

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

December 11, 2016



All she wants for Christmas...



Any guesses about what this little gal is chatting with St. Nicholas about? She and the other Young Saints of St. Andrew's visited with St. Nicholas when he stopped by St. Andrew's last Sunday in advance of his Dec. 6 feast day.



The Celebrate Marriage ministry hosted an anniversary dinner in late November for parishioners who celebrated wedding anniversaries this fall. Attending were, from left, Tom and Mother Nanci James; Ernie and Candy Tracy (standing); Larry and Patti Cooper (kneeling); Jon and Jacquie Wallace (standing) and Chris and Cherie Bryant. Attending but not pictured were Alan and Christie Carter and Frank and Marty Scott.

Couples "Celebrate Marriage" at November anniversary dinner; group to meet this coming Tuesday

The Celebrate Marriage Small Group, which in November hosted the first of what it hopes to become many anniversary dinners, will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish House for its regular meeting. Because of the holidays, this will be the group's only meeting this month. All married couples are welcome to attend, and bring their favorite Christmas cookies, pastries or snacks to celebrate the season. The group will be planning for its new study, which will begin after the new year.

Read more inside

Festival of Lessons & Carols Dec. 17

The St. Andrew's Choir will present the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols during the Liturgy of the Word at the 9 a.m. service on the fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18. This Anglican Advent tradition dates back to 1880, but Organist and Choir Director Laurie Darke will introduce a decidedly St. Andrew's flavor with the involvement of our youth and children.

Many of our youth will be reading the lessons, and our children will present a Nativity tableau, bringing the Christmas story alive for us.

Rehearsal Saturday, Dec. 17

There will be a rehearsal for all children and youth participating in the Festival of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve services

St. Andrew's will once again celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord with three services on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24. The change in service times last year was well received, so we'll once again be holding services at 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. The 5:30 p.m. service will feature traditional

Read more inside

The Daily Lectionary

Week of the Third Sunday in Advent • Dec. 11-17

Sunday, December 11 — A.M.: Psalms 56, 57, 58; Isaiah 25:1-9 (10-12); Matthew 25:1-30 P.M.: 59, 60, 61; Isaiah 26:1-13 (14-21); Matthew 3

Monday, December 12 — A.M.: Psalms 62, 63, 64; Isaiah 42:1-17; Mark 7:1-23 P.M.: Psalms 65, 66, 67; Isaiah 42:18-43:13; Revelation 18

Tuesday, December 13 — A.M.: Psalms 68; Isaiah 43:14-44:5; Mark 7:24-8:10; P.M.: Psalms 69, 70; Isaiah 44:6-23; Revelation 19

Wednesday, December 14 — A.M.: Psalms 71, 72; Isaiah 44:24-45:13; Mark 8:11-9:1 P.M.: Psalm 73, 74; Isaiah 45:14-25; Revelation 20

Thursday, December 15 — A.M.: Psalms 75, 76, 77; Isaiah 46; Mark 9:2-32 P.M.: Psalms 78; Isaiah 47; Revelation 21:1-14

Friday, December 16 — A.M.: Psalms 79, 80, 81; Isaiah 48; Mark 9:33-50 P.M.: Psalms 82, 83, 84, 85; Isaiah 49:1-13; Revelation 21:15-22:5

Saturday, December 17 — A.M.: Psalms 86, 87, 88; Isaiah 49:14-26; Mark 10: 1-31 P.M.: Psalms 89; Isaiah 50; Revelation 22:6-21

Next Sunday, December 18 — A.M.: Psalms 90, 91, 92; Isaiah 35; Matthew 25: 31-46 P.M.: 93, 94; Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1:26-45

Next Sunday's Lectionary • Dec. 18 (Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalm 24 (BCP 613)

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Prayers for the Church

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray for the bishop-to-be-elected and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Kericho in The Anglican Church of Kenya. The bishopric is now vacant because the previous bishop, Dr. Jackson Sapit, was elected Archbishop of Kenya in May 2016 and consecrated in July.

Although Anglican worship in other parts of Kenya, in north east Africa, began as early as 1844, it did not begin in the area covered by the diocese until the 1930s. The Diocese itself was carved out of the Nakura Diocese in 2008 and now has 10 parishes with 107 widely dispersed congregations and 6,000 members in a population of 1.5 million. There are 12 priests, 47 evangelists, and eight church-employed lay leaders. Despite the small number of parishioners, the Mothers Union has 2,600 registered members, the Anglican Men's Association has 1,400, and the Anglican Youth Organization has 2,000.

