

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. - John 1:6-9

From a prophecy from John the Baptist on the last Sunday of Advent to the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas Eve, the Young Saints of St. Andrew's experienced first-hand the complete Christmas Gospel!



Above, "Calling of Levi," our contemporary worship band, leads the congregation in "Angels We Have Heard on High" at the close of the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service; at left, Georgianna Pearson, who celebrates her 99th birthday this coming March, greets an old friend in Joyce Waddell after the St. Andrew's Choir's presentation of their Christmas Cantata for residents of the Village at Westerville Retirement Center on the fourth Sunday of Advent. See inside and the back page for additional pictures of Christmas at St. Andrew's, and next week's "Net" and our our website — standrewspolaris.org — for even more!



The Daily Lectionary

Week of the Second Sunday after ; ` j ð e Yk · Jan. 4-10

Sunday, January 4 — A.M.: Psalm 66, 67; P.M.: Psalm 145; Ecclesiasticus 3:3-9,14-17; 1 John 2:12-17; John 6:41-47

Monday, January 5 — A.M.: Psalm 2, 110:1-5(6-7); Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2; John 15:1-16 **Eve of Epiphany** — P.M.: Psalm 29, 98; Isaiah 66:18-23; Romans 15:7-13

Tuesday, January 6, Feast of the Epiphany — A.M.: Psalm 46, 97; P.M.: Psalm 96, 100; Isaiah 52:7-10; Revelation 21:22-27; Matthew 12:14-21

Wednesday, January 7 — A.M.: Psalm 103; P.M.: Psalm 114, 115; Isaiah 52:3-6; Revelation 2:1-7; John 2:1-11

Thursday, January 8 — A.M.: Psalm 117, 118; P.M.: Psalm 112, 113; Isaiah 59:15-21; Revelation 2:8-17; John 4:46-54

Friday, January 9 — A.M.: Psalm 121, 122, 123; P.M.: Psalm 131, 132; Isaiah 63:1-5; Revelation 2:18-29; John 5:1-15

Saturday, January 10 — A.M.: Psalm 138, 139:1-17(18-23); P.M.: Psalm 147; Isaiah 65:1-9; Revelation 3:1-6; John 6:1-14 **Eve of 1 Epiphany** — P.M.: Psalm 104; Isaiah 61:1-9; Galatians 3:23-29, 4:4-7

Next Sunday, January 11 — A.M.: Psalm 146, 147; P.M.: Psalm 111, 112, 113; Isaiah 40:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-7,19-20,29-34

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**Next Sunday's Lectionary · Jan. 11; First Sunday after The Epiphany (Year B)
Feast of the Baptism of our Lord**

Collect: BCP 214
Psalm 29 (BCP 620)
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5
Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Prayers for the Church

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray for **Bishops James Odedeji** and **Adebayo Akinde** and for the priests, deacons, religious, and people of the **Dioceses of Lagos West** and **Lagos Mainland, Nigeria**. Both dioceses are located in and around Lagos, the old political capitol city of Nigeria (and still the financial and business capitol). In just some 2.5 centuries, the church in Nigeria has grown from missionary efforts by the Church Missionary Society (from England) to over 18 million members in 2012. The Diocese of Lagos West was created from the Diocese of Lagos in 1999 and has grown steadily since then. Please give thanks for the highly successful second "Triumphant Convocation Crusade" held over four days in November 2014.

The Diocese of Lagos Mainland was inaugurated in 2006 as a further offshoot of the Diocese of Lagos. The Diocese's slogan is "Fear God, do it right and flourish." They must be ideally abiding by their slogan as, in just the first five years of their existence, they have built a college, a hospital, and stocked a book center. Over the same period, they grew from 36 to 50 parishes. Please pray especially that the Holy Spirit and the love of, and for, God will continue to flourish in both dioceses.

Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray for **Fr. Brian Wolthius** and **3Sixty**, Holland, Michigan. Please also pray for the **College of Bishops** meeting in Orlando, Fla., on Jan. 5.

