost: \$75 (scholarship is available)

Coordinator: Jennifer Short (*Grace, Merchantville*) and Brook Richards (*Trinity, Princeton*)

Musician: Anna Hutto (*Atlanta, Georgia*)



To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice (Proverbs 21:3)

When Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan, he not only wants us to help those in need, he wants us to change "the whole road to Jericho" - a road that was a dangerous place where many people were hurt and abused. Today in our world, billions of people live in poverty and are subject to multiple forces that keep them in poverty. In this country alone there are many among us who have to make tough choices every day because they live in poverty.

As Christians, how do we live out our baptismal covenant to "love our neighbor as ourselves"? How can we change our "roads to Jericho" that keep so many people in poverty and desperation? Come explore the reality of choices in poverty. Find how we as Christians can respond with determination and compassion to our brothers and sisters.

Join us for a meaningful and fun-filled weekend of thoughtful discussion, engaging activities, inspiring worship, fantastic music, and (of course) playful games! Youth from around the diocese are all invited to participate in this retreat at beautiful Camp Lebanon. See you there!

[Directions to Fall Youth Event](#)

Register today at newjerseyyouth.org

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