There had been significant unrest in the country and 100 schools have been burned this year, some by students! Thanks be to God, the Diocese's five schools are all intact as of this writing.

Please pray especially for the election of the next bishop, for a calming in the nation and a complete cessation of school burnings, for the Diocese's community building efforts, for evangelism, and for youth.

Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Seminarians/Those Reading for Orders, especially Ethan Harrison, Brandon Grimm, Shabaz Newab, and Giovanna Meek.

Following the Parish Cycle of Prayer, please pray for Steve, Kara and Anna Atkinson; Fr. Ron, Judy and John Baird; the Living Stones Small Group; and our Chalicists and Lectors.

Encouragement for your prayer time with God

Jesus came to earth to break down all barriers between our heart and God's. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." (*Psalms 19:14*) — *From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team*

Services for Jack Reeks this Monday

We're sad to share with you news of the death this past Monday, Dec. 5, of parishioner John "Jack" Reeks. A memorial service will be held Monday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at Robinson Funeral Home, 32 West Winter St., Delaware. The family will receive visitors an hour before the service.

Jack, who attended the Saturday evening service, and before it the 8 a.m. Sunday service, loved serving the church by lending a hand at various events, including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, where he helped roll out hundreds of eggs each year. Most recently, he grilled hot dogs for the Harvest Festival in October, less than a week before suffering injuries in the automobile accident that led to his death.

Please keep Jack's family, including daughters Tracy and Kelli, and granddaughter Michelle, in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their beloved father and grandfather. And pray also for Jack as he enters his new life in the nearer presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May his soul and the souls of all the saints rest in God's peace, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. Andrew's. You may read Jack's complete obituary on the Member Connection of our website, standrewspolaris.org.

Prayer service Dec. 14

Are you ready to receive the Savior, born on Christmas? Give your prayer life new birth by coming to the Wednesday Prayer Service, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (*Luke 2:11*)

Women's Bible Study on hiatus until January

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study Group finished its last session of our fall series and will reconvene Bible study after the holidays on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Watch for details about our new study for winter/spring after the holidays!

Is your spiritual house ready for the holidays?

Beginning today, Fr. Ed Steele will lead the Adult Forum in a timely topic — “Getting your Spiritual House Ready for the Holidays and the New Year.” The six-week class will lead you through the “rooms” of your spiritual life, as you examine your relationship with God and others.

Based on the results of a study Fr. Ed did as part of a graduate course in spiritual direction, and on personal experience, the class will provide a guide for reflection, and steps for renewal and repair in those areas where you feel you may need some “home improvement.”

Today, we begin with asking, “How is your Spiritual Curb Appeal?” The focus will be on our outward appearance in relation to our true spiritual self.

Fr. Ed’s class will be held on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. through Jan. 29, with a break on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

Youth Christmas party update

The date for the St. Andrew’s Youth Group Christmas Party may need to be changed to accommodate our numerous school district final exam schedules. Please talk with Tally Whitehead at church this Sunday, or email her at twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org, about scheduling, and watch your church email for further details.

Christmas Eve

Continued from the front

Christmas carols led by “Calling of Levi,” our contemporary worship band, and a children’s sermon. The 8 p.m. service will be a traditional service with organ and choir. Child care will be available at 8 p.m. The 10:30 p.m. service will include some favorite Anglican Christmas Eve traditions, including incense, and will also feature organ and choir. All three services will include Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day, we’ll be offering one service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m., followed by brunch, which has become a Christmas morning tradition at St. Andrew’s. Services will be held at the normal times on New Year’s Day. Watch for details in “The Net” and on our website.

Celebrate Marriage

Continued from the front

The Celebrate Marriage Small Group’s mission is to celebrate, enrich, and support marriages and families by offering programs that enable married couples to discover a deeper understanding of the holy gift God has bestowed upon them in their relationship, and to motivate them to witness the value of his love for all of the world through their love for one another and their discipleship in Christ.

They accomplish this mission by using as many tools as they can find to assist all married couples to more deeply discover and honor their marriage relationship. One of those tools is the anniversary dinner, and they were pleased in November to help Larry and Patti Cooper, Chris and Cherie Bryant, and Alan and Christie Carter celebrate their fall wedding anniversaries! Twelve people attended the dinner, and the group was overwhelmed by the support from all of the regular members of the Celebrate Marriage community who provided food and beverages.

