



January 2013

### Rector's Reflections

One of our parishioners, Barbara Battelle, recently told me about a special tradition she encountered some years ago at a small church in Vermont. During the twelve days of Christmas, she told me, parishioners could sign up to receive an overnight visit from one of the wise men in the church's wooden crèche. The intent was for parishioners to share in the journey of the magi, as the small figurines became icons for their own spiritual pilgrimage to the manger of Christ.

I thought this was a neat image and attempt to sustain the mystery and wonder of the incarnation. It's a tangible reminder that once the pageants and parties are over and the presents unwrapped, the journey of Christmas continues. We aren't so fortunate as to join the animals and the shepherds, arriving at the scene in real time; we have to travel like the wise men of old, and more so across time and space. In fact, often the challenges of our lives and the sorrows of the world make that manger scene seem too distant a journey or too impossible a dream.

Perhaps what we need is an icon of sorts to help us along the way. Maybe it's a special tree or ornament, a calendar or book that helps us reflect on the incarnation. Maybe it's a prayer we recite each day or a candle we light each night. Maybe it's the carols we continue to sing, or the Feast of Lights service that concludes the season of Christmas and marks our entrance into Epiphany. Whatever it is, I encourage you to find some means of walking that road and keeping the promise of Christmas alive in your hearts as we each strive to offer our own gifts of praise to the holy child. And if you take a wrong turn, don't despair. In truth, it's a lifetime's journey and when we lose our way all we need do is look up to the stars.

Faithfully,

John

**Please join us at the  
Feast of Lights Epiphany service  
on January 6 at 7 pm  
(preceded by Wine & Cheese at 6:15 in White Hall).**

### Sr. Warden's Letter

*"We thank you O God for the gift of your love and we offer and present to you so far as we are able, all that we are, all that we have and all that we do, as only an emptiness to be filled by you until you are all in all and we are complete, through him who is your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."*

The Rev. Charles Austin Joy, former rector here at St. Andrew's, often recited this prayer before he gave his sermon. The prayer not only reminds me to give thanks for God's love but also challenges me to strive to give all that I can in service of God and other people. In many ways, for me the prayer is a call to service and stewardship.

Too often, when we see the word "stewardship," we hear the word "money." But at St. Andrew's, stewardship is about more than dollars and cents. In our mission statement printed on the front of the service bulletin each Sunday, we proclaim that: "In our role as stewards of God's gifts we embrace a comprehensive concept of stewardship as central to our ministry."

A "comprehensive" concept of stewardship is sometimes described as giving of our "time, talent and treasure." Those three "T's" can sometimes sound trite and be trivialized but for me nothing is harder or more important than striving to share God given gifts and to live intentionally a central message of the Gospels: "To love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and to love your neighbor as yourself." To give everything one can is the best and most anyone can do.

In the coming months, the vestry will be drawing your attention to the many opportunities to give of yourself to the life of this parish and to the broader community. If you are new to St. Andrew's or if you have not been active in the past, I invite you to become more involved in 2013.

Think about something that excites you: Is it singing, ringing bells, bible study, preparing the altar, polishing silver, arranging flowers, volunteering in the nursery, reading the lessons, teaching, serving as an acolyte, visiting the sick, helping people affected by HIV/AIDS, feeding the homeless, cooking, cleaning, gardening, advocacy, social media, or helping with a good party? If there is something you'd like to do, there is a place for you.

As you hear more about the various ministries at St. Andrew's, please ask yourself: "Do I give all that I am, all that I have and all that I do?" If, like me, the answer is "I don't always give as much as I can," a meaningful New Year's resolution might be to strive to give more day by day as you are able.

On behalf of the vestry, I hope that your Christmas was holy and happy and pray that you have a healthy, peaceful and meaningful New Year. -- Tim Coyle

## STEWARDSHIP 2013 REPORT

THANK YOU to all of our faithful parishioners who have turned in a pledge card! Thanks to your efforts, we had received 145 pledges, for a total of \$307,000, as of December 20. This represents an achievement of 92.8% of our pledge goal of \$330,000 – Also, we would especially like to thank our 12 new pledges and as always 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

Sunday evening, January 27th 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 5:30 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.

A signup sheet for reservations will be in White Hall after the New Year! Make sure you can come for a guaranteed fun evening!

### 2013 Altar Flowers sign up

It's that time again – to sign up for altar flowers for 2013. 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 Or you can sign up the bulletin Flowers Sign Up list on the Lay Readers Bulletin Board, near the library. Please note that we plan on trying something different this coming year. We would like to encourage other areas of the Narthex and Nave for arrangements of flowers e.g. foot of the Baptismal Font. Flowers for the high altar are \$75.00, flowers for the Lady Altar are \$50.00, and flowers for the Baptismal Font are \$25.00.

**St. Andrew's Cook-in:** Please see signup sheet on M & M bulletin board and at the information desk in White Hall for items needed for our next Cook-in on Sunday, January 20

### Outreach Ministry

Ghent Area Ministry is in need of volunteers who can help in any of the following ways: receptionist, answering phones, computer data input, assistance

with sorting and helping clients in the coat closet or food pantry, light yard maintenance, or fundraising.

Ghent Area Ministry is a local faith-based ministry called to serve poor and homeless people in the Norfolk community through caring and advocacy.

If you have an hour or two of free time between 9:00am and 3:00pm on weekdays and would like to help, please call Martha Gorman at 622-0438.

Thank you!

