

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

February 19, 2017

Annual Meeting next Sunday, Feb. 26; annual reports available today

The Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This meeting will be an opportunity to hear from Fr. Ron Baird and members of the Vestry about the state of the parish in 2016, and look ahead to what's planned for 2017. It's also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the 2016 Annual Report, copies of which are in your mail slot in the Gathering Area today.

Chili Cook-off set for before Annual Meeting

It's time for the annual St. Andrew's Youth Group Chili Cook-off! This year's event will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and Fan Favorite, as well as a prize for the most unusual recipe.

If you are planning to attend or to enter a chili into the contest, please sign up at the Information Desk or online at standrewspolaris.org, under the "Forms and Downloads" menu tab. For more information, please contact Karen Osmond, 614-975-0878 or khosmond@gmail.com.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper set for Feb. 28

Please note Feb. 28 on your calendar, when the Brotherhood of St. Andrew will once again sponsor our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will be preparing for the Lenten season by feasting on pancakes, sausages, and all the traditional side dishes. Supper will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (or until the food runs out, whichever comes first). As in the past, the supper will be held in the Gathering Area of the church. There is no charge for the food; however, a free-will offering will be accepted to cover the expenses of the supper. Sign-up sheets are available throughout the church and online at standrewspolaris.org, under the "Forms" *Read more on the back*

Welcome, Joel and Elizabeth!

Please give a warm St. Andrew's welcome today, which is World Missions Sunday, to Joel and Elizabeth, and their children. Joel, who is currently in the ordination process with the Anglican Church in North America, will preach at all three weekend services, and will be speaking during the Adult Forum at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday about their call from God to serve among Muslims in the Middle East.

Joel and Elizabeth were officially accepted as candidates with Interserve Fellowship (www.interserveusa.org) in 2016, and have begun their journey of support-raising for their mission to love and serve Muslims in the Middle East as an extension of God's great love for all. "His love compels us to love, to bless, to serve and to share our very lives with people who are radically different and sometimes radically opposed to us," they wrote in their recent newsletter.

The special loose offering today will go to the family's ministry. For more information, please contact Marty Scott, St. Andrew's outreach coordinator, at msscott@standrewspolaris.org or 614-284-0182.



Ash Wednesday services March 1

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. We invite you to come to the altar of Christ at one of the two services that day, at 12 Noon and 7 p.m., to receive the imposition of ashes, to hear the call to a devout and Holy Lent and to receive God's mercy in the form of Christ's Body and Blood.

Remember that Ash Wednesday is also a fast day in the church. Those who are healthy and able are encouraged to fast from solid foods from sunup to sundown. Fasting helps us keep in mind the plight of those who don't have enough to eat, and also focuses our attention on the need to be "hungry" for the Gospel.

Walking the Lenten journey allows us to experience the true joy of Easter. The imposition of ashes begins this journey by reminding us that we are but creatures of dust, created by God, and lost without his saving grace

Take the 'Kindness Challenge' this Lent!

Our Tuesday Lenten Study Program theme this year will be a little different in nature than in years past. Best-selling author and speaker Shaunti Feldhahn, who St. Andrew's Director of Christian Formation Tally Whitehead has worked with for years, has partnered with several Christian organizations and mega-churches to promote her latest book, "The Kindness Challenge." More than just a book, Shaunti and these partners are trying to encourage a movement of kindness in this often less than kind times. Fr. Ron will be highlighting one of the main points from the book on each of the five weeks of the Lenten Study Program, which gets underway on March 7. Discussion time in small groups will follow his message.

The main idea is that by being intentionally kind for 30 continuous days, your attitude and behavior will become more kind toward another person, a relationship or organization (or even a country). For the purposes of Lent, we will focus on being more kind toward the church in general, and each person will be able to personalize their kindness journey.

Read more on the back

What's God's word to you for 2017?

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study has begun the process of discerning their one word from God for 2017. The group meets on the first and third Tuesdays, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., at the Parish House, and all women of the parish are welcome.

They'll also be starting a DVD study based on "If: Trading Your If Only Regrets for God's What If Possibilities," by Mark Batterson. This five-week study is based on Romans 8, a powerful passage of scripture that Tally Whitehead, who facilitates the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study, chose to coincide with the group's "one word" journey. Through this study, Tally hopes to make Tuesday mornings a sacred space for transformation, not just for information.

