

The Net



St. Andrew's Anglican Church

December 19 & 20, 2015

Emmanuel: God is with us!

Christmas! The Feast of the Incarnation of God is a time when we celebrate the radical change of history. With the coming of Jesus in the flesh, God can never again be only an idea or a concept.

God is no longer only the one who initiates creation. Even the revelation of God as Father can no longer be considered allegorical, for he is the Father of the only begotten Son!

In the Incarnation, God becomes personal, a human being like you and me. One who prays to his Father in Heaven and through his sacrifice enables us to pray to God as our Father.

In Jesus of Nazareth, God forever dispels any speculation about who he is. He lives his life upon our planet, being tempted as we are, and yet without sin. He lives in the defenseless condition of a baby, totally dependent upon his mother for protection. He lives as a man who walks in the path of God: The path which God intended for all human beings to walk.

In contradiction to the claims of the world that we should get the most out of life, he walked the path of self-giving, giving even his very life for us!

This fundamental understanding of the Incarnation is in direct contrast to what the world teaches about Christmas. In the world we encounter a season that teaches children to want the best presents they can get under that tree. We encounter a world that speaks of "shopping days left until Christmas." We encounter a world that expects peace on earth and joy to the world and yet refuses to sacrifice its own security for it.

This Christmas we have a wonderful opportunity to recapture the real joy of Christmas. We can receive the only truly valuable gift of God Incarnate, Jesus the Christ!

Experience the presence and power of the personal, self-giving God; Jesus the Child-King of the Universe.

Youth Group Christmas Sunday

The St. Andrew's Youth Group Christmas Party will be on Sunday, Dec. 20. We will be exchanging gifts and going to see "Wildlights" at the Columbus Zoo. The cost is \$15 and will include admission to the Zoo and dinner (pizza) at the Zoo.

Youth should meet at the church at 3 p.m. for the gift exchange.

Please turn to inside

A child is born

*Love comes into the world. And the world is changed.
Darkness becomes light. Fear becomes joy.*

And we are changed.

A traditional Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

*5:30 p.m., traditional carols with our contemporary
worship band & children's sermon*



*8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., traditional Anglican worship
with organ & choir; child care at 8 p.m.*

Holy Communion at all three services; incense at 10:30

ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Today our advent wreath is aglow with the promise that Jesus, "the true light, which enlightens everyone," is coming into the world. In anticipation of the nativity of our Savior in just five days, we share with you Fr. Ron's reflection on the incarnation of God in human flesh — Emmanuel: God is with us!



Choir to present Christmas cantata Sunday, Dec. 27

The St. Andrew's Choir will present its annual Christmas cantata at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 27. This year's presentation, "Noel Jesus is Born," features songs woven together in a fresh re-telling of an old story, rich with new meaning and insight.

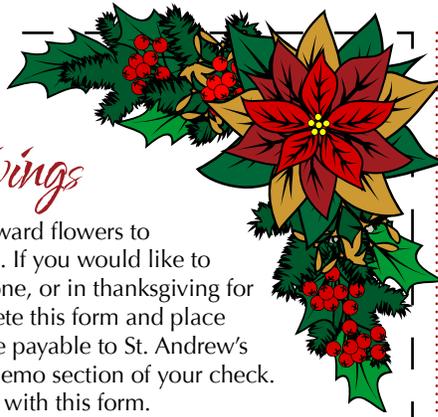
George Girard will once again serve as narrator, introducing songs including "Cherish That Name," with solos by Steve Darke, and Meg and Dave Patton; "A Star Was Born," with Pat Carpenter, soloist; "Herod's Song," with Randy Smith, soloist; "Seeking For Me," with Joe Enneking, soloist; and "No Room," with Joyce Waddell, soloist.

Parish invited to Christmas morning prayer & brunch

Come celebrate Christmas with your Parish Family on Christmas Day! Jim and Jackie Menke, with Randy and Linda Smith, will be hosting a prayer service at 9 a.m., followed by a potluck brunch at St. Andrew's at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend either just the prayer service, or both the prayer service and the brunch.

Please turn to inside

Christmas Flower Memorials & Thanksgivings



The Altar Guild is now accepting contributions toward flowers to decorate the altar and sanctuary for Christmas Eve. If you would like to make a gift in any amount in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for a loved one, an event or a blessing, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check made payable to St. Andrew's Anglican Church. Please note *Altar Guild* in the memo section of your check. Cash gifts should be placed in an envelope, along with this form.

