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Jan/Feb 2016

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The Saltire is a bi-monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Through feature stories, photographs and updates on events past and future, *The Saltire* provides a window into the vibrant life of our parish family. Historically, a "saltire" is the X-shaped cross associated with St. Andrew. For us, as for him, it is a symbol of faith and life!

Celebrating Christmas with the Mission of the Holy Spirit

By the Rev. Dr. Marguerite Alley

On the afternoon of December 13, members of the Outreach committee and the EYC hosted an amazing Christmas Party for the families of The Mission of The Holy Spirit. The Mission (MOHS) is a mission of the Diocese of Southern Virginia for families in the Park Place area of Norfolk. Under the guidance and leadership of Keith Josey, the Mission provides spiritual formation, guidance and support for children and families. Deacon Marguerite Alley and her partner Jan Melton have been coordinating and providing the annual Christmas dinner for several years and this year they were ably assisted by new member Mary Lou Crifasi and Deacon intern Genevieve Nelson and The Rev. Andie Rohrs.

The afternoon started with a stirring Eucharist and holiday sing-a-long in the church. Moving to White Hall, the families enjoyed a wonderful and nutritious dinner and craft activity for the children. Our EYC set up and served the meal, and enjoyed some fellowship with the youth. After dinner the families enjoyed a visit from Santa and received their Christmas Stockings. Many families were able to have "to go" boxes with extra meals for the week and 16 families received gift baskets of fresh fruit and chocolates. There were lots of smiles and hugs at the end of the evening.

See *Mission*, Page 2

St. Andrew's Hosts Inaugural Blue Christmas Service

By The Rev. Andie Rohrs

On Sunday, December 20, St. Andrew's had its first Blue Christmas service. The service was designed for those for whom the holidays can be difficult. It was also intended for anyone looking for a more contemplative worship experience in preparation for Christmas. As the holiday "noise" of festive music, decorations, and preparations permeated the outside world, we attempted to set a different tone within our sanctuary.

See *Blue Christmas*, page 2

Mission, continued from page 1

All of this was made possible by your generosity; your pledges that allow the Outreach committee to do these kinds of projects, your gifts of time and talent with the understanding that “many hands make light work” and your opening the doors of our lovely church to the Mission are all testament to the generosity of spirit here at St. Andrew’s. I think I can speak for all involved and say that we look forward to many more projects with the Mission!



Big thank yous go to: Deane Sobol, Betty Wade Coyle and Robin Kruger of Outreach and Andie Rohrs who were instrumental in the planning of the event. Thanks to members of the commission who were able to join us and help with set up, clean up and serving. Thanks to Jon Michael for setting up White Hall for us and making sure we had what we needed for the afternoon. Thanks to our wonderful Deacon intern Genevieve and her elf David Polaha for the wonderful Christmas tree and decorations in Santas’s corner and for the wonderful craft project for the kids. Thank you to Jan and Mary Lou for their preparation and planning of the meal and of course to our wonderful EYC for being such gracious hosts!

Blue Christmas, continued from page 1



As people gathered for worship, they were invited to find seats in the choir stalls. Candles were lit, and there was a time of silence. The liturgy was led by our intern, Genevieve Nelso, and featured meditative readings, scripture, and poetry. There was one congregational hymn, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, accompanied by the piano. The other music was offered by the acappella group Caritas Quartet, comprised of St. Andrew’s choir members Stephanie Brown, Robin Kruger, Phil Bass, and Maggie Wilson. Their selections were hauntingly beautiful pieces that reflected the contemplative feeling of the service.

Our deacon, The Rev. Marguerite Alley offered a homily. She talked about how difficult it can be to be surrounded by the merriment of Christmas festivities when, for whatever reason, we might not be feeling merry. Her words acknowledged the fact that some are grieving the loss of a loved one, others are experiencing the loss of a job or of health, and others are wrestling with depression or painful memories. The prayers that accompanied the lighting of the Advent wreath also echoed these realities. The Eucharistic prayer came from a supplement to our *Book of Common Prayer* called *Enriching Our Worship*. Its more expansive language also helped set the tone.

Trying a new liturgy is always an experiment. The hope of those who planned this Blue Christmas service was that it would offer a space for all to be reminded of the fact that we are held in love by God in the midst of our joy and our sorrow. As one of the prayers from the service said, may we have “strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past” – in this season and always.

