

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

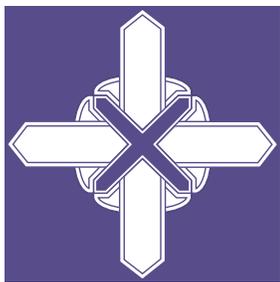
February 23, 2020

The St. Andrew's Youth Movement is now RUBICON Youth! Fr. Shane Tucker, associate rector for youth and family life, explains "Why Rubicon?" on Page 23 of the 2019 Annual

Report, but at its core it's a moment of decision resulting in ultimate significance. For our youth, it speaks to the calling Jesus entrusts to us in Matthew 28:19, the verse they've chosen to represent what they are about. Jesus, who in the Resurrection has proclaimed victory over death, darkness and despair—the most momentous moment in history—claims the authority given to him as the Son of God, and then turns to his disciples and bids them to "... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



There may have been snow on the ground, but the Son was shining on St. Andrew's youth and friends at last weekend's WhiteOut Winter retreat at Beulah Beach along Lake Erie.



THE CALL TO A HOLY LENT

Ash Wednesday on February 26 begins the holy journey to the Cross that we call Lent. Lent is a time to put away the cares of the world and to follow our Lord and Savior to Jerusalem, to Calvary, and to the Tomb. It's a time to prepare our hearts, minds, bodies and souls to accept the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. If we keep a Holy Lent, then the true meaning and joy of Easter permeates

our life in fullness, because we have journeyed to the death that is Calvary; the sacrifice that is the Cross. We are thus empowered to the new life of the Resurrection.

Lenten activities begin the night before Ash Wednesday, which we call Shrove Tuesday (in French, Mardi Gras), traditionally with a Pancake Supper (see article on the back page). The word "shrove" means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of confession and doing penance.

Please turn to the inside

Sign up for Lenten activities today

It's a busy week, as we dive into Lent—and pancakes—this coming week! Sign up at the Information Desk today, or online at standrewspolaris.org by clicking on the event in the calendar or by selecting the Forms & Downloads tab, for the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on Feb. 25; the **SALT Guided Silent Mini-Retreat** on Feb. 29; our **Lenten Study Program**, starting Tuesday, March 3; and our upcoming service at the **Common Ground Free Store's** new satellite location on Saturday, March 7. Read more about all of these activities elsewhere in "The Net" today.

Annual Meeting this afternoon

The 2020 Annual Parish Meeting will be today, Feb. 23, 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 2019, and look ahead to what's planned for 2020. It's also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the 2019 Annual Report, which is available at the Information Desk today, and on the Member Connection of our website under the "Files" tab on the "St. Andrew's Members" group.

St. Andrew's to serve at new Common Ground satellite location Saturday, March 7

St. Andrew's and our "seasoned" team of volunteers will officially open the Common Ground Free Store's new satellite store on Saturday, March 7. Volunteers will be needed from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. that day. Please sign up at the Information Desk or online at standrewspolaris.org, or contact Marty Scott at 614-284-0182 or msscott@standrewspolaris.org to volunteer.

We'll start with 15-plus volunteers serving at check-in or check-out, on the main floor, in the hospitality area, or as floor monitors. We'll also need folks to help with clean-up, which will involve moving clothing back into storage, bringing out folding chairs for the host church's worship service the next day, and tidying up.

The Common Ground Free Store satellite will be at Press Church Outreach Center, 425 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. Press Church has offered CGFS a facility on Saturdays rent-free, and CGFS has offered to pay a small fee to cover utilities and other miscellaneous items. While times may vary regarding set-up and clean-up, the store will be open to shoppers on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Common Ground can also use volunteers during the start-up process, which begins this Monday, Feb 24. If you can help at any of the following times please contact Jill Ignaszewski at volunteer@commongroundfreestore.org or text or call 740-417-1285.

