

The Saltire



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2014

Rector's Reflections

As I write this, our household is in full rehearsal mode for school holiday programs and the church Christmas pageant. All day long our little angels belt out their favorites, often with hilariously mangled verses. For the first thirty minutes or so, it's a fun way to start our day with some Christmas spirit.

They tend to focus on the upbeat tunes so that they can incorporate drums and harmonicas whenever possible, and one of the consequences is that we never get around to my favorite – “In the Bleak Midwinter.” I'm a sucker for reflective, haunting tunes to begin with, and I especially love the imagery of that one – the barren landscape and harsh conditions of the world as a backdrop to the promise of new life. I think it resonates with our lives and the way we're always striving to balance sorrows and joys, losses and gains, hurts and hopes.

I think that is especially true at Christmas time. It's a time and a season when all of those emotions churn together in our hearts as we look upon the manger. And when we look, we discover the beautiful absurdity that our savior would be born in such a place, that a stable would suffice for God incarnate. It seems such a ridiculous contradiction, and yet at the same time it seems so true to the experience of our lives. Of course God would choose to be born into the midst of our uncertainty and fragility. That's where we need God most. That's why the light of the incarnation shines brightly enough to drive the darkness away, and if we look long enough upon that manger we may see signs of new life springing forth around us. And perhaps in time we may be able to offer our gift in response. What can we give him, poor as we are? We can give our hearts. That's the only reason he came in the first place. Amen.

John

Sr. Warden's Letter

Each year as the new year approaches, I feel this great sense of hope. We're looking forward with optimism for what is to come— all the new opportunities, possibilities and expectations for what may come. At William & Mary, there is a wonderful, long tradition of the burning of the Yule Log. Students bring holly sprigs to throw on a huge fire signifying the burning of the sins of the past year so that they begin the new year unfettered by those pesky past sins. Although in reality there's a bit more involved with repenting for our transgressions, I love the imagery of leaving the past behind and moving forward.

At St. Andrew's, we too are looking ahead to 2014. There are so many wonderful things happening at the Church and we begin the new year with a renewed sense of mission—literally. One way we intend to do this is by recognizing and celebrating the various ministries of St. Andrews. Starting in January, the first Sunday of each month we will highlight a selected ministry such as the Eucharistic Visitors, Women of St. Andrews, the AIDS Cook-In, and the Altar Guild. The intent is to give thanks for the dedicated volunteers and to educate all of us about the many wonderful programs and volunteer opportunities within the Church. Each ministry will also host the coffee hour following the service and be available to talk about their important work. We will all learn a great deal more about much is happening at St. Andrews. I hope that part of your plan for the coming year includes joining one or more of these ministries that have such a powerful impact on St. Andrews and on the community.

I wish you and yours a most blessed Christmas and that 2014 will be filled with great joy.

Sally

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Feast of Lights Service: Our annual Feast of Lights service will be at 7:00 pm followed by Wine & Cheese in White Hall on Sunday, January 5.

Stewardship 2014 Report

THANK YOU to all of our faithful parishioners who have turned in a pledge card! Thanks to your efforts, we had received 143 pledges, for a total of \$310,699, as of December 18. This represents an achievement of 94. % of our pledge goal of \$330,000, and we will likely reach that goal as additional pledges come in – it's never too late to make a pledge to St. Andrew's! THANK YOU for your commitment to our church community, its programs, and its ministries!

Annual Yankee Swap and Chili Dinner Back by Popular Demand

Sunday evening, January 26th is the date for our Annual Yankee Swap and Chili Dinner. This popular event is a favorite in our parish. Here's the way the evening works ~ we gather at 6:00 pm for a delicious chili dinner and then the fun begins! Bring in your silliest Christmas gift ~ the gift that you just HAVE TO part with ~ the gift that you can't believe ended up under your tree ~ and the swap begins. All gifts must be wrapped. So this year, as you linger beside the tree on Christmas morning keep your eyes peeled for the perfect Yankee Swap gift for St. Andrew's.

Adult Forum

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

January 5 – Welcome and Introduction: Anglican Origins with The Rev. John Rohrs.

January 12 – Episcopal Identities: What We Pray and What We Believe with The Rev. John Rohrs.

January 19 – The Making of the King James Bible with Alice Bangs

January 26 – The Art and History of Church Building with Jay Lassiter

Sunday School

Sunday school finished the second rotation on December 15th. Thank you to Nancy King, Beth Miller, Sara Burnette, Casey Beeghly, Andy Stephenson, Lindsay Stephenson, and Nash Bilisoly for teaching. The third rotation begins January 5th. Please join us!

Youth News

EYC Ski Trip - The annual EYC Convocation Ski Trip to Wintergreen is scheduled for January 17-19. The cost is \$130, and scholarships are available. Registration and waiver forms are due by Monday, January 6. Please contact Andie with questions.

Outreach Ministries

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

"The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) is the Commonwealth's oldest faith-based advocacy group and works to unite faith communities throughout the state to reduce poverty rates in Virginia by advocating for proven and effective public policies at the state and federal level." The group's 2014 broad policy priorities will include: Reducing Poverty, Access to Health Care, Environmental Justice, and **Strengthening**.

Every year VICPP holds an advocacy day (Day for All People). This year *The Day for All People of Faith* will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Please consider joining other people of faith in Richmond for a full day of speakers, policy briefings, and meetings with your elected officials, fellowship and more. The doors will open at 8, and we will conclude by 2:30pm. This year we will be gathering at the Richmond Convention Center again, just 5 blocks from the General Assembly Building. A carpool from St. Andrew's is going to the event and has room for others. If you would like to attend, contact Pat Hodge at 622-1429.