Robin Kruger  
GAM representative for St. Andrew's

### Outreach: Compassionate Works

The year end is a time for love, reflection and plans for the coming years. At St Andrew's we have shared our love with those who are known to us and those we have never met. Sharing resources, engaging in compassionate acts of kindness and praying for guidance, strength and courage are some of the ways we have tried to make a difference in this fragile and complex world.

Now is the time to plan for the future. It is possible to identify areas where we can each be of service to this ever growing human family of 7 (seven) billion. Proverbs 31:8-9 calls us to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak up, judge fairly, and defend the rights of the poor and needy."

In her book, *Sweet Charity*, sociologist Janet Poppendieck writes that charity can act as "a sort of moral safety valve; it can reduce the discomfort evoked by visible destitution in our midst by creating the illusion of effective action and offering us myriad ways of participating in it. It can create a culture of charity that normalizes destitution and legitimates personal generosity as a response "to injustice, rather than encouraging the work of systematic change. Change needs to include compassionate works and the redesign of unjust systems.

History has shown us that those who work for change and justice for all rarely get to witness that change. However those of us who follow in their footsteps can remember them and honor their efforts by continuing to work for the benefit of all.

There are many individuals on the Outreach Committee that can help you to obtain information and contacts for an area you would like to explore.

## Adult Forum

### Welcome to the Episcopal Church

Jan 6– Introduction: The Rev. John Rohrs  
Jan 13– History of the Anglican/Episcopal Church  
Jan 20 – Theology of the Anglican/Episcopal Church  
with The Rev. John Rohrs  
Jan 27 Worship in the Anglican/Episcopal Church  
with The Rev. John Rohrs

## Youth Program

### Sunday School & Children's Chapel

12/30 - No Children's Chapel or Sunday school  
1/6 - Sunday School back in session 9:00-10:00am  
1/13 - Sunday School 9:00-10:00am  
1/20 - No Sunday School due to holiday weekend  
1/27 - Sunday School 9:00-10:00am  
2/3 - Group Sunday School Valentine's activity 9:00-  
10:00am

### Youth Group (EYC)

1/6 - Youth Group at St. Andrew's 5:30-7:30  
1/18-1/20 - Youth Ski Trip to Wintergreen

## Health Department Food

### Handlers Regulations

2013 is the time to re-certify your food handlers cards if you attended the St. Andrew's course two years ago (Jan 2011). 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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m.

Fee is \$10

No reservations needed. Questions please call 683-2715.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto:jkruger3@cox.net). – Robin Kruger

## Staff Updates

Liz Carrico, our Nursery Assistant over the last year, has moved to Richmond. Her last day was in early December and we wished her well and thanked her for her wonderful care of our parish children. We are talking with possible candidates in hopes of filling that position early in the new year. Elizabeth Harris remains in her dedicated role as Nursery Coordinator, and we continue to be grateful for volunteer support. Check the sign-up board outside of White Hall for opportunities to help.

JonMichel Sipes, our faithful Church Sexton, is now working half-time, about 20 hours per week. His usual days on the job are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. He maintains a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule on those days and is also responsible for setting up for various meetings and events. To supplement JonMichel's work, we have hired Sunspot Cleaning, a cleaning crew out of Virginia Beach led by Brenda George. They came well-recommended to us and have been cleaning the office building and classrooms twice a week (Wednesdays and Saturdays) since October. This combination hopefully will ensure excellent care of our new facilities. If you happen to be here in the evening and meet Brenda and her crew, please introduce yourself and thank them for their work. Likewise, please thank JonMichel for all that he does behind the scenes. He was especially generous with his time and commitment this summer during the months of busy construction. We are fortunate at St. Andrew's to have such a dedicated staff.

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

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Norfolk, VA  
Permit No. 1635

**Vestry**

Tim Coyle, **Senior Warden**  
Dean Rogis, **Junior Warden**  
Charlotte Zito, **Register**  
Jim Affeldt  
Elizabeth Evans  
Carter Furr  
Sally Kellam  
Robin Kruger  
Jay Lassiter  
Karen Mitchell  
Wendy Nuzzo  
Deane Sobol  
Donald Swift  
Tristan Carter Warren  
KK West



*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.stacc@verizon.net](mailto:dsipes.stacc@verizon.net)  
[www.standrewsnorfolk.org](http://www.standrewsnorfolk.org)

The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia  
The Reverend John Rohrs, Rector  
The Reverend Sam Williams, Deacon  
Larry Brett, Treasurer  
Dennis Sipes, Parish Administrator  
Dr. James Kosnik, Organist/Choir Dir  
Richard Rigg, Youth Choir Dir  
Elizabeth Harris, Nursery Coordinator  
Josh Stephens, Christian Ed Director/Youth Leader  
JonMichel Sipes, Sexton  
Steve Blevins & John Hudson, Assistants to the Treasurer

**2013 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 6 through Tuesday, March 12, 2013. During NEST Week, White Hall will be converted into a primitive dormitory for homeless men and women. Our guests will arrive each evening, get a hot meal, sleep on mats on the floor and leave again first thing in the morning after a light breakfast. It takes more than 100 volunteers to prepare and serve meals, register guests, set up and staff the shelter for the week and take night watches. We will also need donations of toiletry items and especially socks for our guests. We will post signup sheets in January. Contact Jim Rhodes at 757.451.0602 (office), 757.627.5980 (home) if you have any questions, or if you would be willing to join the NEST Coordination Committee.