Monday, Feb. 24: Four to six strong people are needed to help unload a truck of equipment for the new site. There is a delivery window of between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., so volunteers need to be available at a moment's notice when Common Ground gets notification that the truck is on its way. Volunteers will be called with a more specific time as soon as it's known. Total volunteer time: An hour or less.

Friday, Feb. 28: Sixteen people are needed to come to the new site and put equipment together (clothing racks, shelves, etc.) from 5 to 8 p.m. It would be helpful to bring work gloves, utility knives, rubber mallets, and tape measures if you have them. Pizza will be provided.

Saturday, Feb. 29: Starting at 10 a.m., 16 to 20 people are needed to work at the new site. Duties will include setting up the new store by organizing donations and placing them on racks and shelves, accepting and sorting donations that come in, testing the new database, and using vehicles to bring donations from the east store to the south store site. Lunch will be provided.

The address for all of these activities is 425 S. Sandusky St., Delaware, Suite 3 (Press Church Outreach Center, formerly Terra Nova Church). If you are able to volunteer at any of these times, Common Ground would love to have you join them and they would be so appreciative of your help!

Encouragement for your prayer time with God

Find a quiet place away from other people and noise for your daily prayer time. "After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he got into the boat and went to the vicinity of Magadan." (*Matthew 15:39*) "I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path." (*Psalms 119:104*)— *From the St. Andrew's Prayer Ministries Team*

Stations of the Cross to be offered on Fridays in Lent

Fr. Wil Verhoff will be offering the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. This traditional Lenten service of prayer will start at 7:15 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary beginning Friday, Feb. 28. All church members are invited to attend. For further information, please call Fr. Wil at 740-602-8810.

Children to bury their Alleluias today

Our children will have a very visual reminder that the penitential season of Lent is upon us as they "bury" their Alleluias in the Gathering Area between services today.

The tradition of burying Alleluias dates back to medieval times when priests would process out to the church cemetery with the Alleluia banner on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and have a "burial" ceremony. The custom of intentionally omitting Alleluia from the liturgy during the season of Lent is a kind of verbal "fast," which has the effect of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns at Easter.

Alleluia, or Hallelujah—literally "Praise Yah"—is a joyful song of praise to God, and appears many times in the Psalms, most especially Psalms 111-117, and 145-150. On the last Sunday before Lent we sing our final Alleluias as we prepare to begin our Lenten journey toward Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and his glorious Resurrection on Easter.

We do not say Alleluia at church. We do not say it at home. We let it rest during Lent, so that when it reappears on Easter, we may hear it anew.

March Birthdays

Amy Beverick	Tom James
Caroline Bobay	Krista Lung
Christine Brill	Bob Muehlhausen
Dick Busick	Celia Nelson
Carolyn Connors	Joe Nelson
Jim Connors	Sanjay Pais
Lesley DeBella	Joanna Spanos
Jean Duncan	Brian Sylvester
Christian Emery	Bruce Vanderhoff
Bonnie Freeman	Sommer Whitehead
Jo Edda Habeker	Monique Winkelman

March Anniversaries

Dave & Marilyn Barnes
Deryck & Nadya Richardson
Steve & Michelle Sattler
Eric & Tally Whitehead

Looking for the Daily and Sunday Lectionary and Prayers for the Church? They're available today in a separate leaflet at the Information Desk.

Call to a Holy Lent

Continued from the front

Thus, Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the custom for Christians to be “shriven” before the start of Lent.

It is appropriate that we have a feast the evening before Ash Wednesday, as it’s our last opportunity to “stuff” ourselves with goodies before we enter into the serious discipline that is Lent.

As you partake in the festivities of Shrove Tuesday, also plan to partake in the spiritual discipline of fasting on Ash Wednesday, one of two fast days in the Church, the other being Good Friday. 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.

Of course, young children and anyone with special medical needs should not attempt to fast. The rest of us can gain much spiritually by submitting ourselves to this discipline.

