

Myers family to return to Mali in December; parish asked to help provide baby packs

Submitted by Nanci James, Seminarian from St. Andrew's

At church we have a family – the Myers: the Doctor Steve, the wife Beth, Aaron the seminarian and Stephanie the college graduate. They volunteer in Mali, West-Africa in Koutiala Women's and Children's Hospital. All of them are returning at the end of this year to Mali to work for the Kingdom of God.

One thing they need is little "outfits" for the hospital newborns.

That's where you all come in. I know your generous hearts, your love for Christmas and for babies. I am asking for your help. Would you please help provide these gifts of love in support of new life?

Each gift set contains: A baby hat; a cute little top (it could even be a t-shirt, a little dress or a top for a little boy); socks, and a light blanket. Each one can be placed in a zip lock bag to make it easy for the hospital. If you want to add a little note with a prayer, that would be a blessing. Remember, Mali is longitudinally about equal with the Bahamas' so no winter wear. And you can make as many as you like!

So here are the delivery options: Bring or mail them to the church, and I'll pick them up; drop them by my house (see address on the Member Connection), if I'm not home it is safe to leave them on the porch, or mail them me so they arrive before Dec. 27. However they come, I will personally see that they get taken/ shipped to the hospital in Mali.

I know this is a short time frame but I know we do this with joy and generosity (You can see their work on the internet at www.koutialahospital.org)

International Missions presentation on Dec. 13

Steve Myers has volunteered to take the lead on International Missions at St. Andrew's. Steve and Marty Scott will be looking for people interested in missions outside of the United States. Steve will be doing a presentation regarding International Missions between services on Sunday, Dec. 13 in the Gathering Area.

Currently, St. Andrew's is involved with mosquito nets for Nigeria and supporting a nursing student in Liberia. Steve is looking to expand our missions and recruiting people with the same passion the Lord has given him. Please contact Marty at 614-284-0182 or msscott@standrewspolaris.com for more information.

What is a Stephen Minister like?

They are among us

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens (although some people have considered their Stephen Minister as an angel). We're talking about individuals who care about others. If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others — listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith.

Stephen Ministers care

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that un-distracted, full attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. Stephen Ministers share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving, one who has lost a job, long term illness, or any other life crisis.

They grow in the Lord

The more you focus on the Lord and do God's work, the more satisfaction you will find. Are you looking for more satisfaction in your life? Consider serving our congregation as a Stephen Minister. By helping others, you will help God's kingdom grow - and you will grow too. A training class for Stephen Ministry will be starting in February. For more information, contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders: **Brenda Bender**, 614-865-4565, brenda.bender@att.net; **Sarah Fabian**, 614-895-6745, sarahgf@sbcglobal.net; or **Kathy Summers**, 614-939-1649, ktsummers@sbcglobal.net. God has plans for you to grow!

Invite your friends to hear the '12 Voices'

This Advent, we have a very special opportunity to hear from some of the first-hand witnesses to the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Plan to invite your family and friends the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 20 for three dramatic readings from *The Twelve Voices of Christmas*.

Max Seymour, Dan McNeilis and Steve Zacharias will bring us the "voices" of the Wise Men, the Voices of Adoration, with a reading based on the (Matthew 2:1-12); **Steve Darke** will portray Joseph, the Voice of Reason, based on Matthew 1:16-25, and **Mike Schroeder** will portray Herod, the Voice of Deception, with a reading based on Matthew 2:1-12. Director is **Nanci James**.

Christmas Pageant Dec. 20

Join us for a Children's and Youth Christmas Pageant! Children and youth of all ages are welcome to participate. We're having just two practices (Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to Noon, and Saturday, Dec. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m.) before the big show on Sunday, Dec. 20 at the 5 pm worship service. Please send an email to **Suzy Christopher** at suzy_christopher@hotmail.com if you would like to participate or just come to the first rehearsal. We would also love adults to help us with costumes.