Following the Parish Cycle of Prayer, please pray for **Dan** and **Christine Brill**; **Rick, Kerri, Evan** and **Emily Brock**; **Mike** and **Karen Brust**; the **Menke Small Group**; and the **Community Garden Ministry**. We pray for those in manufacturing industries; please give them your perfect guidance, Lord, that their products be good for your people to use.

Youth 'Testimony Troupe' begins Jan. 13

St. Andrew's youth will have an opportunity to share their faith through drama and music with the formation in early 2015 of the Christian Drama Group Testimony Troupe.

The Troupe's first meeting will be during Youth Group on Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the church.

All youth, ages 12 to 18, are invited to participate in this ministry, whose purpose is to spread God's word through theatre ministry.

In addition to stage talent, opportunities exist for technical services, lighting, costume, stage and make-up personnel.

Youth are welcome to invite friends from school, and other churches to participate!

For more information, please contact **Tiffany Christy** at kennedy_tiff@yahoo.com or **Laurie Darke** at lauriedarke@gmail.com.

Winter weather notice

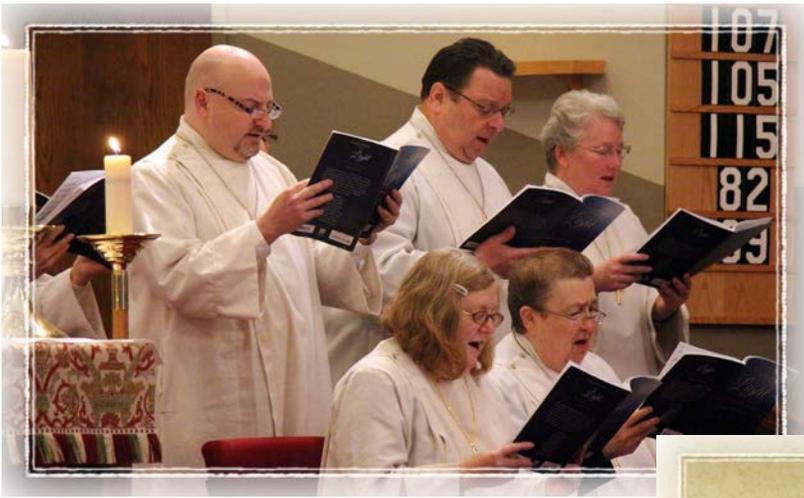
With winter upon us, please remember to check our website before heading out for events and activities at the church if weather conditions are deteriorating, if roads are in poor driving condition or if there are snow emergencies in Delaware or Franklin counties. (Please note that all events and activities at the church are cancelled if there is a Level 3 snow emergency in Delaware County and/or Orange Township.)

If a cancellation affects a majority of the congregation, we will also send a parish-wide e-mail. Church service cancellations will also be posted on local TV stations.

Encouragement for your prayer time with God

In order to be born as a baby, Jesus had to be changed. This enabled him to be our Savior! Through our prayer-life, we can allow God to change us into something great. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (*Ephesians 4:22-24*)

— From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team



The St. Andrew's Choir gave two presentations of their annual Christmas Cantata, "Darkness Into Light: A Christmas Musical Journey" by Mary McDonald; one for residents of the Village at Westerville Retirement Center on the fourth Sunday of Advent, and another for the congregation at the 9:30 a.m. service last Sunday. Above left, standing, from left, are Steve Darke, and Meg and David Patton, and seated, from left, Betsy York and Donna Gough; above right, seated, from left, are Pat Carpenter, Meg Patton, Brenda Spradling, and Ann Schnapp, and standing, from left, Joe Enneking, Bob Seyerle, George Spradling and Randy Smith. At left, Tom James directs.



Epiphany: Feast of light

The word Epiphany comes from a Greek word that means "revealed." This feast was first celebrated in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean world as the festival of the Revelation of God in human form. The chief stories in this celebration were the Visitation of the Magi and the Baptism of our Lord. This feast of the Revelation is celebrated on Jan. 6 because under the old Eastern calendar, this coincided with the Winter solstice. Thus, the days stopped becoming shorter and began to have more daylight. Christians in the East adopted the pagan festival and gave it a Christian understanding. The understanding of the true light that has come into the World, Jesus the Christ.