In addition to the “liquids only” fast from sunrise to sundown, we pray that you will 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.

In order to experience the true joy of Easter, one must walk the Lenten journey. 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.

Many of us think of ourselves as immortal. It is important that we stop at least once a year to remind ourselves of the reality of death in our lives, and of our need for the salvation that is found in Christ alone.

Many Christians adopt a four-fold discipline of prayer, fasting, study, and almsgiving in Lent.

Prayer

This year we have a wonderful opportunity to prepare our hearts for Lent through prayer at the 2020 SALT gathering on Saturday, Feb. 29. This year’s gathering will open with Holy Communion, followed by a time of Reflection and Meditation with Tally Whitehead, director of discipleship, followed by Morning Prayer. A second Reflection and Meditation will follow, before we close with Midday Prayer. Everyone is welcome.

Fr. Wil Verhoff will be offering the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. This traditional Lenten service of prayer will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the St. Andrew’s Sanctuary beginning Friday, Feb. 28.

It’s also important that we set aside a few minutes each day during Lent to be with our God; to look at our lives and to seek his will for us. You cannot follow Christ unless you take time to ask where he is going. The Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer 2019 offers an excellent pattern for daily prayer. You’ll find the Daily Office on Page 734 of the BCP, which can be downloaded for free from bcp2019.anglican church.net.

The Daily Lectionary is also available in “The Net” (or sometimes in a separate leaflet if space dictates, as it does today), and on our website, standrewspolaris.org, under the “Scripture & Prayer” menu.

Many of you already pray weekly for the Church, including our own parish, using the “Prayers for the Church” taken from the Sunday liturgy’s Prayers of the People. If you don’t already do this, Lent would be an excellent time to start praying regularly for the Church, seeking God’s blessing on his people, and also his guidance as we seek to fulfill his mission in this place.

Fasting

Fasting is not a popular concept in our time. Dieting, yes; but not fasting. Perhaps that is because we do not understand why we “give something up” for Lent. Giving up something is another way of saying fasting. We fast *from* something. We generally give up something that we know we will miss so that the absence of it, the desire for it, will keep in our minds the sacrifice that Christ made for us—his very life. What we give up is not nearly so important as that we do give up something that we will miss. Sundays are feast days in Lent; a time when we can splurge a little and have what we gave up. This is because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, when our Lord’s life was restored to him.

Study

Lent is also a time when we make time to learn more about the faith. Our five-week Lenten Study and Soup Supper Program on Tuesdays, beginning March 3, this year will feature the Alpha series, which highlights scriptural truths to encourage and strengthen everyone’s faith. Our hope is that families will come together to make this Lent a time of discipleship, fellowship and worship.

Almsgiving

Almsgiving is historically the giving of gifts or money to the poor. There are several opportunities available to the parish this Lenten season to aid us in this discipline. You may wish to give to one of weekly outreach offerings: the Parish Discretionary Fund, which helps those in need in our midst, first Sundays; community outreach ministries, second Sundays; the Common Ground Free Store in Delaware, third Sundays; international outreach ministries, fourth Sundays.

We also have opportunities coming up to serve those in need with our hands and feet. St. Andrew’s will be serving at the new Common Ground Free Store satellite on Saturday, March 7, and volunteers are also needed at various times within the next week to help get the new location set up. And remember that we’re always collecting gently used household items, clothing and toys, new underwear and socks, and diapers for Common Ground, as well as personal care items for the Pregnancy Decision Health Center. Bins are in the coatroom.

Come join us on this journey that is Lent. Walk with our Lord the steps to Calvary. And join with him in his glorious Resurrection! — *By Fr. Ron Baird*

SALT 2020

Guided mini-retreat on Leap Day to help prepare our hearts for Lent

Our annual SALT (St. Andrew's Leadership Touchstone) gathering will be on Leap Day, Saturday, Feb. 29. This year, we will be hosting a silence-oriented mini-retreat, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and ending before Noon. We are inviting everyone in the church to attend, not just ministry leaders.