Stations of the Cross to be offered Fridays in Lent

Fr. Wil Verhoff will be offering the Stations of the Cross to be prayed by all who attend on Friday evenings during Lent. The service will be held at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary at St. Andrew's, with a potluck supper following at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Area. If you plan to stay for supper, please bring a dish to share. For further information, please call Fr. Wil at 704-602-8810. A sign up sheet for potluck contributions will be at the Information Desk weekly.

An Operation Christmas Child full circle story

Barbara Girard, coordinator of St. Andrew's Operation Christmas Child program, and Marty Scott, parish outreach coordinator, visited New Song Community Church in Reynoldsburg on Feb. 5, where they heard Izabella McMillon, a Romanian Operation Christmas Child Shoebox recipient, share her story. They heard how God revealed himself through a hidden Bible, a secret church, and her shoebox gift! If you are interested in hearing her message, go to www.inewsong.com/sermons/gifts-and-treasures/ and press the play arrow. The audio is about 47 minutes long, and is a very blessed story.

Prayers for the Church

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for Bishop Jean Claude Andrianjafimanana and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Mahajanga, one of the eight dioceses in the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

The Province covers the nations of Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles. Anglican missionary work in the area began in 1810 on Mauritius, after the British captured the island from the French. Missionaries were later sent out from Mauritius, arriving in Madagascar in 1864. The Province was inaugurated in 1973.

The Diocese of Mahajanga is named after the city and province in which it is located, on the northwest coast of Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world. Mahajanga is a favorite tourist destination, and the nation's second most important seaport, with eight months of hot, virtually rain-free weather. About half of the city's population (221,000 in 2013) held to traditional religious beliefs, 41 percent were Christians (mostly Roman Catholic), and 7 percent were Muslims. Mahajanga is one of the six Anglican dioceses on Madagascar.

There is very little information about the Diocese of Mahajanga on the internet, but information about the area suggests that the worshiping communities are sometimes quite isolated. Please pray especially for ongoing evangelism and outreach to youth.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for Fr. Michael Henry, Deacon Brian Shone, and the people of Christ the King Kokomo, Indiana.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for Lesley DeBella; Bob DeMooy; the Sunday Morning Apostles; and the Kitchen Saints.

Encouragement for your prayer time with God

When we see a problem, God sees a possibility. When we see a difficulty, God sees a destiny. "For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (*Jeremiah 29:11*) "Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have yet believed.'" (*John 20:29*) — *From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team*

A limited number of leaflets with the coming week's Daily Lectionary are available at the Information Desk. You may also download the lectionary under the "Scripture & Prayer" tab on our website, standrewspolaris.org.

Kindness Challenge

Continued from the front

We will once again offer a soup and salad supper each week, and sign-ups for food donations can be found on the Information Desk in the Narthex.

As in past years, we'll also be offering a younger kids program, with middle and high school youth being invited to help out there or join the adults in the Sanctuary.

The five topics for each week will be: Why Kindness, Nix the Negativity, Practice Praise, Carry out Generosity, and Superpower Kindness: Making it a Habit.

Here's an opportunity for those who can't make Tuesdays

For those who can't make Tuesday nights, Tally has a unique opportunity for you. She was able to secure a few extra books, so anyone who commits to hosting their own kindness small group will receive a free copy, as well as all the supplies you need to facilitate a five- to six-week small group. We know not everyone can make it on Tuesday evenings, so we hope some of you will be led to take a chance and participate with us in Lent this way! You will be responsible for inviting people to your small group and a good way to start this process is to make a list of friends or neighbors to invite to join you.

Small groups don't have to be big. If you are single, three to four people can be a small group. If you are married with children, three to four couples with their kids is more than enough for a small group. And this material leads itself; you just need to have an open heart to facilitate!

Tally only has a few extra books, so please pray about your commitment to hosting a small group and finding people to join you before talking to Tally. You may contact her at 740-548-1765 or twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org for more information.

Pancake Supper

Continued from the front

and Downloads" tab. If you are able to attend, please sign up so we know how many to expect. That enables us to provide the right amount of food. We hope to see you all there! Any questions can be directed to Ed Summers at 614-371-1649, or to any member of the Brotherhood.