



December 2013

Dear friends,

As we enter this season of Advent, I am reminded of a poem by Ralph Spaulding Cushman that begins:

**Let not our hearts be busy inns,
That have no room for Thee,
But cradles for the living Christ
And His nativity.**

This poem makes me think about how we make room in the inns of our hearts this season as we await the coming of Christ. The ways that we do this will look different for each of us. Some find that taking on a discipline of extra prayer and reflection is a meaningful way to prepare. There are wonderful books of Advent meditations available, and that may work for you.

For years, I have tried this approach, only to find myself busier than ever in the weeks leading up to Christmas and frustrated by my failure to figure out how to make time for “the reason for the season” with extra prayer and study. This year, I am trying a different approach. Rather than trying to fit more in, even if it is meaningful, I am trying to find meaning in the things that I am already doing. My hope is that writing Christmas cards to friends and loved ones far away is a prayerful act of thanksgiving for what they have meant to me. Instead of feeling guilty about participating in the consumerism that surrounds this season, I am going to focus on the fact that choosing and giving gifts is an expression of generosity and love, and we do so in celebration of the gift we have received in Jesus Christ. And as I host and attend special parties and meals, I am going to remember that preparing for guests is, in some way, preparing for Christ and that our fellowship is a manifestation of God’s love in the world.

I don’t know how this new approach will work, but I am giving it a try. My prayer for each of us is that in the holy weeks ahead, we find our own ways to make room for the coming of Christ in the inns of our hearts.

Advent blessings,

Andie

Jr. Warden’s Letter

Greetings, we are closing in on another year and look forward to 2014 and the projects we can complete together. I know some of you may think that there cannot possibly be that much left to do after our major renovation. The answer is that there is quite a lot to be done that we could not do at the time.

A few examples 1) the sanctuary has not had plaster repairs or been painted in over twenty years. We have a plastering quote and are awaiting bids from several painting contractors. 2) The lighting in the sanctuary needs to be upgraded by replacing the bulbs in the chandeliers with LED bulbs and floods and replacing any faulty wiring also installing new dimmers switches. 3) We also need to move forward with the landscaping of the patio area and with the addition of benches which will make the patio much more enjoyable for our parish and guest. We are presently waiting for a proposal for planting that will include an annual schedule and drawings of what we can expect the area to look like when completed.

We also need to keep in mind that unexpected problems can arise without warning that need immediate attention and may put a burden on our operations budget. As we approach the end of the year it an excellent time to consider additional donations which will help to accomplish our goals, money designated for the planting of the patio or help

towards purchasing patio furniture or even helping to offset the cost of new sanctuary light will all be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of myself and the members of Buildings and Grounds I wish you all the Merriest of Christmas's and a very happy and safe New Year.

Dean Rogis

2013 Flower Festival Thank You!

An Ode to Flower Festival

Thank you to all the volunteers who brought our 21st Annual Flower Festival to life, and to all who took part in the weekend's festivities. It was another joyful opportunity to share the life of this place with the community around us. Parishioner Dennis Pendleton wrote the following poem as he sat quietly in the church on Friday, Nov. 1, prior to the opening gala. Let his words be an expression of gratitude for all who shared in this special weekend:

The Flowers of St. Andrew's

There's an eloquence in time
that helps keep life sublime
In all that is said and done.

A quiet understatement
allowing God to be the center
of lives that outshine sun.

The flowers sing a song
to echo all season long,
letting all who enter know they are welcome.

And though the flowers wither away
their meaning will always stay:
that God has embraced you in His home.

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum Series meets on Sunday mornings in the Auditorium from 9-10 a.m.

December 8 – John the Baptist and the Prophetic Tradition with The Rev. John Rohrs.

December 15 – The Prophets of Today with Dr. Beau Hodge.

Sunday School

St. Nicholas is coming! Be on the lookout for a special visitor at the end of the 10:15 service on **December 8th**. He will be bringing chocolate coins so be sure not to miss it!

Upcoming Youth Group Events

On **Sunday, December 15**, we will meet at noon in White Hall to assemble and then deliver Christmas stockings to homebound members of our congregation. Watch your email for more information.

Our **2014 Ski Trip** is coming right up! Mark your calendar for January 17-19. Chaperones and meals are needed. Please contact Andie if you can help!

The **Young Adult Christmas Party** will be **Thursday, December 12** from 5:30-7:30 pm at the home of Andie and John Rohrs (1023 Graydon Avenue). Drop your kids off in the nursery for fun and dinner and walk over to enjoy some festive adult time. Please RSVP to Andie (andiewigodsky@gmail.com) and bring a dish to share.

Women of St. Andrew's to Sponsor Coffee on December 8th

The Women of St. Andrew's will officially start the kick-off for the publication of the cookbook – *Blessings from Heaven*. Dishes will be made from submitted recipes so that you can begin to get a 'taste' of what the cookbook has to offer. So please mark your calendars and plan to come.

Brighten the Season with Holiday Lights:

The WSA has created special holiday baskets filled with pine cones, lights and glitter to brighten a corner of your house or a friend's during the upcoming holiday season. Please come visit in White Hall and see the display. The money from the sales will go to the production of the cookbook.