In the West, a separate feast to celebrate the coming of God in human form was adopted. It was called the Feast of the Incarnation (enfleshment), or what we now call Christmas. Again, this was done because the Western calendar at that time placed the Winter solstice on Dec. 25. Of course, we now find the winter solstice on Dec. 21.

Eventually, the East and West learned of one another's feasts. It was decided to keep both dates and that both East and West would celebrate both feasts. Both are important to our understanding of the revelation of God in Christ Jesus. In our observation of them we find that Christmas does indeed have 12 days!

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Epiphany is still the primary festival, while in the Western churches, we place the primary festivities on Christmas.

The Magi story was originally added by the West to its

celebration of Christmas. Thus, we still sing songs such as "We Three Kings" as Christmas carols. This story was then adopted by the West as the primary Epiphany story: The revelation of God to the Gentiles.

The three kings bring gifts to the Christ child that befit such a noble birth: Gold as tribute to a mightier King; Frankincense as the offerings of our prayers to one who is God, and myrrh to anoint for burial the one who is to die for us.

These symbols are still used in our sacramental life today. We often use gold in our Eucharistic vessels; we use real frankincense in our Thurible, and we anoint people with oil at baptism as they are buried with Christ in his death. The gifts for our King are still in use in the Church today!

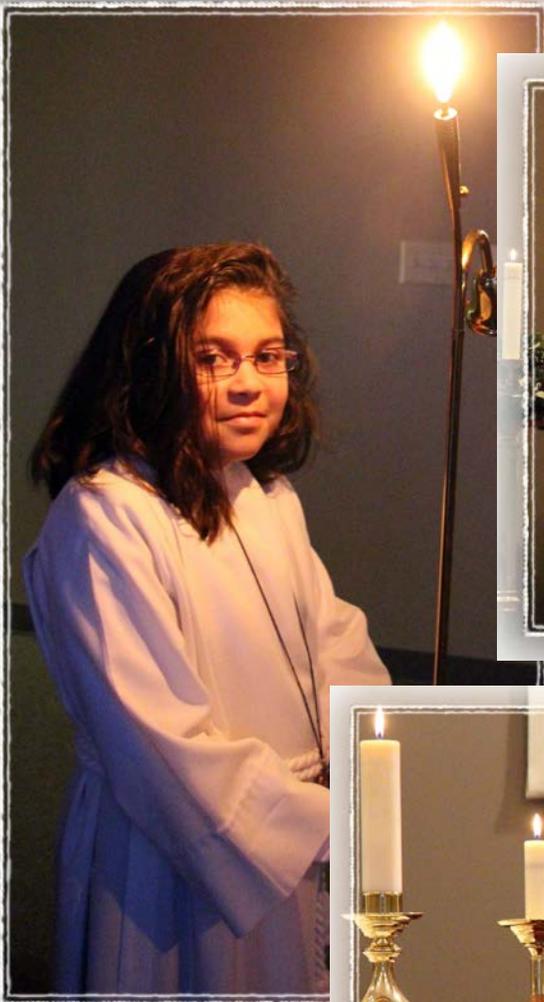
Perhaps, like the three Magi, we too will remember to bear homage to our King, Jesus, the Christ.

We celebrate the festival of the Incarnation/Revelation of God to humans. We celebrate the coming of the promised one of the prophet Isaiah, Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate the coming into the world of our long hoped for salvation, Jesus, our Savior and our Lord!



— By Fr. Ron Baird

Images of Christmas



Top, Fr. Ron Baird, celebrant, Mother Nanci James, and layreader George Sprading at the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist. Clockwise, from center picture above, Kay Landsberg, a soloist during the Choir's Christmas Cantata last Sunday; acolytes recess at the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service; and members of the St. Andrew's Youth String Ensemble last Sunday.