We will start with a light continental breakfast and fellowship at 9:30 a.m., before gathering in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. for a period of silent prayer, followed by Holy Communion celebrated by Fr. Ron Baird.

After Communion, there will be a time of Reflection and Meditation with Tally Whitehead, director of discipleship, followed by Morning Prayer. A second Reflection and Meditation will follow, before we close with Midday Prayer.

Since we have an extra day this year, we hope you will set aside this morning and come retreat with God with us. The format will allow anyone to come late or leave early if you can't stay the whole time.

We are also encouraging ministry leaders to consider having lunch with your particular ministry team after the retreat. Lunch together would allow more fellowship time, and maybe even a chance to revisit goals from last year and vision together for 2020 and beyond. We know not everyone will be able to do this, but thought we would suggest it for those who are willing and able to participate.

You may sign up at the Information Desk, or register online by going to our website, standrewspolaris.org and clicking on the SALTlink in the "News from St. Andrew's" section of the home page.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Feb. 25

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Feb. 25 in the church Gathering Area. Food will be served between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. For folks arriving later (around 7:30), we promise you'll still get fresh, hot food as we will be cooking right up to closing time.

As usual, we'll be serving pancakes, sausages and all the trimmings, so please come and join us for our pre-Lent celebration. There is no cost for the meal; we will, however, be collecting a free-will donation to cover the cost of the food, if you should like to contribute.

You may sign up at the Information Desk near the entrance to the church, or online. We ask that you sign up so we know how much food to purchase. If you forget to sign up, we've got you covered anyway, so be sure to come. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, in conjunction with the Kitchen Ministry, is sponsoring the event.

2020 Lenten Study: Exploring faith through Alpha

Our annual parish-wide Lenten Study Program begins Tuesday, March 3! We meet from 6:15 to 8 p.m. at church for five consecutive Tuesdays in March. This year we will participate in the recently updated Alpha.

For those unfamiliar with our Lenten study program, Tuesday evenings start with a simple supper of soup, salad, mac and cheese, and cookies. After dinner, we will view an Alpha video segment and then discuss it in small groups. We will close the evening with Compline, an evening prayer service from the Book of Common Prayer.

Alpha is "a tool built for local churches based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation." The new Alpha videos are amazing and they highlight scriptural truths to encourage and strengthen everyone's faith. Even if you have done Alpha in the past, you don't want to miss

this newer version! We will introduce Alpha the first week, then present videos on Jesus, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and the Church body the following weeks.

Fr. Ron Baird frequently encourages us to invite friends to church. With Alpha, this is a non-Sunday opportunity to do just this, as it was created specifically to introduce co-workers, friends and neighbors to the Good News of God's love in Christ.

For the dinner, we ask for volunteers to sign up ahead of time to bring food. You may sign up to attend and/or bring food at the Information Desk and online at standrewspolaris.org. Feel free to come late or leave early, depending on your family or work schedule. Food is never put away early, although we make no promises that the mac and cheese will last very long, as it's a parish favorite!

We also offer a program for our preschool and elementary aged

children, as well. Fr. Shane Tucker is encouraging youth to participate with the adults, or to volunteer to be helpers with the kid's program.

Please start praying now, asking God to reveal to you who you know who needs to be invited. While this will only be a "Taste of Alpha" over Lent, as a church we hope to invite anyone from our region to experience Alpha, in full, this fall. It is our sincerest hope that we will have the biggest turnout yet, since we started this tradition eight years ago. We know everyone is busy, but we encourage you to try to make some or all of the five Tuesdays in March.

For more information on Alpha, contact Fr. Shane at stucker@standrewspolaris.org or 740-548-5112, ext. 4. All other questions about the Tuesday Lenten Study Program should be directed to Tally Whitehead at twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org or 740-548-5112, ext. 5.