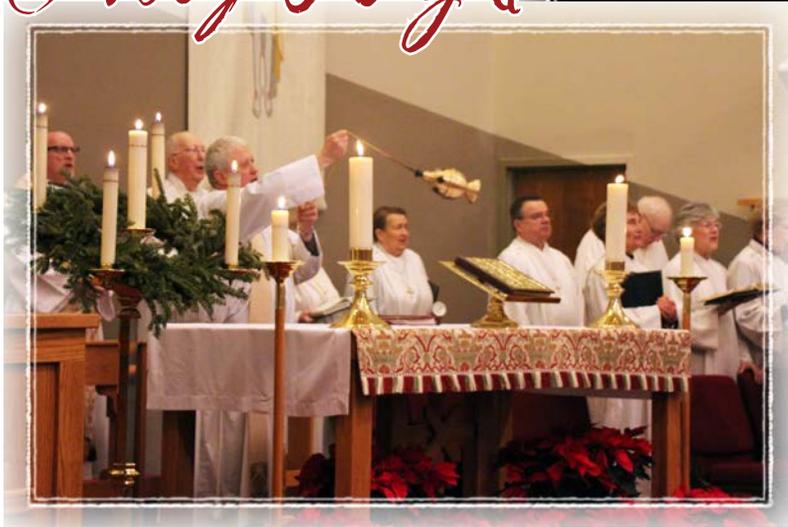


The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

January 2 & 3, 2016

Holy Night



At the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, above left, Fr. Ron Baird censes the altar; at left, from left, Meg Patton, Laurie Darke, Steve Darke and Dave Patton sing by candlelight while the congregation kneels at the start of the service; and above, right, one of our youth acolytes shares the light of the newborn King who came into the world on this holy night with Dan Brill.



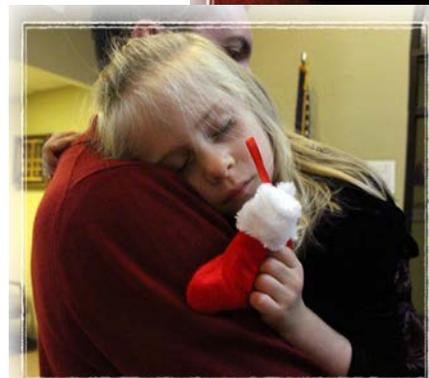
St. Andrew's to serve at Common Ground Jan. 16

St. Andrew's will serve at the Common Ground Free Store in Delaware on Saturday, Jan. 16. You may sign up to volunteer and/or contribute food for the meal we'll serve that day in the Narthex, beginning today.

For more information, please contact Diane Bobay at 614-846-6921 or bobayfamily@att.net, or Marty at 614-284-0182 or mscott@standrewspolaris.org.



Inside today:
The Feast of the Epiphany



All smiles during Fr. Ron's children's sermon, she's asleep in daddy's arms by the close of the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

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.

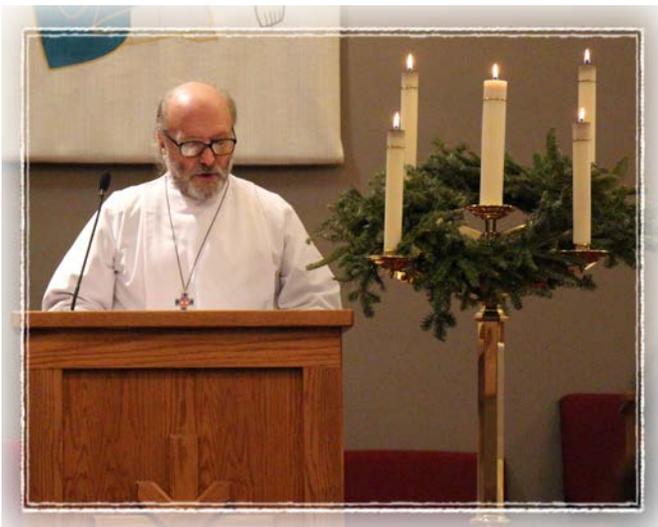
The three kings bring gifts to the Christ child that befit such a noble birth:

- 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!



At left, Donn Ross reads Scripture at the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

— By Fr. Ron Baird



Children seem naturally drawn to the Christ Child in the Nativity that graces our Narthex at Christmas. These siblings reach out to Jesus after the Altar Guild set up the Nativity on the last Sunday of Advent. See next week's "Net" for more pictures of children with the Nativity.

At right, one of our youth acolytes at the 8 p.m. service.



Above and at right, Fr. Ron Baird with children of St. Andrew's during his children's sermon at the 5:30 p.m. sermon.



Above, Mike Schroeder shares the light of Christ with Chinaza Anosike, left, and Betsy York at the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service.