The group hopes the variety of tools they provide will help couples eliminate the distraction dilemma that society exposes them to, and enable them to relearn how to devote time and energy to focusing on attaining a deeper understanding of each other, nurturing their relationships like they did when they were dating!

Their group studies focus on learning to love each other God’s way, and emphasize prayerful personal reflection and mutual sharing between each other and Christ, the third partner in their marriage. This emphasis on communication leads to growth of trust, enriching the marital relationship, as well as the growth of each individual, their family and the community.

Watch for future meeting and party announcements, and please consider joining us! For more information, please contact Larry and Patti Cooper, celebratemarriagegroup@gmail.com.

Year-end notes

2016 receipts due

Ministry leaders and others who may have receipts to be turned in for reimbursement for church-related purchases in 2016 are asked to turn them in by Sunday, Dec. 18. 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 2017.” You can re-select that option on the E-giving website by clicking on the “Online Giving” link on the home page of our website, standrewspolaris.org.

Gifts for year-end tax benefit

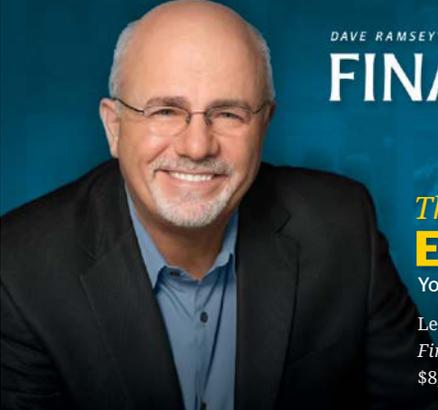
Parishioners who choose to make stock transfer gifts and other special contributions to the church prior to the end of the year for tax purposes are asked to do so by Christmas Eve. Gifts of stock should be made well in advance of year end, since it takes several days for the transfer to come through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

If you have any questions about any of the above business items, please contact Rachel Cherubini, business manager,, at 740-548-5112, ext. 2 or rcherubini@standrewspolaris.org.

Holiday office closings

The parish office will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 2, to allow our staff to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3. If you have questions about your year-end giving, or any other urgent church-related business to conduct during the time the office is closed, 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.



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Learn God's ways of handling money with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University!* The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just the first three months!

Give yourself or someone you know the gift of financial peace this Christmas! **Classes start January 8** at 6 p.m. at St. Andrew's. **Sign up now!**

740.548.5112 / standrewspolaris.org / daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1029537

Pledge drive at \$404,040

Ninety-eight families have responded to the 2017 General Fund stewardship drive, pledging \$404,040 as of this Friday. Our goal is \$460,000, which means we have \$55,960 yet to raise. If you are among those who have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so today so the Vestry can finalize the 2017 budget.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to Christ's mission at St. Andrew's Anglican Church!

Kitchen Saints welcome new Sunday team leaders

The Kitchen Saints, who prepare coffee on Sunday mornings and set out the goodies provided by members of the parish, recently welcomed Alan and Christie Carter to their ministry. The Carters will serve as team leaders on the second Sunday of the month. They join John McGuirl, team leader on the first Sunday; Kathy Seitz, on the third Sunday; Jana Lilly on the fourth Sunday; and Frank Scott, on the fifth Sunday. Cherie Bryant and Marty and Frank Scott serve at 11 a.m.

These team leaders are always seeking volunteers to lend a hand on Sunday mornings. Please consider serving with them once a month, and contact Marty Scott, mScott@standrewspolaris.org or 614-284-0182 to volunteer.

Kroger shoppers earn \$416 for parish in past quarter

Many thanks to the 32 St. Andrew's families who earned \$416.10 for our parish through the Kroger Community Rewards program for the quarter ending Oct. 30! Remember, regardless of how often you shop or how much you spend at Kroger, your participation helps our parish earn free rewards. And you'll still earn any in-store discounts and gas points.

Sign-ups are accepted anytime throughout the year, with the annual renewal date for all shoppers in May. Simply go to krogercommunityrewards.com with your Kroger Plus card handy and register with "St. Andrew's Anglican Church," or our number, 80910. In 2015, participating families earned \$1,257 for St. Andrew's!

Christmas 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 following 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 email us at mail@standrewspolaris.org. **Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 18.**