Enclosed is a gift of \$_____ toward altar decorations for Christmas Eve.

Please print all information exactly as you would like it to appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

This gift is given by (please print):

Please contact me at the follow e-mail address or phone number with questions:

In memory of (please print):

In thanksgiving for (please print):

For more information, please contact **Ellie Schramm**, 614-846-0711 or ellieschramm@live.com. **Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 20.**

Christmas day prayer & brunch

Continued from the front

Since last year's Gift Swap was so successful we will be having it again as an option. For each person who wishes to participate, simply bring a wrapped gift to be placed on our gift swap table and get ready for some fun! Gifts should cost less than \$20, and should not be male or female specific. Couples can bring one gift, or two if each person wishes to participate individually.

A sign-up sheet is available at the Information Desk. You may also sign up by contacting Jackie Menke at 614-895-0786 or Randy and Linda Smith at 740-417-4702.

Youth Christmas Party

Continued from the front

Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange should bring a gift of no more than \$10 in value.

For more information, please contact Karen Osmond at 614-975-0878 or khosmond@gmail.com.

Youth should return to the church no later than 9 p.m.

Year-end notes

2015 receipts due

Ministry leaders and others who may have receipts to be turned in for reimbursement for church-related purchases in 2015 are asked to turn them in by Sunday, Dec. 20. Reimbursement forms are available in the green basket on top of the mail boxes in the Gathering Area, and at the parish office.

Note to electronic givers

Parishioners who are using e-giving should be sure to change their pledge in January to "General Fund 2016." You can re-select that option on the e-giving website by clicking on the "Online Giving" link on the home page of our web site, standrewspolaris.org.

Gifts for year-end tax benefit

Parishioners who choose to make stock transfer gifts and other special contributions to the church prior to the end of the year for tax purposes are asked to do so by Dec. 31. Gifts of stock should be made well before Dec. 31 since it takes several days for the transfer to come through to St. Andrew's.

If you have any questions about any of the above business items, please contact **Ruth Eller**, business manager, at 740-548-5112, ext. 2 or reller@standrewspolaris.org.

Holiday office closings

The parish office will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, to allow our staff to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families. Regular hours will resume on Monday, Jan. 4. If you have questions about your year-end giving, or any other urgent church-related business to conduct, please call the office at 740-548-5112, ext. 2 and leave a voice mail message, and someone will return your call.

Fr. Ron will also be reachable in case of emergency at 740-548-5112, ext. 1 or 614-961-7012.

Prayer teams available on Sunday to pray with you

Prayer teams are available to pray with you during Holy Communion at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services. At 9 a.m. they are stationed to the left of the altar near the band equipment; at 11:15 a.m. they are stationed to the right of the altar, near the piano and organ. See details in today's bulletin.



The Daily Lectionary

Week of the Fourth Sunday in Advent • Dec. 20-26

- Sunday, Dec. 20 (Advent 4)** — A.M.: Psalm 24, 29; P.M.: Psalm 8, 84; Genesis 3:8-15; Revelation 12:1-10; John 3:16-21
- Monday, Dec. 21** — A.M.: Psalm 61, 62; P.M.: Psalm 112, 115; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Titus 1:1-16; Luke 1:1-25 **Feast of St. Thomas** — A.M.: Psalm 23 & 121, Job 42:1-6, 1 Peter 1:3-9; P.M.: Psalm 27, Isaiah 43: 8-13, John 14:1-7
- Tuesday, Dec. 22** — A.M.: Psalm 66, 67; P.M.: Psalm 116, 117; 1 Samuel 2:1b-10; Titus 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-38
- Wednesday, Dec. 23** — A.M.: Psalm 72; P.M.: Psalm 111, 113; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8a; Luke 1:39-48a(48b-56)
- Thursday, Dec. 24** — A.M.: Psalm 45, 46; Baruch 4:36-5:9; Galatians 3:15-22; Luke 1:67-80 or Matthew 1:1-17 **Christmas Eve:** P.M. Psalm 89:1-29; Isaiah 59:15b-21; Philippians 2:5-11
- Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25** — A.M.: Psalm 2, 85; P.M.: Psalm 110:1-5(6-7), 132; Micah 4:1-5,5:2-4; 1 John 4:7-16; John 3:31-36
- Saturday, Dec. 26** — A.M.: Psalm 28, 30; 2 Chronicles 24:17-22; Acts 6:1-7; P.M.: Psalm 118; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8 **Feast of St. Stephen** — A.M.: Psalm 28 & 30, 2 Chronicles 24:17-22, Acts 6:1-7; P.M.: Psalm 118, Wisdom 4:7-15, Acts 7:59-8:8
- Next Sunday, Dec. 27 (Christmas 1)** — A.M.: Psalm 93, 96; P.M.: Psalm 34; 1 Samuel 1:1-2,7b-28; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 1:18-25