Youth Program and Sunday School Update

St. Andrew's Nags Head Winter Beach Retreat January 8-10, 2016 "Listening for God"

What better way to start the New Year and semester than some time away? We're off to Nags Head, where parishioner Than Green has generously lent us his house again. Our discussions and worship will center on a theme of "Listening for God."

Most of all, we'll have fun as we play games, watch movies, and take winter walks on the beach. The cost is \$30.00, and financial assistance is available. Contact Andie with questions.

GAME NIGHT - Sunday, January 31 – 5:30-7:30 p.m., White Hall – Come for fellowship, fun, and trash-talking as we battle it out with our favorite games. From Apples to Apples to checkers to Monopoly, there will be something for everyone. We'll share a meal together and conclude with the evening prayer service of Compline.

Sewing for NEST – Sunday, February 14 – 5:30-7:30 – Parishioner Hilarie Dayton has generously offered to open her Little Stitch sewing studio at Ghent United Methodist Church for us! She will lead us in sewing hats to give to our NEST guests. No sewing experience required. This will be a won-

derful opportunity for us to get crafty together while preparing for our brothers and sisters in need.

Stop Hunger Now – Sunday, February 21, - 1:00-4:00 p.m. This annual event is so important in the life of our parish. We'll pack 12,000 meals to go to people who are hungry all over the world. Meet in White Hall at 1:00 pm to help set up. Stay to help with the meal packing for as long as you are able.

Sunday School

Sunday School wrapped up the final class of the second rotation on December 6th. A special Advent activity took place the following Sunday.

A huge thank you to the teachers in the second rotation. Bug Gallagher, Charlie Hinsch, and Harper Lea taught the K-1st grade class all about Moses. They enjoyed a special visit from Page Lea who brought his guitar and musical talents.

Check out the impressive video on our Facebook page! The 2nd-5th grade class was taught by Lily Beachy and Beth Yusi. The lessons they taught about John the Baptist were fun and engaging. The class especially enjoyed a game of charades. The third rotation of classes begins on January 10th. Hope to see you then!

Transitions in Life Group Update and Plans

Our Transitions in Life group will meet on Wednesday, January 27 at 6:30 in the Guild Room. We will discuss *Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard Rohr. The book explores spirituality in the second half of life and suggests that this time can be one of rich exploration and growth. All are welcome. Contact The Rev. Andie Rohrs (arohrs@standrewnorfolk.org) with questions.

NEST Week Is Coming

Next time you're sitting in your pew in church, I invite you to look up at the rood beam, where you'll find the words of Christ's Great Commission: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

When I was very little, and this lesson was taught in Sunday School at my Methodist Church, I had visions of going out into the woods and reading Bible verses to the birds and squirrels and lizards.

When I reflect on these words, I find it easier to get closer to what I believe to be the meaning of Christ's call by substituting the word "live" for "preach". It seems to me that we are being told that our mission is (1) to go out beyond the comfortable place where we worship together in the church, and (2) to live a Gospel Life there.

So what are we supposed to do (assuming we're not intended to stand on a log and preach to the animals)?

I think the answer is to be found in the six stained-glass windows on either side of you – depicting the Acts of Corporal Mercy from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus was brutally blunt when He preached this lesson. When we do acts of kindness to the needy and outcasts, we do them to Jesus Himself. The converse is also true. When we fail to do so, it is Jesus Himself we are failing a very personal way.

Old NEST veterans are welcome to skip to the end, where you'll find the dates for this year. For those of you who are newcomers, I'll explain briefly. St. Andrew's is a member of the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST), a group of area churches, synagogues and organizations which have banded together provide rudimentary overnight shelter for homeless men and women during the cold winter months. Each church hosts the shelter for a week, and then it moves to the next.

Our week for the NEST Shelter for 2016 will run from **Wednesday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 8**. During that week, we will have as many as 60 men and women sleeping on mats each night in White Hall.

It takes lots of volunteers to run the shelter – cooks, kitchen help, registration desk, evening assistants and overnight watchstanders. We need your help.

So let me close by inviting you to read again and ponder Christ's call in the words on the rood beam – "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

The good news is you don't have far to go. Just down the corridor to White Hall, where you'll find me waiting with a sign-up sheets beginning in February.

You can also contact me at 757-451-0602 (work), 757-627-5980 (home), email jrhodes@rhodescomm.com.

Jim Rhodes
NEST Shelter Coordinator

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Feast of Lights Candle Light Service, Jan. 3, 5:00 p.m.