Additional information about the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy can be found on their website at <http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/Home.aspx>

Thank you: The Outreach Committee would like to thank the Pastoral Care Committee, the many members of St. Andrew's, and their friends and family members, who knitted winter scarves for our homeless brothers and sisters. They were distributed at the Catholic Worker breakfast line on December 12th. Everyone really appreciated receiving a lovingly made scarf!

Health Department Food Handlers Regulations

2014 is the time to re-certify your food handlers cards if you attended the St. Andrew's course two years ago (Jan 2012). All people using the kitchen are required to be certified by Norfolk Health Department. The

Health Department will no longer hold on site training. This means that we have to attend at one of their sites. There are day and night sessions for about 1 ½ hours. Here are the sites and schedules:

Days at 830 Goff Street

Mondays 9:30 a.m.

Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Evenings at Main Health Department

1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m.

Fee is \$10

No reservations needed. Questions please call 683-2715.

Lend Your Support to the Cookbook: The St. Andrew's Cookbook, *Blessings from Heaven*, needs your support. We have been collecting recipes for the cookbook and will continue to collect them until mid-January. So if you have not gotten a recipe in, you still have time. The second way that you can support the cookbook is to submit kitchen, food or cooking hints that have helped you over the years. These hints do not have to be complex; it may be something as simple as the best way to store a particular cooking ingredient or how to tell if an egg is fresh. We want to fill our cookbook with your hints. Your name will be printed in the cookbook with the hint you submit. Forms may be found in White Hall with the cookbook display or you can send your hint to Blessingsfromheaven.cookbook@gmail.com. The third way to support the cookbook is to make a donation of \$10. Forms are also found in White Hall with the cookbook display and may be placed in the appropriate drop box. All supporters will be listed in the cookbook. The fourth way that you can give support is to offer a dedication to a cook in your life. The cook may be current or past, amateur or professional. Submit the dedication with \$25.00. And, yes, the forms may be found in White Hall. All checks should be made out to the Women of St. Andrew's with a notation of 'cookbook' in the memo section. The cookbook promises to be a great one, so please be a part of making it a success.

Note: This information and the forms will be placed on the web site within the next few weeks.

Winter is Here - So Let's Play Games!

Come warm yourself with friendship, camaraderie and good old-fashioned competition! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 1st from 10:00 - 2:00. Game Day is back! Come join us in White Hall - Bring your favorite games (cards, mahjong, board games) and also your friends or family. We will

have a Texas Hold 'Em poker table and we will provide card tables and chairs for the other gamers.

All ages are welcome. Children under 12 will be free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets price is \$10 per person and will include morning coffee, tea, snack, lunch, and dessert. Lunch will be something warming like soup or chili. We will include a vegetarian version. Tickets will go on sale in the Church Mouse in mid-January and should be purchased Game Day to ensure a table will be available. We will again have a 60/40 cash raffle. PS: Tickets for the cash raffle will also be on sale in the Church Mouse. If you cannot attend the Games, you can participate in the raffle. Raffle tickets are \$2 each, 5 for \$5. Winner will get 40% of the pot. All profits will be applied to the outreach programs of the Women of St. Andrew's.

Staff Updates

Our Nursery Coordinator, Elizabeth Harris, resigned in December in order to be able to sit in Church with her teenage sons on Sunday mornings. We are sad to see her go, as she has done an excellent job running the program, but we certainly understand her desire to worship with her family.

We have hired a new Coordinator, Ashlee Erestrain. Ashlee is currently a Parent Educator for the Children's Health Investment Program. Prior to this position, she served as a teacher at a child care facility in Chesapeake. Needless to say, she comes to us with great experience and a love for working with little ones.

2014 NEST Week – Save The Date

St. Andrew's is a member of the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST), a coalition of churches and synagogues that provide shelter for the homeless during the winter months. Each institution hosts the shelter for one week, after which it rotates to the next. St. Andrew's will host the shelter from Wednesday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 11. The EVMS students will use our facilities the week of March 26 through Tuesday, April 1 to host their NEST shelter.

St. Andrew's Cook-in: Mark your calendars for our next Cook-in to be held on Sunday, January 19 at 8:00 am. See signup sheet on M&M board for items needed.

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

Phone 757-622-5530

Fax 757-622-0812

Email: dsipes.staacc@verizon.net

www.standrewsnorfolk.org

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

Ashlee Erustain, Nursery Coordinator

Taylor Lloyd, Nursery Worker

JonMichel Sipes, Sexton

Steve Blevins & John Hudson, & Pat Garris,

Assistants to the Treasurer

Outreach Sandwich Ministry

On the fourth Saturday of each month, we at St. Andrews help provide sandwiches for our homeless community. Members of the "Sandwich Ministry" prepare one or two full-size loaves of sandwiches, and deliver them to the church on Friday before Noon. They are distributed Saturday morning on Salter Street at 7:00am, where they are handed out during the breakfast that is provided by Catholic Worker. My brief experience with the people we serve has shown me how very fortunate I am, and yet many of the homeless people smile and say they are blessed! The next date sandwiches are due is January 24th. If you would like to join us by helping to make sandwiches once a month, or to sign up as a substitute for one of the core members, you are welcome to call or e-mail me. My phone number is 470-9882 and my e-mail is jkruger3@cox.net. – Robin Kruger

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 February calendars for the following dates Women of St. Andrew's Game Day, 2/1, Parish Life Breakfast 2/9, and our Annual Stop Hunger Now meals packing 2/23.