Church Mouse Gift Shop

We would like to thank all the volunteers who worked so long and hard for the Church Mouse and Christmas Mouse at this year's Flower Festival. The Women of St. Andrew's invite you to check-out the holiday goodies in the Church Mouse Gift Shop! The Mouse is filled with holiday decorations, unique gifts, country style peanuts, children's books, jewelry, cookbooks and more surprises. Happy Holidays from the Church Mouse and thank you for your continued support. Proceeds benefit the outreach work of the Women of St. Andrew's. Our hours are Monday – Friday, 10:30 to 1:30 and between services on Sundays.

Stewardship 2014 Report

As of our mid-November press time, we had received 114 pledges for a total of \$265,947, which represents 80.6% of our pledge goal of \$330,000! A big THANK YOU to everyone who has returned a pledge card! We value everyone's gifts of "time, talent, and treasure" throughout the year, but at this time, when the finance committee and Vestry are working hard to prepare a balanced budget for the coming year, we ask especially for a financial pledge. Pledges and other contributions provide the majority of our income, funding our day-to-day ministry and programs. Your pledge is both a demonstration of your commitment to St. Andrew's and a very practical aid in preparing the budget. THANK YOU! (If you've lost your pledge card, the office has plenty more!)

Outreach Ministries

Did you know?

The St. Andrew's HIV/AIDS Cook-in group not only provides meals to ACCESS (local HIV organization created by our diocese in early 90's). We also share with sick and shut-ins in our parish. As this SALTIRE goes to press we are preparing our traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinners. Members of our Pastoral Care Committee will deliver these meals during week leading up to Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to all of you for helping to make this happen. Our next cook-in date is 1/19/14.

Christmas Pageant 2013

December 24th
4:00 p.m.

ROLES:

Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Gabriel,
Innkeeper, King Herod, Wise Men,
Big Angels, Scribes, Shepherds,
Little Angels and Youth Choir

BRIEF MEETING & COSTUME DISTRIBUTION:

December 1st
Following the 10:15 a.m. church service

REHEARSALS:

December 8th, 15th & 22nd
Following the 10:15 a.m. church service (lunch will be provided)

QUESTIONS:

Amber Pickrell
627-9258
pickrell3@cox.net

SIGN UP ON THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE WHITE HALL.

Christmas Flowers/Greenery Orders Due by Monday, December 16

It's time to place your orders for Christmas Flowers/Greenery. To donate greens/flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones, please make your check payable to "St. Andrew's Church" for \$10 per name. Please print the information on the form note "Christmas Flowers" on your check and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the parish office. Plants will remain in the church through New Year's Day.

Flowers/Greenery given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

in honor of

Given by (please include telephone number in case of questions)

_____ please
use full Christian names only (i.e. in honor/memory of Mary Jane Jones or Henry Albert Brown)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1004 Graydon Ave
Office: 1009 W. Princess Anne Road
Norfolk, VA 23507

Vestry

Sally Kellam, **Senior Warden**

Dean Rogis, **Junior Warden**

Charlotte Zito, **Register**

Jim Affeldt

Hunter Benson

Mavis Benz

Elizabeth Evans

Carter Furr

Paul Kovalcik

Jay Lassiter

Greg Murphy

Wendy Nuzzo

Dennis Pendleton

Deane Sobol

Tristan Carter Warren

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St. Andrew's is a parish of worship, spiritual growth, acceptance and healing centered in the Eucharist. We reach beyond ourselves, striving to allow God to work through our hands as Christ's own. In our role as stewards of God's gifts we embrace a comprehensive concept of stewardship as central to our ministry. As a place of hope for all people, we celebrate with joy through grace our oneness in Christ.

Saint Andrew's SALTIRE

The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Norfolk, Virginia
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The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Reverend John Rohrs, Rector

The Reverend Andie Wigodsky Rohrs, Associate Priest for Family Ministry

Larry Brett, Treasurer

Dennis Sipes, Parish Administrator

Dr. James Kosnik, Organist/Choir Dir

Richard Rigg, Youth Choir Dir

Jessica Chesson, Christian Ed Director

Elizabeth Harris, Nursery Coordinator

Taylor Lloyd, Nursery Worker

JonMichel Sipes, Sexton

Steve Blevins & John Hudson, & Pat Garris, Assistants to the Treasurer

St. Andrew's is on Facebook!

We are pleased to announce that St. Andrew's now has an official Facebook page! This Facebook presence will be an additional way for our parish to communicate news and announcements, to connect members of our congregation, and to share the life changing ministry that is happening at our Church with the broader community. If you are a Facebook member, please type "**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA**" in the search box at the top of your Facebook page and "like" the page in order to begin receiving status updates in your newsfeed. You can invite your Facebook friends to "like" the page as well.

2014 Altar Flowers sign up: It's that time again – to sign up for altar flowers for 2014. If you would like to remember a friend or family members by donating altar flowers, please call or email Dennis a note requesting your dates and altar at 622-5530 or dsipes.staacc@verizon.net. Also you can sign up on the Flowers Sign Up sheets located on the Lay Readers Bulletin Board across from the men's room near the parish office. Flowers for the high altar are \$75.00, flowers for the Lady Altar are \$50.00.

Mark your January/February calendars for the following dates: Feast of Lights/Wine and Cheese 1/5, St. Andrew's Cook-in 1/19, Chili Dinner/Yankee Gift Swap, 1/26, Women of St. Andrew's Game Day, 2/1, Parish Life Breakfast 2/9, and our Annual Stop Hunger Now meals packing 2/23.