Youth Christmas Dec. 20

The Youth Group will have a Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 20 following the 11 a.m. service. The location is to be determined, but we can tell you now that the party is expected to last until about 4 p.m. Youth should plan to bring a gift (no more than \$15) for the gift exchange if they wish to participate, as well as something to benefit a family that is less fortunate during this holiday season. More details will be announced next week.

Thanks for 'Undies' Sunday!

Dear St. Andrew's,

On behalf of Common Ground Free Store I would like to thank you for your generosity in support of our first "Undies" Sunday!!! My basket was overflowing! The shoppers at the Free Store will have a nice variety to chose from. The next "Undies" Sunday will be Feb. 14, 2010. Watch *The Net* for more info.

Blessings,
Sue Thomas

Advent resources help prepare our hearts for Christ

In the hustle and bustle of holiday parties, shopping, decorating and baking, our focus can easily drawn away from the true meaning of this holy time of the year, when we observe the incarnation of God in human form, Emmanuel — God with us. We're hopeful that this little list will provides you with some resources to help you maintain your sanity and restore your focus on the coming of Christ. Additional resources are provided on the Member Connection of our web site.

On the web

www.stnicholascenter.org — A wonderful site with a wealth of resources for families, churches and schools about St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra. Learn how countries around the world celebrate the life of this very special saint by clicking on "Around The World," and get ideas for how you can observe the Feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6 by clicking on "How To Celebrate." Parents especially will want to click on the "For Kids" link for coloring pages, word search puzzles and activities about the real "Santa Claus."

<http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Christianity/Advent/Beliefnet-Interactive-Advent-Calendar.aspx> — A graphical "online" advent calendar, a spiritual countdown to Christ-

Family extends a heartfelt thanks to parish for help in time of need

What's a Home?

They say that "Home" is where you hang your hat. I've always believed that until this last year. The word "home" grew to become an illusion and I began to feel the need to do more than just hang my hat. With seven people in my family cramped up into an over-sized box (recreational vehicle), making every effort to overcome challenges of space, privacy, storage, and struggling daily to simply have a "place to be", without the convenience of control over my own finances for lack of income to properly plan a home or way of living for my family, "home" just wasn't in the cards. I believed that in effort to create a home, I had to focus on chasing jobs. I took us from Ohio, to Colorado, back to Ohio, out to Lake George, New York, to Vermont, then to advocate poverty, the unemployed and homeless in Washington D.C. and was brought back to Ohio.

"What's with Ohio?" I'd ask myself. It's certainly not the place to be in our circumstance as it's the second largest state of unemployed workers with poverty on the rise and community help waning beyond comprehension. After raising my hands to the Lord, the answer was clear — I was to stay put and sow a garden from dry soil. Sometimes God's answers make absolutely no sense and, as in my case, are certainly not easy. As I reflect on this last year, the signs are becoming visible. While we are Lutherans, not Anglicans, our hearts were prepared to accept the Anglican way when we met **Pastor Dwight McPherson** in Vermont where the kids became Acolytes. When I met **Mother Nancy (Stanton)** for the first time, I had no idea that St. Andrew's was Anglican. And Mother Nancy is an amazing woman, with whom I



connect with on so many levels. Hmmm. With so many more "signs" to share, I can confidently say that while I was to sow a garden, it was also our family's turn to allow Christ to carry us across the sand during our darkest hours. "Allow" is the key word here. It's not easy to "allow". **Father Ron (Baird)** once sermoned a question: "While we do what God wants, are we actually listening to Him?" I question it always. But, I guess I'm doing it, as I sit and look around me, I realize how much Christ and our new found friends love us. Having gone from nothing to a house full of furniture, kitchen ware, clothes, towels, linens, TP, gadgets and gizmos, wow! – love is the product of our "home".

For the longest time, I would attest that this was not possible. Now, after (more than) a month in our new home, new employment opportunities stand in the doorway. While the challenges are not over, I can say confidently that Christ does not set us up to let us fall. I just have to listen, allow and follow through.