Annual Gift Swap/Chili Dinner, White Hall, Jan. 24, 6:00 p.m.

Valentine Sunday School Activity/Parish Life Breakfast, White Hall, Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, White Hall, Feb. 9, 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Services, Feb. 10, Noon and 7:00 p.m.

WSA Lenten Retreat, White Hall, Feb. 20, 10:00 a.m.

Stop Hunger Now, White Hall, Feb. 21, 2:00 p.m.

Adult Forum

Inquirer's Class, Auditorium, Jan.10, 9:00 a.m.

Inquirer's Class, Auditorium, Jan. 17, 9:00 a.m.

Inquirer's Class, Auditorium, Jan. 24, 9:00 a.m.

Inquirer's Class, Auditorium, Jan. 31, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Living/Holy Dying Auditorium, Feb. 14, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Living/Holy Dying Auditorium, Feb. 21, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Living/Holy Dying Auditorium, Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Living/Holy Dying Auditorium, March 6, 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to our Newcomers!

Please welcome our newcomers and help them feel at home. It helps to remember this rule of thumb for coffee hour and other parish events: spend the first three minutes introducing yourself to someone you don't know!

Erica Boyd

Grace Butler

Mary Lou Crifasi

Marty Drummond and Les Dale

Janelle Mason

Vestry Updates

- At the November Vestry meeting, the Vestry welcomed Larry Brett, Church Treasurer, to present the draft budget for 2016. The Vestry then discussed possible edits to the budget, depending upon how the annual stewardship campaign evolved, along with other factors including the cost of repairs to the rectory and start-up costs for the proposed columbarium.
- At the December meeting, the Vestry approved a provisional budget for 2016. The Vestry also approved the money for Phase II of the rectory repairs, focused on plastering and painting, along with the cost of a few new kitchen appliances.
- The Rectory Planning Committee, comprised of parishioners and Vestry members, reported its progress on assessing possibilities for future use of the rectory, particularly highlighting the potential use of the space as a resource for area nonprofits whose mission aligns with ours. This is a promising possibility for the future, but due to the large cost of repairs we will likely pursue re-renting the rectory in the near term to recoup that cost.

Parish Prayers and Thanksgivings

- Births:** Brooklyn Michelle Soscia, the son of Melanie and Rob Soscia, , October 23
Theodore Victor Constantinides, the grandson of Candice Dettloff, October 29
Allison Elaine Wright, the daughter of Kiersten and Ray Wright, November 24
Samantha Corinne Kovalcik, the grandson of Jan and Paul Kovalcik, November 16
- Deaths:** Peggy Brewer, mother of Steve Brewer, October 17
James Carter Womack, brother of Candice Womack Dettloff, November 15.
Patsy Snead Farthing, sister of Michael Snead, November 19
Lee Lee LeKavich, November 21
Emmanuel (Mike) Manias, father of Fran Viney, November 26
Robin Wesley, mother of Rob Soscia, December 7
Anne Decker Hyrne, December 10
- Baptisms:** Townley Anne Boothby, October 4
Rorie Elizabeth McMahon and Hofler Walden, November 1
Gordon Wallace Shelton, V, November 29
- Confirmation:** Trafton Addison, Carter Branham Snow Furr, III, Isabel Glass, Kristin Johnson, Rhonda Scheckel, Hayley Elizabeth White, November 29
- Reception:** Jack Ankerson, James Bota, Tara Buehler-Bota, Jennifer Cady, Jessica Wheeler Chesson, Brian Hennessy, Stacy Hennessy, George W. Pegram, III, Roxanne H. Pegram, November 29.
- Reaffirmation:** Robin Kruger, November 29

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Annual Gift Swap and Chili Dinner



Annual Gift Swap/Chili Dinner: Sunday evening, January 24th 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 Swap gift for St. Andrew's

2016 Altar Flowers Signup

2016 Altar Flowers signup:

2016 Altar Flowers sign ups are now up for people wishing to sign up for altar flowers, If you would like to remember a friend or family members by donating altar flowers, please call or send Dennis a note requesting your dates and altar @ 622-5530, dsipes@standrewsnorfolk.org or you can sign up at the Lay

Reader bulletin board near Andie's office under Altar Flowers Sign Up sheets. We would like to encourage other areas of the church e.g. Narthex (\$25 for an arrangement) and at the foot of the Baptismal Font for \$50. Flowers for the high altar are \$75.00, flowers for the Lady Altar are \$50.00.



