



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

News Release

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to Host Commemorative Centennial Service, Nov. 20

**Parish to celebrate a century of ministry, music and
fellowship to mark 100th anniversary**

(Norfolk, Va., Oct. 27, 2011) – In the fall of 1911, William H. Taft was president, Americans were listening to Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Rag Time Band," the Philadelphia Athletics beat the New York Giants 4-2 in the World Series—and in Norfolk, Va., a small wooden chapel first opened its doors in the West Ghent neighborhood.

[St. Andrew's Episcopal Church](#) leaders and parishioners will pay tribute to a century of ministry, music and fellowship on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 10:15 a.m., when it celebrates a special commemorative service. The program is part of a year-long series of events the church is hosting to mark its 100th anniversary.

"This parish has a rich [history](#), and I'm excited for us to look back and honor some of the people and events that have made St. Andrew's a special place for so many years," said The Rev. John Rohrs, rector of St. Andrew's.

On Nov. 20, church members will first gather at 9 a.m. for a parish breakfast and oral history video presentation featuring long-time church members recalling past events in the life of the church. At 10:15 a.m., the congregation will worship using the liturgy of the period, taken from the 1892 [Book of Common Prayer](#). A festive reception will follow the service.

In addition, the St. Andrew's Centennial Committee is in the final stages of developing a book, *The Fisherman's Church*. A historical account based on church records with anecdotal contributions by parishioners, the book was compiled and edited by Dr. Frances Jacobson, professor of history at Tidewater Community College. The book features both vintage photos and recent photography captured by Chrysler Museum of Art Photographer Ed Pollard. Published by St.

Andrew's, the book will be available later this year, and orders may be placed through the church office.

St. Andrew's Parish

The idea for St. Andrew's Church began in early 1911 when a handful of parishioners from the neighboring St. Luke's Episcopal Church sought a new parish that would serve residents of the growing West Ghent neighborhood. That fall, St. Andrew's began services in a small wooden chapel constructed on the corner of W. Princess Anne Road and Leigh Street with The Rev. Myron B. Marshall presiding. By the end of the next year, the church counted 100 families as members.

The current sanctuary, built in 1921, was designed by the noted architect John Kevan Peebles, a St. Andrew's parishioner. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, St. Andrew's briefly merged with two other Ghent-area Episcopal parishes, Christ's Church and St. Luke's Church. The merger dissolved in 1940, and St. Andrew's was reestablished as an independent parish, while Christ's and St. Luke's remained together.

In 1948, church members expanded the 1921 structure with a two-story brick parish house that contains the present-day auditorium with stage, classrooms, and church offices. In 1959, a narthex was added to the sanctuary entrance on Graydon Avenue, and in 1968, the church constructed White Hall, a social hall named for St. Andrew's third rector, The Rev. Beverly Tucker White.

Today, St. Andrew's Church has approximately 400 members and is active in the Norfolk community through [programs](#) such as Access AIDS Care Cook-in, Catholic Worker and the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team, or N.E.S.T. In addition, the church contributes to international outreach programs that benefit children in Ghana and Belize and a Sudanese refugee camp in Kenya. On Nov. 19, St. Andrew's will receive a Community Award from Equality Virginia for its long-time commitment to caring for people and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

St. Andrew's Church is a parish of worship, spiritual growth, acceptance and healing centered in the Eucharist. Services are held Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. For information, visit www.standrewsnorfolk.org or call (757) 622-5530.

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St. Andrew's Centennial Year Event Schedule, 2011-2012

"Blessings from Heaven since 1911"

Nov. 4-6, 2011—19th Annual Flower Festival, a three-day celebration and kick-off for a year of centennial events

Nov. 20—Commemorative Church Service with 1892 liturgy, followed by a reception and preceded by a film featuring oral history interviews with St. Andrew's parishioners

Nov.-April—St. Andrew's Sacred Music Series, featuring Virginia Symphony soloists and the Roy Muth Brass Ensemble, among other musicians

April 22, 2012—St. Andrew's Block Party to include a neighborhood assembly-line meal-packaging event (10,000-meal goal) to benefit families assisted by Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief agency