Thank you to all who helped us, and to those who I specifically know, (**George, Ann, Steve, Lori, Ruth, Pam, Wes, Nancy**) who continue to pray for us and who continue to be our beacon of hope.

We are proud to be a part of St. Andrew's and can't wait till our turn to carry the torch.

Your Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Victoria Meyers and Family

Christmas Flower Memorials & Thanksgivings

The Altar Guild is now accepting contributions toward flowers and greens 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@insight.rr.com. **Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 20.**

THE DAILY LECTIONARY

The Week of the Second Sunday of Advent • Dec. 6-12

Sunday, Dec. 6 — Psalms 148, 149, 150/114, 115; Amos 6:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; Luke 1:57-68

Monday, Dec. 7 — Psalms 25/9, 15; Amos 7:1-9; Revelation 1:1-8; Matthew 22:23-33

Tuesday, Dec. 8 — Psalms 26, 28/36, 39; Amos 7:10-17; Revelation 1:9-16; Matthew 22:34-46

Wednesday, Dec. 9 — Psalms 38/119:25-48; Amos 8:1-14; Revelation 1:17-2:7; Matthew 23:1-12

Thursday, Dec. 10 — Psalms 37:1-18/37:19-42; Amos 9:1-10; Revelation 2:8-17; Matthew 23:13-26

Friday, Dec. 11 — Psalms 31/35; Haggai 1:1-15; Revelation 2:18-29; Matthew 23:27-39

Saturday, Dec. 12 — Psalms 30, 32/42, 43; Haggai 2:1-9; Revelation 3:1-6; Matthew 24:1-14

Note: *The first set of Psalms are intended for the morning, and the second set for the evening.*

Today is deadline for Christmas outreach to American soldiers

Today is the deadline for turning in your Christmas care packages for American soldiers overseas. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is already busy packing the individual boxes for shipping so they'll arrive in time for Christmas! If you took a tag, please return your packed box no later than the 5 p.m. service today.

Help sought to clean classrooms

Pam Dunlap is seeking volunteers to help with the ministry of cleaning and sanitizing the nursery and classrooms at church. Volunteers would need to come in either after the 11 a.m. service on Sundays, or some day during the week. If you are interested and willing to help us keep the classrooms clean and safe for the children, please contact Pam at 614-776-1385.

Pam also reminds parents that if their children bring toys from home, they remember to take them home. There are currently several miscellaneous toys in the Nursery, which we would like to see returned to their owners. Also, if you have toys you would like to donate to the church, please contact **Marty Scott** at mscott@standrews-polaris.org or 614-901-0564 to make sure they meet safety requirements.

Greeters needed at 8 & 11 a.m.

The Greeters Ministry is in need of greeters for the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. If you'd like to become a part of this vital Sunday morning ministry, please see **George Girard**, or e-mail him at girardg@sbcglobal.net. Please join us in giving a warm St. Andrew's welcome to our guests and newcomers!

FYI

Prayer Chain — To place a person or concern on the Prayer Chain, please fill out the Information Card in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate. For concerns that arise during the week, please contact **Alex Seyerle**, 614-501-1648 or cerelli@wowway.com, or submit prayer requests electronically at www.standrewspolaris.org.

Prayer Intercessors — Prayer Intercessors from the Order of St. Luke and Stephen Ministry are available during Communion at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services to pray with you for any cares, concerns or thanksgivings you may have. They also offer the Sacrament of Holy Unction with prayer for healing at your request. They are stationed to the right of the altar at the front of the church at the 9:30 a.m., and to the left at 11 a.m.