2016 Stewardship Campaign Report

On Sunday, December 20, alongside the normal plate offering, the ushers brought forward the pledge cards for our 2016 Annual Stewardship Campaign. Those cards were received at the altar, held aloft and blessed, in thanksgiving for the generosity of our parishioners. Our collective gifts will help support and grow our mission and ministry in the year ahead, and we

are all grateful.

This year's campaign was our most successful ever! Our financial goal was \$345,000, and we surpassed that in the last week. Pledges now total \$350,694, with still a few outstanding pledges expected to come in. Of that total, a remarkable \$35,876 represents 23 new pledges, a wonderful commitment from newcomers

who have decided to make St. Andrew's their home.

This jump in pledge income comes at a critical time as we fund new programs and ministries in light of the growth of our congregation, alongside on-going commitments to repair and enhance our buildings and grounds. Thanks again to everyone who participated in making this a success!

Rectory Improvements Update (Phase I)

I hope the holiday season has been good to everyone; it certainly has been a busy time for the Buildings and Grounds crew. Aside from busy, it also has been an exciting time for the church with all the dynamic things going on.

The columbarium planning is in full swing and repairs to the rectory are being completed. As you may have seen we have been working at the rectory to take care of some repairs and with an empty house there is no better time to get these things done.

We have replaced the air conditioning systems, repaired some

old structure damage, remediated some environmental concerns and are now moving to a much larger project which will be plastering and painting the entire inside of the house. My excitement for this project is getting greater with every passing day of work. The goal is to bring the Rectory back to its original beauty and elegance. Old houses are a labor of love and while the maintenance and repairs can be lengthy, they don't make houses like this anymore.

Earlier in the Fall we had trees trimmed off and away from the building and some branches trimmed from over the play-

ground. This improves safety and saves the building from wear and tear caused by the trees.

Once again I am always grateful for the keen eye of the parish members and even visitors who take the time to let me know about their concerns and items that need addressing.

Greg Murphy, Junior Warden

Vestry Nominations 2016-19

In order to nominate someone to serve on the Vestry for the 2015-2018 term you must complete a Nomination Form. **ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SENIOR WARDEN OR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR NO LATER THAN MARCH 11.** To be considered for the Vestry, the Diocesan Canons require a person to be at least 18 years old and be listed in the parish register as a confirmed communicant in good standing. In addition, a person offering for the Vestry should be aware that Vestry meetings are normally held on the third Monday of each month, and Vestry members typically sit on one standing committee as well. A Vestry member accepts the responsibility of spiritual leadership as well as a business responsibility. You may use the form below to submit a nomination:

To: The Nominating Committee of the Vestry of St. Andrew's Church

From:

I nominate the following person for consideration to serve on the Vestry for the 2015-2018 term. I have discussed the matter with this person and he/she has agreed to serve:

Mark Your Calendars

St. Andrew's HIV/AIDS Cook-in: Our next cook-in will be on Sunday, January 18, please see list of items needed on the Outreach Ministry bulletin board located outside the back door to the parish office.

St. Andrew's Sandwich Ministry: Our next collection date of sandwiches for the Catholic Worker will be by Noon on Friday, January 22.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on **Tuesday, February 9, 6 p.m. in White Hall.** Signup sheets are on the "Information Table" in White Hall.

Ash Wednesday Services: Noon and 7:00 p.m. on February 10.



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*A neighborhood church with
a heart for the world.*

LABEL HERE



St. Andrew's Mission Statement

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. As a place of hope for all people, we celebrate with joy through grace our oneness in Christ.

St. Andrew's Officers and Vestry

Kristan Burch, *Sr. Warden*
Greg Murphy, *Jr. Warden*
Larry Brett, *Treasurer*
Dennis Pendleton, *Register*

Judie Belka
Mavis Benz
Judy Blevins
Paul Kovalcik
Jim Kruger
Page Lea
Doug Mitchell
Wendy Nuzzo
Amber Pickrell
Sheri Searing
Mike Whitehurst

St. Andrew's Staff

The Rev. John Rohrs, *Rector*

The Rev. Andie W. Rohrs
Priest Associate

The Rev. Dr. Marguerite Alley
Deacon

Dennis Sipes
Parish Administrator

Stephen Leist
Director of Music Ministry

Richard Rigg
Associate Director of Music Ministry

Jessica Chesson
Sunday School Coordinator

JonMichel Sipes, *Sexton*