Next Sunday's Lectionary • Dec. 27; First Sunday in Christmas (Year C)

Collect: BCP 213 **First Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 **Gospel:** John 1:1-18

Advent Prayer



- Wanted:** People who like to pray for their church
- Rewards:** Love, joy, inner peace, faith
- Place:** The sanctuary at St. Andrew's Anglican
- Date & time:** Wednesday, Dec. 23, 12-1 p.m.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited & redeemed his people ..." (Luke 1:68)

Encouragement for your prayer time with God

God's love for us has an infinite source, God himself who is infinite. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2) "In this way the love of God was revealed to us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." (1 John 4:9)

— From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team

Encourage 'The River' to play

Christmas music for the 12 days of Christmas!

The Sunday Morning Apostles small group would like to ask the congregation to join them in contacting 104.9 FM The River radio station to request that they continue to play Christmas music during the week after Christmas Day, and perhaps through Epiphany. Tell your friends too!

Contact the station at 1-800-609-1049 or 614-479-1049, on Facebook at 104.9 The River, or by email at theriver@1049theriver.com.

Prayers for the Baldwin family

We're sad to share with you news of the death on Thursday, Dec. 17, of Shirley Baldwin, mother of Larry Baldwin. Please keep Larry and Julie in your prayers during this difficult time as they mourn her loss. Please also pray for Shirley as she enters her new life in the nearer presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May her soul and the souls of all the saints rest in God's peace, and may light perpetual shine upon her.

Prayers for the Church

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Bishop Michael Oluwarohunbi and for the priests, deacons, religious, and laity of the Diocese Yewa, one of the 161 dioceses in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion). The Church of Nigeria is still the fastest growing member church of the Anglican Communion with over 18 million members.

The Diocese of Yewa was inaugurated in 1990 and just celebrated its 25th anniversary with gala celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, football matches, choir competitions, parades, Bible competitions, etc. The diocese, named after the Yewa people, a clan of the Yoruba, is located in the south west region of Nigeria and borders the Republic of Benin. The area is largely agricultural, with an estimated population of 400,000. The diocese is heavily invested in education and health care, along with evangelism.

Sadly, open strife between the bishop, just elected in January 2014, and some of the clergy and laity has led to front page stories in some Nigerian newspapers. Please pray especially for the Peace of God to reign within the diocese and for another 25 years of Spirit-led growth.

Following the ACNA Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Bishops Alberto Morales, OSB, Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, D.D. and The Diocese of Quincy.

Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray for seminarians and those reading for orders, especially Ethan Harrison, Edward Leche, and Jane Roberts.

Following the Parish Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Bob, Amy, Hope and Cole Beverick; Ryan, Diane, Caroline and Sophia Bobay; the Hokey Pokey Small Group; and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Please also pray for parents; Lord, please give them wisdom in raising their children, and true love which comes from you.

At left, Ted Spradling hams it up with St. Nicholas before joining the rest of our contemporary worship band at the 11:15 a.m. Sunday service two weeks ago.

Many of you have asked about the chocolate St. Nicks that our recent visitor handed out to our children. The “regular” Santa candy was purchased from See’s Chocolates; the bishop’s mitres were made from a pattern downloaded from stnicholascenter.org and adorned with cross stickers from Lifeway, and the croziers, or bishop’s staffs, were fashioned from metallic gold chenille pipe cleaners available from most craft stores. They were fun to make, and we hope were a fun and tasty treat for our children! Children also received a St. Nicholas prayer card, pictured at the bottom of the page.



Lord, give us the courage, love and strength of St Nicholas, so that, like him, we may serve you through loving our brothers and sisters.

Francis of Assisi may not be the only saint that's partial to animals! Above, Dietrich Stallsworth's Charlie gets some pets from St. Nicholas.