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

December 6, 2009

An Advent Saint

Advent is the time when Christians prepare to greet Christ—who came as a babe in a manger, who comes into our lives each day, and who will come again at the end of time. Advent is the time when people of faith are most at odds with the culture. The church calls people to focus on getting ready to receive Christ — preparing hearts and lives to make room for Jesus, to live as he would have us live. It is a time of longing, not fulfillment. Quiet reflection, not celebration. The culture, however, is already in a time of festivity, unable or unwilling, to wait and contemplate and prepare for the real festival. It is not easy to observe Advent without being pulled prematurely into Christmas.

How does St. Nicholas fit into all of this? He is an Advent saint because his

December 6th feast day always falls in early Advent (Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas between November 27 and December 3). However, Nicholas is a good Advent saint for more important reasons than the date of his special day. Whatever he did, and it is said that he did many kinds of amazing things, may not be as important as the way he did it. Nicholas became so popular because he was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. His life clearly reflected the way each one of us is called to show God's love to others, especially those in need.

Celebrating St. Nicholas on his day in Advent brings a bit of fun and festivity into homes, churches, and schools. His small treats and surprises help keep the spirit of good St. Nicholas, especially when stories of his goodness and kind deeds are told and ways to express his care for those in need are sought. Saint Nicholas helps us remember Christmas is a feast of love, hope, kindness and generosity. Yes, Nicholas is a good Advent saint.

— From the St. Nicholas Center, www.stnicholascenter.org. Used with permission.

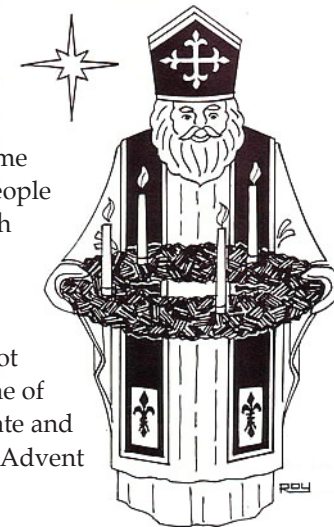
Parents Night Out Dec. 12 excellent opportunity for Christmas shopping

The final Parents Night Out, sponsored as a ministry to young families by the Life Group hosted by **Wes** and **Nicole Whitaker**, will be held Saturday, Dec. 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to finish your Christmas shopping with your other mom friends — they're welcome to bring their children to Parents Night Out, too!

Children newborn to 10-years-old, or 5th grade, are welcome. Light snacks and a variety of activities will be provided. If you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, or spend some one-on-one time with your spouse, please contact Nicole at nicolebwhitaker@att.net or 740-657-8242.

Fr. Kevin posts Advent reflections on blog

Fr. Kevin Maney is posting a series of Advent reflections on his blog, "Maney's Musings", beginning with the theme of "Hope." You can follow his blog at <http://maneynet.org/blog/>.



Pledge drive exceeds goal!

With 138 pledges in, we have exceeded our goal for the 2010 operating budget by more than \$6,000! **Fr. Ron Baird** and the Vestry extend their heartfelt appreciation to all those families who have answered God's call to our parish for the coming year.

"We are both awestruck and humbled by your faithfulness and generosity," Fr. Ron says. "Your gifts to our parish will help us achieve our financial goals, but more importantly the mission and ministry to which God has called us in this place."

Pledges to date total \$465,753, meaning we have exceeded our original goal of \$459,000 by \$6,754.

We are still waiting to hear from 13 families. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so today so the Vestry can finalize the 2010 budget.

Christmas Eve services set

St. Andrew's will offer three services in celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24.

Services will be offered at 5 p.m., featuring music by our contemporary worship band; and 7:30 & 11 p.m., featuring organ & choir.

At 10 p.m., our choir, led by **Tom James**, and our organist, **Mike Tomesek**, will present a Christmas cantata, "Noel, Jesus Is Born", by Lanny Wolfe, Don Marsh and Bob Benson. Their guest narrator will again be George Girard.

Spiritual Maturity class postponed

Class 201: Discover Spiritual Maturity, originally set to begin today, has been postponed due to the busyness of the Christmas holiday season. Watch the Member Connection and The Net after the first of the year for details about the next class.